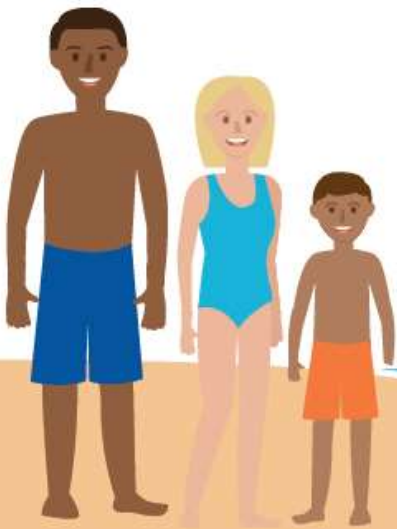


***K. BREVIS* RED TIDE** **SAFETY & FAQs**



UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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Public Issues Education

What is *K. Brevis* red tide?

- Red tide in Florida is caused by a microscopic species of algae called *Karenia Brevis*.
- *K. Brevis* produces toxins that are harmful to people, pets and wildlife.
- In Florida, red tides start in the Gulf of Mexico and often begin during late summer or early fall.

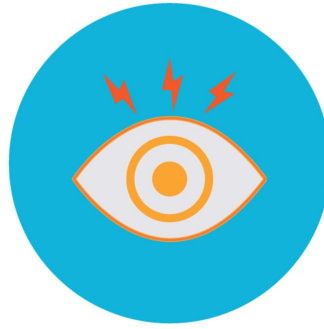


K. Brevis exposure symptoms

- Exposure to *K. Brevis* red tides through airborne particles or contact with affected bodies of water can cause the following symptoms:



Respiratory irritation



Itchy/ irritated eyes



Skin irritation

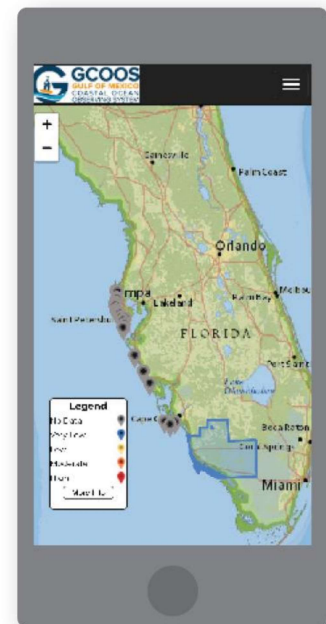
Red tide safety tips

- Avoid contact with bodies of water that are discolored or have a strong, unpleasant smell.
- Check red tide conditions before visiting the beach.
 - Cell Counts: <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>
 - Beach Conditions: <https://visitbeaches.org/>
 - Respiratory Forecast: <https://habscope.gcoos.org/>
- Leave the area if you feel any symptoms of red tide exposure.
- Do not let pets play in or drink from affected bodies of water.
- Follow advice and guidelines from local health officials.

How to view respiratory beach forecasts

- Scientists combine *K. brevis* cells with wind speed/ direction data to produce respiratory irritation forecasts for the day.
- These forecasts are communicated to the public via the HABscope website in near real-time, projected over 24 hours and updated with latest wind models every 3 hours.

VISIT:
<https://habscope.gcoos.org>



K. Brevis red tide FAQs

Q **Is seafood safe to eat during a HAB outbreak?**

A Toxins from HABs 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 HAB as they will have been harvested from waters outside of the bloom area.

K. Brevis red tide FAQs

Q When do HABs occur and how long do they last?

A Florida's HABs 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.

K. Brevis red tide FAQs

Q Can HABs be harmful to wildlife? Pets?

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

K. Brevis red tide FAQs

Q What impact do HABs have on the economy?

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

HAB Resources

For more information and resources related to HABs in Florida, visit <https://www.flseagrant.org/habs/>



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