

White Pond Water Quality Monitoring Update, August 17, 2023

CURRENT WATER USE STATUS: Safe for All Recreational Uses

SUMMARY:

White Pond water was clear on Tuesday, August 17, 2023.

Water testing for E. coli on Tuesday was <5 CFU/100 ml of E. coli bacteria. This is in accordance with the State Bathing Beach Regulation 105 CMR 445.

The pond has been deemed safe for all recreational uses.

Cyanobacteria Sampling and Bloom Status

Water samples taken August, 17, 2023, were generally clear. The water was very warm with the surface measuring 76-81 F. Samples taken all three sites contained very low levels of any cyanobacteria.

Microcystin toxin levels at White Pond this week are estimated to be low in the entire pond.

A resident reported a Bloom on August 12, 2023, but no visible significant bloom was observed in the pond at the time of sampling and no significant change was observed in the water sampling conducted.

The Town Beach closes on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Residents are encouraged to report a bloom on our report a Bloom link if any changes in water quality or a suspect bloom is observed.

This is the last of the water samples to be conducted by the Health Division this summer unless a significant bloom event is observed.

→ [Report a Bloom](#)

Update from Higgins Environmental:

1. Field inspection earlier today (8/16). No visual or sonde evidence of cyanoHABs at, in or around A-Pod Traps. Spike of chlorophyll a (Chl-a) before one of the traps but no visible phytoplankton bloom.
2. Inspected downwind (NW) corner of pond. Slight film and small green specks (approximately 20 feet to and off shore, and maybe 80 feet wide); area depends on wind strength and "being stuck between docks" it seems. Sampled for microscopic analysis as well as water from C-Pod
3. Microscopic analysis of NW corner sample: lots of "debris in view", a few microcystis-like cell clusters...also just small green individual cells. Ran Sonde off sample, - shows PC (cyanoHABs) and some chlorophyll (phytoplankton)...consistent with microscopic analysis.
4. Microscopic analysis of C-Pod sample just had small green individual cells,,,no PC or microcystis-like cells (consistent with past sonde monitoring - mostly Chl-a in C-Pod).

Otherwise, despite being overcast skies, water was visible clear and film at NW cove area, off White Ave, was not very noticeable.

I would expect this area (current NW cove off White Ave) to enter and be trapped by the A-Pods with favorable (predominant) water flow and wind to the NE....today wind was to the NW pushing this towards White Ave.

I understand a bloom was reported in this area on Saturday August 12...during a time of no wind. Its not unusual to get surface films spreading out (extensively) when there is no wind. All told, I think it is a small volume (3-d) of cyanoHABs.

I'll go back later this week to see if its trapped in the A-Pods or is elsewhere in the Pond.

I've attached two microscopic images from the water sample in the NW cove off White Ave. Image 38 appears to be Microcystis. Image 48 is an unknown to me and appears to be a consolidation of small green individual cells that are quite common in the water (but not much to look at individually by the microscope (only about 6 um in size)).

5. Otherwise, just pine needles, little pine sap flakes, sticks, and similar in the A-Pod traps today..

