



# Recreational Water Season Updates

Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment & Prevention  
**MHOA Annual Spring Workshops**

*April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 - Devens, MA*

*April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Virtual*

# Agenda

- Program Updates
  - Staff Contact Information
  - 2025 Accomplishments
  - 2026 Updates
- Pre-Season Reminders
  - Overview of WQ Criteria and Posting Requirements
  - Key points to remember
- Data Portal Demonstration and Feedback Session
- 2026 and Beyond – Culturally Accessible Beaches
- Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms (CyanoHABs)

Wellfleet Beach, Wellfleet

# Staff Contact Information

## Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention (TOX)

### Recreational Water Team:

- Logan Bailey – Lead Scientist, TOX
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- Rachel Gladstone – Cyanobacteria/Harmful Algae Bloom Coordinator
  - Phone: 781.540.6422 | Email: [rachel.gladstone@mass.gov](mailto:rachel.gladstone@mass.gov)
- Erin Collins – Beaches Project Coordinator
  - Phone: 617.785.1869 | Email: [erin.collins3@mass.gov](mailto:erin.collins3@mass.gov)
- Bridget Ducey – Beach Inspector: *Cape & Islands, Buzzards Bay, Western Massachusetts*
  - Phone: 413.966.7692 | Email: [bridget.j.ducey@mass.gov](mailto:bridget.j.ducey@mass.gov)
- Michael Beattie – Beach Inspector: North Shore, Boston, Central Massachusetts
  - Phone: 781.445.3439 | Email: [mike.beattie@mass.gov](mailto:mike.beattie@mass.gov)
- DPH Beaches Project General Line
  - Phone: 617.624.5757 | Email: [DPH-Beach@mass.gov](mailto:DPH-Beach@mass.gov)

# Pre-Season Reminder: Water Quality Criteria

Beach must be posted if:

- Single sample exceedance
  - 2 **consecutive** single sample exceedances
  - on MDPH's Post-After-1 List
- Geomean exceeds threshold

Beaches can only be re-opened once the single sample **and** the geomean are below threshold

Beach Type	Indicator	Single Sample	Geomean
Marine	Enterococci	>104	>35
Freshwater	Enterococci	>61	>33
	<i>E. coli</i>	>235	>126

Table 1. DPH recreational water quality criteria (CFU/100 mL)

WELCOME TO  
LYNN  
BEACH



OPERATING SEASON

MEMORIAL DAY-LABOR DAY

WATER QUALITY IS NOT MONITORED OUTSIDE  
OF THE OPERATING SEASON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
617-626-1250

DPH PERMIT # MA434583

# Pre-Season Reminder: Operators Sign

## Required at each beach entrance:

- Beach Name
- Dates of Operation
- Operator Name & Number
- Permit #
- *“Not monitored for bacteria outside of season”* message

## Encouraged:

- Size: At least 8.5” by 11”
- Weather-resistant
- QR code for more information and/or language translation

# Pre-Season Reminder: Posting Sign

Required at parking lot entrances  
and beach entrances:

"Warning! No Swimming.  
Swimming May Cause Illness."

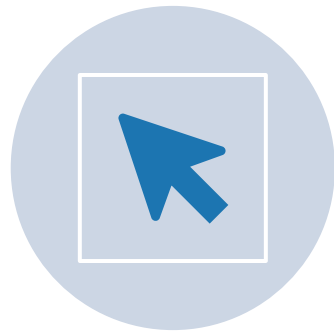
- Reason for Posting
- Date of Posting
- BOH Contact Information
- Red Hatch Mark Graphic



# Portal and Dashboard Overview: Information Flow



BEACH WATER IS  
SAMPLED



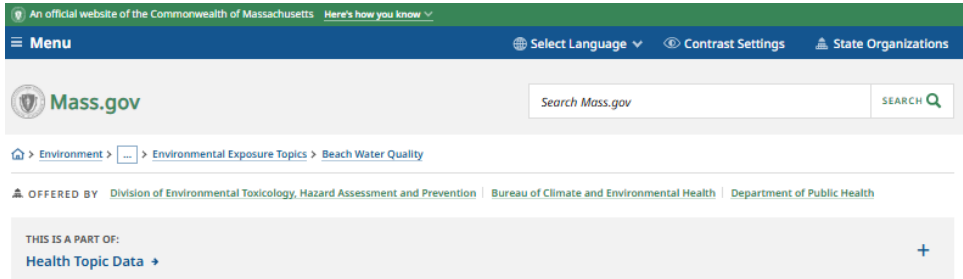
SAMPLE DATA AND/OR  
POSTING INFORMATION IS  
ENTERED ON THE PORTAL



DATA ARE AUTOMATICALLY  
PUBLISHED ON THE  
PUBLIC DASHBOARD

<https://mdph-envdata.casetivity.com/>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/interactive-beach-water-quality-dashboard>

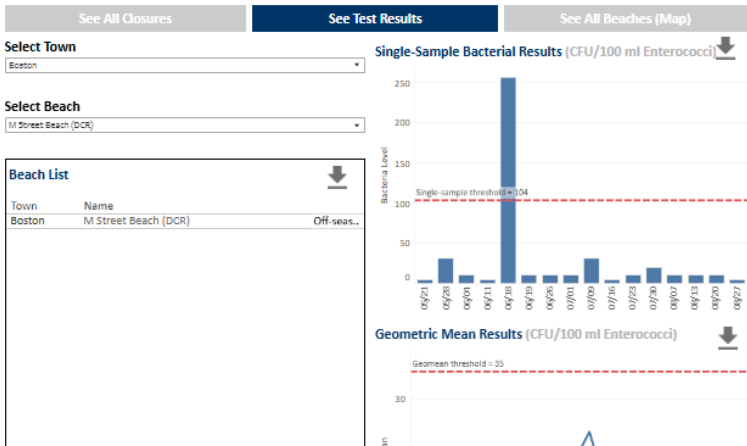


## Interactive Beach Water Quality Dashboard

MDPH's Interactive Beaches Dashboard provides water quality testing results for the current beach season. It will tell you which beaches are open or closed. If a beach is closed, do not swim or enter the water at that location to avoid risk of illness.

### Interactive data dashboard

As most beaches in the state have closed to swimming for the remainder of 2024, regular updates of this dashboard have been paused. The dashboard will begin updating again on Memorial Day 2025.



# 2025 Season Summary

An incredibly successful second year with our Dashboard and Portal!

272,000+ views to our public Beaches Dashboard on *mass.gov* during the 2025 season

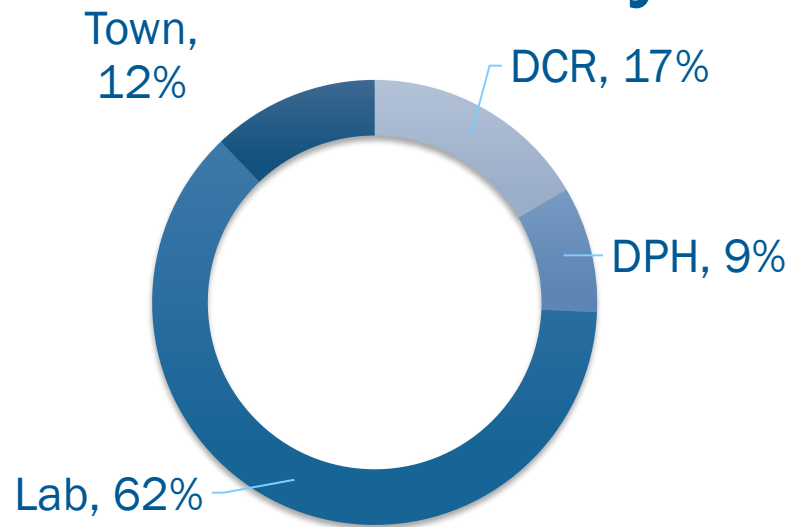
Most popular dashboard on *mass.gov*!

70% of views were from in state

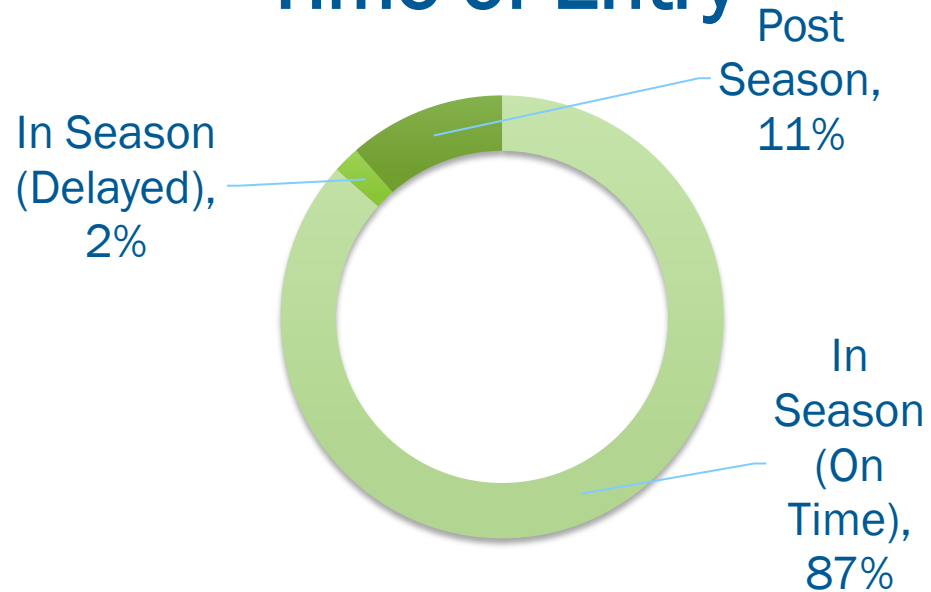
4<sup>th</sup> of July was the most popular weekend

# Portal and Dashboard Overview: 2025 Portal Data

## Data Entered By



## Time of Entry



16,314 total samples were entered for 2025

94% of samples were entered on the portal using bulk sample upload

# Sampling and Data Entry: Key Points to Remember

- Please use the most current field form [\[PDF\]](#) [\[DOCX\]](#)
- Email: [dph-beach@mass.gov](mailto:dph-beach@mass.gov)

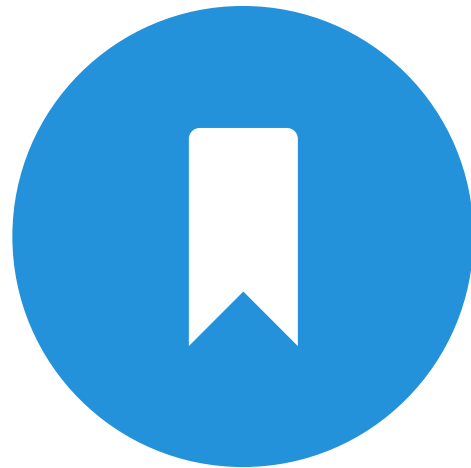
Reminders for lab/field staff:

- Temperature in Fahrenheit is required
- Legible handwriting helps

We are here to help!

- 1-on-1 trainings
- Custom Excel templates for data upload

# Live Data Portal Demonstration



BOOKMARK OUR BEACHES  
PORTAL TO YOUR BROWSER:



[HTTPS://MDPH-  
ENVDATA.CASATIVITY.COM/](https://mdph-envdata.casativity.com/)

# Upload Notification Email



notifications@dev.mdpd-envdata.casetivity.com

To: bridget.j.ducey+bohuser@mass.gov



Reply

Reply all

Forward



Mon 4/13/2026 2:46 PM

Hi Bridget (BOH user),

The samples below have been successfully added to the Beaches Portal. To view this batch in the Portal, go to the 'Search For...' pull-down menu, choose 'Beach Samples,' then paste in the following Upload ID: 882a418c069220260413.

Lab Sample ID	Beach	Location	Post-After-1?	Sample Date and Time	Indicator	Result	Adjusted Result	Geomean	Action Required	Exceedance Type
123	Blueberry Hill Camp (Curlew Pond)		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	E. Coli	125	125	n/a*	No***	
123	Hedges Pond		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	E. Coli	150	150	n/a*	No***	
123	Indian Head Resort		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	E. Coli	300	300	n/a*	No***	
123	Nelson Park		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	Enterococci	10	10	n/a*	No***	
123	Plymouth Beach - 1		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	Enterococci	90	90	n/a*	No***	
123	White Horse - Full Sail		No	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	Enterococci	115	115	n/a*	No***	
123	Wind-in-the-Pines Camp		Yes	2026-03-30 08:00 AM	E. Coli	250	250	n/a*	No***	

To post a beach closed to swimming or re-open a beach following a closure, please go to the [MDPH Beaches Portal](#).

\*Geomean can be unavailable for one of two reasons: 1) the location does not yet have five samples; or 2) this batch included one or more older samples, and the Portal must therefore re-calculate geomeans for the four subsequent samples. These re-calculations are performed every hour, on the hour, so please check back then to see the updated geomeans.

# Portal Demonstration: Screenshots

# Portal Overview

The screenshot shows the MDPH Beaches Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'MDPH Beaches Portal', and user options like 'Search For ...', 'Extracts', 'Useful Links', and 'Account'. Below the navigation bar, a welcome message reads 'Welcome Back, Mike (BOH User)!'. A dropdown menu shows 'Dashboard: BOH'. Five main action buttons are displayed: 'Report Posting', 'Report Reopening', 'Edit Beach Posting', 'Enter Sample', and 'Upload Sample File'. The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Action Required:** A section with the text 'Action Required (Please report posting where applicable using button "Report Posting" above)'. It currently displays 'No data available'.
- Currently Posted:** A table showing two rows of posted beaches:

Jurisdiction	Beach + Location Name (if any)	Other Reason (if any)	Date Posted	Reason
Plymouth	Hedges Pond		04/10/2026	Bacterial Exceedance
Plymouth	Indian Head Resort		04/11/2026	Bacterial Exceedance
- Latest Sampling Data:** A table showing the most recent sample data for various beaches:

Beach	Location	Latest Sample Date/Time	Latest Sample Result	Indicator	Test Frequency	Calculated Geomean
Blueberry Hill Camp (Curlow Pond)		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	50	E. Coli	Weekly	39.30
Hedges Pond		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	330	E. Coli	Weekly	82.19
Indian Head Resort		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	240	E. Coli	Weekly	75.17
Nelson Park		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	30	Enterococci	Weekly	30.64
Plymouth Beach - 1		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	75	Enterococci	Weekly	30.89
White Horse - Full Sell		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	30	Enterococci	Weekly	17.19
Wind-in-the-Pines Camp		2026-04-05 08:00:00AM	75	E. Coli	Weekly	52.66
- Sampling Overdue:** A section that currently displays 'No data available'.
- DCR-Managed Beaches in Town:** A table listing beaches managed by the Department of Coastal Resources:

Beach Name	Location	Test Frequency	Post Status	Water Type
Barnet Pond (DCR)		Weekly	Open	Fresh
Charge Pond (DCR)		Weekly	Open	Fresh
College Pond Day Use (DCR)		Weekly	Open	Fresh
Curlow Pond (DCR)		Weekly	Open	Fresh
Fairings Pond (DCR)	Beach 1	Weekly	Open	Fresh
Fairings Pond (DCR)	Beach 2	Weekly	Open	Fresh

Beaches that require action (post/remove posting, resample, etc)

Beaches in your jurisdiction that are currently posted

Most recent sample data

Beaches that have not been sampled on time (or the data haven't been entered)

DCR-managed beaches in your jurisdiction (if applicable)



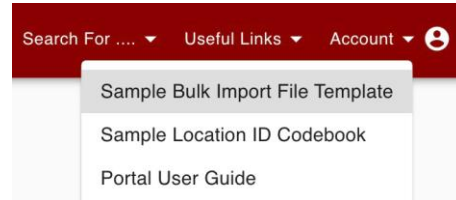
# UPLOADING SAMPLE DATA: How to enter

## PRE-SEASON: SETTING UP YOUR TEMPLATE

### 1. Download Blank Template

On the upper right of the portal, click "Useful Links" & choose "Sample Bulk Import File Template."

This will open an Excel spreadsheet.



### 2. Save spreadsheet to your beach testing folder

Name it something like "[YEAR] Beach Data Template."

### 3. Fill in Columns A & B

Do this For every location you'll be getting data for this summer. If a beach has more than one sampling each location should have its own row

### 4. Fill in Column C

Download the Sample Location ID Codebook (second item under "Useful Links" - see step 1). For each of your sample locations, look up the 4-digit code, then type it into in Column C of your template.

### 5. Fill in lab-related fields that will not change from week to week: Lab Name, Analysis Method, Indicator, Result Unit.

### 6. Save file

## IN-SEASON: ENTERING DATA

1. **When you get a new batch of data, make a copy of your current year's template.** Give it a name that indicates the weeks/dates the samples were collected.

2. **For each sample, enter all the data from this week's field forms and lab reports.**

- See tips for specific fields on next page
- Sometimes dates left blank on the field form can be found on the lab report or the chain of custody.

3. **Save your file**

4. **Click the rectangular "Upload Sample File" button:**



5. **On the resulting screen:**

- Click "Choose File."
- Navigate to select your spreadsheet.
- Click the blue "Upload" button.



6. **After a moment, the portal will tell you if your upload was successful.**

- If it was, you and the BOH will receive a confirmation email listing your samples telling. The BOH will also immediately receive the results and notification of any beach actions required (closure, reopening, etc).
- See next page if there was a problem with your upload.

# Beach Profile

## Beach: Baird Center (Bloody Pond)

Back

[Edit](#) [Create Beach Posting](#)

Beach Name	City/Town
Baird Center (Bloody Pond)	Plymouth
Jurisdiction	
Plymouth	
Beach Access Designation	Water Type
Semi-Public	Fresh
Testing Frequency	Post-After-One Beach?
Weekly	No
Surrogate Location ID (if applicable)	Post Status
	Open
Waterbody Name	
Bloody Pond	
Latitude (Start of Beach)	Latitude (End of Beach)
41.854896	41.44529503
Longitude (Start of Beach)	Longitude (End of Beach)
-70.583041	-70.58712137
Notification Regions (if applicable)	
Beach Starting Date	Beach Ending Date
05/23/2026	09/08/2026

Create a Posting

Update Start and End Dates for each Beach

Beach Samples									
Beach Posting	Beach Samples								
Sampling Locations	Beach Name	Location Name (if any)	Jurisdiction	Sample Date Time	Indicator Organism	Lab Result	Geomean	Upload Date	Lab Name Entered
	No results found								

Useful beach information

# Postings and Reopenings

Home MDPH Beaches Portal Search For .... Extracts Useful Links Account

### Beach Posting Form

**MDPH Beach Posting Form**

Name of Beach: Baird Center (Bloody Pond) Date Posted: MM/DD/YYYY

Posting Reason: None selected

Additional Notes (optional):

Cancel Submit Posting

Fill out fields to post a beach. After the posting is submitted, it will appear under "Currently Posted" on your home screen

Home MDPH Beaches Portal

Welcome Back, Mike (BOH User!) Dashboard: BOH

Report Posting Report Reopening Edit Beach Posting

Action Required (Please report posting where applicable using button "Report Posting" above)

Currently Posted Jurisdiction Beach Plymouth Hedge

Postings can also be added, removed, and edited from the home screen

Home MDPH Beaches Portal Search For .... Extracts Useful Links Account

### Beach Posting: Baird Center (Bloody Pond)

Remove Beach Posting

Beach Name: Baird Center (Bloody Pond) Date Posted: 04/15/2026

Location Name:

Post Reason: Bacterial Exceedance Post Status: Closed

Additional Notes (optional):

Back To Search

Click "Remove Beach Posting" to remove a posting

# Portal Questions, Feedback, or Ideas?

This is custom software designed to make your life easier – if you have an idea for a change or improvement, we are happy to hear it and implement it if possible.

We can also help train you, your staff, and the labs you work with.

General Email: [DPH-Beach@mass.gov](mailto:DPH-Beach@mass.gov)

**Bridget Ducey – Beach Inspector: *Cape & Islands, Buzzards Bay, Western Massachusetts***

•Phone: 413.966.7692 | Email: [bridget.j.ducey@mass.gov](mailto:bridget.j.ducey@mass.gov)

**Michael Beattie – Beach Inspector: North Shore, Boston, Central Massachusetts**

•Phone: 781.445.3439 | Email: [mike.beattie@mass.gov](mailto:mike.beattie@mass.gov)

# 2026 Beach Season Cultural Accessibility

Semiquincentennial Celebrations: July 2- July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

FIFA World Cup: June 13 - July 9, 2026

Sail Boston 2026: July 11 – July 16, 2026

- **Over 3 million international visitors expected in 2026**
  - Visitors expected from: Canada, United Kingdom, France, Brazil, Spain, Germany, Italy and Japan

## Beaches are a resource for everyone

- Heat impacts health!
- Safety and access to information needs to be available to all, regardless of language or cultural background



**FIFA**

# 2026 Beach Season Cultural Accessibility

Beaches are a resource for everyone

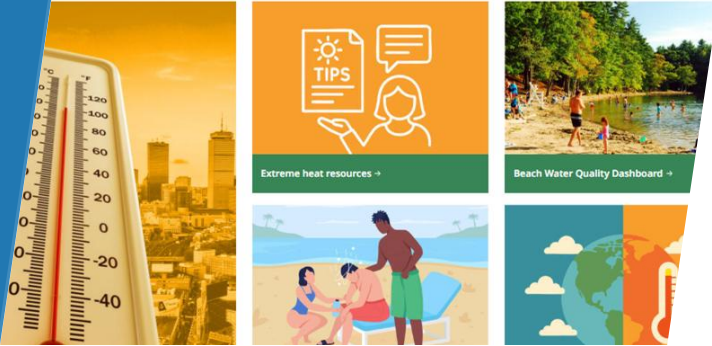
25.8% of Massachusetts residents speak a language other than English at home

Posting signs are available in:

- English
- Cape Verdean Creole
- Chinese (Simplified)
- Chinese (Traditional)
- Haitian Creole
- Khmer
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese



links



### Médicos y trabajadores de la salud comunitaria

Hablar con los pacientes sobre la salud mental y física cuando las playas con acceso al agua están cerradas durante los meses de verano; discutir actividades recreativas alternativas y opciones para refrescarse que no impliquen el uso del agua.

- Explicar la importancia de evitar el contacto con aguas contaminadas o nadar en ellas.
- Preguntar a los pacientes si han estado en aguas recreativas si tienen síntomas gastrointestinales o erupciones cutáneas.

Enlaces de recursos:

Perfil comunitario con los impactos del cambio climático

EPHT: Página web sobre aguas recreativas

Volver al gráfico



### Iventus di Kalor Istrému

Númeru di dias di veron pa riba di 90°F sa ta aumenta na Massachusetts. Kel-li ta provoka inda más duénsas rilaionádu ku kalor y pode ten inpáktu na kondisyon di saúdi króniku, sima duénsas respiratóriu, kardiovaskular y renal.

Kalor y umidádi pode faze kon ki nos korpu fika inda más kenti y transpira más txeu. Kel-li pode leba a dizidratason, kainbra muskular y fadiga. Otus risku pa saúdi ta inklui izauston pamodi kalor y insolason, ku sintómas ki pode bai desdi diskonfortu y falta di inerja, tontura y dismaiu.

#### Kenha ki sa ta kore más risku?

Alguns pesoa pode sta kore más risku duranti un iventu di kalor istrému pamodi lugar undi ki es ta mora, ses asésu a informason ofisial di gobernu, disponibilidádi di rikursu pa prepara y da rispostá y faktu di dje-s ten probléma di saúdi. Kel-li ta inklui:

- Kriansas ku ménus di 5 anu y pesoas ku más di 65 anu
- Pesoas grávida
- Pesoas ki ta trabadia ó faze izersisiu na ar livri



# 2026 Beach Season Cultural Accessibility

## MDPH Resources and Best Practices:

### Extreme Heat Resources:

- [Mass.gov/extreme-heat](https://www.mass.gov/extreme-heat)
  - 14 Climate and Health Fact Sheets (15 languages!)
- [MDPH Climate and Health Fact Sheets](#)

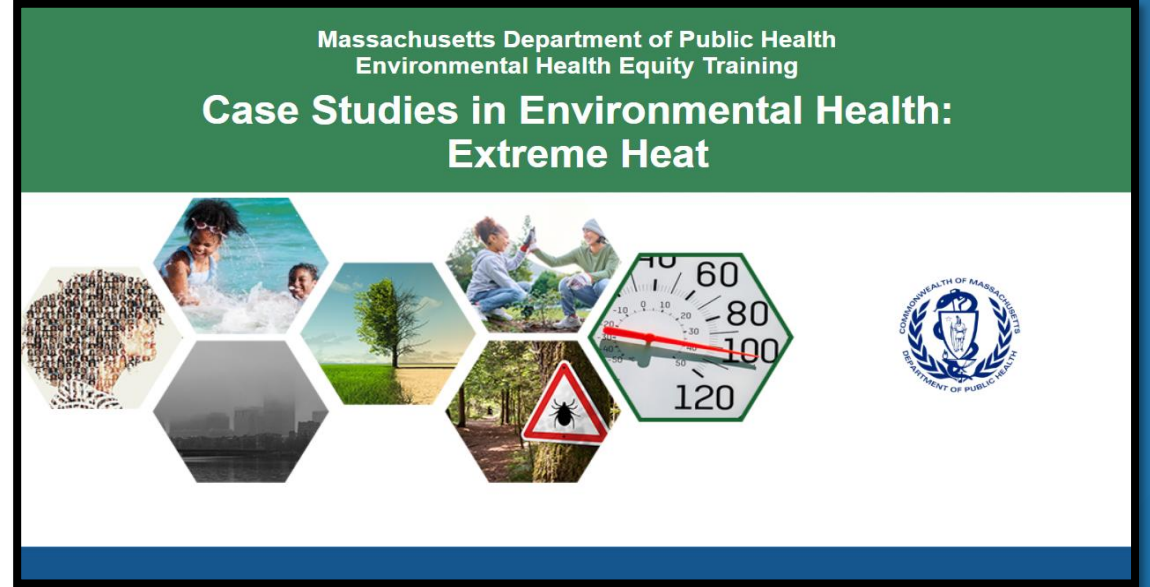
### Spanish Language Climate Training

- [Cambio Climático y Salud](#)

# Climate and Health Trainings

[Mass.gov | Climate and Health Educational Videos](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/Climate-and-Health-Educational-Videos)

[TRAIN | Climate and Health Learning Series](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/Climate-and-Health-Learning-Series)



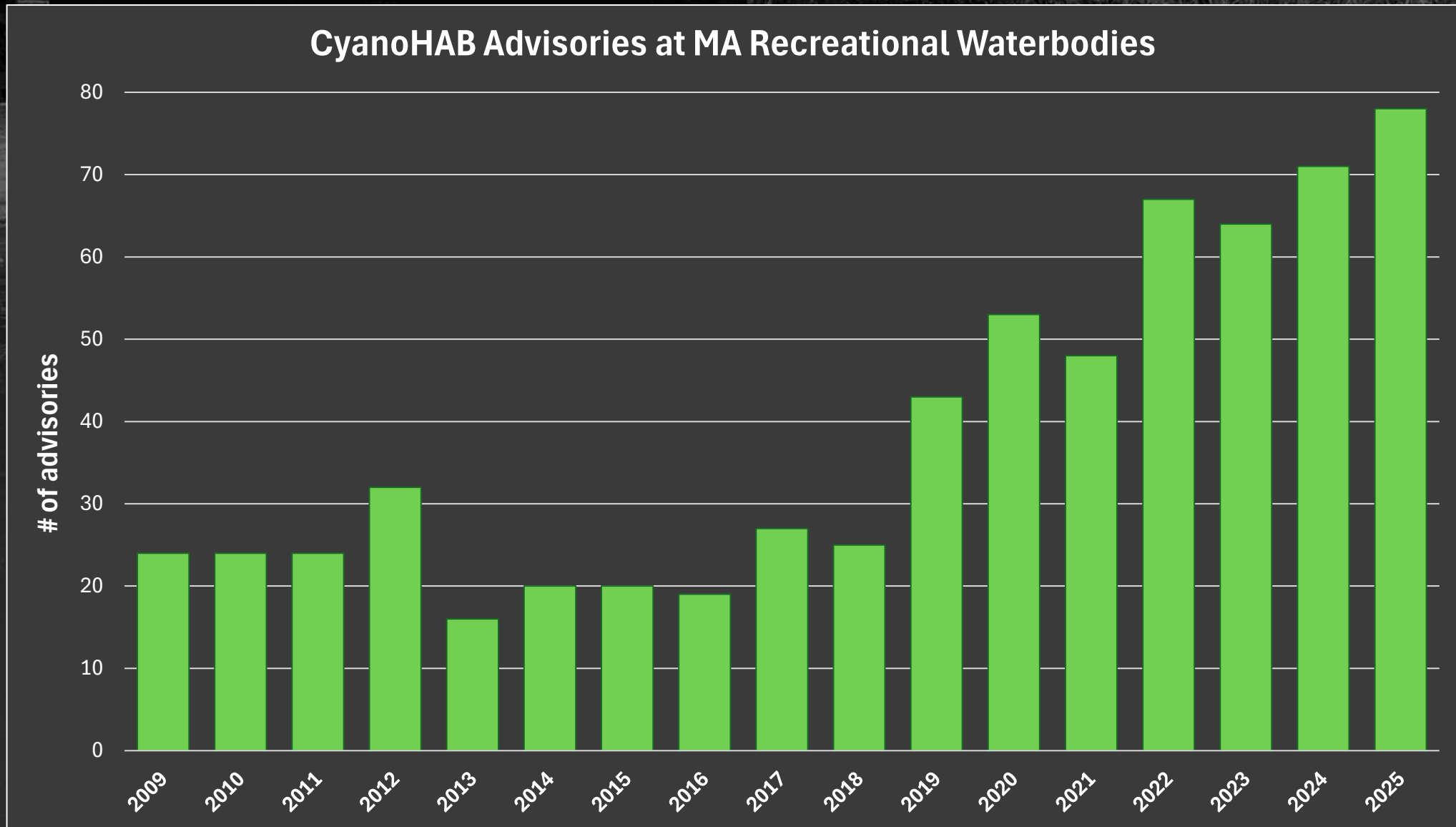
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# **Cyanobacteria**

## **Harmful Algal Blooms**

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# 2025 CyanoHAB Season Summary

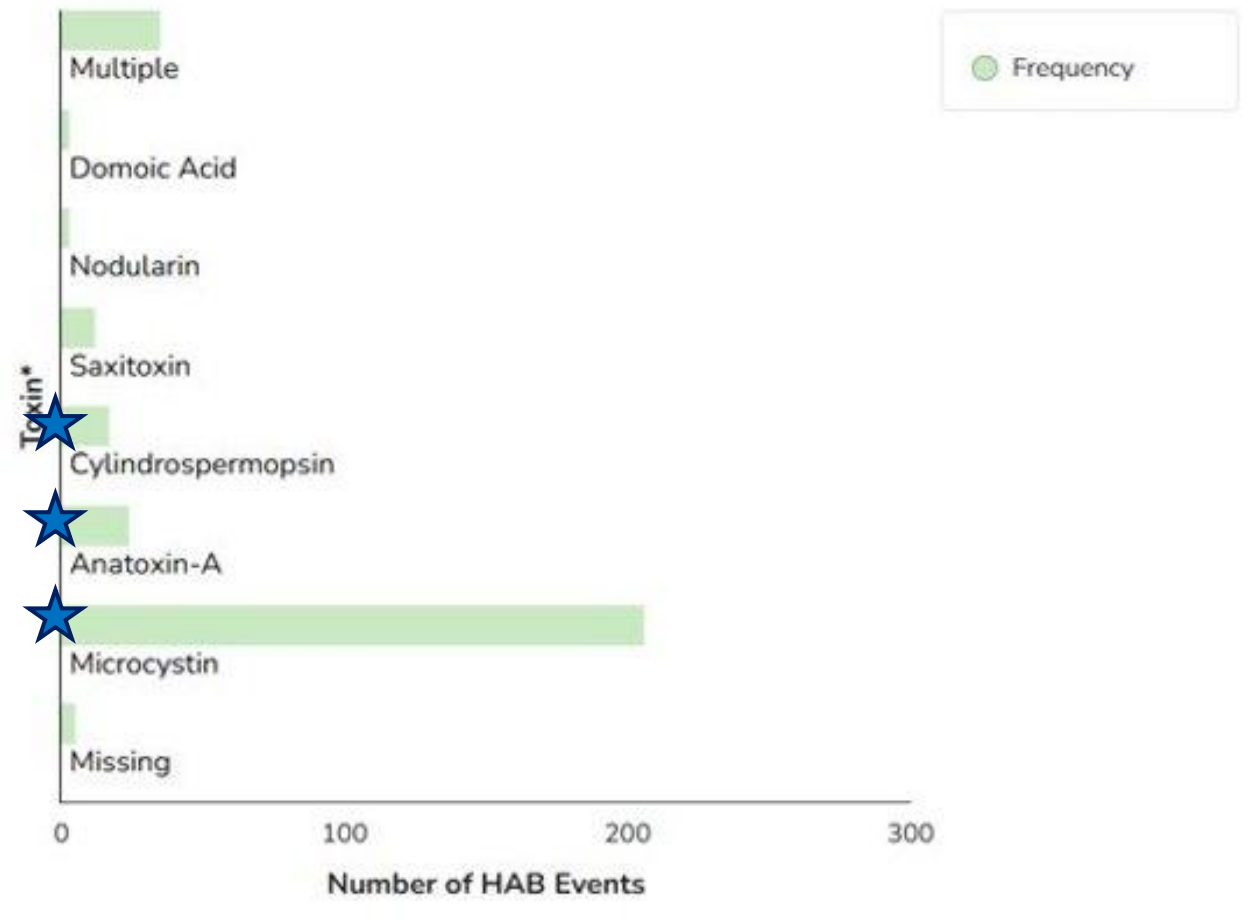


# Cyanotoxins

Toxin Name	Toxin Type	DPH Advisory Criteria
Microcystins	Hepatotoxin	8 µg/L
Cylindrospermopsin	Hepatotoxin	15 µg/L
Anatoxin-a	Neurotoxin	60 µg/L*

Figure 9a. Identified toxins during environmental testing of HAB events, 2022

Among the 228 HAB events with toxins identified during environmental testing, microcystins (206, 90%) were found most often.



# New / Updated DPH Content

- Updated Guidance Document for Responding to CyanoHABs in Recreational Waters
- Standard Operating Procedure for Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Sampling



# DPH CyanoHAB Workshop – April 29th

TO REGISTER,  
CONTACT:  
[DPH-Beach@mass.gov](mailto:DPH-Beach@mass.gov)

9:00 – 9:50	<b>Welcome, DPH Program Updates, CyanoHAB Trends in MA Freshwater Bodies (2008-2025)</b> <i>Rachel Gladstone &amp; Logan Bailey, MA Department of Public Health</i>
9:50 – 10:30	<b>A National Perspective on HABs: Mitigation, Monitoring, Prevention and Remediation</b> <i>Wayne Carmichael, Wright University</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Rapid Microcystin Detection and Practical Algal ID from Field to Lab</b> <i>Kait Reinl, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</i>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Nitrogenic Eutrophication: The Algaecide Paradox - Perverse Feedback Driving HABs in Freshwater Lakes</b> <i>Dave Shackleton, SIS.BIO</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Fluorometric Detection of Cyanobacterial Biomass in a Freshwater Recreational Environment: A Four-Year Investigation as a STEM Initiative at a Community Sailing Organization</b> <i>Ashton Marnik, Elio Kohn, Community Boating, Inc., Boston, MA</i>
12:30 – 1:00	<b>Insights Into Benthic Cyanobacteria Ecology and Anatoxin Production</b> <i>Susan Wood, Lincoln University</i>

# Thank you!

**Division of Environmental Toxicology,  
Hazard Assessment and Prevention (TOX)**

***Recreational Water Quality Team***

