



Thank you for your inquiry into Aqua Care's products containing organic microalgae (*Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*) from Klamath Lake in southern Oregon. Aqua Care has been producing and marketing quality algal-based nutritional supplements for over 30 years. As you will see, the quality and safety of wild, organic microalgae have been well established, and this is why we are able to offer our line of superior nutritional supplements with absolute confidence.

In a search for information on any topic, no doubt you will agree that, as is true of most publicly disseminated materials, it is sometimes very difficult to sort through the volumes of information to determine which information is accurate and which is outright false. And given the negative tenor of some published reports, it is understandable that a consumer might have reservations about the use of a microalgae product. With the hope that a balanced view will help clarify any misinformation our customers may come across, we endeavor to provide the most accurate and current information that relate to consumption of the microalgae we harvest and market globally. We present this information in the hope that it will help consumers make their own comparisons and come to an educated conclusion.

First of all, it is important to remember that there are many species of algae and more than one type of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*. Please do not be confused with other types of microalgae. With years of testing and research, the organic microalgae from Klamath Lake that Aqua Care harvests has *never* been shown to be a species that produces toxins.

Aqua Care maintains relations with world-renowned algae scientists Dr. Don Anderson of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Dr. Wayne Carmichael, Professor Emeritus of Wright State University. Over the last 20-plus years Drs. Anderson and Carmichael have been instrumental in setting up our Quality Assurance Program. Despite the fact that *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* from Klamath Lake is not a toxin-producing species, every batch is still tested for numerous possible contaminants, as well as for other attributes of quality and consistency. The microalgae we use is harvested and processed according to a stringent QA program that includes testing by independent third party laboratories for the presence of any undesirable elements, including various natural toxins (hepatotoxins and neurotoxins), pesticides, heavy metals, detrimental microorganisms, and other possible contaminants. We regularly review our quality assurance program and added radiation testing immediately following the disaster in Fukushima.

Drs. Anderson and Carmichael have published numerous papers on the unique properties of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* in Klamath Lake. Among other writings, Dr. Carmichael co-authored an article entitled, "Taxonomic re-evaluation of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* NH-5 based on morphology and 16S rRNA gene sequences." Featured in the journal *Hydrobiologia* (Kluwer Academic Publishers), this paper shows that the toxin-producing strains called AFA are *not* the species that grows in Klamath Lake and that Aqua Care harvests. And more recently, Dr. Carmichael co-authored an article published in 2003 in the *Journal of Applied Phycology* (volume 39, pages 814-818, 2003) entitled "Morphological and 16S rRNA gene evidence for reclassification of the paralytic shellfish toxin producing *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* LMCEYA 31 as *Aphanizomenon Issatschenkoi* (Cyanophyceae)." This article also states that previous



strains had been incorrectly identified, and that the strain of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* (in Klamath Lake) has never been known to produce a toxin.

At the 2015 Oregon Lakes Association Annual Meeting researchers from Oregon State University presented their findings from a genetic evaluation of Klamath Lake *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*.^{*} They determined that Klamath Lake *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* does not contain the genetic capability to produce toxins. The OSU group presented genome sequence data from an *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* culture and an environmental metagenome from an *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* bloom, isolated from Upper Klamath Lake in 2013 and 2014, respectively. Their analysis revealed the absence of toxin biosynthetic genes in both cultured and environmental *Aphanizomenon*. ^{*}Driscoll, C. et al. 2015. Genomic sequencing and metagenomic analysis of *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* in Upper Klamath Lake, OR. Proceedings Oregon Lakes Association Annual Meeting. Klamath Falls, Oregon. October 2-4, 2015.

We are careful to comply fully with regulations of the US FDA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which audit our facilities on a regular basis and have expressed satisfaction with our QA Program and the results attained.

To further support our QA program, we hold many certifications on our facilities and products. Our in-house manufacturing facilities are registered by NSF International to FDA's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Dietary Supplements. Additionally, our manufacturing facilities are also registered with NSF International's GMP for Sport® program which ensures that AquaCare uses no substances which are banned by WADA, MLB and the NFL. You may also be interested to know that our microalgae has been certified organic by Pro-Cert Organic Systems (ISO 65-compliant), the foremost national organic food certifier in North America, for many years. This certification complies with the USDA National Organic program, the EU, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and Canadian organic standards. Our wild, organic microalgae is certified Kosher by Star K Kosher Certifications and certified Halal by IFANCA. Every year (or in some cases semi-annually) representatives of our certifiers perform in-depth onsite audits of our records and processes, and inspect our facilities. In addition, our organic certifier conducts an inspection of the Klamath Lake watershed to ensure it meets their standards. All of these certifiers are highly regarded professional organizations with high quality standards.

From the research, testing, certifications, and over 30 years of consumption by people the world over, AquaCare can state with confidence that *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* from the Klamath Lake is safe to consume. As you can see, the quality and safety of wild, organic microalgae have been well established, and this is why we are able to offer our line of superior nutritional supplements. If after considering this information you have further questions, please feel free to contact AquaCare.

We very much appreciate your interest in AquaCare products, and wish you all the best as you seek optimum health.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Anderson".

August 20, 2019