

Gippsland Lakes Algae Update

14 February 2024

Algae are a naturally occurring organism present in all waterways. The Gippsland Lakes contain many different types of algae at varying levels as part of the natural environment and balance of the Lakes system.

Weather conditions, nutrient levels, salinity and water flows all affect the levels of algae and can contribute to the formation of algal blooms on the Lakes.

Warmer weather conditions are likely to lead to a natural increase in the abundance and variety of algae and other organisms in the Lakes.

This week's tests indicate the following levels of algae:

Location	Species	Algae levels	Potential toxin producer	Recreational alert
Various locations Gippsland Lakes	Dinoflagellate <i>Prorocentrum cordatum</i>	Low	No	No
Marlay Point	Toxic Blue Green <i>Microcystis</i>	Moderate	Yes	No

Current bloom of dinoflagellate *Noctiluca scintillans* reported offshore, not yet found within the lakes samples but likely to be visible around Lakes Entrance, lower North Arm, Cunninghame Arm and Reeves Channel. This species is not a potential toxin producer but is visible as red algae during the day and blue glowing bioluminescent algae at night.

If an algal bloom develops on the Gippsland Lakes, information will be available on this website and through local outlets, including local media and Visitor Information Centres and circulated to tourism operators. For any advice regarding seafood please refer to the Department of Health <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Harmful-algal-blooms>