



## ***MV CYANO LAUNCHES TO MONITOR AND REPORT TOXIC CYANOBACTERIA BLOOMS IN EDGARTOWN, CHILMARK AND TISBURY GREAT PONDS***

EDGARTOWN, June 22, 2021 – The Great Pond Foundation has announced the creation of MV CYANO, a collaborative initiative to monitor cyanobacteria in Chilmark, Tisbury, and Edgartown Great Ponds. MV CYANO is the first cyanobacteria monitoring program on Martha’s Vineyard and is a unique alliance developed by Island Boards of Health and scientists from the Great Pond Foundation.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are naturally occurring phytoplankton that have existed for millions of years. However, due to excessive nutrient loads and hotter summers, toxic blooms of cyanobacteria are occurring in Martha’s Vineyard’s ponds and throughout the world. When cyanobacteria grow rapidly or “bloom,” they can produce cyanotoxins, which can cause serious adverse health effects in exposed humans, pets, and livestock.

MV CYANO, is a coordinated pilot program that is already closely monitoring cyanobacteria in Chilmark, Tisbury, and Edgartown Great Ponds. The collaborative has also created a new website for information about cyanobacteria (<https://greatpondfoundation.org/mvcyano/>) as well as an email address for questions or to report blooms, [mvcyano@greatpondfoundation.org](mailto:mvcyano@greatpondfoundation.org). A color-coded system of alerts provides the community with real-time risk information and will be available in early July on the respective Town, [Chilmark Pond Foundation](#), and [Great Pond Foundation](#), websites as well as on posted signage.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Matt Poole**, Edgartown Board of Health Agent | p: 508.627.6120 | e: [mpoole@edgartown-ma.us](mailto:mpoole@edgartown-ma.us)

**Marina Lent**, Chilmark Board of Health Administrator | p: 508.645.2105 | e: [boh@chilmarkma.gov](mailto:boh@chilmarkma.gov)

**Omar Johnson**, West Tisbury Board of Health Agent | p: 508.696.0105 | e: [boh@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:boh@westtisbury-ma.gov)

**Karen Columbo**, Aquinnah Board of Health Agent | p: 508.645.2309 | e: [boh-assistant@aquinnah-ma.gov](mailto:boh-assistant@aquinnah-ma.gov)

**Emily Reddington**, Great Pond Foundation ED | p: 508.245.9502 | e: [emily@greatpondfoundation.org](mailto:emily@greatpondfoundation.org)

*MV CYANO was developed through a collaboration of Island Boards of Health with scientific and financial support provided by the Chilmark Pond Foundation and the Great Pond Foundation.*