

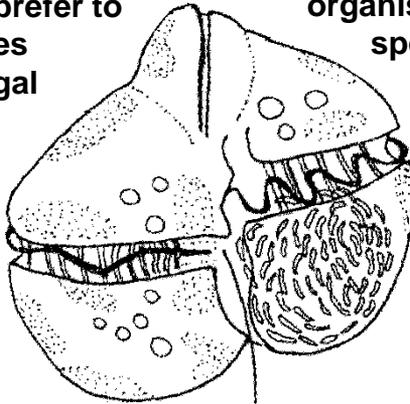


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

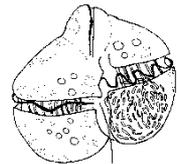
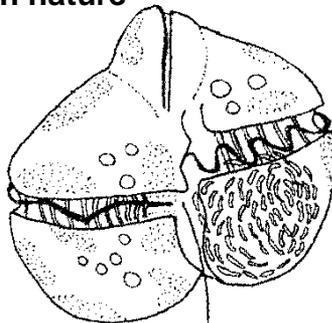
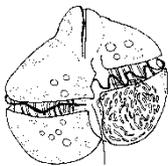
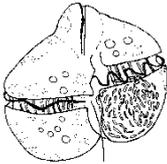
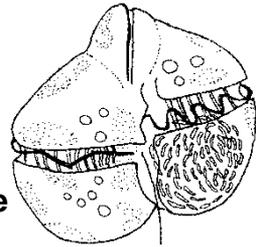
A red tide is a higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic alga (plant-like organism). In Florida, the

species that causes most red tides is *Karenia brevis* (*K. brevis*).

Scientists prefer to call red tides Harmful Algal Blooms, or HABs because a "bloom" can also be yellow, orange, brown, pink, purple, or reddish-brown.



Dinoflagellates can produce some of the most powerful poisons in nature



The greatest threat to humans from a red tide is eating shellfish that have been contaminated with the red tide toxin

Red tides can kill fish and other marine animals and contaminate shellfish such as clams and oysters

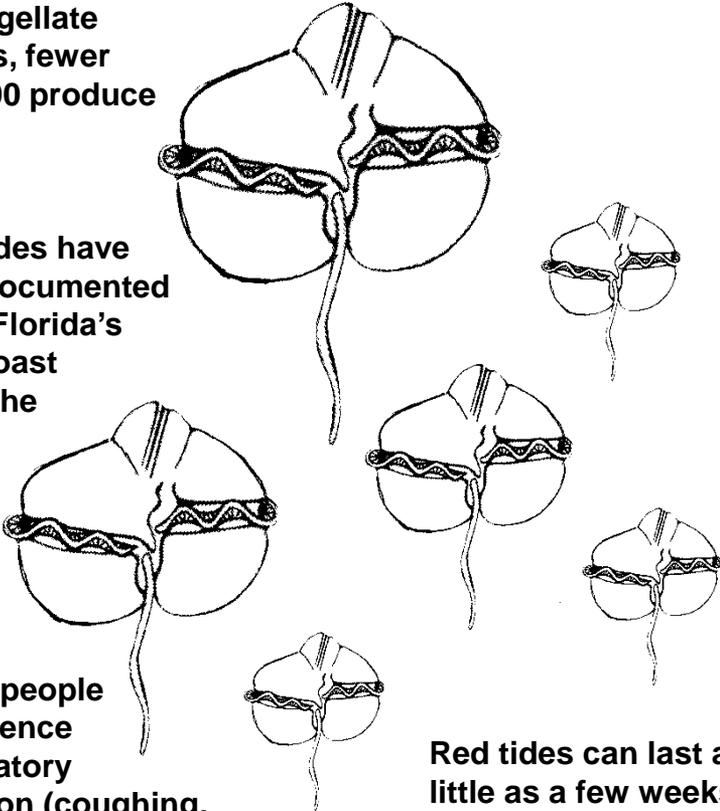


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Of the more than 2,000 known dinoflagellate species, fewer than 100 produce toxins

Red Tides have been documented along Florida's Gulf Coast Since the 1840's



Some people experience respiratory irritation (coughing, sneezing, tearing and an itchy throat) when the Florida red tide organism, *K. brevis*, is present and winds blow onshore.

Red tides can last as little as a few weeks or longer than a year. They can even subside and then reoccur.

The red tide bloom of 946-47 is estimated to have killed 500 million fish