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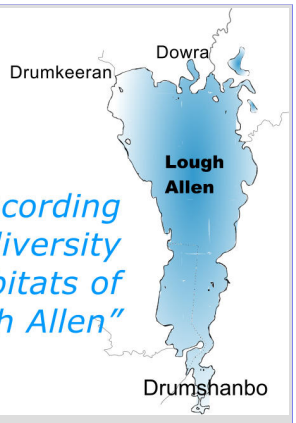


Environment Quality reports: 2014

(Replacing **WaterLog** from 2012/13)

This is a new standarised 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.

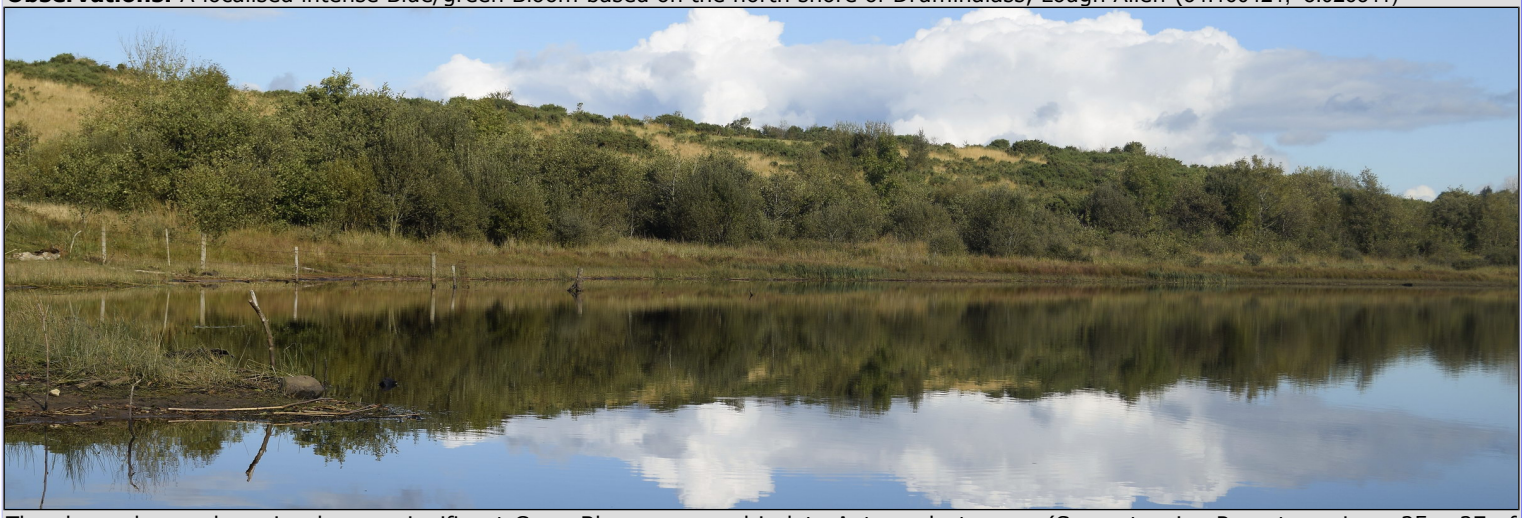
HOME / LABlog2014b / LOG 2013 / WaterLOG 12-13

Ref. No: LL14/36/EQ **Pollution at Druminalass... *again!*** **12th October 2014**

(Env. Qual. reports have the same number as **LabLog2014** reports but with an EQ appended.)

Details: Strange weather, calm and bright with black clouds of rising mist. 8-14°C with water in Druminalass at 12.5°. Large patches of Lough Allen calm at first getting slightly ruffled later. Calm patches widely affected by persistent bubbles.

Observations: A localised intense Blue/green Bloom based on the north shore of Druminalass, Lough Allen (54.160421, -8.026311)

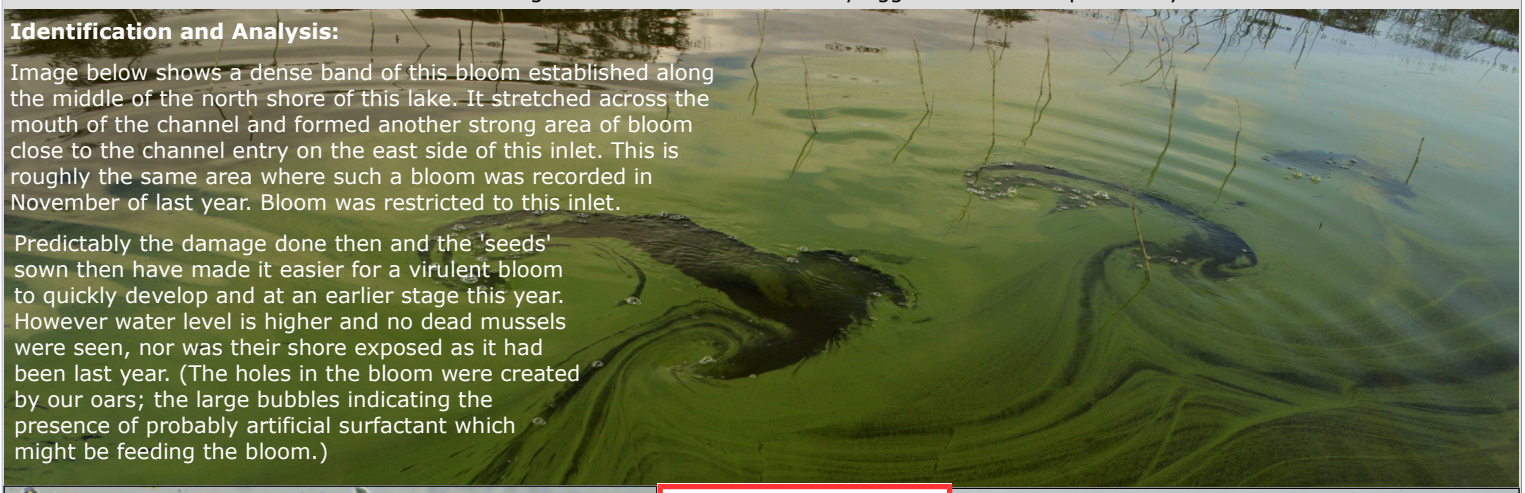


The shore shown above is where a significant CyanoBloom occurred in late Autumn last year. (See extensive Reports on Logs 25 – 27 of WaterLOG/2013) **Sadly, it is back!** This image was taken from the narrow channel linking this isolated lake to Lough Allen. Just as we entered we remarked how beautiful it was looking. Minutes later a serious very aggressive area of potentially toxic bloom was encountered.

Identification and Analysis:

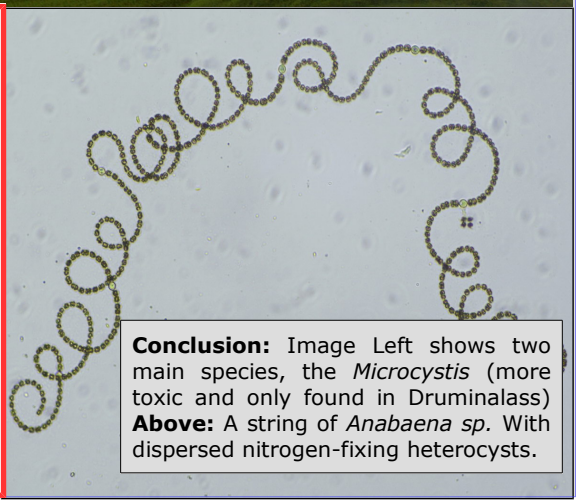
Image below shows a dense band of this bloom established along the middle of the north shore of this lake. It stretched across the mouth of the channel and formed another strong area of bloom close to the channel entry on the east side of this inlet. This is roughly the same area where such a bloom was recorded in November of last year. Bloom was restricted to this inlet.

Predictably the damage done then and the 'seeds' sown then have made it easier for a virulent bloom to quickly develop and at an earlier stage this year. However water level is higher and no dead mussels were seen, nor was their shore exposed as it had been last year. (The holes in the bloom were created by our oars; the large bubbles indicating the presence of probably artificial surfactant which might be feeding the bloom.)



It is devastating to see L. Allen succumbing to such regular and serious pollution. **THIS SHOULD BE FIXED!**

Other symptoms of widespread water contamination seen today included **persistent widespread large bubbles** behind boat and similar reduced surface tension in the water at Corry Strand when loading our boat. It is believed this is due to increasing levels of surfactants in the lake.



Conclusion: Image Left shows two main species, the *Microcystis* (more toxic and only found in Druminalass) **Above:** A string of *Anabaena sp.* With dispersed nitrogen-fixing heterocysts.