



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Cladophora Shoreline Survey

Background and User Instructions

Background

Thank you for your interest in participating in the NYSDEC Shoreline Cladophora Survey. All observations, whether they are of extensive Cladophora accumulation or no Cladophora at all, will help NYSDEC and other resource managers better understand the location, timing, and extent of Cladophora accumulation along our Great Lakes and connecting river channel shorelines.



Background

Cladophora is a type of filamentous algae that grows on rocks, wood, logs, and other hard underwater surfaces in freshwater ecosystems. While Cladophora serves beneficial ecological purposes in natural amounts, excessive growth can occur under certain conditions. When a large amount of Cladophora detaches from the lake bottom, it can wash up along the shoreline and begin to decompose, potentially leading to undesirable odors, an environment suitable for the growth of bacteria, and an unfavorable recreational experience.



Shoreline Cladophora Survey

User Instructions

Observation Information

1. Observation Date

- This information will auto-fill. If you are entering information for a historic observation, change the date to the appropriate date.

2. Observation Time

- This information will auto-fill. If you are entering information for a historic observation, change to the appropriate time.

Observation Information ▼

Observation Date:*

Enter **observation date**.

 ▼

Observation Time:*

Enter **observation time**.

 ▼

Observation Information

3. Waterbody

- Select the waterbody you are reporting an observation for from the dropdown menu (i.e., Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Niagara River, or St. Lawrence River)

Waterbody:^{*}

Select **waterbody** that has been assessed.

Observation Information

4. Location Description

- Describe the location of your observation using identifying information like the name of a beach or park; property address; local landmark, private residence, etc.)

Location Description:^{*}

e.g., ABC State Park, XYZ Beach, property address, local landmark, private residence, etc.

255 ↗

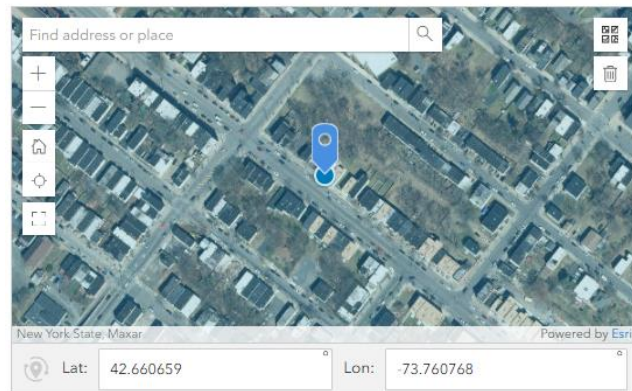


Observation Information

5. Capture GPS

- This information will auto-fill. If you are entering information for a location other than your current location, click on the map to modify your location to reflect the appropriate observation site.

Capture GPS



Field Latitude:*

Field Longitude:*

Describe Cladophora *IN WATER* (wadeable area)

6. Extent of Cladophora in water

- Using reference photographs included on the form, report the extent of Cladophora accumulation in the water (wadeable area) as None, Minimal, Moderate, or Extensive

Extent of cladophora in water:*

(See reference photographs below)

-Please select-



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Describe Cladophora *IN WATER* (wadeable area)

7. Condition of Cladophora in water

- Report the condition of Cladophora in the water (wadeable area) as Fresh (green), Dry or Decaying (brown/black), or list Cannot determine if you are unsure.

Condition of cladophora in water:*

-Please select-



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Describe Cladophora on the Beach

8. Extent of Cladophora on beach

- Using reference photographs included on the form, report the extent of Cladophora accumulation on the beach as None, Minimal, Moderate, or Extensive

Extent of cladophora on the beach:*

(See reference photographs below)

-Please select-



Describe Cladophora on the Beach

9. Condition of Cladophora on beach

- Report the condition of Cladophora on the beach as Fresh (green), Dry or Decaying (brown/black), or Cannot Determine if you are unsure.

Condition of cladophora on beach:*

-Please select-

Reference Photograph



- A reference photo for no accumulation of Cladophora (None)



Reference Photograph



- A reference photo for minimal accumulation of Cladophora (Minimal)



Reference Photograph



- A reference photo for moderate accumulation of Cladophora (Moderate)



Reference Photograph

Photo: Environment and Climate Change Canada



- A reference photo for extensive accumulation of Cladophora (Extensive)

Other Important Information

10. Odor

- Answer yes if there is a foul odor associated with the Cladophora and no if there is not a foul odor associated with the Cladophora.

Odor

Is there a foul odor associated with the Cladophora?

Yes

No

Other Important Information

11. Other Comments

- Add other comments such as whether you would recreate at the beach with Cladophora present, weather conditions, or other information you want to add to your observation.

Other Comments:

255 ↵

Representative Photos

12. From the water's edge, take photo along shoreline to the left

- Take a photo from the water's edge looking left along the shoreline to document the extent of Cladophora accumulation



Representative Photos

13. From the water's edge, take photo along shoreline to the right
- Take a photo from the water's edge looking right along the shoreline to document the extent of Cladophora accumulation



Representative Photos

15. Please take a close-up of the
Cladophora

- Zoom in on one area of Cladophora accumulation and take a close-up picture



Representative Photos

14. Take a photo on the beach facing the water from behind the extent of Cladophora accumulation
 - Take a photo on the beach facing the water from behind the extent of Cladophora accumulation to document the extent of accumulation



Phenomena that are NOT Cladophora



- A reference photo of lily pads.



Phenomena that are NOT Cladophora



- A reference photo of submerged aquatic vegetation.



Phenomena that are NOT Cladophora



Photo: Ohio EPA



- A reference photo of duckweed.



Phenomena that are NOT Cladophora



- A reference photo for cyanobacteria.



Personal Information (Optional)

15. First Name, Last Name, Email Address, and Organization

- Users have the option to include personal information so that resource managers can follow up if there are questions about a particular observation.

Personal Information (Optional): ▾

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

Organization:

(if applicable)

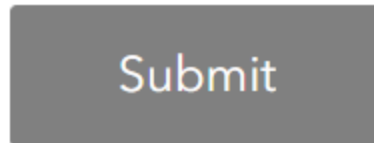


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Submit

15. Submit

- When all required questions have been answered and personal information (optional) has been added, click the Submit button at the bottom of the survey to submit your observation to NYSDEC.



Thank You

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