

Dear Cayuga Lake Supporter:

It's finally spring in the Finger Lakes and that means lake adventures are right around the corner. This also means the impacts to our beautiful Cayuga Lake may be more acutely noticed but not all are visible to the naked eye.

This year CLEAN is expanding our reach beyond salt mining risks to the Lake. Take a look at some of our recent activities:

1. HABs Summit and real-time data sampling

On March 6th CLEAN attended the The Central NY Regional Summit on Harmful Algal Blooms, part of Governor Cuomo's \$65 million "HABs 12" initiative, at SUNY ESF in Syracuse. Daytime sessions of the summit brought together government regulators, scientists, and a steering committee of local stakeholders to come up with a plan of action for each lake.

CLEAN members attended the public evening session. Plans of action were not introduced for public comment at this time, but the session was informative about the program's structure and aims and the nature and causes of the HABs problem in New York. Panelists included officials from the DEC, DOH, and the county level, plus HABs experts from NY and out-of-state.

Here's some of what we learned:

- New York State has 16,000 bodies of water! 340 of these have had a HAB since 2012.
- Not every bloom releases toxins. Researchers are still trying to find out what causes one bloom to be toxic and another safe. Toxic or not, any bloom has harmful ecological effects such as blocking light to the lake below.
- Three government agencies have roles in the program: the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Health, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

- The HABs 12 program will fund monitoring and immediate remedial and preventative projects that reduce discharge of nitrogen and phosphorous into lake. It will not fund research, and whether the action plans will include long-term prevention strategies remains to be seen.
- Other factors such as temperature affect blooms, but experts agree that nutrient surges from pollution are the clear primary cause. Reducing pollution has had a proven record of success since Lake Erie's "burning river" water quality crisis in the 1970's.

The panel ended with a key question: What elements would these experts like to see in the action plans that come out of this initiative? There was a lot of agreement among the panelists, whose responses included:

- More comprehensive monitoring, with investment in remote technologies that make this possible.
- Economic impact studies to illustrate "the cost of doing nothing".
- More wetland creation, and "bigger, better buffers" for farms and shoreline properties.

In congruence with the above finding CLEAN has been working to fund the purchase of a Eureka Water Probe Manta+30A. This probe measures temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, chlorophyll A, and fresh-water cyanobacteria. It differs from some simpler instruments in that it can indicate the proportion of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) to chlorophyll in the water. In the Finger Lakes, when that proportion rises above 10%, there is a risk of a harmful algal bloom. CLEAN will partner with local organizations to monitor for harmful algal blooms (HABs) on Cayuga Lake that pose health risks to humans, pets, and wildlife. The Eureka water probe can collect specific data on cyanobacteria, allowing students, volunteers and trained specialists to predict HAB outbreaks before they occur. After piloting this equipment in 2018, we plan to make the data available to the public and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Want to join us in this effort? Send us an email,
CLEAN.CayugaLake@gmail.com.

2. Article 78 lawsuit against the DEC

On March 10, 2018 we filed our Memorandum of Law with the New York State Supreme Court, the next step in the legal proceeding to hold the DEC accountable for their erroneously based negative declaration for Cargill's Shaft no. 4 permit. If you're interested in the case, you can see all of the files online [here](#) (included Cargill's attempt this week to have the case dismissed).

The schedule, as it currently stands:

1. On April 30, 2018 the DEC will Respond to our Initial Petition and Memorandum of Law
2. On May 14, 2017 CLEAN will respond to the DEC's responsiveness papers
3. On June 20th Oral Arguments for this case will be heard in the Tompkins County Supreme Court

It's an exciting time so stay in touch and join us on June 20th holding the DEC accountable.

3. Come find CLEAN at these fantastic public events!

Saturday April 14 - CSI Annual Volunteer Symposium and "Water and Community" Event

- 1-3PM The Space @Greenstar, 700 W. Buffalo St. Ithaca
- [More information](#)

Sunday April 22 - EARTH DAY Ithaca 2018

- Hosted by Sustainable Tompkins
- 12-6PM The Space @Greenstar, 700 W. Buffalo St. Ithaca
- [More information](#)

As always, we look to you for help and support. Your donations directly go to our litigious efforts, education actives and data collection.

Want to join our team? We are creating an Advisory Board of experts near and far to give us guidance. Additionally, we always welcome volunteer support for any of our educational campaigns. Please just reach out and let us know you are interested. We can plug you in immediately!

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your interest and support!

The CLEAN Team

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Clean the Lake.
Protect the Lake.