

June 20, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tenmile Lakes water monitoring – June 2019 Update

Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership is monitoring the Tenmile Lakes waters on a regular basis over this summer with contributions from Coos County through its Coos Health & Wellness Public Health Division and the Oregon Department of State Lands.

Because Blue Green Algae has been present in the lakes for many years, it is important that the toxicity levels of the lakes be monitored to ensure toxin levels remain within safe levels, especially when the lakes are used by the public and their pets for recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing.

The water sampling occurred on June 17th, and the results came in on June 20th, 2019 for two different sites:

1. Wulfy Beach swimming area and immediate surroundings (C1)
2. Tenmile Lakes Canal near North Lake RV Resort and Marina swimming area (C2)

The sampling results:

The results are **BELOW** the OHA [Recreational Advisory](#) guidelines.

Toxin levels are BELOW OHA [drinking water](#) standards at both sites. It is always recommended for people or pets to not drink the Tenmile Lakes waters unless properly treated prior to consumption.

Sample Site	Collection Date	Anatoxin-A (µg/L)	Total Microcystin (µ/L)
C1	6/17/2019	Below detection Limit	Below detection Limit
C2	6/17/2019	Below detection Limit	Below detection Limit

Oregon Health Authority algae toxin guideline values (2019)

Guidelines	Anatoxin –a (µg/L)	Microcystin (µg/L)
Recreational Advisory	15	8
Drinking water -Adults	3.0	1.6
Drinking water –age 5 or younger	0.7	0.3
Pets (Informational Guidelines)	0.4	0.2

Disclaimer:

Due to the patchy nature of blue-green algal blooms it is possible for higher *Microcystis* and *Anabaena* densities (and therefore higher microcystin or anatoxin concentrations) to be present in areas not sampled in this survey, particularly along shorelines or during calm conditions of little to no wind. Given the lakes' demonstrated history of toxic *Microcystis* and *Anabaena* blooms, and the fact that all areas of the lake cannot be tested at all times, those utilizing the lake for drinking water should always follow Oregon Health Division recommendations for purification. In addition, recreational users should always avoid contact with water whenever noticeable surface concentrations of algae are evident or when the lake has an obvious green to blue-green appearance. Moreover, because pets or other domestic animals are the most likely to ingest contaminated water, these animals should not be allowed access to the lakeshore whenever either noticeable surface concentrations of algae or an obvious green to blue-green appearance is evident.

[Be aware](#) and "when in doubt, stay out."

TLBP would like to thank the Coos County Public Health Department, Coos County Board of Commissioners, North Lake Resort, and the Department of State Lands for their help in our algae toxin monitoring program.