

# Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast



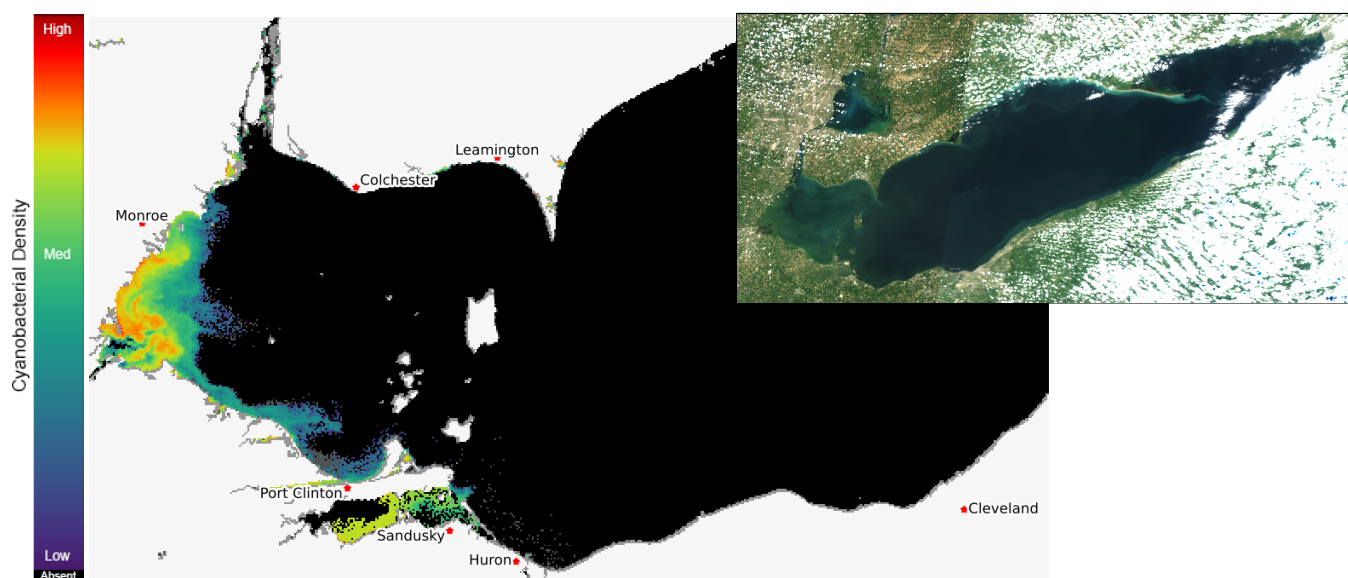
NATIONAL CENTERS FOR  
COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

## Imagery Analysis & Forecast - 2022-07-21

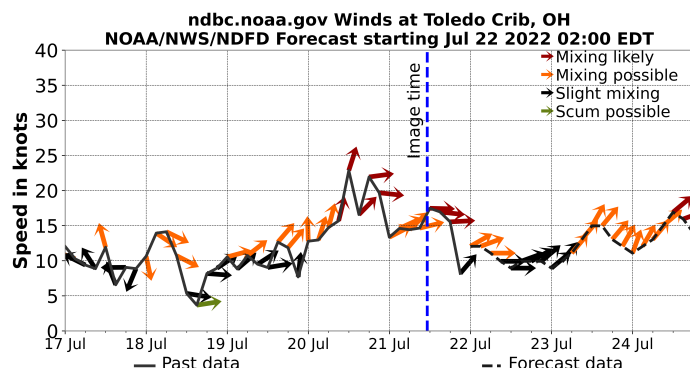
The *Microcystis* cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has an approximate area of 200 square miles, which is an increase in area since Jul 19. The bloom appears mostly outside Maumee Bay into Western Lake Erie from Monroe MI to the Wildlife Refuge just east of Maumee Bay. Patches of scum are present in areas that appear orange to red. Scum varies with wind. Sandusky Bay has a local bloom of cyanobacteria, which is persistent in most years.

Toxins have been detected above the recreational limit. They can be highly concentrated in scums! If you see scum, keep your pets and yourself out of the water. In the satellite imagery or bloom forecast position products, any areas that are orange or red are likely to have scum, especially during calm winds, see Mixing Forecast product. --S. Tomlinson 07/20

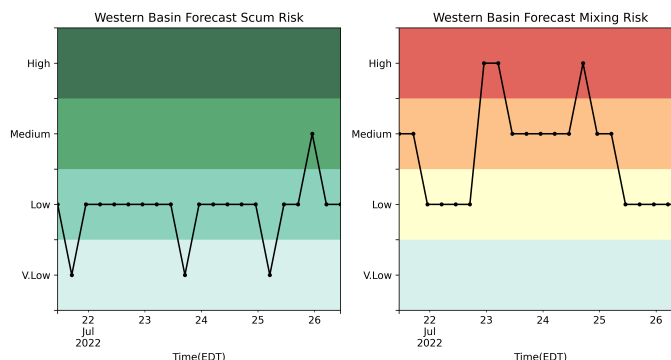
The past few days of imagery can be seen at [the HAB monitoring site](#). The Lake Erie Forecast is operated by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Contact [hab@noaa.gov](mailto:hab@noaa.gov) for technical Questions. Last Updated: 2022-07-21 11 PM EDT



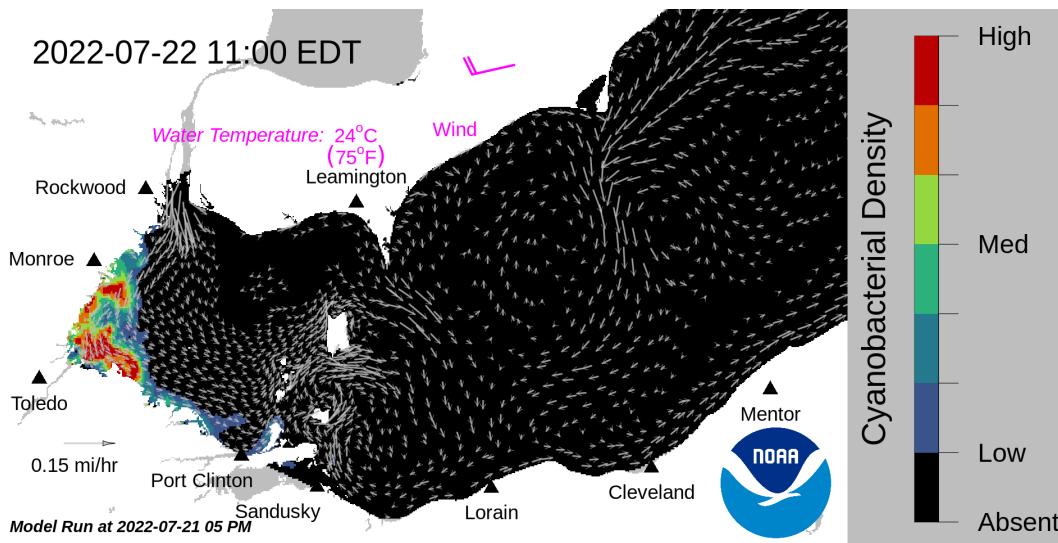
Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Jul 21, 2022, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows a truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.



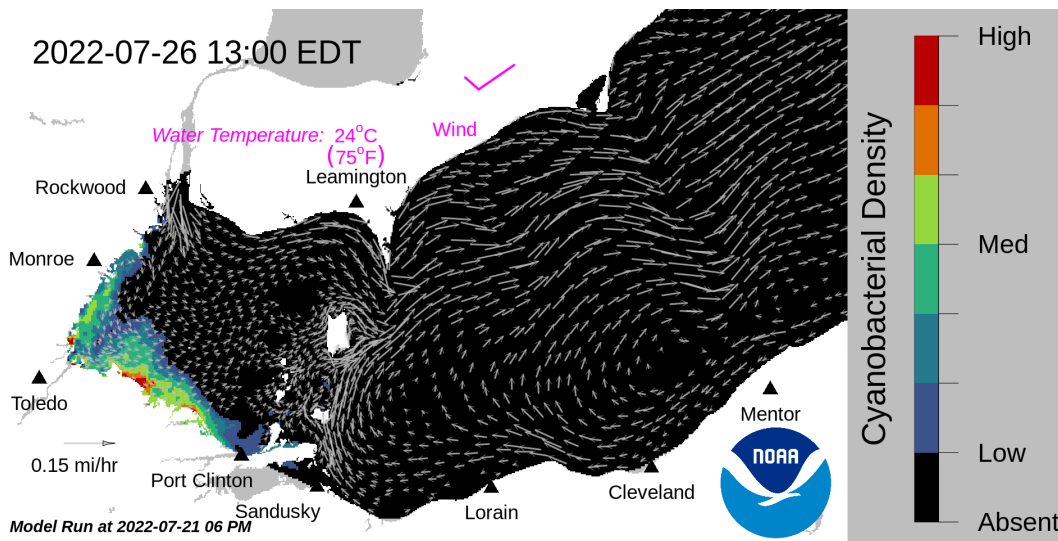
Wind speed and direction from ToledoCrib, OH. Blooms mix through water column at wind speeds > 15 knots.



Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum (left), and risk of mixing of the bloom down into the water column every 6 hours over the next 5 days. Mixing is weakest during mild winds.



Forecast surface bloom position for Jul 22, modeled from the last satellite image with water currents estimated from the Lake Erie Operational Forecast System (LEOFS). Potential for bloom movement is forecast in 3-dimensions with a hydrodynamic model using satellite imagery and currents. The modeled output does not contain clouds. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.



Forecast surface bloom position for Jul 26. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.

### Additional resource:

- [Archived Lake Erie Forecasts](#)
- [More information about our bloom monitoring imagery](#)
- [FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions about cyanobacteria and the forecasts NOAA issues](#)
- [Contributors and Data Providers](#)
- [Lake Erie HAB Forecast Guide - User guide to help navigate the forecast products](#)