

NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) has identified an algal bloom located on Old 288 in Lake Fontana. Predominant bloom species has been identified as *Anabaena species*, a known toxin-producing harmful alga in North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends the following steps to safeguard pets and children from harmful cyanobacterial (blue-green algal) blooms:

- Keep children and pets away from waters that appear discolored or scummy.
- Do not handle or touch large accumulations ("scums" or mats) of algae.
- Do not water ski or jet-ski over algal mats.
- Do not use scummy water for cleaning or irrigation.
- If you accidentally come into contact with an algal bloom, wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- If your pet appears to stumble, stagger, or collapse after being in a pond, lake or river, seek veterinary care immediately.
- If your child appears ill after being in waters containing a bloom, seek medical care immediately.

If you are unsure whether or not a bloom is present, it is best to stay out of the water.