



DataShoal

DATASHOAL // STATE OF THE BAY

Humboldt Bay

Week ending Sep 6, 2026 · Aug 30 – Sep 6

PREVIEW Preview, not a report. This page shows what a weekly report looks like when every feed behind it is current. Some readings on it are constructed for illustration and are listed in the artifact that produced it; the rest are a real published week.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

HAB (harmful-algae) sampling 11 d old

Growth

● SUBOPTIMAL

■ ■ ■ conf moderate

Rainfall

● LOW

■ ■ ■ conf high

Biotoxin

● ELEVATED

■ ■ ■ stale · last sample
Aug 26 (11 d)**Vibrio**

● ESCALATE

■ ■ ■ conf high

Sanitary

○ INDETERMINATE

■ ■ ■ not measured

Bottom line for the bay this week: Warm water pushing Vibrio to escalate and a domoic-acid signal in the phytoplankton are the two things shaping Humboldt Bay this week, so keep close to your certified-area status and CDPH advisories.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

State of the Bay is decision support, not a harvest notice. It distills varied ocean, river, and sampling data into a weekly read on your bay; closures are set by the appropriate public health regulator, which does not endorse this report, so confirm your certified-area status with that agency before harvesting. Narrative text is generated by an AI model from documented measurements, available on request. Spot an error? austin@datashoal.io.

Growth conditions SUBOPTIMAL

■ ■ ■ conf moderate

OBSERVED · 57.3 °F (14.083 °C) · ▲1.1 °F vs prior 4 wk · ▼1.1 °F vs last yr · chl-a 4.443 mg/m³

Conditions for oyster growth were suboptimal this week. Water temperature averaged about 14.7 °C with salinity around 34 and chlorophyll-a near 4.4 mg/m³, so food availability was reasonable but the thermal side kept growth below its best. Water temperature ran a touch warmer than the preceding four weeks but about 0.6 °C cooler than the same week last year.

Watch: A steady climb in water temperature back toward the roughly 20 °C spawning range, paired with holding chlorophyll-a, would move growth conditions out of the suboptimal band.

Rainfall closure risk LOW

■ ■ ■ conf high

OBSERVED · 119.24 ft³/s · ▼0.9 ft³/s vs prior 4 wk · provisional

River discharge into the bay was low this week. Flow averaged lower than the preceding four weeks and well below the same week last year, so freshwater inflow stayed below baseline. The gauge reading is still provisional.

Watch: A sharp jump in combined Mad River and Eel River flow after a storm would be the first sign of a runoff spike.

Biotoxin early warning

ELEVATED

stale

last sample Aug 26 (11 d)

EARLY WARNING

PSP: not signalled

DA: signalled

DSP: not signalled

(stale)

Toxin-producing phytoplankton risk was elevated. Pseudo-nitzschia is blooming, signalling the domoic-acid (amnesic shellfish poisoning) pathway, while Alexandrium (paralytic shellfish poisoning) and Dinophysis (diarrhetic shellfish poisoning) were examined and not signalled at this sampling. The latest harmful-algae (HAB) sample is about a week and a half behind, and closure-grade tissue toxin levels remain CDPH's call, not measured here.

Watch: Newer sampling showing Pseudo-nitzschia intensifying, or Alexandrium or Dinophysis starting to appear.

Vibrio early warning

ESCALATE

conf

high

OBSERVED

60.7 °F (15.94 °C) daytime avg

in season June 1 - September 14

Vibrio early-warning conditions were at escalate, and the bay is inside its control season of June 1 to September 14. The month's average daytime water temperature was about 15.9 °C, or 60.7 °F, above the 60 °F escalate mark. That is warmer than the same week last year. Vibrio harvest controls are CDPH's determination, not this report's.

Watch: Daytime water temperature holding above the 60 °F escalate mark or climbing further.

Sanitary closure risk (fecal coliform)

INDETERMINATE

not measured

NOWCAST

not measured

surrogate: river inflow 119.24 ft³/s

provisional

Growing-area (fecal-coliform) status is not directly measured in this Phase-1 report and remains indeterminate. DataShoal does not assay fecal coliform, so the low river-discharge signal stands as the interim surrogate this week. CDPH under the NSSP is the classification authority.

Watch: A rise in the river-flow surrogate after rainfall is the early cue that growing-area conditions may be shifting.

THE DATA BEHIND THIS REPORT

SOURCE	DATA FAMILY	FRESHNESS
Bay water-quality sensor	in-bay sensor	current · Sep 6
River flow gauges	river gauge	current · Sep 6
HAB (harmful-algae) sampling	plankton	stale · last sample Aug 26 (11 d)
Heat stress index	—	planned · not in this report
Seven-day outlook, all indicators	—	planned · not in this report

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