



Cyanobacteria blooms and BMAA in aquatic food webs in South Florida

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Abstract

Over the past few decades, blooms of cyanobacteria have developed in Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, Lake Okeechobee, Indian River Lagoon, and the Caloosahatchee River. The recent discovery that most cyanobacteria produce the neurotoxin BMAA and that it can biomagnify up at least one terrestrial food chain led us to investigate whether or not BMAA can biomagnify in South Florida aquatic food chains. High concentrations of BMAA have been found in some animals used as human seafood, thus posing a potential human health threat.