



# Great Lakes HABs Collaboratory

Linking Science and Management to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms

HABs Collaboratory Update

September 2017

## What's happened since January?

Since the beginning of 2017, the HABs Collaboratory has been working on a variety of projects. Among our accomplishments, we hosted a session at IAGLR 2017, held an [in-person meeting](#), conducted a [2017 Field Season Webinar](#), continued meeting with Topical Subgroups to produce fact sheets, and published an article in LakeLine. More details on each are provided below.

### Field Season Webinar

On July 24th, the Great Lakes HABs Collaboratory hosted the 2017 Field Season Webinar. During this webinar, presenters from across the Great Lakes discussed HABs field work they are conducting during the 2017 field season. The purpose of this webinar was to inform attendees about work being conducted across the Great Lakes. [Slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this webinar is posted online, other webinars can be found on the [Webinars](#) section of the HABs Collaboratory website.

### Topical Fact Sheets

Subgroups, (originally, called “mythbusters”), convened periodically throughout the year to explore specific HABs-related topics in greater detail with the aim of developing a collaborative product. Two of these groups have developed fact sheets aimed at informing the public and managers about select topics related to HABs. The fact sheets address “HABs & Phosphorus” and “How does Nitrogen affect HABs?” and will be publicly released at the Understanding Algal Blooms: State of the Science Conference on September 14<sup>th</sup>. They will also be posted on the [HABs Collaboratory website](#).

### IAGLR 2017

At IAGLR 2017, members of the HABs Collaboratory (M.A. Evans, T. Davis, G. Bullerjahn, and K. Gibbons) hosted a session titled “Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) from watershed influence to ecosystem effects” that featured 18 presentations on the latest science related to HABs in the Great Lakes and other freshwater systems. [Session schedule](#) and abstracts can be found on the IAGLR 2017 website. Also during IAGLR, collaborative members met for a “HABy hour” to socialize and celebrate a successful session.

### May 2017 In-person meeting

On May 15, 2017, an in-person meeting of the HABs Collaboratory was held at NOAA-GLERL in Ann Arbor. During the meeting, almost 30 members received updates from topical subgroups, assessed the first year of the HABs Collaboratory, and discussed future priorities. Overall, attendees agreed that the first year of the collaborative was a success. The group enjoyed the short format webinars as a way to quickly disseminate research. Going forward, the group suggested a broader focus on areas outside the western basin of Lake Erie and a desire to share and to learn more about research being conducted in other areas of the Great Lakes. The group also expressed interest in the Collaboratory engaging in more interactive communications about HABs science and management. A [Meeting Summary](#) is posted on the HABs Collaboratory website.

## LakeLine Article

Editors of LakeLine, a general audience publication of the Northern American Lake Management Society (NALMS), reached out to the Great Lakes Commission staff for an article about the HABS Collaboratory. Ken Gibbons and Victoria Pebbles prepared the article which was featured in the Summer 2017 issue that focused on cyanobacteria. The article serves as an introduction to our large scale collaborative effort and a brief background on HABS in Lake Erie. Also included in this issue are collaborative members Mark McCarthy and Silvia Newell who published an article titled “Old Habits are Hard to Break; modern HABS, Nitrogen and Lake Management”. A copy of the HABS Collaboratory LakeLine article can be found in the [Publications](#) section of the HABS Collaboratory website.

## What’s happening next?

### **Understanding Algal Blooms: State of the Science Conference. September 14, 2017**

Ohio Sea Grant is hosting the “Understanding Algal Blooms: State of the Science Conference” on September 14th at 9:30 a.m. in Toledo, OH. This conference will highlight current scientific knowledge about algal blooms, their causes, and best management practices to prevent them. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Video on Lake Erie HABS. Fall 2017**

Working with the Great Lakes Commission’s communications team, the Collaboratory is producing a short video to inform the public about HABS, highlight what resources are affected by HABS, and inform the public about ways to get involved. Be on the lookout for this video coming out sometime this fall.

### **Managers Webinar. November 2017**

The HABS Collaboratory would like to recruit speakers for our next webinar (likely sometime in November) focusing on how managers use science to make informed decisions and what information they need to make informed decisions. We are looking for speakers who are interested in sharing how they use science for decisions and what gaps could be filled. If you are interested in becoming a speaker or would like to recommend a speaker, please email [kgibbons@glc.org](mailto:kgibbons@glc.org) by **October 13**.

## Related News

In August, the National Science and Technology Council released the second report as required under the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014. The report, *Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia in the Great Lakes Research Plan and Action Strategy: An Interagency Report*, describes the relationships between federal partners and their stakeholders, and the challenges, concerns, and needs related to HABS and hypoxia, and their impact on Great Lakes regional interests and communities. It contains a number of recommendations, including “developing unified messages on the causes, risks, and mitigation efforts on HABS and hypoxia, along with research on the most effective communication approaches for affecting behavior and influencing decision-making processes.” This seems like a natural area where the HABS Collaboratory could help. Read the [report](#) and share your ideas with others in the HABS Collaboratory.

## Get Involved

Share your HABS news, articles, or information directly with other members of the HABS Collaboratory simply by sending an email to: [habscollaboratory@great-lakes.net](mailto:habscollaboratory@great-lakes.net). From there, it will go the 200-plus HABS researchers and practitioners across the Great Lakes Basin who are part of the HABS Collaboratory.

Join our list-serv by sending an e-mail (from your preferred e-mail address) to [habscollaboratory+subscribe@great-lakes.net](mailto:habscollaboratory+subscribe@great-lakes.net). You will receive an e-mail acknowledging your request. Simply reply to it to confirm your subscription. If you don’t see this e-mail, please check your “Clutter” or “Spam” folders.