



Understanding Harmful Algal Blooms



Part 1: Bloom Goes the Dinoflagellate!

Featuring: Dr. Ed Phlips, Dr. Michael Allen, and Betty Staugler

Main Ideas

- A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is a rapid increase in algal biomass, resulting in decreased oxygen and an increase in toxins.
- HABs can cause harm to wildlife, plant ecosystems, and humans.
- An increase in population and industrialization can contribute to HABs.
- The fishing industry is heavily affected by HABs.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to understand the causes of algal blooms?
2. How can communicators aid scientists and industry professionals during natural crises?
3. Were you aware of the threat of algal blooms before this podcast? How has your perspective changed?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Learn about your local ecosystem in order to conserve natural areas and protect them from pollutants.
2. Not all algal blooms are harmful, understanding the differences between blooms is important in understanding their effects on the environment.

Other Resources

<https://www.flseagrant.org/habs/>
<https://water.ifas.ufl.edu/algal-blooms/>
<https://habsos.noaa.gov/>
<https://habscope.gcoos.org/>

PIECENTER.COM/MEDIA/PODCAST





Understanding Harmful Algal Blooms



Part 2: Bonus Episode

Featuring: Dr. Ed Philips and Betty Staugler

Main Ideas

- An algal bloom is an increase in biomass compared to the ecosystem's normal level.
- Harmful algal blooms distort the pH in the water and disrupt the normal functions of an ecosystem.
- Algal blooms can release toxins that are harmful to both wildlife and humans.
- Toxins can persist in water even after filtering and boiling, resulting in a risk to human health.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways can an algal bloom impact the food web within an ecosystem?
2. How did Florida's 2018 red tide alter human activity?
3. How do red tides impact fish populations in Florida?
4. What long term effects can a harmful algal bloom have on both human and wildlife populations?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Learn about your local ecosystem in order to conserve natural areas and protect them from pollutants.
2. Not all algal blooms are harmful, understanding the differences between blooms is important in understanding their effects on the environment.

Other Resources

<https://www.flseagrant.org/habs/>
<https://water.ifas.ufl.edu/algal-blooms/>
<https://habsos.noaa.gov/>
<https://habscope.gcoos.org/>

PIECENTER.COM/MEDIA/PODCAST

