



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2018**

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM DETECTED IN SOUTHERN FORT POND, MONTAUK

MONTAUK, NY – Sampling conducted by Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 of Fort Pond in Montauk has confirmed the presence of a cyanobacteria bloom, more commonly known as blue-green algae, in the southern portion of the Pond. The bloom is composed of the cyanobacteria *Aphanizomenon* and *Anabaena* and is being tested today for levels of the toxin microcystin, which will be listed on Friday on the NYS DEC Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) Notifications Page.

Warning signs cautioning individuals to keep children and pets away from the bloom and to avoid contact with the water due to potential health concerns will be posted by the Town of East Hampton immediately. The northern end of the Pond shows elevated risk of a bloom, and therefore the entire Pond should be avoided until the bloom has cleared.

Earlier this year CCOM and Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook University announced a new partnership on an intense HAB monitoring program in Fort Pond, following the cyanobacteria blooms which were detected in Fort Pond during the summers of 2015 and 2017. CCOM has been sampling the Pond weekly since June 2018. The last four weeks showed elevated risk of a bloom at both the north and south sampling locations.

Harmful algal blooms are typically fueled by increased nutrient loadings from septic systems and stormwater runoff. Mitigating direct discharges of stormwater, avoiding the use of fertilizers, and replacing outdated and ineffective cesspools and septic systems with new innovative alternative systems, which utilize nitrogen treatment technologies, can help remedy the problem. Suffolk County and the Town of East Hampton offer significant financial assistance for septic replacement.