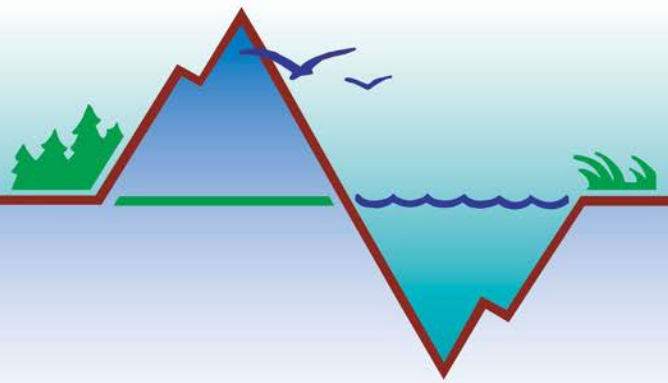


## Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Phytoplankton Update

August 16<sup>th</sup> – August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019

Harmful Algal Bloom Program

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Hello Everyone,

This week we did another round of toxin testing of wild blue mussels. Blue Mussels from Homer Harbor and Kasitsna Bay are both below the regulatory limit for saxitoxins. However, the Kasitsna Bay blue mussel saxitoxin level has come up from previous values this summer. This is a cautionary note as we could see toxin levels continue to rise in the coming weeks, or it may drop back down. We will be tracking this and send out updates as we have more information. KBNERR is not a regulatory agency and harvesting wild shellfish in Alaska is considered 'dig at your own risk'. All commercially harvested shellfish are regulated by the DEC and considered safe for consumption.

This week in the Inner Bay phytoplankton is sparse, although interestingly Homer Harbor is the exception with an abundance of phytoplankton there. The Inner Bay had a similar sparsity of phytoplankton during the same weeks in 2018. In the Outer Bay we are seeing a *Pseudo-nitzschia* bloom in Port Graham and *Thalassionema*, a diatom, blooming in Tutka Bay

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
8/11/2019*	Peterson Bay	17	28	Sparse Sample	Present	Present	None
8/16/2019	China Poot	14	28	Sparse Sample	Present	Present	Present
8/20/2019	Halibut Cove	12	28	Sparse Sample	None	Present	None
8/22/2019	Homer Harbor	11.8	27.3	Mixed Diatoms	Present	Present	Present

\*Samples received after last weekly update

## OUTER BAY

DATE	Bay	Water Temp	Salinity	Dominant species	Dinophysis	Pseudo-nitzschia	Alexandrium
8/16/2019	Tutka Bay	17	24.9	<i>Thalassionema</i> Bloom	Present	Present	Present
8/20/2019	Port Graham	10.6	28	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia</i>	Present	Bloom	Present

