

WHAT FWC DOES

- We routinely monitor more than 100 locations around the state to detect harmful algal blooms.
- We test water, sediment, seagrass and animal tissues for red tide toxins.
- We work with partners to track red tides and improve red tide forecasts.
- We respond to fish and wildlife mortalities associated with red tide.
- Weekly, we post the current red tide status at MyFWC.com/RedTideStatus and (866) 300-9399.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Report fish kills to FWC at (800) 636-0511.
- Volunteer to sample water through FWC's Volunteer Program by contacting rtomp_coordinator@MyFWC.com.
- Help minimize blooms by reducing or eliminating fertilizer use.
- Support the use of artificial wetlands and retention ponds that capture runoff and remove nutrients.
- Encourage your local and state representatives to fund red tide monitoring and research in Florida.

STAY CONNECTED

Learn more about red tide

MyFWC.com/RedTide
[Facebook.com/FLHABs](https://www.facebook.com/FLHABs)
(866) 300-9399

MOTE Beach Conditions

Visitbeaches.org

Shellfish Harvesting Status

FloridaAquaculture.com

Report a fish kill

(800) 636-0511
MyFWC.com/Fishkill (online)
MyFWC.com/FWCReporter (app)

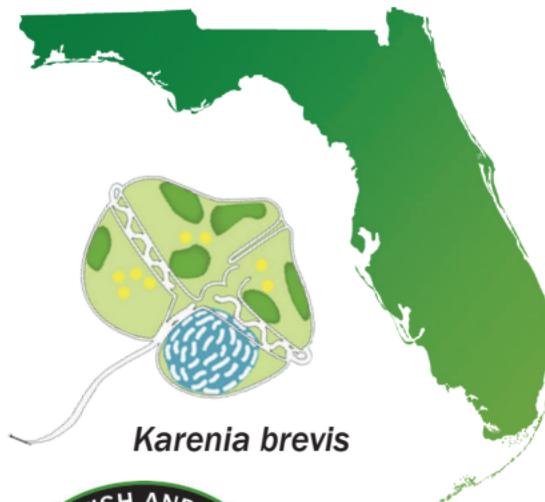
FWC Wildlife Alert

(888) 404-3922

Poison Control

(800) 222-1222

RED TIDE FACTS AND INFORMATION



Karenia brevis



RED TIDE BASICS

- Red tide is caused by an overgrowth or accumulation of microscopic algae, which can discolor the water.
- Red tides are also called Harmful Algal Blooms or HABs.
- Along Florida's Gulf Coast, most red tides are caused by *Karenia brevis*.
- *Karenia brevis* is found in marine and brackish water but not freshwater.
- *Karenia brevis* produces toxins that can sicken or kill fish, seabirds, turtles and marine mammals.

SEAFOOD SAFETY

- Shellfish, including clams, oysters and mussels, can accumulate red tide toxins.
- Eating contaminated shellfish can result in Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning.
- Shellfish harvesting from regulated areas is banned during red tides.
- Fish are safe to eat as long as they are caught alive and only the muscle is eaten.
- The muscle of crustaceans including crab, shrimp and lobster is not affected by red tide toxins and can be eaten.

HEALTH

- Red tide causes respiratory irritation that is usually temporary, but serious illness can occur in people with asthma, COPD, etc.
- Most people are not affected by swimming in red tide, but skin irritation may occur. Wash with freshwater if you feel irritation.
- To protect pets, do not allow them to play with dead fish or foam on the beach. Rinse them with freshwater prior to returning home.
- Seek professional advice regarding health concerns.

CAUSES OF BLOOMS

- *Karenia brevis* is a natural occurrence in Florida.
- Blooms develop offshore and are brought inshore by ocean currents, usually in bottom waters.
- There is no direct link between nutrient pollution and the initiation of *Karenia brevis* blooms, unlike many other blooms that are caused by nutrient pollution.
- Once red tide is transported inshore, the algae can use man-made nutrients to grow.