

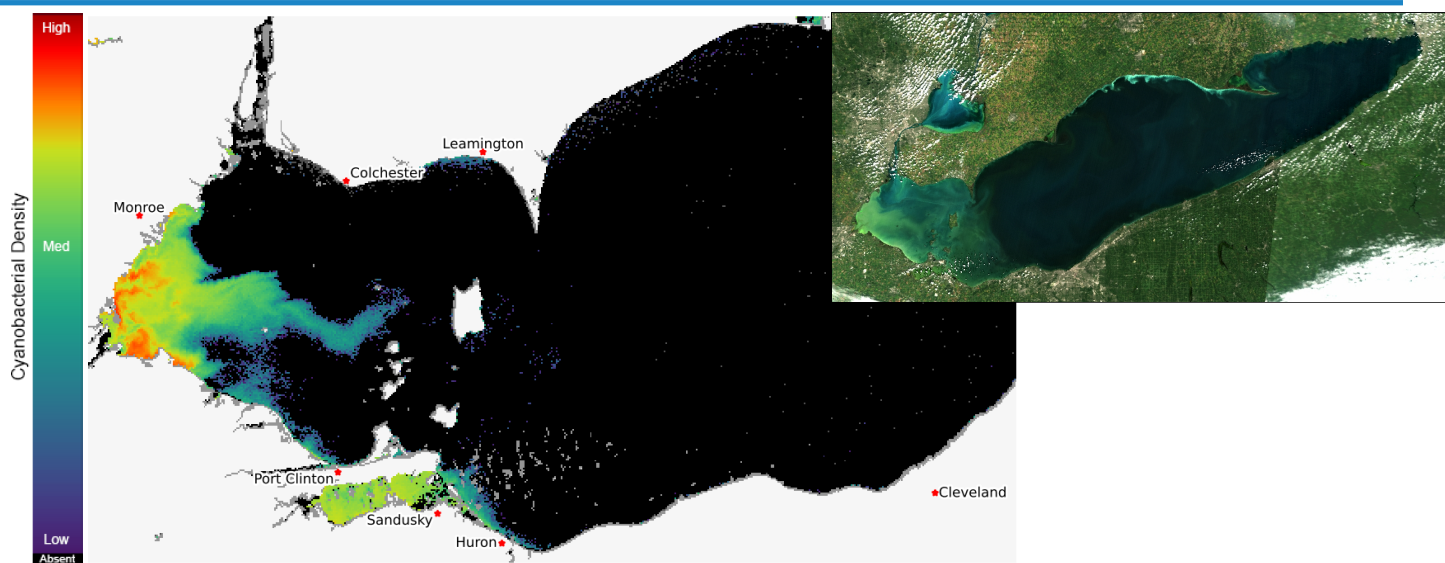
Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

2026-09-21

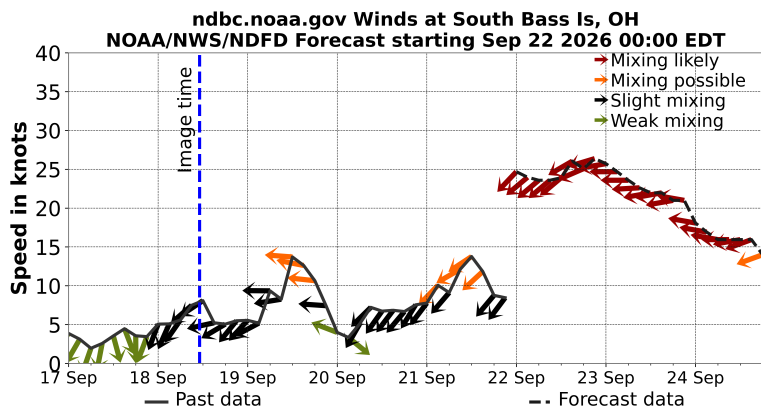
Summary

The cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has an approximate area of 280 square miles, which is a decrease in area since Sep 14. The cyanobacteria bloom is present in the western basin from Stony Point, MI to the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, OH. The bloom extends into the basin to West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge, OH. Highest concentrations (red and orange in image) are observed in Maumee Bay and off the MI coast as far north as Monroe. Weekly high resolution imagery of Maumee Bay can also be found at [the Demonstration Great Lakes \(20m\) HAB Monitoring Page](#). Toxins have been detected above the recreational limit in western Lake Erie. They can be highly concentrated in scums! If you see scum, keep your pets and yourself out of the water. In the satellite imagery or bloom forecast position products, any areas that are orange or red are likely to have scum, especially during calm winds, see Mixing Forecast product. -- Owens, Yu 21 Sep. 2026

The past few days of imagery can be seen at [the HAB monitoring site](#). The Lake Erie Forecast is operated by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Contact hab@noaa.gov for technical Questions. Model Last Updated: 2026-09-21 11 PM EST

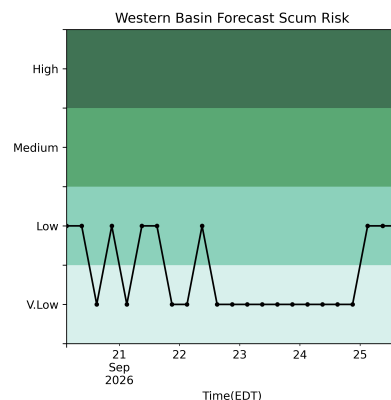


Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Sep 18, 2026, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows an enhanced truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.



Wind speed and direction from SouthBassIs, OH. Blooms mix through water column at wind speeds > 15 knots.

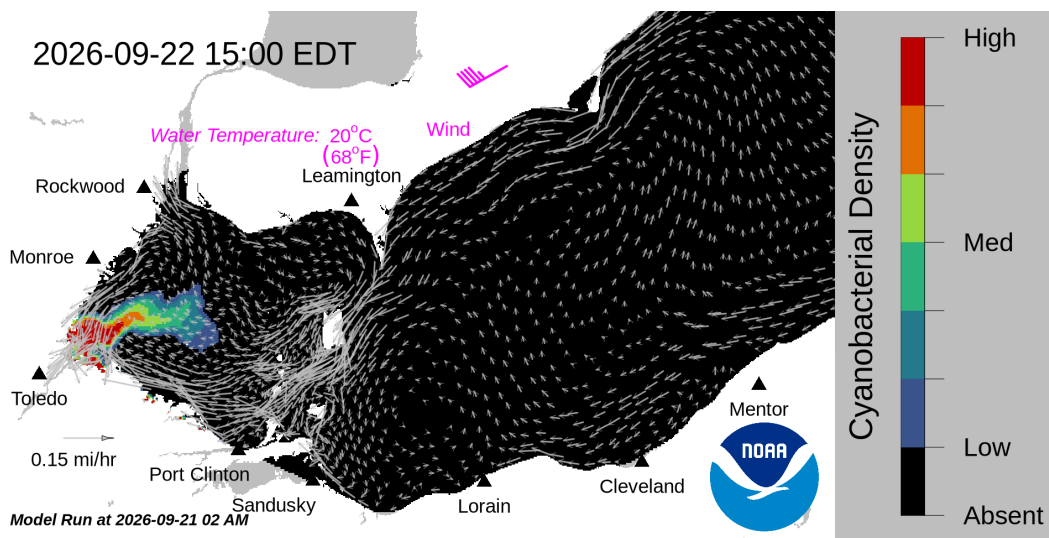
For more information visit: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/



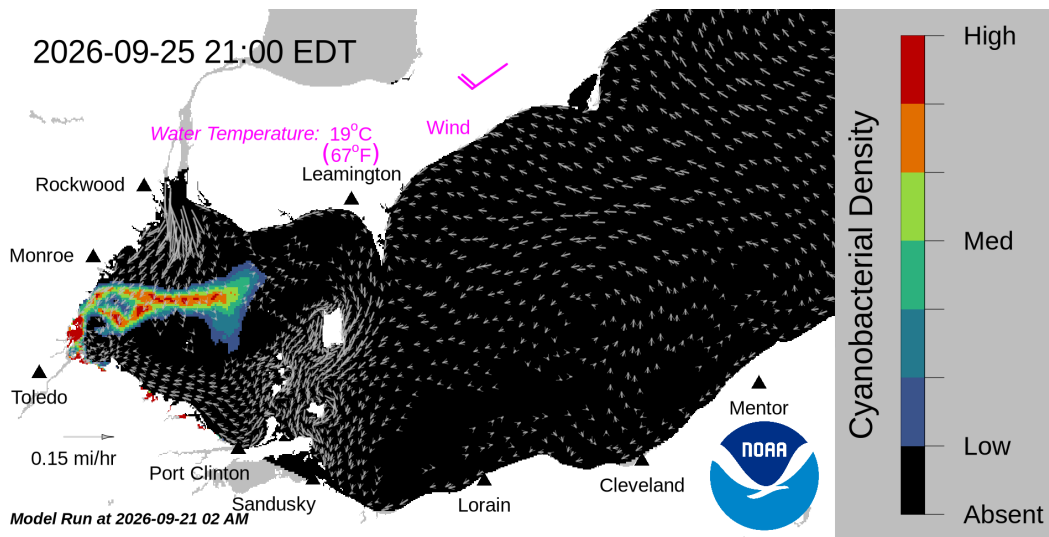
Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum.

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Forecast surface bloom position for Sep 22, modeled from the last satellite image with water currents estimated from the Lake Erie Operational Forecast System (LEOFS). Potential for bloom movement is forecast in 3-dimensions with a hydrodynamic model using satellite imagery and currents. The modeled output does not contain clouds. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.



Forecast surface bloom position for Sep 25. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.

Additional resources:

- [Archived Lake Erie Forecasts](#)
- [More information](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contributors and Data Providers](#)
- [Lake Erie HAB Forecast Guide](#)

For more information visit: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/

1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
coastalscience.noaa.gov

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