



Media Statement

Friday, September 16, 2005

High algae activity continues in lower Swan and Canning rivers

Routine monitoring by the Swan River Trust has measured high levels of dinoflagellates over the last few weeks in the lower reaches of the Swan and Canning rivers.

The alga, *Prorocentrum cordatum*, has been found in the Swan River near Armstrong Spit and Blackwall Reach, and in the Canning River near Riverton and Salter Point.

Trust general manager Rod Hughes said the high algal levels were common at this time of the year coming into spring following late winter rains.

“A reddish/brown discolouration of water has been observed in the river where the alga is present,” Mr Hughes said.

“It is also common for the alga to cause foam to wash up on shoreline.

“The alga has the potential to poison shellfish in the area.

“The standing advice from the Department of Health is that as a precaution, people should not consume any shellfish from the Swan and Canning rivers.”

The regular weekly Algae Activity Report on the Swan and Canning rivers is updated every Friday and available on the Trust website at www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au.

The community are encouraged to call the Trust on 9278 0900 if they see any further water discolouration or visible signs of poor river health.

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