

This is a new standardised PDF system for recording water and other environment quality issues encountered during the course of Biodiversity survey work on or around Lough Allen. It will reduce and manage the amount of such material appearing in our Log. You will probably have arrived here from a Link in some recent Log, Use Browser BACK button to go back.

*"Recording
the Biodiversity
and Habitats of
Lough Allen"*

Lough Allen has a rich variety of Plants, Animals, and beautiful Places. To safeguard these we urgently need to stop some signs of creeping Pollution!

NOTE: This Environment Quality report has the same reference number (plus 'EQ') as its Log item.

[HOME](#) / [LABlog14](#) / [LABlog14b](#) / [LOG 2013](#) / [WaterLOG12/13](#)

Ref. No: LL14b24EQ

CyanoBloom at Rossmore Habitat

15th July 2014

Details Copied from LogLog14b/24: Date and Times: 15th July 2014 1000 – 1300. **Locations/Conditions:** Kilgariff, Rossmore and Corry. Wind: SW Force 3. Air Temp: 17°C. Water: calm in inlets and slight chop on open water. Temp: 19°C Level: 2.16m. **Summary/Purpose:** A walking trip looking for more *Spiranthes* and monitoring their habitat.

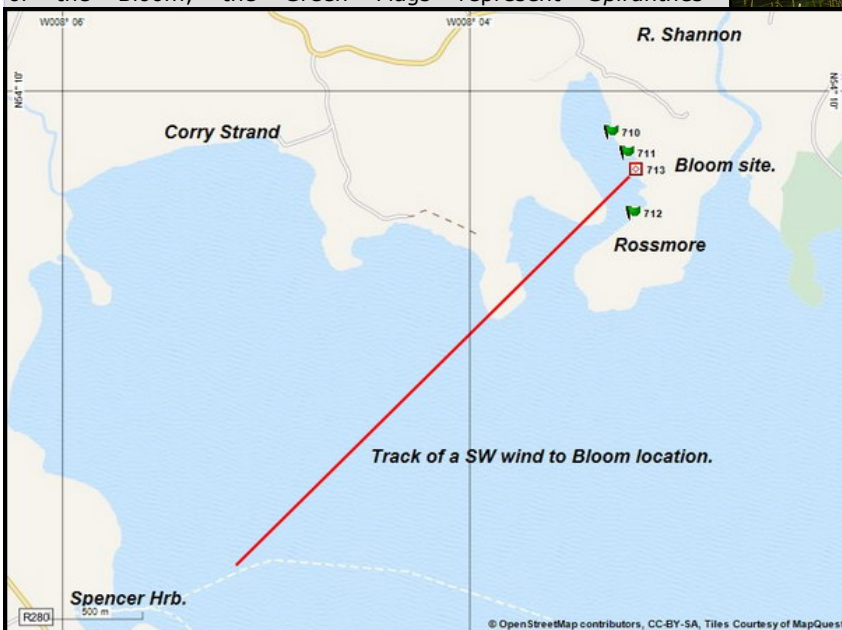
Problem: Small Intense Cyanobloom encountered

Observations:

Whilst surveying the shore of the Rossmore inlet on the north coast of Lough Allen a small but rather intense algal bloom was encountered. This consisted of Cyanophyceae with a good proportion of *Anabaena* present. It was of limited size but looked to be thriving in the warm shallow waters of the inlet.

From its distribution and our knowledge of the inlet we believe that the contaminants responsible may have originated outside the Inlet and in the main body of Lough Allen water.

Identification and Analysis: Map, below, shows the location of the Bloom; the Green Flags represent *Spiranthes*



romanzoffiana records. At the time of visiting the site there was a stiff SW breeze blowing through the sound and onto the shore. Most of the contamination was visible as a bloom but a small area to the south was showing as fine white foam. No other foam or bloom was seen anywhere on the east shore of Rossmore on that date. No obvious local cause was detectable.

We believe this incident may have resulted from wind carrying some contaminants into the inlet and, when these reached the spot on the shore a bloom developed either due to warmer water, ever present Cyanophyceae 'spores', or simply the calm conditions that these blooms love? Worryingly bright blue spots were developing in the centre of the bloom which mixed with the black water when disturbed, as shown in the lower photograph.

We know that the Shannon, in particular, does carry a burden of surfactants. We have been monitoring these all year and during calm spells the bubble formation properties has been observed. However, it never seemed to reach a serious level thanks, in the main, to a long period of northerly winds.

However, with southerly winds this material can be blown back into the Corry area and cause problems for swimmers there. This incident is (so far) very minor and we do not see it as a significant threat to animals or people. It needs to be watched and the R. Shannon needs to be cleaned up; we cannot indefinitely rely on the dilution qualities of L. Allen to minimise the problem of surfactants and artificial contaminants.

Conclusion & Comment: We will watch this area, and Corry and Kilgariff and Drumlalass, for the presence of either foam deposits or algal blooms and will report in any future logs.

