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Easterly Winds Push Red Tide Away From Madeira Beach

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – On Friday morning the shrimp boats used to collect dead fish from the Gulf before they reach the shores of Madeira Beach were more than 2-miles off shore. Crews monitoring the beach reported little to no dead fish. The steady westerly winds had shifted east and were now moving the large plume further off-shore.

“This is a really good sign,” said Jonathan Evans, Madeira Beach City Manager. “We started seeing a drop off in the intensity of dead fish on our beaches earlier this week and the last 24-hours have been great; the beaches are clean, the water is clear and a great weekend lies ahead.”

Pinellas County, particularly Madeira Beach, has been the testing ground for the new proactive approach of attacking the effects of red tide off shore with shrimp boats gathering dead fish before they start showing up on beaches. According to the contractor hired by Pinellas County to oversee the cleanup, the process has proven very successful.



“Sending boats out into the Gulf had a huge impact on what made it to shore,” said Jay Gunter, Regional Manager for DRC Emergency Services. “Less dead fish on the beach means less cleanup, less smell and less negative perception for the community.”

The easterly winds are expected throughout the weekend. Madeira Beach officials will continue to work closely with Pinellas County in monitoring the plume and stand ready to respond quickly should the need arise. Meanwhile, Madeira Beach continues to offer free parking in all city-owned lots and spaces including those at Archibald Beach, South Beach and John’s Pass Village and Boardwalk.

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