



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**RESOLUTION SHORT TITLE:** WACD establish workgroup to evaluate HAB problem and funding

**SPONSOR CD:** Whidbey Island Conservation District

**AREA:** NW SW NC SC NE SE

**RESOLUTION TYPE:**

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

**RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY** (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

Climate change and nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural areas is increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms (HABs) in Washington lakes and rivers. HABs can lead to human and animal health risks. Sixteen freshwater bodies were reported to have toxin concentrations that exceeded recreational use guidelines this summer. Recently several dogs died after swimming in water bodies with algae blooms. Monitoring for HABs is uneven across the state and the extent of the problem and the risk to human and animal health is not well documented. Mitigation of HABs, including watershed measures to reduce nutrient loading the streams and lakes as well as in-lake measures to reduce internal nutrient loading from lake sediments, is not well-funded in the state.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:** WACD supports formation of a workgroup to assess the status of HABs in the state, the adequacy of current funding for monitoring HABs, the adequacy of funding for programs to address HABs statewide, and to recommend actions that conservation districts should take to reduce the frequency and duration of HABs in Washington.

**TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION** (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

**IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**

- NO. None anticipated.
- YES (briefly explain): Staff time to coordinate and investigate status