Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Early Season Projection  
NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR WATER QUALITY RESEARCH  
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The severity of the western Lake Erie cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom (HAB) is dependent on phosphorus inputs from March 1st through July 31st, henceforth the loading season. This new product projects the bloom severity based on the combination of current measurements of phosphorus loading from the Maumee River for the season to date with historical records from past years to estimate the remainder of the loading season.

Based on 12 weeks of data (March 1 - May 23), the extensive severe blooms observed in 2011 and 2013 are not projected to occur this year. So far, this spring has been relatively dry, resulting in less discharge and lower phosphorus loads into the western basin. However, there is still a relatively large uncertainty in the projection because the loading season still has 2 months. The uncertainty will reduce over time as the loading season progresses.

This experimental product involves the Maumee River phosphorus load data from Heidelberg University’s National Center for Water Quality Research and the western Lake Erie bloom severity models by NOAA’s National Center for Coastal Ocean Science.

For more information visit: http://www.heidelberg.edu/academiclife/distinctive/ncwqr or http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/habs/forecasting/