**PRESS RELEASE: 2025 Lyngbya Control Treatments at Lake Gaston**

The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council's (LGWCC) lyngbya management program is initiating its first treatments of the season the week of April 14th. This year's program will target 477 acres for lyngbya specific treatment applications. An interactive map of all treatment locations can be found on the LGWCC website (http://www.lgwcc.org). April's treatment will be the first of six consecutive treatments which are expected to occur during the weeks of April 14th, May 5th, June 2nd , July 14th, August 11th, and September 8th.

During these weeks, residents in treatment areas should expect to see airboats utilized by the application company, Aqua Services, slowly moving along the shoreline applying lyngbya directed algaecides in established treatment sites. The chemical protocol that will be used at Lake Gaston includes chelated copper-based algaecides that are EPA-approved for aquatic use. These algaecides have a bright blue hue and will be observed in the water directly following applications but have no use restrictions in terms of irrigation, fishing, or swimming.

The timeline for achieving lyngbya control is difficult to estimate. Due to the physical nature of lyngbya, healthy, viable mats look very similar visually to those that display decreased viability and therefore it is difficult to determine the immediate impact of treatments by visual observation alone. Within a treatment season, it is expected that lyngbya mat material may persist along the bottom of the lake, however, homeowners are likely to observe a decrease in overall biomass between treatment seasons. Additionally, homeowners may notice an immediate response to treatments with the absence of surface mat formations.

Lyngbya (*Microseria wollei*, formally *Lyngbya wollei*) is a genera of filamentous cyanobacteria that includes both freshwater and marine species. Lyngbya found in Lake Gaston can be identified by dense, dark-colored mat formations, wool-like texture, and musty odor. Unlike other algae, lyngbya persists year-round along the lake bottom but as water temperatures rise it begins to proliferate upwards through the water column forming floating mats at the water's surface. Lyngbya has become increasingly problematic in reservoirs throughout the southeastern US and is associated with a host of negative ecological and human-use impacts.

Any questions regarding aquatic vegetation in Lake Gaston should be directed to either aquaticplants@ncsu.edu or the Lake Gaston Weed Control website (http://www.lgwcc.org).

Submitted by: Jessica Baumann, Extension Associate for North Carolina State University's Aquatic Plant Management Program.