

## HAB Update for Lake Hartwell Association

### Latest Lake Hartwell Survey Performed June 16, 2025

SCDES's Aquatic Science Division (ASD) teams surveyed the lake and collected new water samples from 6 different locations, as identified in the map graphic below. SCDES's [Algal Bloom Monitoring Map](#) has been updated with sampling locations and observations since June 16.

ASD field teams noted continued improvement in many coves and nearshore areas compared to the previous survey on June 3. While the bloom appears to be diminishing in most areas, it's advised to continue to use caution in areas where the bloom is observed.

The June 16 water samples indicate the ongoing presence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) capable of producing toxins in certain areas. However, microcystin concentrations in the samples remain below recreational standard of 8 micrograms per liter.

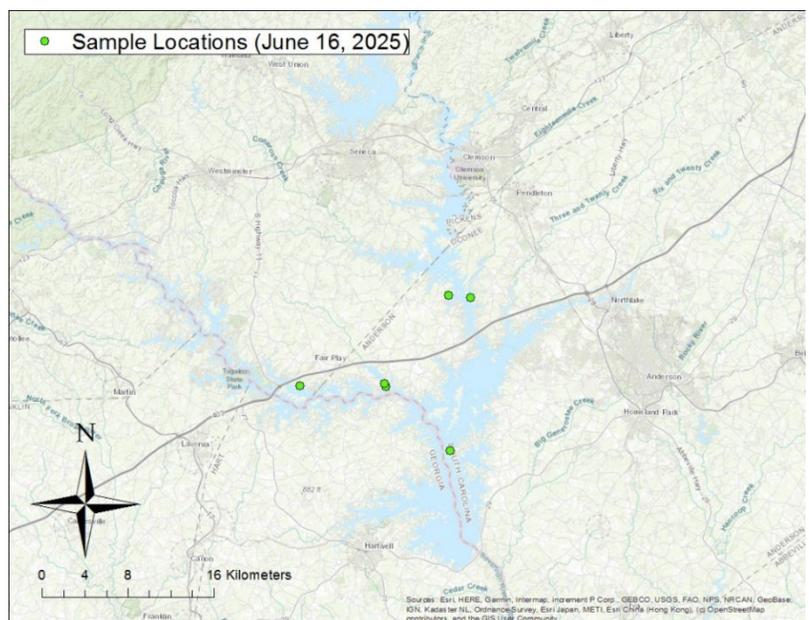
**Based on the latest round of lake observations and water sampling, SCDES has updated the Recreational Watch for Lake Hartwell and removed certain areas of the lake, including:**

- Six and Twenty Creek lake arm between SC-24 and Centerville Road
- Lower reaches of Lake Hartwell from Sadlers Creek State Park to the Hartwell Dam
- South of Cherry Creek Road to Camp Creek Road, including Martin Creek and Coneross Creek lake arms

**The Recreational Watch for Lake Hartwell remains in effect for areas of the Tugaloo and Seneca River lake arms, with the following recommendations:**

- avoid direct contact with lake water in areas where the HAB is observed
- keep pets and animals from swimming in or drinking from the lake in areas where the HAB is observed

The HAB may still be found in areas where the Recreational Watch has been lifted. SCDES encourages caution when using or recreating in coves and near the shore.



# Lake Hartwell Association Questions

Please find additional information and Frequently Asked Questions at [des.sc.gov/habs](https://des.sc.gov/habs).

**Q:** Does your agency (DES) do its own lab analysis of the algae blooms or send that out to an external source?

**A:** All field work and laboratory work including cyanotoxin analysis is conducted by SCDES's Aquatic Science Division (ASD).

**Q:** I think I read that Broadway lake in Anderson Co. now has an outgrowth of these blooms. So it begs the question as to whether boats can transfer the algae from lake to lake. I think this was covered in a previous report from you, but maybe mention this again---in the context of the Broadway Lake reportings---and suggest if it makes a difference to clean the hull of your boat, or not, when moving from lake to lake. And how timely that should be done---is it necessary if the boat has been out of the water for a couple of days to clean the hull for example?

**A:** The types of cyanobacteria that comprise the HABs in Lake Hartwell and Broadway Lake are naturally occurring and native to these freshwater environments. However, SCDES always recommends practicing 'clean, drain, dry' for boats, trailers, and equipment each time you leave the lake. Algae can survive out of water in resting stages for weeks to months. For more information please visit ASD's [Aquatic Nuisance Plants](#) webpage and [Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!](#) webpage. Guidance for 'clean, drain, dry' is provided below and can be accessed from the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! [How You Can Help](#) webpage.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Be A Good Stevard. Clean. Drain. Dry.

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ACTIVITIES](#) [HOW YOU CAN HELP](#) [AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS](#) [CAMPAIGN RESOURCES](#) [PARTNERS](#)

## GENERAL CLEAN DRAIN DRY PROCEDURE

Clean, Drain, Dry... In every waterbody, every time.

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species starts with you. A cooperative effort is necessary by all persons and agencies involved with recreational activities to achieve the best results and protect our aquatic resources and recreational opportunities.

The general Clean Drain Dry procedure is described below; however, keep scrolling down the page for information pertaining to specific recreational activities.

✓ **CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access

- Rinse equipment and boat hulls (with high pressure, hot water when possible)
- Rinse interior compartments of boats with low pressure, hot water (120°F)
- Flush motor with hot water (120°F) for 2 minutes (or according to owner's manual)

✓ **DRAIN** motor, bilge, livewell, and other water containing devices before leaving water access.

✓ **DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

For ANGLERS, the additional step of DISPOSE is recommended:

✓ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait container and replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.

Together the three steps of Clean Drain Dry greatly minimizes the risk of spreading Aquatic Hitchhikers into new locations.

- Cleaning will remove visible large-bodied organisms attached to or in watercraft or recreational equipment. Rinsing with water removes organisms, while hot water often *kills them*. Water at least 120°F is recommended;

