

PROGRESS & PRIORITIES FOR CYANOHABS IN FLORIDA: INSIGHTS FROM THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM II

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Algal blooms are a pervasive problem for Florida and successful management decisions must rely on the best available science. In 2019, following concurrent red tide and blue-green algal blooms UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant convened a forum of harmful algal bloom (HAB) scientists for the first Harmful Algal Bloom State of the Science Symposium. The goals of the two-day forum were to develop consensus statements identifying the current state of the science regarding what we know and what we think we know, data gaps and areas of uncertainty, and research priorities, with a focus on *Karenia brevis* red tides and *Microcystis aeruginosa* cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (cyanoHABs).

In 2023, a second symposium was convened at the request of the Florida Blue-Green Algae Task Force. The Blue-Green Algae State of the Science Symposium II (BGASOS II) aimed to build upon the 2019 symposium, offering an update and complement to its findings. The symposium addressed five major thematic areas: Drivers, Detection and Monitoring, Prediction and Modeling, Mitigation and Management, and Public Health. Unlike its predecessor, BGASOS II widened its scope to encompass various cyanobacterial bloom-forming taxa across Florida.

Over fifty researchers and managers from state and federal agencies, academia, non-profits, and industry convened in Florida in May 2023. The symposium employed a dynamic format, featuring lightning round presentations, panel Q&A, facilitated discussions, and breakout groups. This process resulted in updated consensus statements summarizing what we've learned since 2019, identified new research and management priorities, as well as best practices for HAB research and management efforts. The consensus statements will be used to inform Florida's Blue-Green Algae Task Force and facilitate more effective research and management by aligning and prioritizing the needs and efforts of agencies and respective scientific institutions.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Lisa Krinsky is a Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent with the University of Florida IFAS and the Florida Sea Grant College Program. Lisa's extension work focuses on coastal water quality and harmful algal blooms in Florida.