

Welcome to the first issue of the blue-green algae newsletter.

The newsletter is to share information and keep you up to date on what is happening across the State in blue-green algae management.

It is proposed that two newsletters will be issued during the blue-green algae season (one at the beginning and one at the end of the season). The annual Circular will continue to be issued during September each year.

GENERAL NEWS

Circular Update

The 2007/08 Blue-Green Algae Circular was released in September 2007. The Circular provides algal bloom coordination arrangements for Victoria. A few changes have been made in relation to biovolume measurement, reporting requirements and notification forms. All local water managers should be familiar with these changes. The Circular and associated documents are located on the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Regional Coordination Plan Update

Convening Agencies are well underway in updating their Regional Coordination Plans for the season to reflect the changes in the 2007/08 Circular. Barwon Water met with its local water managers in October, while DSE Gippsland held a meeting in early December.

Murray Darling Basin Commission Project

The MDBC, in partnership with SA Water has conducted a pilot project using aerial imagery for the early detection of algal blooms in the Murray River. The case study has shown that using quick turnaround time aerial imagery to view sections of the Murray River to be very effective when combined with follow up field investigation of identified areas of interest. This enables an algal monitoring program to identify specific areas of concern and monitor these areas over time for any changes.

Working Group

A blue-green algae working group is to be established in the new year to assist with the improvement of the blue-green algae coordination arrangements. It is envisaged that



Courtesy: Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water

the working group will have representation from water industry and local and state government groups who are involved in blue-green algae management.

Blue-Green Algae Website

The blue-green algae webpage on the DSE website has recently been updated. The Circular and associated attachments can be found here, along with reports on significant blooms occurring across the State.

To check the website out visit:
www.dse.vic.gov.au
(Water > Monthly Water Report > Blue-Green Algae)

If anyone has any blue-green algae stories or tid-bits of information, we are keen to hear from you. Please contact Deni Warwick on (03) 9637 9123 or via email: deni.warwick@dse.vic.gov.au.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

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