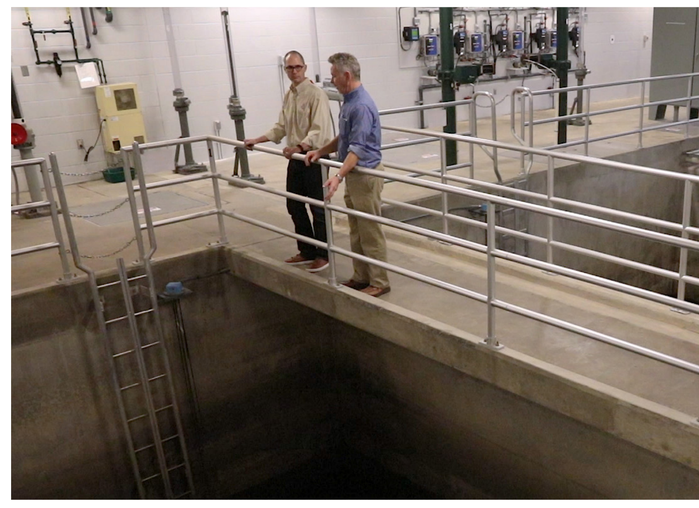
Collaborating Across Ohio to **HELP KEEP DRINKING WATER SAFE**

The Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative (HABRI), funded by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), brings together researchers from 10 universities, agency personnel and private industry to help address Ohio's harmful algal bloom problem. Since 2015, 54 research teams have received more than $15 million in funding to develop early warning systems, help water treatment plants deal with algal toxins more effectively, and guide strategies to reduce the nutrient runoff that fuels algal blooms.



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ODHE launched HABRI to get Ohio ahead of the problem and to prevent another drinking water advisory like Toledo's water ban in 2014. Although HABRI is only three years old, it has already yielded results.

- Early warning systems are giving water treatment plants a high-resolution picture of what could be affecting drinking water.
- Researchers are working directly with water treatment plant operators to provide practical guidance on producing safe drinking water.
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has changed the way they collect information on algal toxin concentrations in sportfish fillets, sampling more frequently during harmful algal bloom (HAB) season and from a wider range of Lake Erie locations to better understand how HABs affect sportfish.
- OEPA modified its permit procedure to better safeguard Ohioans when HABRI projects showed that farm crops might take in microcystins from water treatment residuals. New HABRI research is now helping OEPA better assess exposure risk from these byproducts of water treatment.
- HABRI has driven information sharing and priority setting between universities and agencies, positioning Ohio to better prevent and manage future crises.

go.osu.edu/habri

The Ohio Sea Grant College Program is part of NOAA Sea Grant, a network of 34 Sea Grant programs dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of marine and Great Lakes resources. **ohioseagrant.osu.edu**
HABRI is overseen by The Ohio State University and The University of Toledo, with Ohio Sea Grant providing proposal coordination and ongoing project management.