

VISITING THE BEACH?

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RED TIDE IN FLORIDA

WHAT ARE *K. BREVIS* RED TIDES IN FLORIDA?

Red tide in Florida is a harmful algal bloom caused by a microscopic species of single-celled algae called *Karenia Brevis*. *K. Brevis* produces toxins that, during bloom events, are harmful to people, pets and wildlife. Red tides in Florida typically occur in the Gulf of Mexico and begin during late summer or early fall.



K. BREVIS EXPOSURE SYMPTOMS:



RESPIRATORY
IRRITATION



SKIN
IRRITATION



ITCHY
EYES

RED TIDE SAFETY TIPS

Avoid contact with bodies of water that are discolored or have a strong, unpleasant smell.

Check respiratory conditions before visiting the beach. Leave the area if you feel any symptoms of red tide exposure.

Don't let pets play in or drink from affected bodies of water.

Follow advice and guidelines from local health officials.



HOW CAN I CHECK WATER AND RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS BEFORE GOING TO THE BEACH?



Scientists combine *K. brevis* red tide cell concentrations with wind speed & direction data in order to provide respiratory irritation forecasts for the day.

VISIT

<https://habscope.gcoos.org>
for up-to-date forecasts and maps.



These forecasts are communicated to the public via the HABSscope website in near real-time, projected over 24 hours and updated with the latest wind models every three hours.

K. BREVIS RED TIDE FAQs

Q Is seafood safe to eat during a red tide outbreak?

A Toxins from red tides can accumulate in filter feeders, such as clams and oysters, and may lead to Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning in people who consume contaminated shellfish. Shellfish purchased through a licensed dealer or at a restaurant are safe to eat during a red tide as they will have been harvested from waters outside of the bloom area.

Q When do red tides occur and how long do they last?

A Florida's red tides can appear throughout the year, though they usually begin late summer to early fall and can last from a few days to months. Some blooms have lasted over a year.

Q Can red tides be harmful to wildlife? Pets?

A Through inhalation, direct contact or ingestion, high concentrations of toxins produced by red tides can harm and kill fish, birds and mammals. Keep pets away from affected waters.

Q What impact do red tides have on the economy?

A Red tides can result in significant economic impacts, especially in coastal communities. Red tides are estimated to cause more than \$20 million in tourism-related losses in Florida each year.



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For more information, visit: <https://www.flseagrant.org/habs/>

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