

Red tides sighted

Two red tides were sighted during the past week, the Inter-departmental Red Tide Working Group reported today (March 28).

The red tides were spotted by staff of the Marine Department at Sha Tin Hoi and Tolo Harbour (including the Yim Tin Tsai Fish Culture Zone) on March 24 and 25 respectively. Both red tides still persist, and no associated fish deaths have been reported as of today.

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

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) urged mariculturists at the fish culture zones of Yim Tin Tsai, Yim Tin Tsai (East), Yung Shue Au and Lo Fu Wat 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.