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NEWSROOM

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

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State and County officials continue to monitor effects of red tide along area beaches

Sarasota County staff and inmates from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Work Offender program removed hundreds of dead fish from Nokomis Beach, Venice Beach, and Brohard Beach Dog Park earlier today. The Sarasota County Health Department believes the cause of the fish-kill is a red tide bloom that has been drifting several miles off the Charlotte County shoreline.

County Health officials are also advising pet owners about the risks red tide poses to animals brought to the beach. Red Tide can also affect dogs after they come out of the water, lick their paws or fur and ingest the algae which can be harmful to their health. "Beachgoers are encouraged to check the Mote Beach Conditions Report before they go to the beach as conditions can change daily," said Tom Higginbotham, Sarasota County Health Department Environmental Health Administrator.

Results of beach water samples collected today by the Sarasota County Health Department and analyzed by Mote Marine Laboratory will be available on Tuesday, Oct. 9. The Mote Beach Conditions Report System, covers 26 beaches along the Gulf Coast, including those in Sarasota County.

Local officials say people can still enjoy the beaches. However, those with asthma or chronic respiratory impairments need to watch beach conditions where red tide impacts are being reported. For those who are susceptible, the symptoms associated with red tide tend to become more noticeable when the winds are blowing on-shore.

The Mote Marine Laboratory's Beach Conditions Report is updated at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Reports can be viewed online at www.mote.org/beaches. Residents and visitors can also register to receive email reports about specific beaches. For telephone updates, call 941-BEACHES and press 1 for Sarasota County beaches.

Additional resources for beach condition information include:

- For biweekly red tide monitoring reports from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/events/status/statewide/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/hab/default.htm>
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/aquatic/index.html>
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <http://www.floridaaquaculture.com/RedTide/RedTideInfo.htm>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/>

- Health-related information/reporting of illnesses from exposure to red tide: call toll-free 24/7 Florida Poison Control Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

