



Friday, May 15, 2009

## Media Statement

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### Close eye on Canning River algae

The Swan River Trust is monitoring elevated levels of *Karlodinium veneficum* along a two-kilometre stretch of the Canning River between Riverton Bridge and Castledare.

*Karlodinium veneficum* is a free-floating microalgae found in most Western Australian waterways and typically increases in density between mid-summer and autumn.

Swan River Trust principal scientist Dr Kerry Trayler said there is no evidence the algae affects humans but it can be toxic to fish.

“How *Karlo* affects fish is not fully understood, but we suspect their gills become damaged, impacting on their ability to extract oxygen from the water,” Dr Trayler said.

“Trust officers will conduct visual inspections and additional oxygenation sampling during the next week, and report back to the public.

“We encourage the community to report any dead or lethargic fish to the Swan River Trust on 9278 0900 or after hours 0419 192 845.”

As a long-standing precaution, the Department of Health advises people not to eat mussels, cockles, or oysters from the Swan and Canning rivers.

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