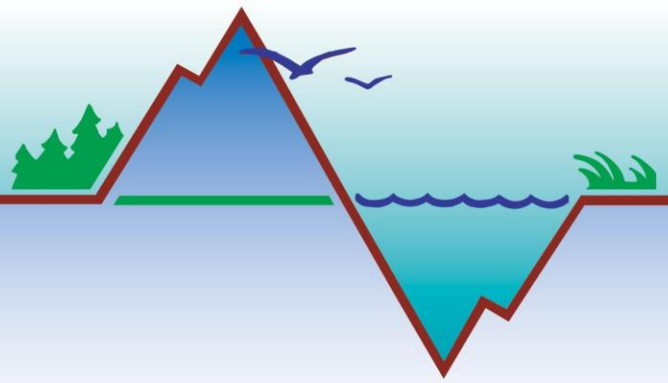


Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Phytoplankton Update

July 4th – July 11th 2019

Harmful Algal Bloom Program

Rosie Robinson 907-235-1598 rmrobinson3@alaska.edu



Hi all,

This week we saw elevated numbers of *Pseudo-nitzschia* in Kachemak Bay, with it reaching bloom levels in Halibut Cove and Peterson Bay. *Pseudo-nitzschia* can produce domoic acid which can lead to amnesic shellfish poisoning when toxic shellfish are consumed. Domoic acid also impacts seabirds, fishes and marine mammals, causing lethargy, disorientation, seizures and even death. Please let us know if you observe animals in unusual places or exhibiting unusual behavior. As always we recommend leaving these animals alone. Stranded marine mammals can be reported to the Marine Mammal stranding network by calling 1-888-774-7325.

To date Kachemak Bay has not experienced a toxic *Pseudo-nitzschia* bloom, however the species present in Kachemak Bay are capable of producing the toxin. We will be following this bloom and plan on testing for domoic acid next week. All commercially harvested shellfish are regulated by the DEC and considered safe for consumption.

Preliminary shellfish toxin testing results from last week have returned showing no concerning levels of saxitoxins (type of toxin that can lead to paralytic shellfish poisoning). The first sample we sent in was of butter clams from Jakolof Bay harvested on 7/3, a reminder that butter clams can hold toxins for up to two years but these were not toxic. The second sample was of blue mussels from 7/8 from the Homer Harbor, also not toxic. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks to all of our monitors and partners for the phytoplankton samples!

Rosie Masui & Jasmine Maurer

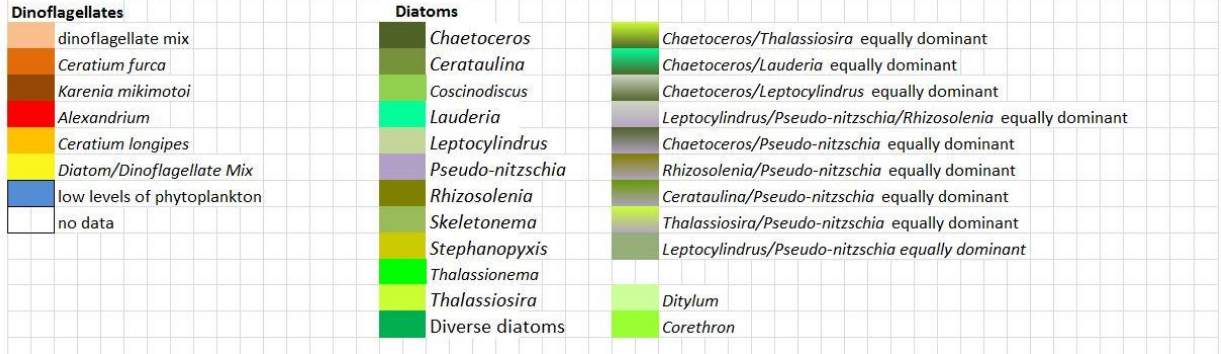
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Phytoplankton Update

Qualitative Analysis Phytoplankton Data

INNER BAY

DATE	Bay	Water Temp	Salinity	Dominant species	Dinophysis	Pseudo-nitzschia	Alexandrium
6/30/2019*	China Poot	15.5	25	<i>Fragilariopsis</i>	None	Present	None
7/2/2019*	Peterson Bay	17	28	Sparse Sample	None	None	None
7/6/2019	Peterson Bay	16	29	Sparse Sample	Present	Present	None
7/6/2019	Bear Cove	15	22	Sparse Sample	Present	Present	None
7/8/2019	Homer Harbor	14.7	27.6	<i>Chaetoceros</i> spp.	Present	None	None

Outer Kachemak Bay 2014 - 2019
Sadie, Tutka, Jakolof, Eldred Pass, Kasitsna, Seldovia, Pt. Graham



Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
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