

# Safe Fishing and Recreation in Oregon Waters

## What to Know About CHABs



### CHABs - Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Blooms

Cyanobacteria are natural, beneficial bacteria that are important for our environment. However, under conditions such as excess nutrients, sunlight and warm, still water, cyanobacteria can grow into blooms that can produce toxins. These toxins can harm you and your animals.

## 5 things to know to play safe in Oregon waters

**1**

**Very few of Oregon's waterbodies are monitored for CHABs.**

**2**

**Know the signs:**

- Blooms are often pea green or blue-green.
- They can be small clumps or look scummy or paint-like.
- Less often you may see red-brown mats.

**3**

**Stay out of blooms!** Don't swim, play, power boat or fish in areas where you see or suspect a bloom.

**4**

**Dried scum can still be harmful!** If you or your pet contact scum, rinse skin or fur immediately with clean water. Do not let pets lick scum off rocks or their fur.

**5**

If you eat fish from waters with a CHAB, **remove all the skin, fat and organs and wash fillets with clean water before cooking or freezing.**

**Learn more about safe fishing and water recreation in Oregon at [www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab) or call 1-877-290-6767.**