

Monitoring methods for cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins discussed in this guidance are shown below. Check/uncheck the box for monitoring requirements to see which method may suit your needs. Each method has a link that will take you directly to that section of our guidance document for a discussion of how the method works and resources to learn more about it. Definitions of the criteria used here are located in [Section 4.1](#) or visible when touched by your cursor. For additional information on management and control strategies, visit [Section 6](#). See [Section 3.3.4](#) of HCB-2 for additional considerations with analysis of benthic cyanobacteria samples.

Select your monitoring requirements:					
Target Analyte		Lab Required		Turnaround Time	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planktonic Cyanobacteria	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Less than 24 hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benthic Cyanobacteria	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 3 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cyanotoxin				

Method	Cyanobacteria			Cyanotoxin			Result Type	Sample Type	Relative Cost	Level of Training
	P/A	ID	DEN/AB	P/A	CGN	TOT				
Visual Assessments - planktonic	4	1	1	1	1	1	Qualitative	Variable	\$	Novice
Visual Assessments - benthic	4	1	2	1	1	1	Qualitative	Variable	\$\$-\$	Novice to Expert
Jar and Stick Tests - planktonic	4	1	1	1	1	1	Qualitative	Point sampling	\$	Novice
Pigments - planktonic	4	1	4	1	1	1	Quantitative	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate
Pigments - benthic	4	1	4	1	1	1	Quant./Qual.	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate
Remote Sensing - planktonic	4	1	4	1	1	1	Quant./Qual.	Indirect	\$	Intermediate / Expert
Remote Sensing - benthic	2	1	1	1	1	1	Quant./Qual.	Indirect	\$	Intermediate / Expert
Microscopy - planktonic	4	4	4	1	1	1	Quant./Qual.	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate / Expert
Microscopy - benthic	4	2	4	1	1	1	Quant./Qual.	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate / Expert
Genetic Methods for Identification - planktonic	4	4	3	1	1	1	Quantitative	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate
Genetic Methods for Identification - benthic	4	4	3	1	1	1	Quantitative	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate
Semi-automated Classification and Machine Learning - planktonic	4	4	4	1	1	1	Quantitative	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate
Strip Tests / Dip Sticks	1	1	1	4	1	4	Semi-Quant.	Point sampling	\$\$	Novice
Protein Phosphatase Inhibition Assay (PPIA)	1	1	1	4	1	1	Quantitative	Variable	\$\$	Intermediate
ELISA	1	1	1	4	1	4	Quantitative	Variable	\$\$	Intermediate

Mass Spectrometry	1	1	1	4	4	1	Quantitative	Variable	\$\$\$	Expert
Chromatography	1	1	1	4	4	1	Quantitative	Variable	\$\$\$	Expert
Genetic Analysis for Cyanotoxins	4	1	1	4	1	1	Quantitative	Point sampling	\$\$	Intermediate

Symbols		Abbreviations	
	Suitable	P/A	Presence/absence
	Potential	ID	Identification
	Not suitable	DEN/AB	Density/abundance
		CGN	Congener-specific concentrations
		TOT	Total cyanotoxin concentrations