HABs can destroy critically important habitat on a massive scale:

**HABITAT DESTRUCTION**

In 2015, Florida areas were affected by HABs as thick as guacamole leaving four counties in a state of emergency.

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.

**HEALTH DANGERS**

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

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**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:

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