

Reporting a Bloom

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Lewis and Harris

01851 822 964

Uist & Barra

01870 602425

SEPA

Western Isles Team

Stornoway Office

01851 706477



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Development Department
Sandwick Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2BW

Phone: 01851 822 694



Algal blooms

“How to identify and report a potential bloom”



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Environmental Health

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Algal blooms contain a potentially toxic bacterium known as Cyanobacteria, which can multiply during the warmer months.

As the temperature increases and with longer daylight hours, the bacteria begin to multiply, causing a **Green or Blue Green** scum to appear on the water's surface or surrounding edge.

Although the majority of waters in the Outer Hebrides remain clean and safe throughout the year, there is some risk of exposure to harmful algal blooms.

Any direct contact with the scum could potentially leave people with upset stomachs or diarrhoea, as well as skin or eye irritations.

The blooms can also be harmful or even lethal to domestic animals and livestock



What you should do to protect yourself from exposure when fishing:

- Avoid all direct contact with the scum or the water close to it.
- Do not consume any water or fish caught from within the immediate vicinity of the bloom.
- Always wash your hands and fishing gear thoroughly after coming into contact with contaminated water.

What you should do to protect your animals:

- Avoid walking your dogs in areas where a scum exists.
- If you observe a potential bloom, place your dog on a leash, until you are clear of the water.
- Consider relocating your livestock to suitable grazing elsewhere.

If you see a potential bloom, you should report the event immediately to either the **Comhairle Environmental Health Team** on **01851 822964** or alternatively the local **SEPA office** in Stornoway on **01851 706477**.

Any report received, will be investigated, and where appropriate, sampled for analysis. Once a bloom has been identified, warning notices will be erected in the immediate area of the bloom.

During this period, the bloom will be monitored, until such time as it has cleared.

If you have any suspicions, that the loch or river may be contaminated, please remember the following:

**“IF THE WATER IS GREEN,
THE FISH AREN'T CLEAN”**



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