



Friday, January 23, 2009

## *Media Statement*

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### **Algal alert**

The Swan River Trust is monitoring high levels of an alga in the lower Canning River near Riverton Bridge.

The alga, *Heterosigma akashiwo*, has been increasing in density during the past few weeks and has now exceeded guideline levels.

Similar densities of this species have caused fish deaths in the past, and people are asked to report sluggish or dead fish to the Swan River Trust on 9278 0900 or after hours on 0419 192 845.

The Department of Health's standing advice that people should not eat wild shellfish from the Swan and Canning rivers remains.

Monitoring at all sites in Swan River returned environmentally satisfactory results, although very low levels of dissolved oxygen in the upper stretches are a concern.

Weekly algae activity reports published by the Swan River Trust are available online at [www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au](http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au).

**Contact: Swan River Trust media manager Amy Kimber 9278 0953 or 0434 603 684  
For comment about health issues please contact Department of Health on 9222 4333.**