



Harmful Algal Bloom Policy and Planning Framework

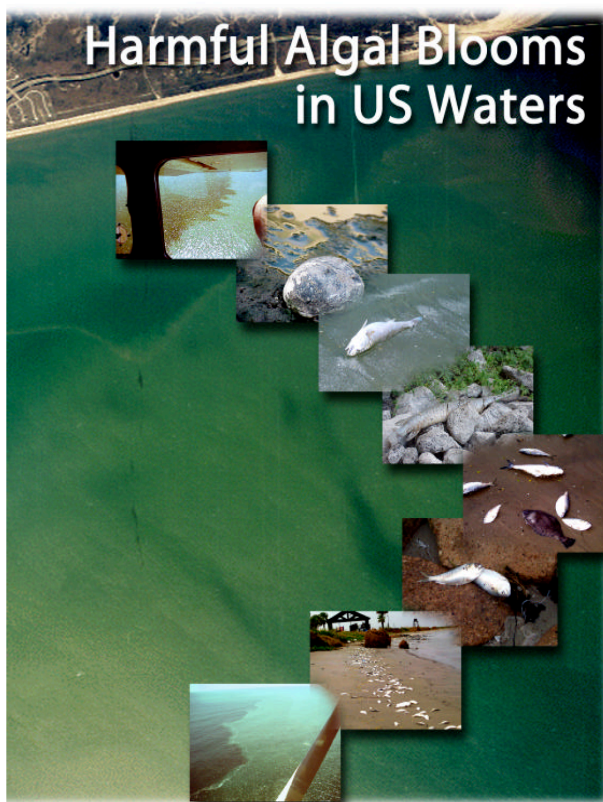


A number of laws, reports, and plans describe the national urgency of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and provide a framework to address various aspects of the HAB problem. Based on these documents NOAA research is organized around a suite of complementary and interconnected programs and activities that involve a mix of extramural and intramural research, long-term regional ecosystem-scale studies supported by short-term targeted studies, collaborations between academic and federal scientists, and multiple partnerships with Federal, state and tribal managers. Efforts within these areas include research and activities to understand the ecology and oceanography of HABs; to provide monitoring and event response capabilities for HABs; prevention, control, and mitigation of HABs; and research and assessment activities in NOAA laboratories. A brief description about these legislative and policy documents is provided below. Additional information can be provided upon request.

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) – Passed in 1998, this Act (P.L. 105-383) recognized that many of our nation’s coastal areas suffer from HABs each year, threatening coastal ecosystems and endangering human health. HABHRCA provided recognition and authorization for NOAA research programs that had been developed to respond to the growing national HAB and hypoxia threats. HABHRCA was reauthorized last December indicating the continued need for HAB related activities and research (P.L. 108-456).

Oceans and Human Health Act (OHH) – The Oceans and Human Health Initiative (OHHI), established by the Oceans and Human Health Act passed by Congress last year is a competitive suite of programs designed to enhance understanding of the connections between the oceans and human health, with the goal of providing useful research and predictive information to NOAA, public health officials, and natural resource managers. OHH is intended to address a separate but complimentary suite of issues than those addressed through HABHRCA.

Harmful Algal Bloom National Plan Revision – HARNNESS, 2005. Harmful Algal Research and Response - a National Science Strategy: 2005-2015, the report to be released later this year, will assess what has been accomplished to date, identify impediments to research, and put forth new scientific priorities that will guide the next decade of HAB research in the NOAA Ocean Service and other Federal agencies as well.



Harmful Algal Bloom Plans and Reports –

- Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algae: A National Plan (Anderson, D.M., S.B. Galloway, and J.D. Joseph. 1993. WHOI Technical Report 93-02, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 44 pp. <http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/s-kplan/s-kcontents.html>)
- ECOHAB, the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (Anderson, D.M. 1995. WHOI, Woods Hole, MA, 66 pp.) <http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/ECOHAB/ECOHABhtml.html>
- Harmful Algal Blooms in Coastal Waters: Options for Prevention, Control, and Mitigation (Boesch, D.F. et al 1997. NOAA COP Decision Analysis Series No.10, NOAA Coastal Ocean Office, Silver Spring, MD 46 pp.)
- Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms: A Research Plan (NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. 2001. 28pp.)
- National Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms in U.S. Waters (National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources. October 2000. 38pp).
- Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algae: A National Plan; ECOHAB, the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms; Harmful Algal Blooms in Coastal Waters: Options for Prevention, Control, and Mitigation; Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms: A Research Plan; National Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms in U.S. Waters.

NCCOS Harmful Algal Bloom Spending Plan – A Science Strategy for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Harmful Algal Bloom extramural and intramural harmful algal bloom research planned for FY2005 and a discussion of FY2004 HAB program accomplishments.