

Red tide sighted

A red tide has been sighted over the past week, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (December 24).

The red tide was spotted by a mariculturist at Long Harbour yesterday (December 23). The red tide still persists and no associated death of fish has been reported so far.

A spokesman for the working group said, "The red tide was formed by *Mesodinium rubrum*, which is commonly found in Hong Kong waters and non-toxic."

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) urged mariculturists at the Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan and Sham Wan fish culture zones to monitor the situation closely and increase aeration where necessary.

Red tide is a natural phenomenon. The AFCD's proactive phytoplankton monitoring programme will continue to monitor red tide occurrences to minimise the impact on the mariculture industry and the public.