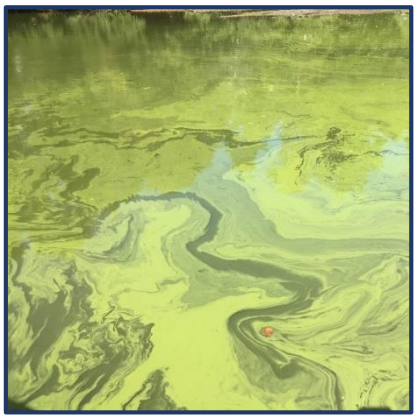
IDENTIFYING CYANOBACTERIAL (BLUEGREEN) ALGAL BLOOMS

Cyanobacteria, commonly called bluegreen algae, are naturally occurring bacteria present in most fresh waterbodies in North Carolina. Under certain environmental conditions, cyanobacteria can reproduce rapidly to form a cyanobacterial bloom. These blooms are often referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) due to the ability of some cyanobacterial blooms to produce toxins which can cause illness in humans and animals. While microscopic analysis is required to confirm the presence of a cyanobacteria, there are a few key characteristics that can be used as visual indicators for harmful algal blooms.

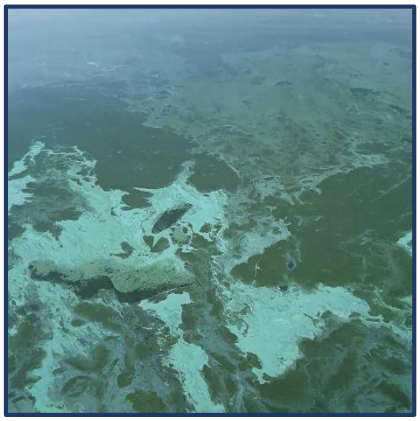
VISUAL INDICATORS OF CYANOBACTERIAL BLOOMS:

Discolored water or surface scums that can appear bright green, blue, red, or brown in color



Floating or submerged clumps, flecks or mats

Milky blue/white surface scum indicating decaying cyanobacteria



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on cyanobacterial blooms, visit the N.C. Division of Water Resources' website.

Report suspected algal blooms using the N.C. Division of Water Resources' Fish Kill/Algal Bloom Reporting App or by contacting your nearest regional office.

For information on precautions to take around cyanobacterial blooms, visit the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' website.