



Friday, September 28, 2007

Media Statement

Harmless algal bloom detected in Swan River

A non-toxic algal bloom has been detected in the Swan River between the Swan Brewery and Mosman Bay today, after the Swan River Trust received a red-tide complaint from a member of the public.

Trust principal scientist Luke Twomey said three surface water samples were taken immediately and results identified that the bloom is a red-tide causing algae, which is non-toxic to fish.

“High levels of nutrients washed into the rivers following the recent rains and today’s warm sunny weather may have produced suitable conditions for the growth of this common Swan River algae,” Dr Twomey said.

“Less than 10 dead blowfish have been collected at these locations by Trust officers this afternoon and taken to the Department of Fisheries pathology laboratories for testing.”

“At this stage it is too early to tell if the fish deaths were related to the algal bloom or low oxygen concentrations that are common in the rivers during this time of year.”

“The Trust will continue to monitor the situation during the long-weekend and report changing river conditions to the community,” he concluded.

The Trust reminds the public of the Department of Health’s standing advice for people not to swim for up to three days following heavy rainfall, and not to eat wild shell fish from the rivers.

People should avoid contact with the water in these locations and are advised not to collect dead or sluggish fish from the rivers.

To report river incidents contact the Trust on 9278 0900 or the after hours river incident number on 0419 192 845.

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