



NANTUCKET ALGAL BLOOMS

iNATURALIST PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- Go to your cell phone app store and download iNaturalist.
- Create an account using the “Steps for iNaturalist page” found on the www.nantucketbiodiversity.org Algal Bloom page.
- **Under Projects:** Type “Nantucket Algal Blooms”.
- If you are in a Harbor or Pond and spot discolored water or films, open iNaturalist and record the following information:
 - Fill out project observation fields.
 - Take a photo along the shoreline from 10 feet away from water. Try to include the water, foreground, background, and horizon line (see left image below).
 - Take another photo of the bloom by aiming the camera down at the water from 3 feet above. Try to capture the color of the bloom and any floating material (see right image below).



What are algal blooms?

Algal blooms are when one type of algae grow faster than all other types. Blooms are a response to elevated nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen.

What makes them a threat?

Blooms can produce toxins, clog the gills of fish and shellfish, and lead to beach closures

Is all algae bad?

Not all algae is bad, in fact, algae produces up to 70% of the world's oxygen! However, elevated nutrient levels create blooms that threaten the health of ponds and harbors.

Think you found an algal bloom?

Do not enter or touch the water. Note the location and size and take a photo from a safe distance.