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NEWSROOM

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

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State and county officials continue to monitor south county beaches for red tide

Staff from Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, lifeguards and the Health Department continue to monitor beaches for signs of red tide following cleanup efforts earlier this month. Beaches in southern Sarasota County, including Manasota, Caspersen, North Jetty, Nokomis and Venice beaches, had various amounts of dead fish and odor caused by a red tide algae bloom several miles off shore from the Sarasota/Charlotte county border.

Local officials say people can still enjoy the beaches, however, those with asthma or chronic respiratory impairments need be aware of beach conditions where red tide impacts are reported. For those who are susceptible, symptoms associated with red tide tend to become more noticeable when the wind is blowing on-shore.

There currently are no reports of fish kills on Sarasota County beaches. Signs informing the public about red tide and its possible effects on people with respiratory conditions, pets and wildlife will be placed on beaches if a red tide event re-occurs.

The Mote Marine Laboratory's Beach Conditions Report is updated at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Reports can be viewed online at www.mote.org/beaches. Residents and visitors can also register to receive email reports about specific beaches. For telephone updates, call 941-BEACHES (232-2437).

Additional resources for beach condition information include:

- For biweekly red tide monitoring reports from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: <http://myfwc.com/research>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/hab/default.htm>
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/aquatic/index.html>
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/RedTide/RedTideInfo.htm>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>
- Health-related information/reporting of illnesses from exposure to red tide: call toll-free 24/7 Florida Poison Control Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

