

ALGAL BLOOM

FROM "BLOOM" TO "DOOM"

Algal blooms can be incredibly harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and the ecosystem. Here are some things to know about harmful algal blooms (HABs)

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

HABs can destroy critically important habitat on a massive scale:

Each year, the **GULF OF MEXICO** dead zone averages the size of **Connecticut**.

Connecticut **5,543 MI²**

Cities Farms

Credit: NOAA

In 2016, **FLORIDA** areas were affected by HABs as thick as guacamole leaving four counties in a **state of emergency**.

Credit: epa.gov

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK'S major estuaries witnessed a **die-off of 300,000 fish** in 2015 and a **mass die-off of terrapins** in 2014.

Credit: LICRA

HEALTH DANGERS

HABs have negative health effects on humans and animals, like skin rashes, allergies, nausea, liver damage and even death



In 2013, a record number (276) of Florida **manatees** died. Eight manatees have died in 2016.



In Minnesota over the past 10 years, **18 dogs** have died from contact with HABs in lakes.



Across the US, toxic algae must be **removed from drinking water** to prevent illness.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

HABs can decimate the tourism, water supplies and fisheries on which people depend



Lake Erie's recurring HAB costs the city of Toledo an average of **\$3-4 million** a year and millions in lost tourism revenue.



In 2015, a massive HAB made California Dungeness crab poisonous to eat, costing the crab industry at least **\$48 million**.



As part of the HAB affecting Florida, the region's massive **tourism industry** has been harmed as well.

REFERENCES:

Department of Interior: <http://bit.ly/2aSFuzF>
New York DEC: <http://on.ny.gov/2bDTU7U>

Minnesota Public Radio: <http://bit.ly/1TEdxlY>
Toledo Blade: <http://bit.ly/1a0OIF2>