

Coastal algal blooms – current management

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Since the mid 1990s the human population of south-east Queensland has become increasingly affected by coastal algal blooms in inshore waters. In all likelihood this is related to both an increase in the occurrence and severity of blooms combined with increase in the environmental awareness of a growing population residing on, or close to, the coast.

In this paper we discuss tools to assist with the management of coastal algal blooms with specific reference to experience with blooms of the toxic cyanobacteria *Lyngbya majuscula* recognised in Moreton Bay for over ten years now.

Briefly, this will cover initiatives now in place to assist with the coordination of coastal algal bloom response including communication strategies, policy and procedures such as:

- The *Lyngbya* Reference Group;
- HAB Plan and Operational Procedures;
- The *Lyngbya* Management Strategy for Moreton Bay;
- Healthy Waterways Strategy review and proposed Coastal Algal Blooms Action Plan for SEQ;
- Guidelines for Contingency Response to Coastal Algal Blooms 2006; and
- QPWS and local government contingency planning in Moreton Bay and Caboolture Shire.

and how these can assist coastal managers. The paper will also highlight the roles of Regional Coastal Management Plans and Natural Resource Management Plans in south east Queensland.