



Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms: Causes, Challenges, and Policy Considerations (Paperback)

By Congressional Research Service

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Scientific research indicates that in recent years, the frequency and geographic distribution of harmful algal blooms (HABs) have been increasing nationally and globally. The impacts of HABs can be severe and widespread. While algal communities are natural components of healthy aquatic ecosystems, under certain conditions (e.g., increased temperatures and nutrient concentrations), algae may grow excessively, or bloom, and produce toxins that can harm human health, animals, aquatic ecosystems, and the economy. In 2014, a cyanobacterial HAB in Lake Erie affected the drinking water for more than 500,000 people in Toledo, Ohio. In 2016, a massive HAB in Florida's Lake Okeechobee negatively impacted tourism and aquatic life. HABs have been recorded in every state and have become a concern nationwide. Many types of algae can cause HABs in freshwater systems. The most frequent and severe blooms involve the proliferation of cyanobacteria. Some cyanobacteria species can produce toxins-cyanotoxins-that can cause mild to severe health effects in humans and kill aquatic life and other animals. HABs can also contribute to deteriorating water quality and ecosystem health. As masses of cyanobacteria or other algae die...



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