

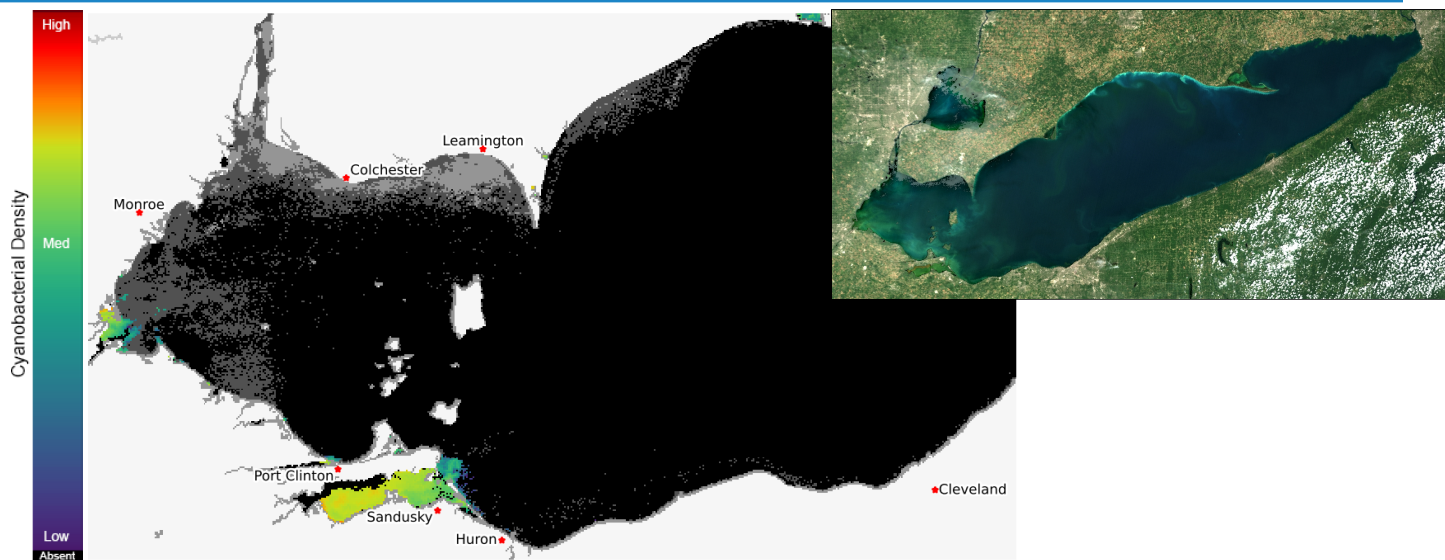
Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

2026-07-16

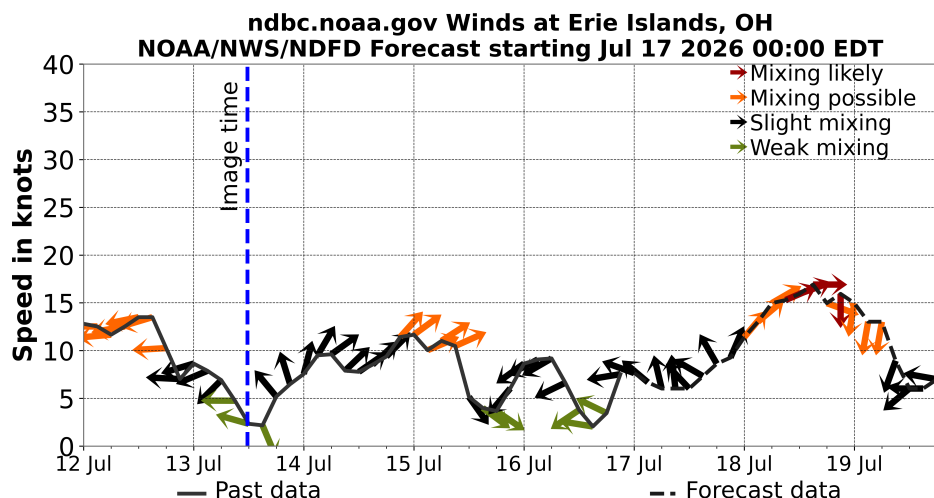
Summary

Observed and Forecasted Bloom Position is being updated daily. Wildfire smoke from central Canada has obscured satellite imagery over the past few days, and will likely continue to limit imagery for the rest of the week. There is a likely cyanobacteria bloom in north Maumee Bay. Sandusky Bay has a local bloom of mixed cyanobacteria. Weekly high resolution imagery of Maumee Bay can also be found at [the Demonstration Great Lakes \(20m\) HAB Monitoring Page](#). --Hounshell, St. Laurent, and Arguijo, 16 July 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: 2026-07-16 11 PM EST

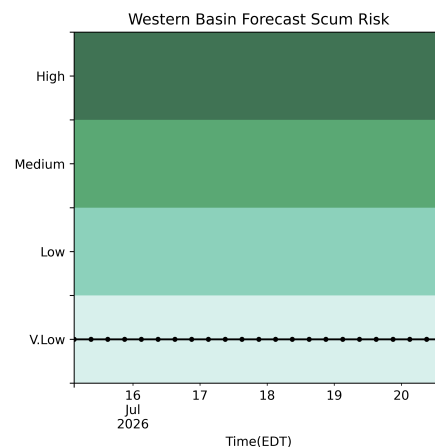


Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Jul 13, 2026, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows an enhanced truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.



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

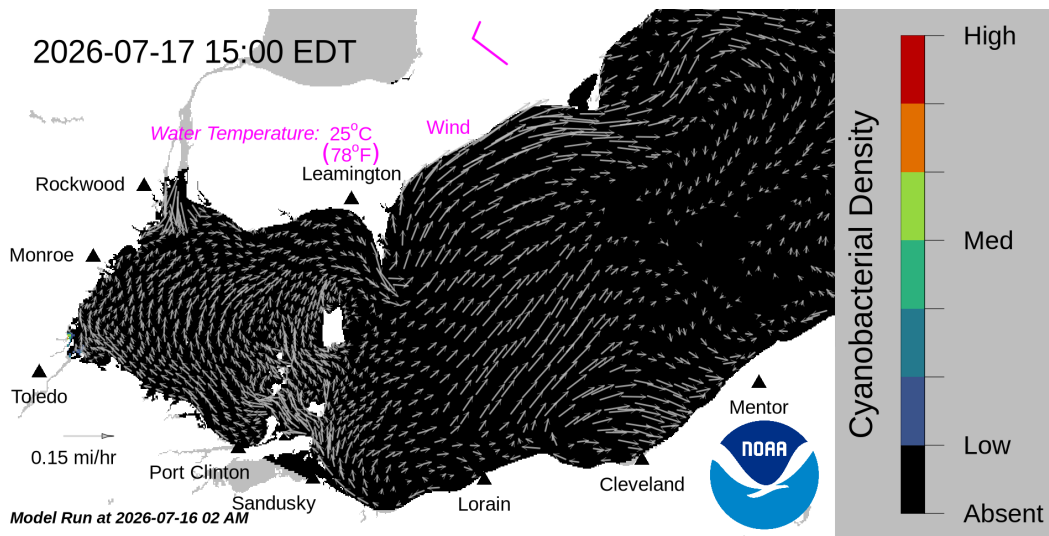
For more information visit: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/



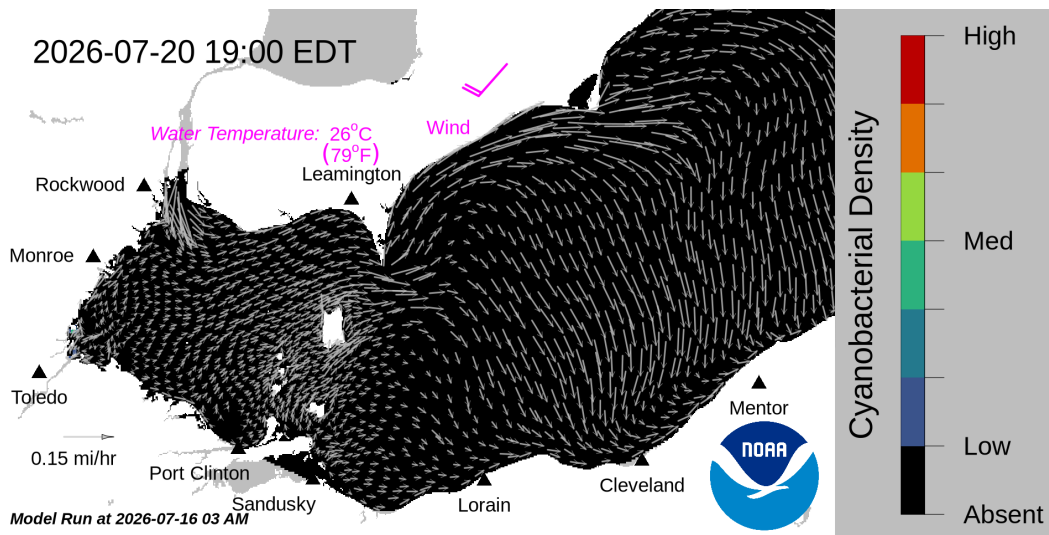
Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum.

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Forecast surface bloom position for Jul 17, 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 Jul 20. 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/

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