



News Advisory

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

[North Coast Region](#)

5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Harmful Algal Bloom Triggers Public Health Alerts for Copco and Iron Gate Reservoirs

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday July 31, 2019**

**Contact: Rich Fadness
(707) 576-6718**

SANTA ROSA -- The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is urging boaters and recreational water users to avoid recreational activities in Copco and Iron Gate Reservoirs due to high levels of toxins produced by cyanobacteria blooms.

Copco Reservoir currently exceeds the "[danger](#)" threshold and has been posted with public health alerts warning against all forms of water recreation including boating, swimming, and fishing; and further advising against pet and livestock contact with the water. Cyanobacteria toxin levels have increased to "[warning](#)" levels in Iron Gate Reservoir. Swimmers are advised to stay out of the water until further notice. The public is urged to keep pets from coming in contact with the water.

The blooms appear as bright green in the water and can accumulate along the shore. Recreational exposure to cyanobacteria toxins can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea and cold and flu-like symptoms. Liver failure, nerve damage and death have occurred in rare situations where large amounts of contaminated water were directly ingested.

Residents and recreational water users are advised to enjoy camping, hiking, picnicking or other recreational activities while taking precautions to avoid waters near these bloom areas and any scums along the water's edge. Please visit the [State Water Board Twitter Page](#) for pictures of what these blooms look like in the reservoirs.

Water quality monitoring is done weekly in the summer from Link River Dam in Oregon to the Klamath River estuary in California. Sampling continues late into the fall to determine when toxin levels are below the public health thresholds and water contact is safe.

To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom, check most recent sampling results and more, visit the CA HABs Portal: <http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

###

