

Red tides sighted

Two red tides were sighted during the past week, the Inter-departmental Red Tide Working Group reported today (February 21).

On February 15, staff of the Marine Department spotted a red tide at Sha Tin Hoi to Pak Shek Kok. Another red tide was spotted at Shing Mun River Channel on February 18 by staff of the Environmental Protection Department. Both red tides still persist and no associated fish deaths have been reported as of today.

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

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