



# RED TIDE

## RED TIDE FACTS:

- In Florida, red tide is caused by a naturally occurring microscopic alga (a plant-like microorganism) called *Karenia brevis* or *K. brevis*.
- *K. brevis* produces a toxin that can kill fish and cause respiratory problems in humans. People with chronic respiratory problems should avoid red tide areas.
- Red tide algal blooms can change rapidly, staying in one place for months or just a few days or weeks.
- All seafood from restaurants and hotels is monitored and is safe to eat. Avoid eating clams and oysters harvested recreationally from red tide waters.
- Red tide symptoms include coughing, sneezing, and watery eyes.

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## RED TIDE CONTACTS:

Red tide questions/health concerns?

Call the Florida Poison Control  
Information Center at:

**800-222-1222**

**Report Fish Kills:** 800-636-0511 [FWC]

**Red Tide Info & Status Reports:**

[MyFWC.com/RedTide](http://MyFWC.com/RedTide)

**Red Tide Facts:** [START1.org](http://START1.org)

**Current Beach Conditions:**

[mote.org/beaches](http://mote.org/beaches)

or call 941-BEACHES (232-2437)

