

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

HABHRCA: Interagency Progress, Collaboration, and Next Steps



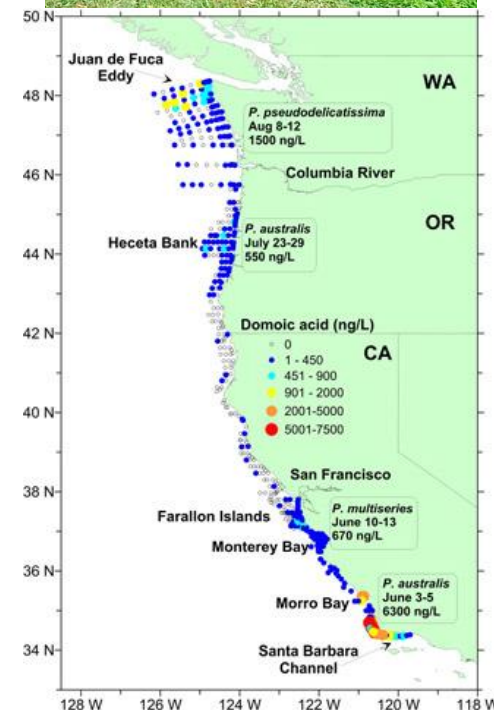
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HABs and Hypoxia: Critical, Nationwide Issues

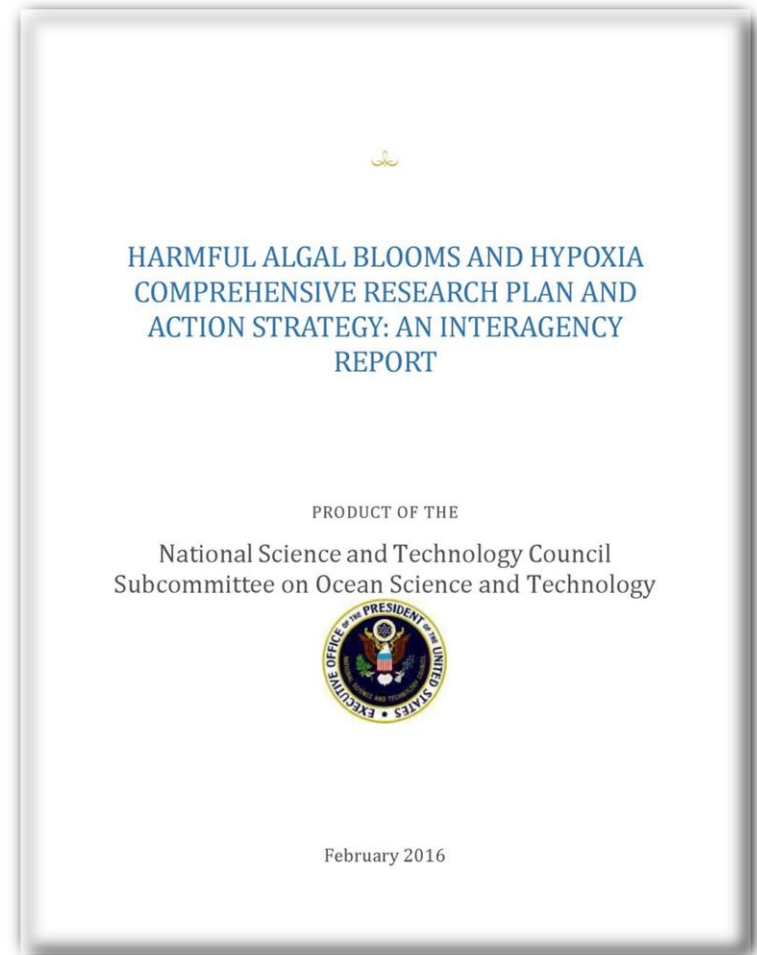
What is at stake? *Consider the numbers:*

- **\$2.8B/ year** – Est. annual value of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico
- **\$82M** – Est. annual cost of coastal HAB events in the United States
- **\$22.7M** – Loss in 2015 tourism-related spending in WA due to closure of recreational razor clam harvest alone because of *Pseudo-nitzschia* bloom
- **11M** – Number of people who get drinking water from Lake Erie
- **\$70,000** – Approx. daily cost to surrounding counties of closing Huntington State Beach, CA



HABs and Hypoxia Comprehensive Research Plan & Action Strategy: Highlights

- Increasing intensity, frequency of HABs & hypoxia events
- Progress made since the last reports
- Increased demand for information by managers, public



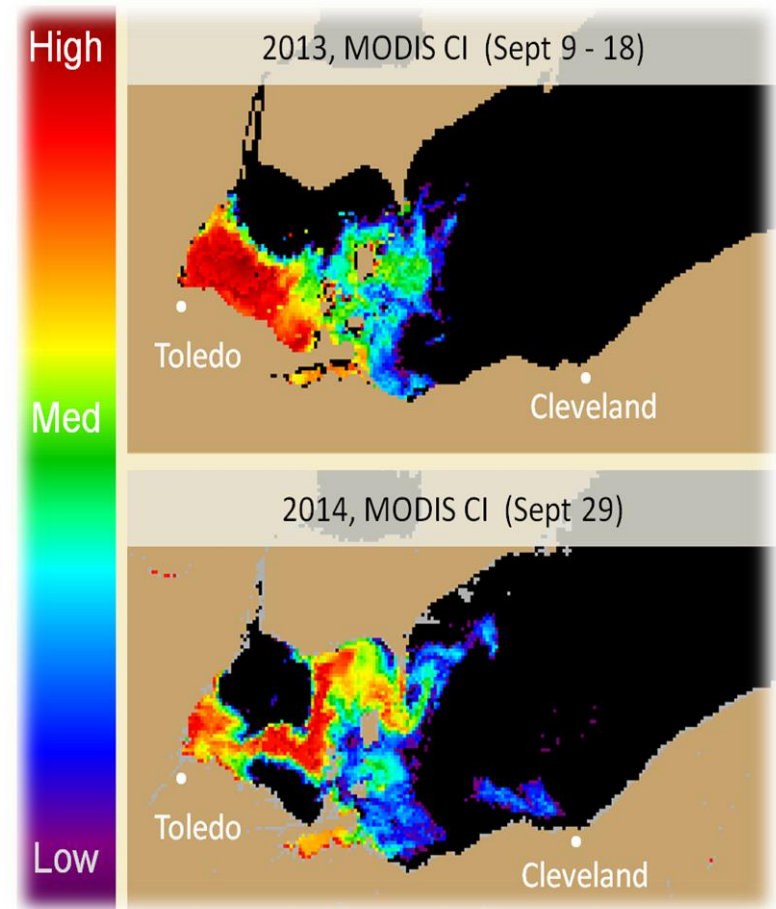
Interagency Working Group-HABHRCA

- Implementation arm to advise and assist the SOST
- Develop recommendations, reports, assessments, plans
- Interagency coordination
- Co-chaired by NOAA and EPA
- 13 member agencies



Preventing, Controlling, Mitigating HAB and Hypoxia Impacts: Federal Accomplishments

- Guidelines for freshwater toxins, health advisories
- HAB and hypoxia forecast products
- Lower-cost, easy-to-use, real-time sensors
- Understanding effects of HAB toxins on human, animal health



EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories

Cyanotoxins

10-day Advisory

Bottle-fed
infants and
pre-school
children

School-age children and
adults

Microcystins

0.3 µg/L

1.6 µg/L

Cylindrospermopsin

0.7 µg/L

3 µg/L

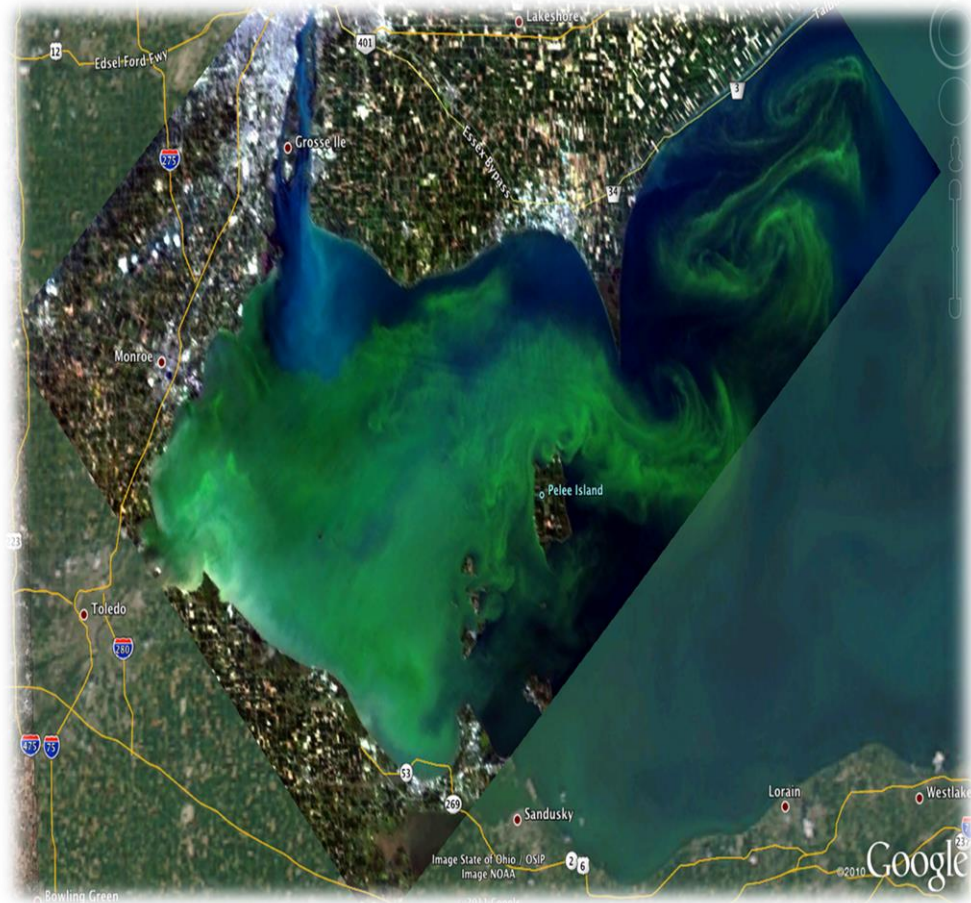
Georges Bank: A HABHRCA Success Story

- Closed in 1990 due to PSP toxins; worsened in 2005
- Led to development of test kit for fishermen
- Resulted in the reopening of a large portion to the harvest of surf clams and ocean quahogs in 2013
 - Allowed harvesting of billions of dollars' worth of clams, with control strategies implemented to ensure seafood safety
- FDA, NOAA, and non-Federal partners collaborated



Research and Management Needs

- Faster prediction of toxicity onset in drinking water, food
- Roles of climate, nutrients, other drivers
- Better understanding of socioeconomic impacts
- Improved communications



Action Strategy - Recommendations

- Research to:
 - Predict the onset of toxicity
 - Rapidly ID HABs
 - Understand roles of climate, nutrients in HAB and hypoxia distribution
- Methods for HAB suppression, control
- Study toxins in foods



Action Strategy – Recommendations, Cont.

- Long-term records of environmental conditions and disease surveillance
 - Incorporate new technologies into monitoring
- Improve public understanding of risks of HABs, hypoxia
- Continue, expand collaborations in research, management, policy



Engagement

Webinar series, in-person workshop at BGSU

- Over 1000 participants
- Over 10% followed up with additional input
- Wide variety of stakeholders



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What did we hear from stakeholders?

- Better communication
- Certified reference materials, analytical methods
- Faster detection methods
- Examples of what's worked



IWG Next Steps

- Interagency implementation plan
- Great Lakes Plan
- Continued interagency collaboration



HABHRCA Great Lakes Plan

- Scientific Understanding
- Monitoring
- Modeling
- Impacts and Assessments



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Thank you!

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/docsreports>

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