

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

[September 6, 2019](#)

[Algae! Algae! Algae! Oi! Oi! Oi!](#)

For the past few years, a lot of the news about toxic algae came out of [Florida](#). But [dumb ideas](#) aren't restricted to Florida Man, and toxic algae aren't restricted to Florida waters, either. Recently, though, blue green algae (known to biologists as cyanobacteria) has been a problem from [Wisconsin](#) to [New Jersey](#), and from [Maine](#) to [Texas](#). It has cost people their [best friends](#) and one hot air balloon pilot his [favorite weekend activity](#) (one presumes). Experts [note](#) that the eruptions have become [more common](#) in recent years, and that as heavy rains and high temperatures increase, we can expect them to become even more common. The toxins produced by these algae/bacteria/plankton species are not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, though the EPA does require some public water systems to test for some of them, but only a couple of months in a row every couple of years. Until these toxins become better regulated, be careful out there and take care of your pets. It's one thing everyone can [agree upon](#). Oh, and Florida still has to watch out; Hurricane Dorian spun out a [red algae bloom](#) a few hundred miles away from the storm itself. Oh again, one law that does regulate algae? The 2018 farm bill! Algae are now a commodity product and are [eligible for crop insurance](#) and federal programs (of course, that's for regular ol' biofuel-or-nutritional-supplement algae, not "blue-green" or "red" not-actually-algae algae).

Would You Look at the Morphodynamic Evolution!

I love morphodynamic evolution. You love morphodynamic evolution. Who doesn't love morphodynamic evolution? But just in case some poor unfortunate soul out there isn't familiar with the term, it means the overall change, or "evolution," to something that has a habit of taking on inconsistent, or "dynamic," butterflies, or "[morphos](#)." Or maybe it has something to do with shapes instead of butterflies.

Anyways, the [hottest new spot](#) for morphodynamic evolution is the delta of the Elwha River on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. There, the world's largest dam removal project took place from 2011 to 2014. Now, after five years of study, scientists have [found](#) massive changes in the structure of the river and its delta as 30 million tons of sediment were released from behind two dams. Results show that substantial changes have taken place, usually in pulses related to heavier precipitation, but the system seems to be finding its new equilibrium faster than anticipated. Sediment has worked its way down to the sea and, thanks to the reopened path for salmon, nutrients are working their way from the sea up to the stream. It's useful information in planning how other streams will react to dam

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[Downriver Festival](#)

September 7; New Orleans, LA

Walk and Learn Sessions: [Sewage and Water?!](#) and [Second Line at Sunset](#)

September 7; New Orleans, LA

[Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation](#)

September 11, 2019; Gretna, LA

[State of the Coast Session Proposal Deadline](#); September 13, 2019

[Louisiana Watershed Initiative Regional Capacity Building Grant Program: Applicant Briefing](#)

September 16; Baton Rouge, LA

[Atchafalaya River Basin Project Public Meeting](#); September 17; St. Martinville, LA

Water jobs:

[Coastal Scientist](#)

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; New Orleans, LA

[Executive Director](#)

Network of Oregon Watersheds; Salem, OR

[Research Engineer](#)

ULL Watershed Flood Center; Lafayette, LA

[Staff Attorney](#)

Western Environmental Law Center; Helena, MT

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removal – and surely there are [other dams](#) that need to be removed, but it's also just cool to see how nature can put itself back together when we let it.

Congrats to Mustafah Abdulazizi!

How'd you like to travel the globe – to exotic locations from Cape Town to Terrebonne Parish – and take [award-winning photographs](#) of how humans interact with water like this guy does? Well, then you'd better start practicing! If you'd like, you can come by Chateau d'Eau and take pictures of us staring at computer screens. Anyone who can manage to make that image look moving is truly headed for greatness.