

New Hampshire Volunteer Phytoplankton Monitoring Program Coordinator:

Candace J. Dolan

Professional Experience:

Created the NH Phytoplankton Monitoring Program in 1999. The NH Harmful Algal Monitoring Program is a model that uses volunteers to collect reliable and valid data on coastal phytoplankton populations. Collected data is relied upon by the USFDA office of Seafood safety, NH Department of Environmental Services / Shellfish program and the NH Department of Health and Human Services to manage public health and safety as it relates to human shellfish consumption. As program coordinator responsibilities include:

- Develop protocols for monitoring Gulf of Maine waters for harmful algal blooms.
- Recruit and train volunteers and students in monitoring methods including field collection for microscopy and molecular probe processing.
- Develop protocols for phytoplankton analysis.
- Create and maintain databases relative to seasonal variations in phytoplankton species and abundance and the presence of toxic cells in NH coastal waters.
- Prepare annual grant proposals for program funding.
- Plan and present public forums and activities.
- Maintain regular communication with state environmental agencies and scientists working on harmful algal research and monitoring. i.e. NH Department of Environmental Services, NOAA, WHOI, DMR, NOAA Biotoxin Laboratory, Massachusetts divisions of Water Resources and Marine Fisheries and the South East Phytoplankton Monitoring Network.

Relevant Publications

Standard operating procedures: Phytoplankton Monitoring Program. Reid Ann; **Dolan Candace**; Diamond Karen; Cooper Steve. 2004-2008. UNHMP-M-SG-05-09

The Great Bay Coast Watch guide to common Gulf of Maine phytoplankton. 2003. Cooper Steve; **Dolan Candace**. NSGL#: NHU-H-06-003

Great Bay Coast Watch: Common Gulf of Maine Phytoplankton Identification Key. 2002. Cooper Steve; **Dolan Candace**. UNHMP-M-SG-07-009

Volunteers involved in 2010:

Volunteers involved in the program include graduates of the University of New Hampshire Marine Docent program as well as others recruited through press releases and word of mouth. Volunteer backgrounds range from retired medical professionals to teachers, high school students, college students and business professionals as well as homemakers and military professionals. What all have in common is curiosity, willingness to learn new skills and an appreciation for the ocean and its inhabitants.