

12/9/20: ALGAE NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

Dear Resident:

The Bel Marin Keys Community Services District (BMKCS D) is currently monitoring, sampling, and mapping an OUTBREAK OF RED-COLORED ALGAE (possible Red Tide) in the NORTH LAGOON. SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR DEPTICTION OF OUTBREAK AS OF 12:00 PM ON 12/7/2020.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, BMKCS D RECOMMENDS THAT EVERYONE,

- **Refrain from physical contact with water from the lagoon including swimming and pets;**
- **Do not eat any fish or shellfish from the lagoon;**
- **If a strong odor is noticed near the lagoon residents should limit their exposure to the air;**
- **Limit contact with the affected areas (especially kayaks, smaller vessels) and if you remove anything from the lagoon from your property, you must wash down prior to moving or transporting;**
- **Do not attempt to remove or bring any of the algae ashore;**
- **There are no restrictions on watercraft in the lagoon, however, mariners should avoid traversing through any algae blooms;**
- **In rare instances waterfowl who may eat affected fish or shellfish may act erratically and should be avoided; AND**
- **Do NOT bring any trailers or boats or vehicles into the South Lagoon that have had contact with the North Lagoon or the Creek until further notice.**

The BMKCS D has closed the North Lock and Calypso Shores boat ramp out of an abundance of caution to mitigate spread into the Novato Creek and the South Lagoon. Again, do not have a vehicle, trailer, boat, or other item that was in contact with the North Lagoon make contact with the Novato Creek or the South Lagoon. The microscopic nature of the algae can be on the surface of boats, for example, and also in parts of the engines and bilge pumps for example, which can then be delivered to the Novato Creek and/or South Lagoon. Automobiles and trailers likewise can carry and deliver algae despite best efforts.

Samples of the algae were shipped to a lab on Saturday, December 5th, 2020 for testing and analysis to determine the level of toxicity, if any, of the algae. We have also engaged a marine aquatic biologist and continue to monitor the situation. While there have been algae outbreaks in the North and South Bel Marin Keys Lagoons over the years, some greater than others, this particular outbreak is notable, distinct and not characteristic of what historically has been a part of the BMKCS D lagoon ecosystem. Northern California and the west coast have been experiencing increases in algae blooms including Red Tide.

The algae at this point has not presented itself in a visual / substantial way in the South Lagoon, however the South Lagoon is being monitored daily for changes. If water quality, clarity, or significant changes are observed in the South Lagoon by residents please notify the BMKCS D. The BMKCS D will be updating the District website (www.bmkcsd.us) with information as it is received and will share additional information with other reporting agencies as required and or in an abundance of caution. Additionally, once we have determined the level of potential toxicity within the specific species of algae, a notice will be provided on any additional actions the District will be undertaking regarding the algae bloom. The BMKCS D will hold an Emergency Meeting on Friday, December 11, 2020 at 7PM to provide an update to the community. Instructions for attending the meeting virtually will be posted on the District website. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please email the BMKCS D office at

admin@bmkcsd.us or you may leave a message on the District voicemail at 415-883-4222. We thank you for your cooperation, diligence, and attention to this very important water quality issue. Please know that more information will be shared as it is received via the website and as warranted by written notices to residents. is being monitoring daily. The CSD will be updating the District website with information we receive and will disseminate. Additionally once we have determined the level of potential toxicity, a notice will be provided to North Lagoon residents early next week on pre-cautions and actions the District will be undertaking on this Red Tide outbreak.

Map location:

