



September 14, 2018

Proactive Cleanup Continues as Red Tide Remains in Madeira Beach

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – The proactive efforts of Madeira Beach Public Works crews and Pinellas County Environmental Services on the beaches and private fishing trawlers out in the Gulf to collect fish that have succumbed to red tide continues. The winds out of the east have pushed the plume closer to Madeira Beach.

The number of boats dispatched to collect dead fish in the Gulf have increased from two to seven, and more are on the way. The bloom is currently more than 1-million acres in size and extending 22-miles off-shore. All available manpower and resources are being deployed on the City's beaches and in the water in the attempt to mitigate the situation as much as possible.

Red tide is at higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic alga. In Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, the species that cause most red tides is *Karenia brevis*, often abbreviated as *K. brevis*. Red tides were documented in the southern-most Gulf of Mexico as far back as the 1700s and along Florida's Gulf coast in the 1840s. Fish kills near Tampa Bay were even mentioned in the records of Spanish explorers.

For more information on red tide visit:

- [Pinellas County Environmental Services](#)
- [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#)
- [Mote Marine Laboratory](#)

Property owners dealing with smaller amounts of dead fish are advised to put the fish into a trash bag, seal the bag and then put it out for normal trash pick-up. If you are concerned about smell, please double-bag. For larger amounts of fish, Pinellas County Environmental Management has established a hotline 727-464-4425 and email address watershed@pinellascounty.org for property owners seeking assistance in cleaning up dead fish:

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.

**TAKE CAUTION WHERE
RED TIDE IS PRESENT**

Red Tide is caused by naturally occurring algae but it can be harmful to marine life and it may cause the following symptoms in people:

- Eye, throat or skin irritation
- Coughing or sneezing
- Symptoms can be more severe for people with serious respiratory issues—avoid the beach if you have asthma or a respiratory condition

Never touch or swim near dead fish
Wear shoes to prevent injuries from stepping on bones of dead fish
Keep pets away from water, sea foam and dead fish

**Red Tide may not be present at all
Pinellas County Beaches**

For current red tide conditions, visit www.myfloridachief.com/redtidestatus
or call: (888) 308-9399

For questions/health concerns, call:
(727) 951-4214 (weekdays only)

To report a fish kill, call:
(800) 636-0511

