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Cyanotoxin Criteria/Advisory Thresholds

I. Calculation of Recommended Cyanotoxin Criteria/Advisory Thresholds

While the newly proposed cyanotoxin thresholds are a significant effort to protect human health based on best available science, we are concerned about the calculation of these cyanotoxins, the routes of ingestion and volume of ingestion used in the calculation, and the types of cyanotoxins analyzed to develop this calculation.

The current standard in Florida is based on the presence of cyanobacteria. If a bloom is present, advisories are posted, samples are taken and tested for chlorophyll *a*, the type of algae is determined, and if it is a type capable of producing a toxin, the level of toxin being produced is analyzed and the results are posted. The new recommendations focus on a quantitative level of cyanotoxins. The 2016 criteria (4 µg/L microcystin, 8 µg/L cylindrospermopsin) developed a calculation with a reference dose that included multiple routes of exposure. We understand that the proposed 2019 criteria (8 µg/L microcystin, 15 µg/L cylindrospermopsin), are, as with the 2016 criteria, based on the EPA's evaluation of the health effects of microcystins and