

Photograph Gallery of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

A HAB is a large growth of algae or cyanobacteria biomass that may produce cyanotoxins. It is important to avoid contact with water that has visual indications of a bloom. HABs can have different colors, such as green, blue-green, brown, black, white, purple, red, or black. HAB textures can vary from surface scums, films, crusts, or puff-balls; distributed throughout the water column; or attached to structures or sediments as a mat. HABs are often described as looking like spilled paint, pea soup, foam, wool, streaks, or green cottage cheese curd.

Surface scum with green, blue-green, and white colors (Grand Lake St Marys 2010).



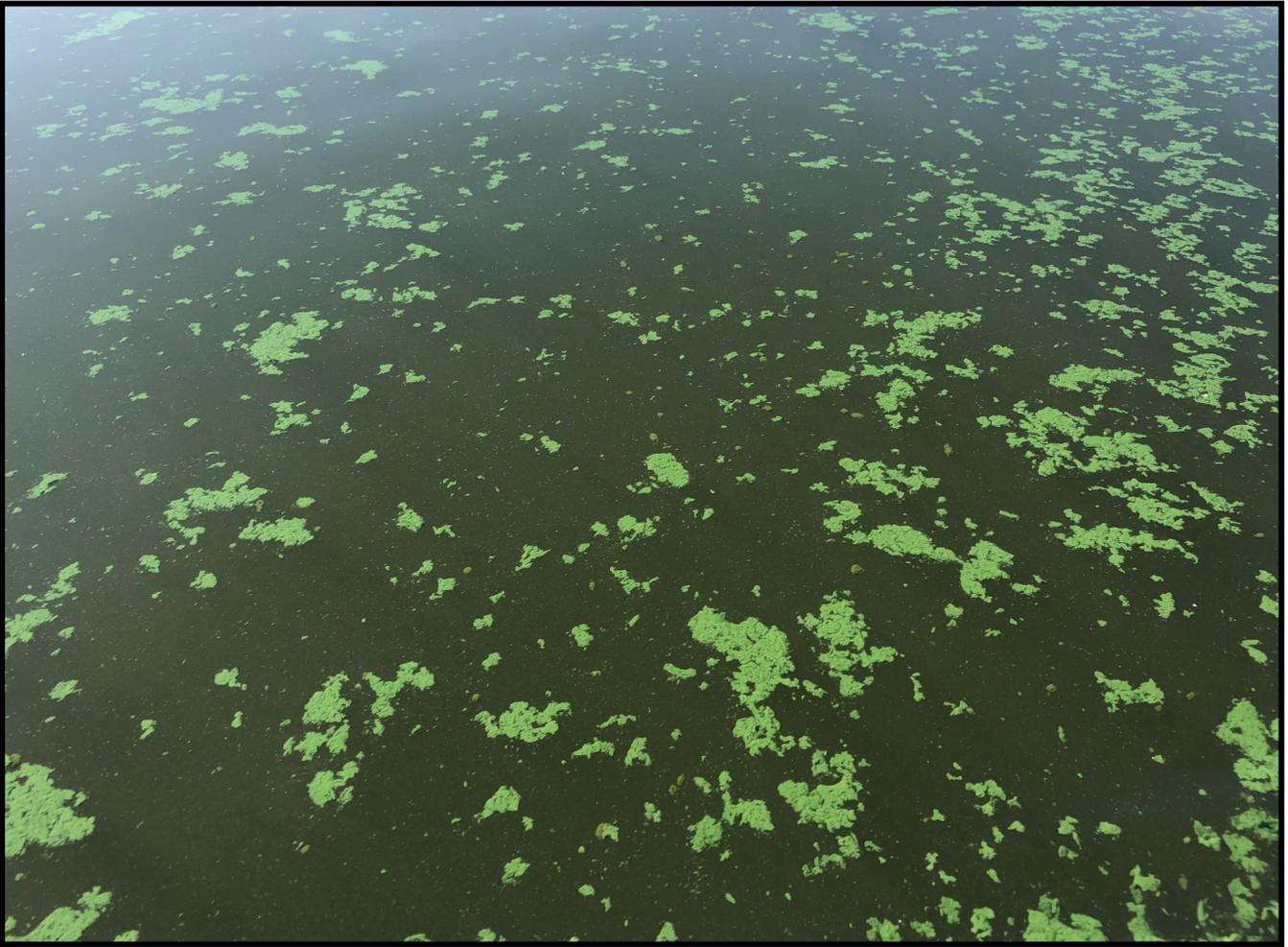
Examples of *Planktothrix* blooms in Grand Lake St Marys that may appear as blue-green with surface film (left) or brownish green and distributed in the water column.

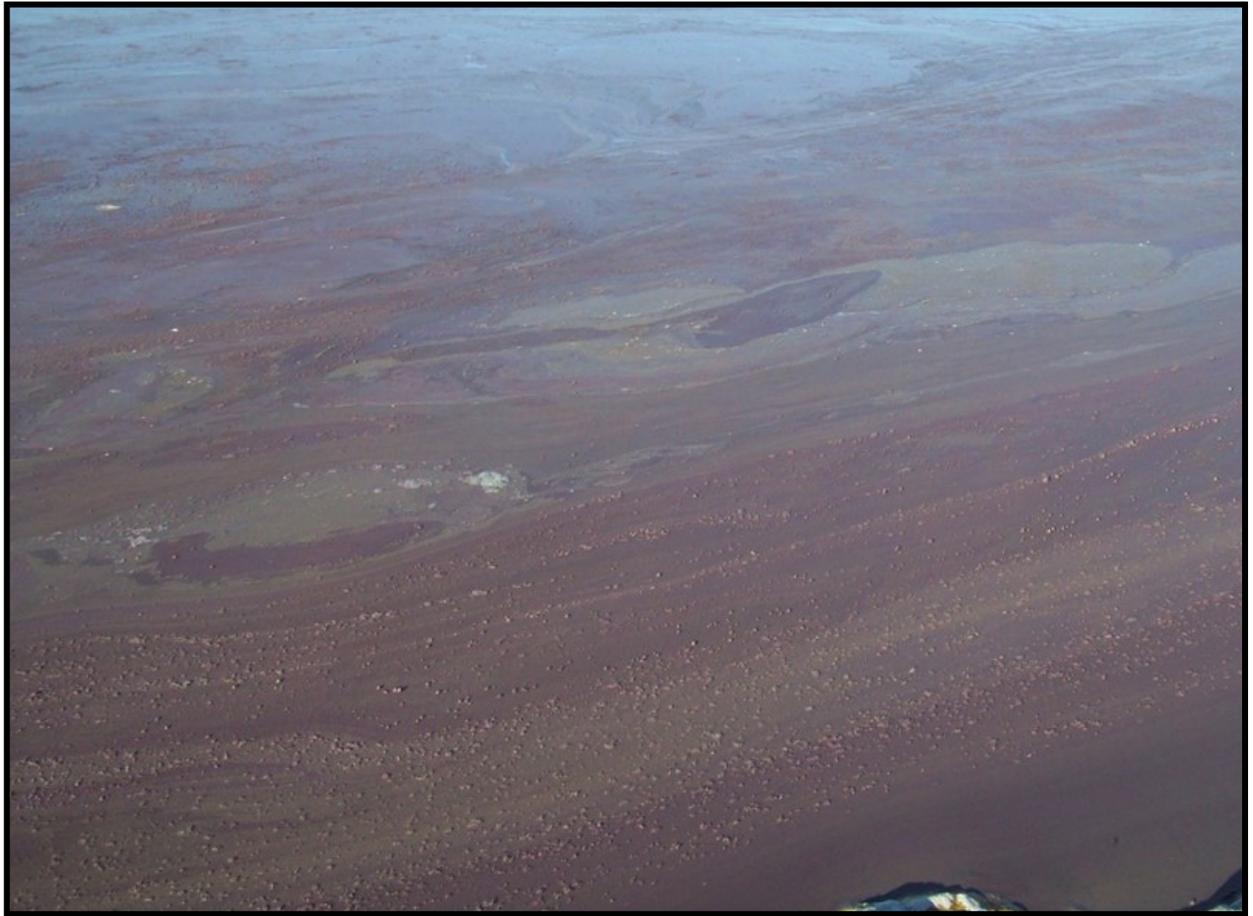












Note the puff-balls of cyanobacteria (*Microseira* formerly *Lyngbya*) floating at the surface.



Cyanobacteria biomass collecting along the shoreline.

