The *Microcystis* cyanobacteria bloom continues across a large part of the western basin along the Michigan and Ohio coasts. Recent southwesterly winds have pushed the bloom well into the central basin, with moderate to high concentrations extending eastward to far offshore of Cleveland. Scum has been rare the last few days, owing to the strong winds. Strong mixing has reduced the bloom on the Ontario coast to below detection, but cells are present. Microcystin toxins are still present in the bloom, but the concentration has decreased in general. Scum areas, when present, remain a risk.

Strong, 20 knot southwesterly winds are expected through tonight, creating strong mixing today and into Friday. Wind will diminish Friday into the weekend, favoring scum development, particularly on Saturday and early Sunday. Increasing winds late Sunday and Monday favor some mixing. Slight eastward movement is expected today, with little movement over the weekend. With the calm winds, low to moderate bloom concentrations may re-appear near the Ontario coast on the weekend. The persistent bloom in Sandusky Bay continues. No other blooms are evident in the central and eastern basins.

Please check Ohio EPA’s site, http://epa.ohio.gov/habalgae.aspx for safety information, including updates on the State Parks. Keep your pets and yourself out of the water in areas where scum is forming.

-Tomlinson, Stumpf