AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM SCIENCES, LLC

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To:	Ken Kauffman – OHD Cynthia Gains- OHD Mike Mader – TMLBP	From:	Jake Kann
Fax:	(503) 731-4077 541-759-3711	Pages:	13
Phone:		Date:	08-11-04
Re:	*Tenmile Sampling*	CC:	

Ken and Mike,

August 9th toxic algal cell count results for Tenmile Lakes are as follows:

STATION	DATE	*Microcystis* Cells (no./ml)	*Anabaena* Cells (no.ml)
S3	9-Aug-04	335	0
S8	9-Aug-04	157	0
N11	9-Aug-04	0	1083
N16	9-Aug-04	22	450

On this date only station N11 (1083 cells/ml) exceeded the WHO Alert Level 1 guideline of 500 cells ml^{-1} for *Anabaena flos-aquae.* The remaining stations were all below the Alert Level 1 Guideline of 500 cells/ml. for both toxigenic species. Counts are still below the Alert Level 2 guideline of 2000 cells/ml (at which time OHD issues public alerts). Increased vigilance and adherence to a regular sampling schedule are necessary at Alert level 1.

The diatom *Fragilaria crotonensis* continued to dominate at the south lake stations S3 (80% of the biovolume) and S8 (73%), while the blue-green alga *Anabaena planktonica* was the dominant species at north lake stations N11 (39%) and N16 (52%). Despite counts below Alert Level 2, *Anabaena flos-aquae* was the second ranking dominant at both of these stations (39% and 14% respectively). Maximum *Microcystis aeruginosa* (at S3) accounted for 0.1% of the biomass. Various Chrysophytes, Cryptophytes, and Diatoms comprised the remainder of the biovolume.

Due to the patchy nature of blue-green algal blooms it is possible for higher *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Anabaena flos-aquae* densities (and therefore higher microcystin toxin and anatoxin concentrations to be present in areas not sampled in this survey, particularly along shorelines or during calm conditions of little to no

wind. Given the lakes' demonstrated history of toxic blooms, and the fact that all areas of the lake cannot be tested at all times, those utilizing the lake for drinking water should always follow Oregon Health Division recommendations for purification (attached). In addition, recreational users should always avoid contact with water whenever noticeable surface concentrations of algae are evident or when the lake has an obvious green to blue-green appearance. Moreover, because pets or other domestic animals are the most likely to ingest contaminated water, these animals should not be allowed access to the lakeshore whenever either noticeable surface concentrations of algae or an obvious green to blue-green appearance is evident.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jacob Kann, Ph.D.

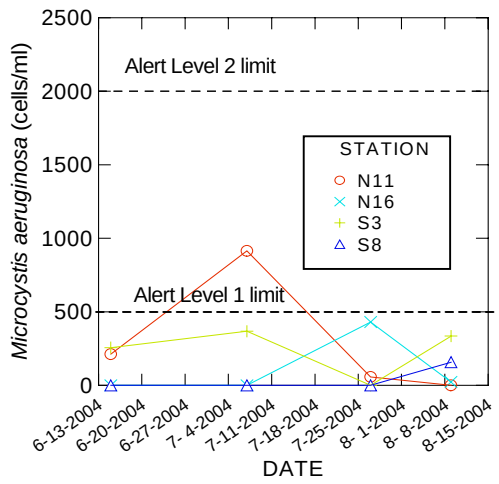
Aquatic Ecologist

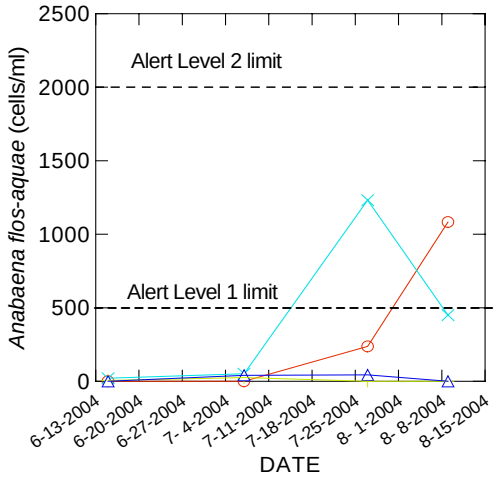
References for Alert Levels

Yoo, S.R., W.W. Carmichael, R.C. Hoehn, and S.E. Hrudy. 1995. Cyanobacterial (blue-green algal) toxins: a resource guide. AWWA Research Foundation and American Water Works Association. Denver, CO. 229 p. (ISBN 0-89867-824-2)

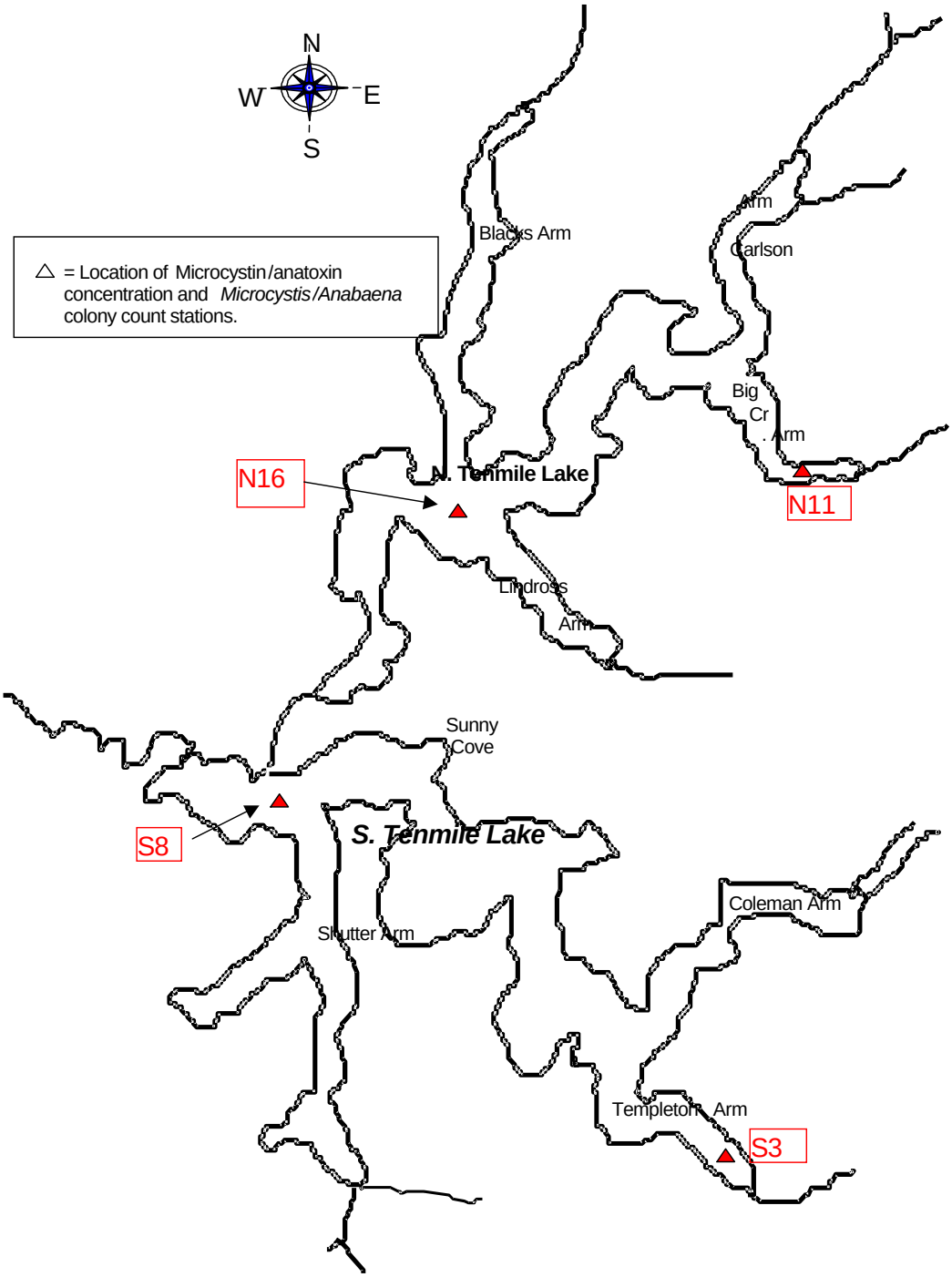
Falconer et al. 1999. Safe levels and safe practices. Pages 155-177 *in*: I. Chorus and J. Bartram, editors. *Toxic Cyanobacteria in water: a guide to their public health consequences*. World Health Organization Report. E & FN Spon, London and New York.

Trends to Date:





Year 2004 Tenmile Lakes Sample Site Locations



Phytoplankton Sample Analysis

Sample: Tenmile Lake
Sample Station: S3
Sample Depth:
Sample Date: 9-Aug-04

Total Density (#/mL): 593
Total Biovolume (um^3/mL): 2,474,159
Trophic State Index: 56.4

Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um^3/mL	Biovolume Percent
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	479	80.6	344,567	13.9
Fragilaria crotonensis	81	13.7	1,981,835	80.1
Anabaena planctonica	14	2.4	144,316	5.8
Unidentified flagellate	5	0.8	96	0.0
Rhodomonas minuta	5	0.8	96	0.0
Dinobryon sertularia	5	0.8	569	0.0
Microcystis aeruginosa	5	0.8	2,680	0.1

Microcystis aeruginosa cells/mL = 335

Aquatic Analysts **Sample ID:** HG13

Phytoplankton Sample Analysis

Sample: Tenmile Lake
Sample Station: S8
Sample Depth:
Sample Date: 9-Aug-04

Total Density (#/mL): 410
Total Biovolume (um^3/mL): 1,807,313
Trophic State Index: 54.1

Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um^3/mL	Biovolume Percent
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	282	68.7	219,863	12.2
Fragilaria crotonensis	56	13.7	1,325,940	73.4
Melosira granulata	25	6.1	50,988	2.8
Dinobryon sertularia	13	3.1	1,789	0.1
Anabaena planctonica	9	2.3	174,727	9.7
Melosira ambigua	9	2.3	22,137	1.2
Microcystis aeruginosa	6	1.5	1,253	0.1
Asterionella formosa	6	1.5	8,268	0.5
Melosira granulata angustissima	3	0.8	2,349	0.1

Microcystis aeruginosa cells/mL = 157

Aquatic Analysts **Sample ID:** HG14

Phytoplankton Sample Analysis

Sample:	Tenmile Lake
Sample Station:	N11
Sample Depth:	
Sample Date:	9-Aug-04

Total Density (#/mL):	272
Total Biovolume (um^3/mL):	308,361
Trophic State Index:	41.4

Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um^3/mL	Biovolume Percent
Dinobryon bavaricum	132	48.7	47,631	15.4
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	63	23.0	56,291	18.3
Anabaena flos-aquae	36	13.3	72,529	23.5
Dinobryon sertularia	26	9.7	4,094	1.3
Anabaena planctonica	7	2.7	119,696	38.8
Gomphonema angustatum	2	0.9	433	0.1
Fragilaria crotonensis	2	0.9	2,021	0.7
Melosira ambigua	2	0.9	5,668	1.8

Anabaena flos-aquae cells/mL =	1,083
Anabaena flos-aquae heterocysts/mL =	46

Aquatic Analysts **Sample ID:** HG15

Phytoplankton Sample Analysis

Sample:	Tenmile Lake
Sample Station:	N16
Sample Depth:	
Sample Date:	9-Aug-04

Total Density (#/mL):	112
Total Biovolume (um^3/mL):	219,586
Trophic State Index:	38.9

Species	Density #/mL	Density Percent	Biovolume um^3/mL	Biovolume Percent
Cryptomonas erosa	27	24.3	14,129	6.4
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae	23	20.4	19,172	8.7
Anabaena flos-aquae	20	17.5	30,147	13.7
Anabaena planctonica	16	14.6	114,713	52.2
Dinobryon bavaricum	4	3.9	1,043	0.5
Fragilaria crotonensis	3	2.9	9,038	4.1
Dinobryon sertularia	3	2.9	388	0.2
Asterionella formosa	3	2.9	5,236	2.4
Synedra ulna	2	1.9	4,326	2.0
Ceratium hirundinella	1	1.0	10,651	4.9
Synedra radians	1	1.0	391	0.2
Desmidium sp.	1	1.0	1,522	0.7
Melosira granulata	1	1.0	4,184	1.9
Sphaerocystis schroeteri	1	1.0	304	0.1
Rhodomonas minuta	1	1.0	22	0.0
Nitzschia acicularis	1	1.0	304	0.1
Melosira ambigua	1	1.0	3,841	1.7
Microcystis aeruginosa	1	1.0	174	0.1

Anabaena flos-aquae cells/mL =	450
Anabaena flos-aquae heterocysts/mL =	14
Microcystis aeruginosa cells/mL =	22

Aquatic Analysts **Sample ID:** HG16

August 12, 2004

Health Division **Contact Person: Ken Kauffman**
Drinking water treatment guidance **503-731-4015**
August 31, 2001 **kenneth.w.kauffman@state.or.us**

1. Treatment systems should consist of sand filtration followed by chlorination, followed by activated charcoal filtration. It is essential that sand filtration be done before disinfection to remove as many algal cells as possible without killing or rupturing them.

2. Chlorination systems should be capable of maintaining at least 1 ppm of chlorine residual for at least 20 minutes contact time before the water enters the activated charcoal system.

3. The final step in the process should be effective activated charcoal treatment to remove toxin remaining after the sand filtration and disinfection processes.

4. All treatment equipment used should meet NSF standard 53, and should be adequately sized to treat the maximum amount of water that you use. Treatment equipment needs regular monitoring and servicing to assure that it functions properly.

5. Ideally all water entering your home should be treated as recommended. It is possible to treat only water used in the kitchen, but this increases chances that animals or pets would inadvertently drink untreated water.

As more monitoring is done and toxin levels are measured this advisory may be altered. The advisory is to remain in effect until specifically changed or lifted by county and state health officials.

August 12, 2004

FACT SHEET

TOXIC *MICROCYSTIS* BLOOMS IN TENMILE LAKES

(information modified from Oregon Health Division Document: Hazards from *Microcystis aeruginosa* in Fresh Water – http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/esc/docs/mafact.htm)

➢ What is a toxic bloom of *Microcystis aeruginosa*?

Microcystis aeruginosa is a species of blue-green algae that grows naturally in many surface waters. In most bodies of fresh water and most weather conditions it does not pose a hazard to wildlife or human beings. However, under certain conditions (such as when the water is warm with abundant nutrients) *Microcystis aeruginosa* can grow more rapidly than normal. The result can be excessive numbers of large colonies that form floating masses on the water surface or that are dispersed within the water column. These occurrences are called "algal blooms". *Microcystis aeruginosa* can produce natural toxins (called microcystins) that are very potent, and these toxins are higher in concentration during bloom conditions. The microcystin toxins are produced and contained inside the *Microcystis* cells, and are released to the water when the cells die and disintegrate. Also, since the cells are very small, they can be ingested along with the water. Toxin levels in a water body tend to be higher near shorelines and at the surface of the water where animal and human contact is most likely.

➢ What are the primary toxic effects of these blooms?

The primary toxic effect of microcystins is on the liver. At very high doses, death of liver cells and destruction of blood vessels in the liver can result in serious injury and possibly death. Though less is known about the long-term effects of microcystin toxins, animal studies have shown these toxins can cause chronic liver damage and may promote the formation of liver tumors. These effects are more likely to occur if exposure is frequent over a long period of time.

The levels of toxin necessary to produce immediate or acute illness in humans and animals are much higher than levels that may cause chronic liver injury. Drinking water standards are usually based on chronic effects. Currently, there is no drinking water standard in the U.S. for microcystins. Canada, Australia, and Great Britain have developed a guideline level of 1 microgram toxin per liter of water, or 1 part per billion (1 ppb). During algal blooms, toxin levels can greatly exceed 1 ppb.

➢ How is it determined when the water becomes safe once a bloom is reported?

Changes in weather or in other conditions in a water body influence the growth of blue-green algae. Generally, cooler weather, rainfall, and reduced sunshine will lead to reductions in algal growth and toxin levels. Algal blooms generally peak and die off rapidly and toxin levels in the water decline over days or weeks. Only blue-green algae experts can distinguish visually between different kinds of algal growth, and are able to determine when blooms have disappeared. Testing of the water is the only way to be certain that toxin levels are no longer dangerous.

➢ When does the Oregon Health Division Issue Warnings?

Drinking Water -- When measured or estimated toxin levels reach 1 ug/l the Department of Human Services, Office of Public Health Systems issues public advisories or warnings. These will include warnings regarding the use of water for drinking or food preparation unless the water has been treated following specific guidelines for destroying and removing toxins. Animals should be kept away from water during periods when microcystin toxin levels exceed 1 ug/l, because drinking the water can cause serious or even fatal illness.

Contact Recreation -- If levels are high enough to pose hazards for swimming, water-skiing or other direct skin contact activities, the advisories will warn against water contact. Generally skin hazards occur where the water has a green or blue-green color or where there are visible clumps or mats of algae present in the water. When measured toxin levels reach 5 ug/L or cell counts reach 15,000 cells/ml, contact recreation is considered unsafe.

➢ Can testing ensure that all areas of the lake are safe?

No, due to the patchy nature of blue-green algal blooms it is possible for higher *Microcystis* densities (and therefore higher microcystin toxin concentrations) to be present in areas not sampled in a given survey, particularly along shorelines or during calm conditions of little to no wind. **Therefore, when a lake has a demonstrated history of algal toxicity or the presence of known toxin producing algal species, those utilizing the lake for drinking water should always follow Oregon Health Division recommendations for purification. In addition, recreational users should always avoid contact with water whenever noticeable surface concentrations of algae are evident or when the lake has an obvious green to blue-green appearance.**

➢ Are domestic animals at risk during blooms?

Yes, pets or other domestic animals are the most likely to ingest contaminated water, these animals should not be allowed access to the lakeshore whenever either noticeable surface concentrations of algae or an obvious green to blue-green appearance is evident.

➢ Is it safe to eat fish and other aquatic life?

Clams, mussels, snails and other shellfish should not be eaten during toxic algal advisory periods, but it is believed that fish can be safely eaten if they are cleaned and all internal organs discarded. Internal organs of such fish may be toxic even to animals.

➢ How much does testing cost?

Samples must be shipped to qualified laboratories for analysis. A microscopic determination to quantify the number of Microcystis colonies and cells costs $90 per sample. A specialized test to analyze for the microcystin toxin concentration costs $200 per sample (overnight shipping costs not included), and for anatoxins the cost is $350/sample.

- NOTE: A fact sheet about microcystin toxin and its effects may be found on the Web at www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/esc/docs/mafact.cfm