



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**

**BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM NOW DETECTED IN NORTHERN FORT POND;
PERSISTS IN SOUTHERN POND FOR SECOND WEEK**

MONTAUK, NY – Sampling conducted by Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in Montauk's Fort Pond has confirmed the presence of a cyanobacteria bloom, more commonly known as blue-green algae, in the southern *and* now northern portions of the Pond. The onset of the bloom was first detected on September 5th at the boat ramp, which is the southern testing site.

Blue-green algal blooms produce toxins that can cause health risks to people and animals. September 5th microcystin toxin testing conducted by the Gobler Lab indicated a concentration of 2.85 ug/L at the southern site. The drinking water guideline is 1 ug/L and recreational use guideline is 4 ug/L. September 12th microcystin toxin sampling indicated a concentration of 0.37 ug/L at the southern site and 0.39 ug/L at the northern site, which is below the guideline, but caution should still be taken around the Pond.

These blooms are not listed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Harmful Algal Bloom Notifications webpage as NYSDEC uses a slightly higher threshold for bloom status (25 micrograms/L) than that used by the Gobler Lab (20 micrograms/L), based at SUNY Stony Brook Southampton. The blooms in Fort Pond have hovered around 21 micrograms/L. The Gobler Lab also uses 20 micrograms/L as a threshold for testing for microcystin toxins.

Regardless of the bloom concentrations, CCOM urges individuals, especially children and pets, to stay away from the bloom and avoid contact with the water due to potential health concerns.