Supplementary File 2. Sampling protocol sent to volunteer citizens of Adopt a Lake.

Sampling procedure for Algae Blooms

- Three pairs of gloves
- Two 155 mL wide mouth bottles (tissue analysis)
- Two 500 mL wide mouth bottles (nutrient analysis)
- Three Eppendorf tubes (genomic analysis)
- Three single-use sterile wood spatulas (genomic analysis)
- One pipette (please send back)
- One 4-way test strips kit (please send back)
- Thermometer
- One field sheet
- One sheet with the returning address

Sampling for toxin analysis
- The sample bottle and cap should be rinsed three times with the site water in the immediate vicinity of the collection site, prior to sampling.
- Fill the bottle without touching inside of cap or bottle up to the grey line (not more).
- Cap the containers and tighten securely.
- Freeze the two bottles and the icepack provided overnight.

Sampling for nutrients analysis and other measures
- Rinse the bottle, three (3) times with lake water prior to collection.
- Use the 4-way test strips provided and record only the alkalinity, pH and Total Hardness values on the field sheet.
- Keep wet fingers out of the bottle.
- Close cap tightly after removing strip.
- Immerse strip for 2 seconds in the nutrient bottle.
- Remove with pasty face up and shake to remove excess water.
- Read results immediately.
- Send the remaining 4-way test strips back in the colder with samples.
- Rinse the bottle, three (3) times with lake water prior to collection.
- Fill the bottle without touching inside of cap or bottle almost to the top.
- Repeat the last two steps to sample the second bottle.
- Cap the container and tighten securely.
- Keep the two bottles in the refrigerator until shipment.
- Thermometer: take the temperature of the sampling point after holding the thermometer 2-3 minutes near the sampling point. Record the value in the field sheet.

Sampling for genomic analysis
- Use the sterile wood spatulas provided to sample the surface water where the algal concentration is at the highest. Dip the spatula as many times as necessary to fill % of the Eppendorf.
- Cap the lid.
- Repeat two times.
- Keep the Eppendorf in the freezer until shipment.

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