

WEEKLY

# WATER WATCH

IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

## There are NINE beach advisories for the week of 7/19

### **6 Beaches with E.Coli-Related Advisory:**

Backbone Beach (*Dundee, Delaware County, IA*)  
George Wyth Beach (*Waterloo, Black Hawk County, IA*)  
Lake Ahquabi Beach (*Indianola, Warren County, IA*)  
Lake Keomah Beach (*Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, IA*)  
Lake Macbride Beach (*Solon, Johnson County, IA*)  
McIntosh Woods Beach (*Ventura, Cerro Gordo County, IA*)

### **3 Beaches with a Microcystin-Related Advisory:**

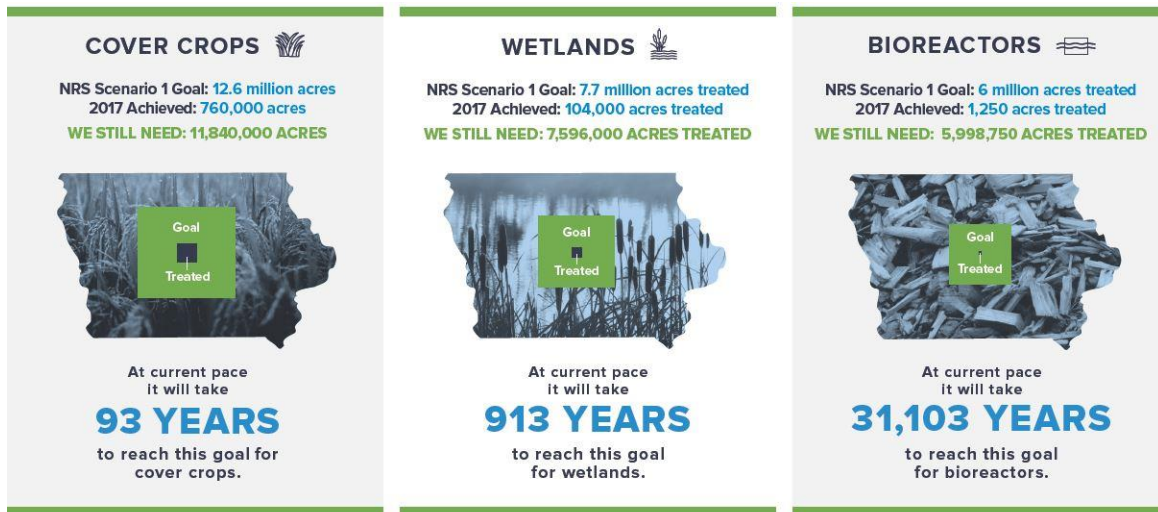
Green Valley Lake Beach (*Creston, Union County, IA*)  
Lake Darling Beach (*Brighton, Washington County, IA*)  
Lake of Three Fires Beach (*Bedford, Taylor County, IA*)

## The Slow Reality of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy

On Tuesday, [IEC released a comprehensive analysis of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#)

Iowa has been taking the long view – the very long view – when it comes to addressing nutrient pollution in our state’s waters.

Iowa adopted its Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) in 2013 nutrient pollution (excess nitrogen and phosphorus) and its contribution to the dead zone in Gulf of Mexico.



Source: Annual Progress Reports, Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Non-point sources of nutrient pollution (primarily agricultural sources in the state of Iowa) are not required to implement any of the conservation practices recommended in the NRS. NRS proponents have frequently described the non-point source portion of the strategy as **“voluntary, but not optional”**. However, based on the current rates of implementation of conservation practices, it is apparent that agricultural operators have taken **“voluntary”** to mean that they in fact have **the option not to participate**. Because the NRS does not include enforcement provisions or other consequences for a non-point source failure to participate, participation is in fact **voluntary and optional**.

IEC’s analysis of adoption rates of Nutrient Reduction Strategy practices from 2013 to 2017 reveals that **adoption and implementation of practices are flat or slowing**.

IEC calls on policy makers, agribusiness, conservationists, the DNR, IDALS, and the Water Resources Coordinating Council to **adopt a new approach to non-point participation that allows agricultural operators to select the conservation practice(s) that works best for their land, their goals, and their financial abilities, but requires participation** in the statewide effort to improve Iowa’s water quality.

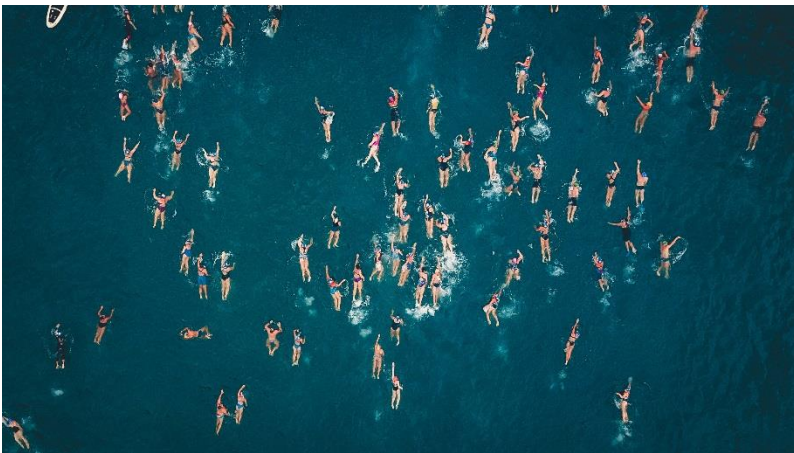
- Ingrid Gronstal Anderson and Alicia Vasto  
IEC Water Program

## Stop and Say Hi to IEC this Summer



### Are You Biking RAGBRAI?

We will be out on the road for RAGBRAI with Niman Ranch and New Belgium Brewing. Stop by our food truck and booth outside Hillsboro, IA on Friday the 26th for free beer, food, and conversation about clean water!



### More of a Swimmer?

IEC will host a free breakfast celebration at the finish line of the annual Okoboji Point to Point Swim on August 3rd. Encourage friends and family to attend for free food and fun. [Registration is not required, but helps IEC get an idea of numbers - plus you'll be signed up to win a prize pack!](#) Or if you have it in you, [sign up to swim!](#)



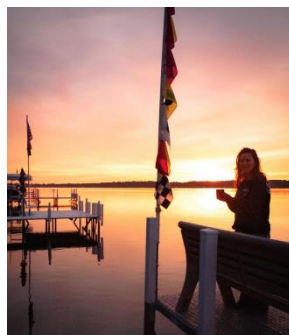
## Microcystin: An Alarming Trend

Over the past ten years, the number of annual swim advisories issued for microcystin, a harmful cyanobacteria created by some blue-green algae, by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has increased dramatically. [Take a look at the historical data of microcystin advisories.](#)



## Safe to Swim?

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducts weekly monitoring of 39 state park beaches in Iowa for microcystin and E.coli. We're tracking the IDNR weekly monitoring reports - [find out which Iowa state park beaches are currently under swim advisories.](#)



Thanks to @kyanasue for tagging us in her wonderful photo of Okoboji! Send us your

photos to be featured on

@iowawaterwatch



## What's New in Iowa's Water News

[Slow progress means Iowa water quality goals hundreds or even thousands of years away, environmental group says](#) (*The Gazette*)

[Worth County wetland project billed as first of its kind in state](#) (*Globe Gazette*)

[Lawmakers should have addressed clean water](#) (*The Gazette*)

[Troubled waters: a DI journalist's expedition of the Iowa River](#) (*The Daily Iowan*)

[Crews begin draining West Lake Park to improve water quality](#) (*WQAD*)



## Recent Research & Reports

[The Slow Reality of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#) Ingrid Gronstal Anderson and Alicia Vasto, *Iowa Environmental Council*

[The Dice are Loaded](#) Antonio Arenas, *IIHR and the Iowa Flood Center*



## Upcoming Water Events

**Iowa Summer Games: Canoe Kayak** - Ames - July 20

**Point to Point Swim and IEC Breakfast on the Beach** -  
West Lake Okoboji - August 3

**Okoboji Blue Water Festival** - Arnolds Park - August 10

**River Run Garbage Grab** - Saylorville to Yellow Banks Park -  
August 16