



Friday, April 7, 2006

Media Statement

Low oxygen levels as bloom decomposes

Swan River Trust officers have collected hundreds of dead fish from the Garratt Road bridge in Bayswater to Bassendean today.

Officers also collected 823 Perth Herring and 235 Black Bream yesterday in the area between Bayswater and Guildford.

Trust general manager Rod Hughes said a combination of factors including the algal bloom and low oxygen levels were the most likely cause of death.

“The Trust has been monitoring high algal counts since late March and has stepped up inspections and water quality sampling in the past week,” Mr Hughes said.

“Oxygen levels in the water are extremely low at the moment and these conditions are likely to continue to put pressure on aquatic life.

“Today’s results bring the total number of dead fish into the thousands since the algal bloom began.

“The Trust has erected signs in the affected area, and as a precaution people are advised to avoid contact with the water and not to take fish to eat.”

The strong fishy odour is a result of the breakdown of algae, and there is also a sheen on the surface and water discolouration.

Anyone who sees dead or lethargic fish in the Swan River should contact the Trust on 9278 0900 or the after hours river emergency number on 0419 192 845.

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Contact: Media Liaison Officer 6364 6499