

[www.harmfulalgae.info](http://www.harmfulalgae.info)

Fish Health Section Webinar 2021 • Asian Fisheries Society

# Harmful Algal Blooms and Fish Kills

Po Teen LIM  
*Institute of Ocean and Earth Science,  
University of Malaya  
Malaysia*



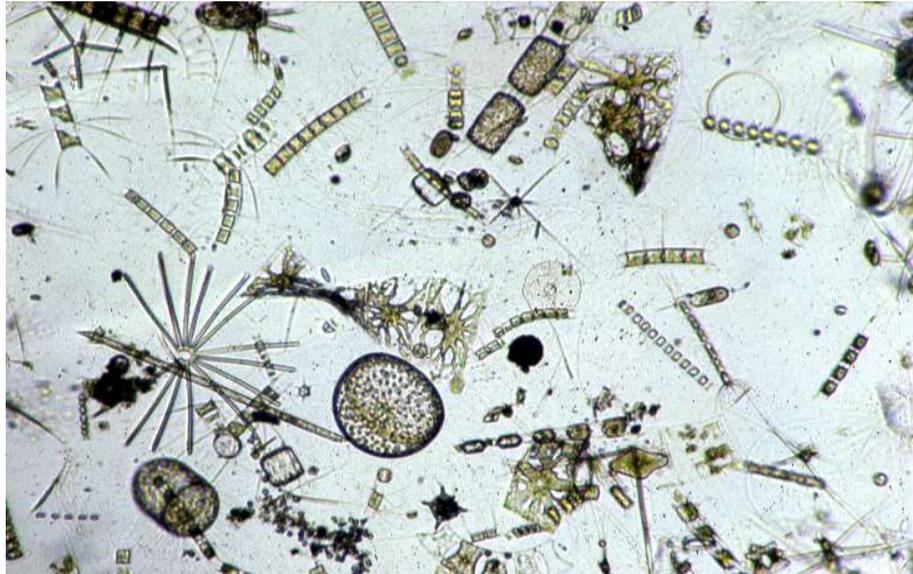
## Outline



- What is HAB? – species, types, causes
- HAB-related fish kill events
- How HAB kill fish?
- How to manage and mitigate?

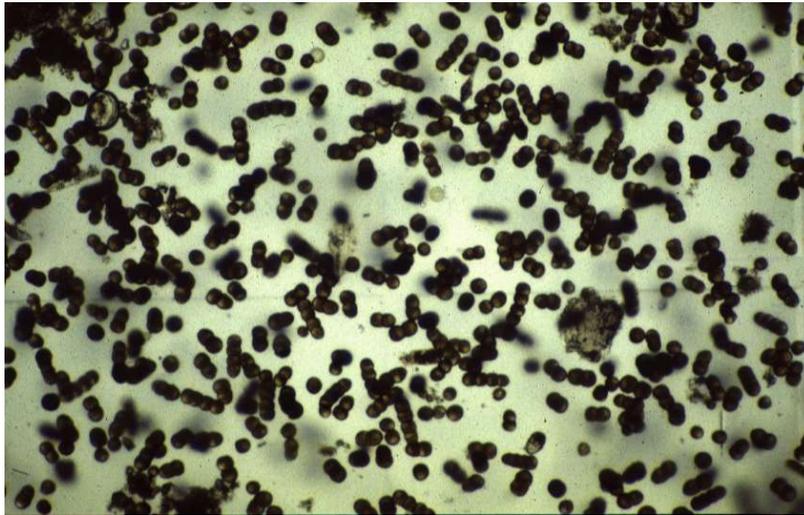
# What is Harmful Algal Blooms?

## *Typical Phytoplankton Community*

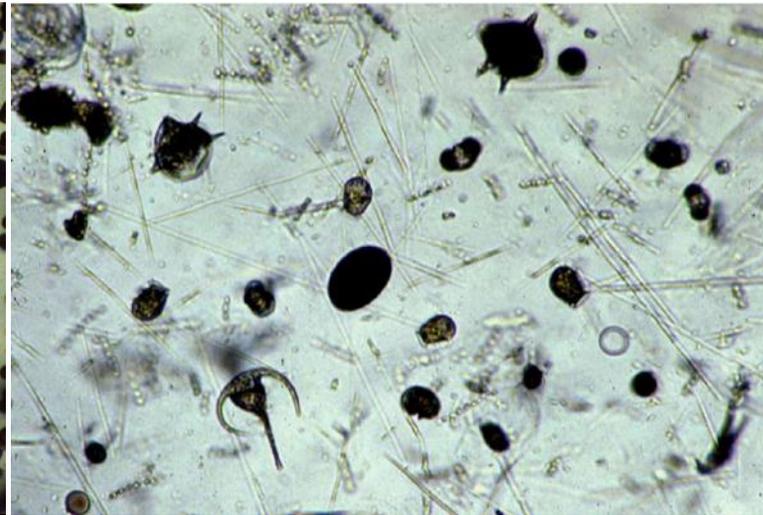


Phytoplankton composition changes due to various environmental factors (temperature, pH Salinity, nutrient, light, current, rainfall etc.).

# HABs!



High biomass –  
tend to form discoloration visible by  
naked eye



Toxic plankton -  
at a concentration as low as 20 cell/L is  
enough to cause shellfish contamination



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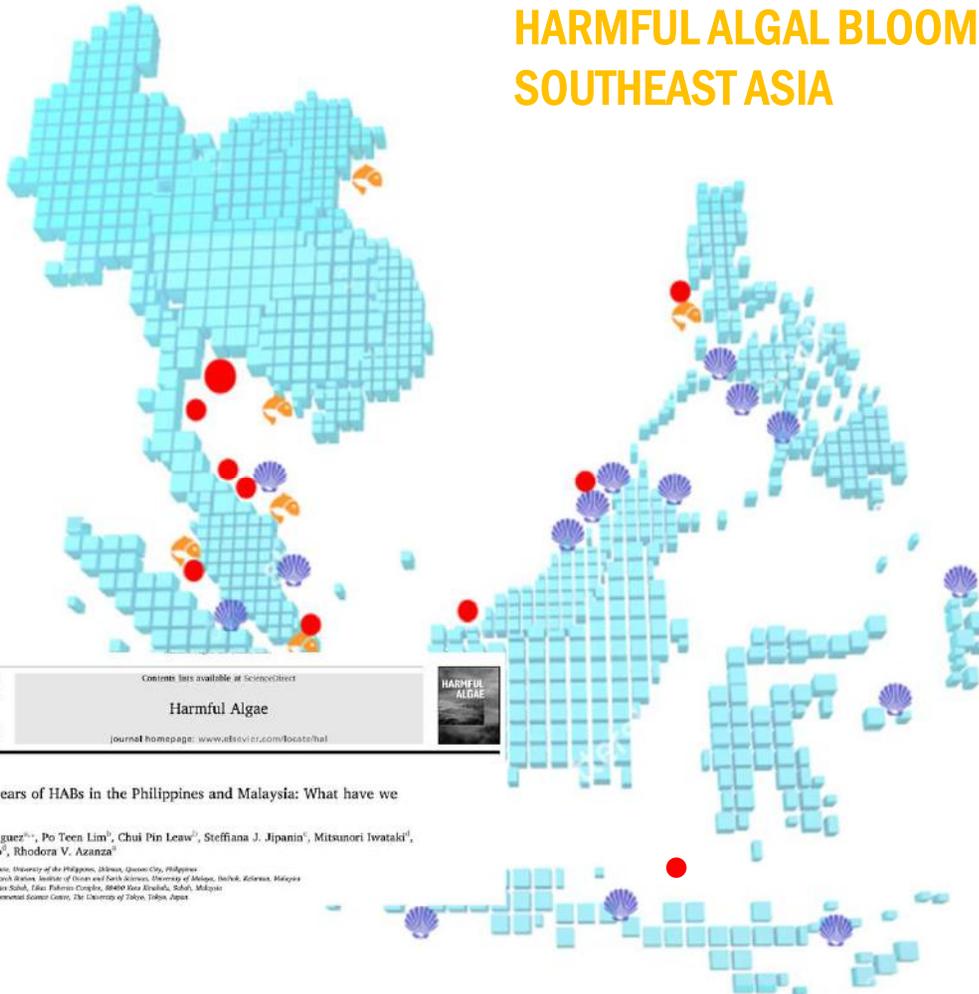
www.harmfulalgae.info

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF HABs



www.harmfulalgae.info

# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



-  Shellfish poisoning
-  Massive fish kills
-  Water discoloration



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Harmful Algae**

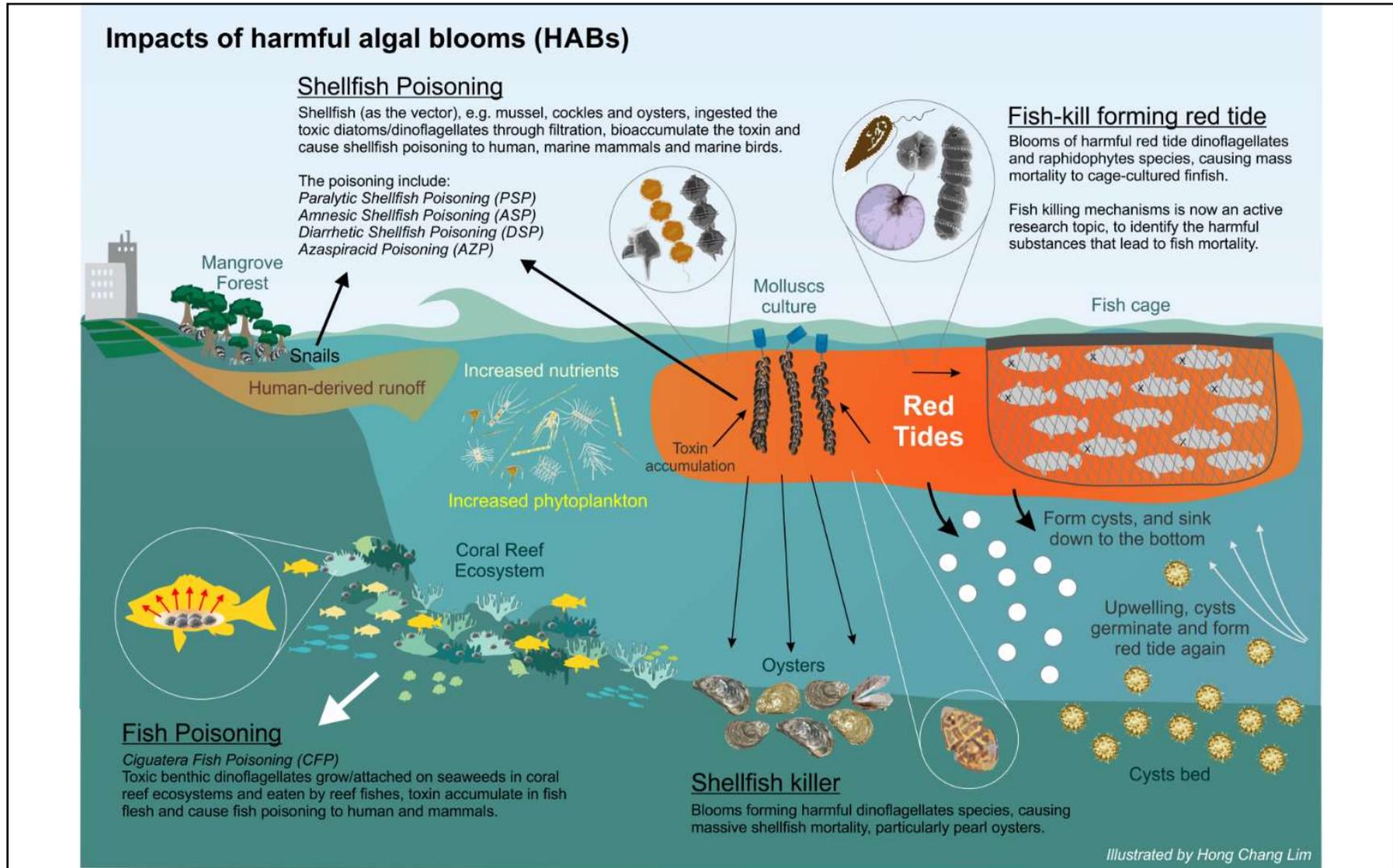
ELSEVIER

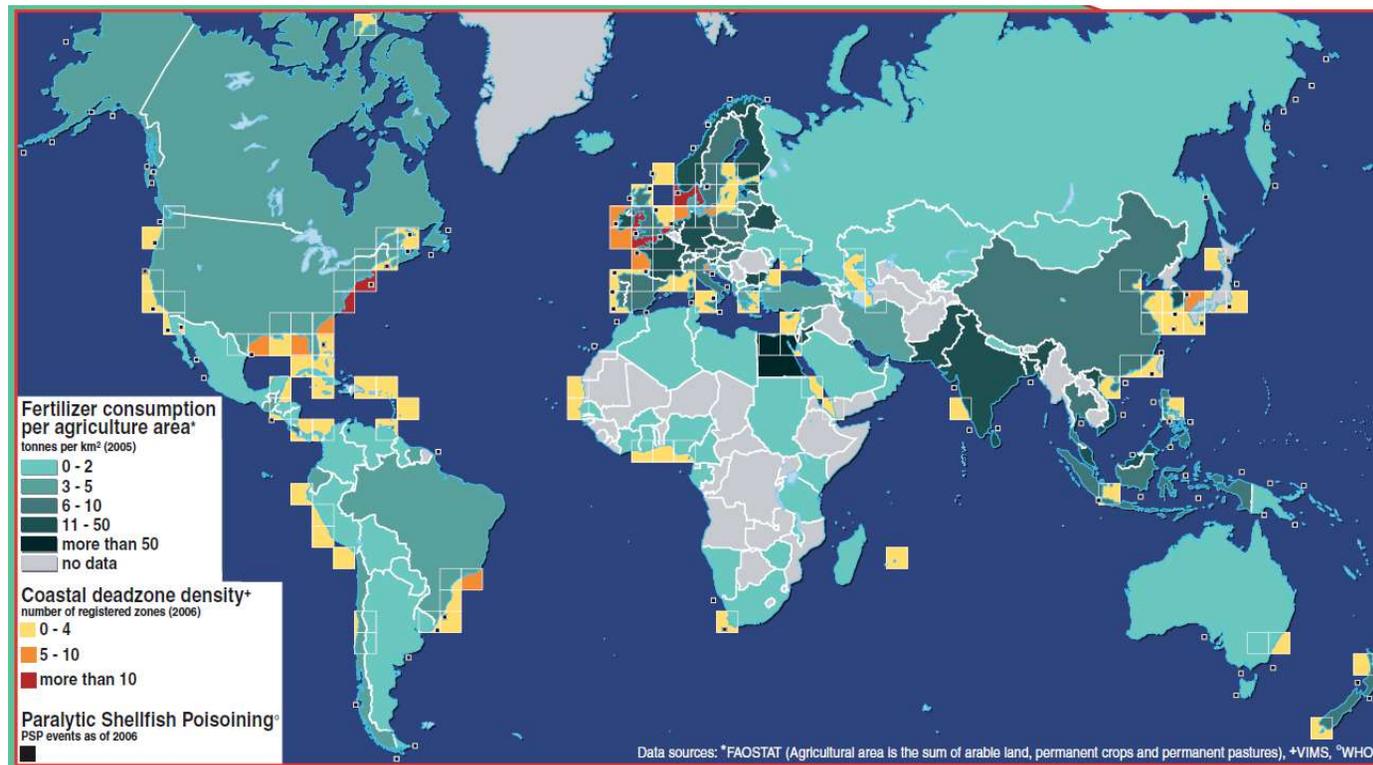
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/hal](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/hal)

Over 30 years of HABs in the Philippines and Malaysia: What have we learned?

Aletta T. Yñiguez<sup>1,\*</sup>, Po Teen Lim<sup>2</sup>, Chui Pin Leaw<sup>3</sup>, Steffiana J. Jipanio<sup>4</sup>, Mitsunori Iwataki<sup>5</sup>, Garry Benico<sup>6</sup>, Rhodora V. Azanza<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines  
<sup>2</sup> Freshwater Research Station, Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences, University of Malaya, Institut Keilmuan, Malaysia  
<sup>3</sup> Department of Fisheries, Sultan Idris Education Complex, 35450 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor, Malaysia  
<sup>4</sup> Asian Natural Environmental Science Center, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

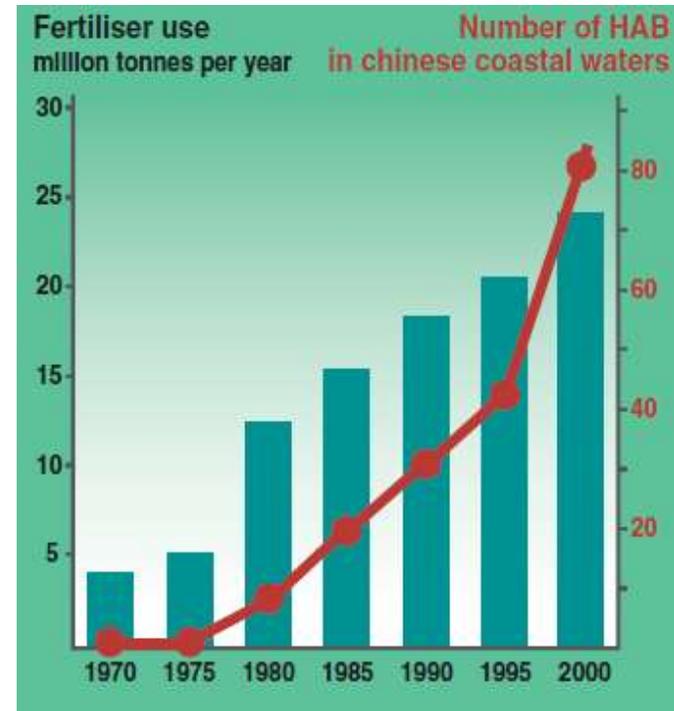




Relation between fertilizer consumption, coastal dead zone and Paralytic shellfish Poisoning (UNEP 2008)

# Mariculture

- Mariculture is crucial to meet up the demand from growing population and depletion of captive fisheries.
- The industries faced various threats from the changing environments and other anthropogenic activities.
- HABs are promoted by enrichment of coastal waters by organic/inorganic nutrients from unused feed; posed threat to the sustainability of the industries.



(Furuya et al. 2010; FOA)

### Fish Kills Related to *Prymnesium parvum* N. Carter (Haptophyta) in the People's Republic of China

March 1996 · Journal of Applied Phycology 8(2):111-117 · [Follow journal](#)  
 DOI: [10.1007/BF02186313](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02186313)

Mingxin Guo · Paul J. Harrison · F. J. R. Taylor

NEWS | Politics | Food | Environment

### Harmful Algal Blooms Kill Farmed Salmon near Tofino

Cermaq first reported the die-off on Nov. 15. A local environmental group estimates thousands of fish were affected.



Andrew Nikiforuk, 20 Nov 2019 | [TheYee.ca](#)

Andrew Nikiforuk is an award-winning journalist who has been writing about the energy industry for two decades and is a contributing editor to The Yee. Find his previous stories [here](#).



### Harmful Algae

Volume 102, February 2021, 101989



Review

### Harmful algal blooms and their effects in coastal seas of Northern Europe

Bengt Karlson <sup>a,\*,</sup> Per Andersen <sup>b,</sup> Lars Arneborg <sup>a,</sup> Allan Cembella <sup>c,</sup> Wenche Eikrem <sup>d,e,</sup> Uwe John <sup>f,g,</sup> Jennifer Joy West <sup>h,</sup> Kerstin Klemm <sup>c,</sup> Justyna Kobos <sup>h,</sup> Sirpa Lehtinen <sup>i,</sup> Nina Lundholm <sup>j,</sup> Hanna Mazur-Marzec <sup>h,</sup> Lars Naustvoll <sup>h,</sup> Marnix Poelman <sup>l,</sup> Pieter Provoost <sup>m,</sup> Maarten De Rijcke <sup>n,</sup> Sanna Suikkanen <sup>l</sup>



*Chaetoceros* spp.

### Algae blamed for death of 864,000 salmon in Chile



A bloom of the toxic microalgae *Chattonella* sp. has been confirmed as causing the death of 864,000 rainbow trout at a fish farm in Chile.

The company last week notified state agricultural agency Serengeti about the mass mortality of the trout after the salmon processing city of Quilón on the island of Chilo in Los Lagos region.

There were more than 100,000 fish with an average weight of 200 grams in the site, and they were killed by cyanobacteria, which produces fish after swimming to their gills. The dead fish have been removed.

Tests on water samples taken by Serengeti confirmed analyses by laboratory that indicated the presence of the microalgae.

**A known killer**  
 The national director of Serengeti, Alicia Galdames told fish farming expert's Chilean owner of the salmon farm, that *Chattonella* sp. is a toxic fish and when conditions such as warm temperatures and salinity allow it to bloom it generates a deadly mortality.

"It is known worldwide for causing the death of fish in aquaculture systems, and it is an even greater threat to the sea because of its ability to reproduce and its resistance to environmental conditions," said Galdames.

"It is also advised to point out that, during the season of high winds, the fish farm systems must maintain a high level of water circulation to avoid the accumulation of the microalgae, we have seen it occur along with the fish."

**Mucopolysaccharide**



*Alexandrium catenella*,  
*Pseudochattonella*

“HABs have threaten the development of mariculture industries worldwide, partly due to the alteration of ecosystem balance from various anthropogenic activities, including waste from aquacultures ”

[www.harmfulalgae.info](http://www.harmfulalgae.info)

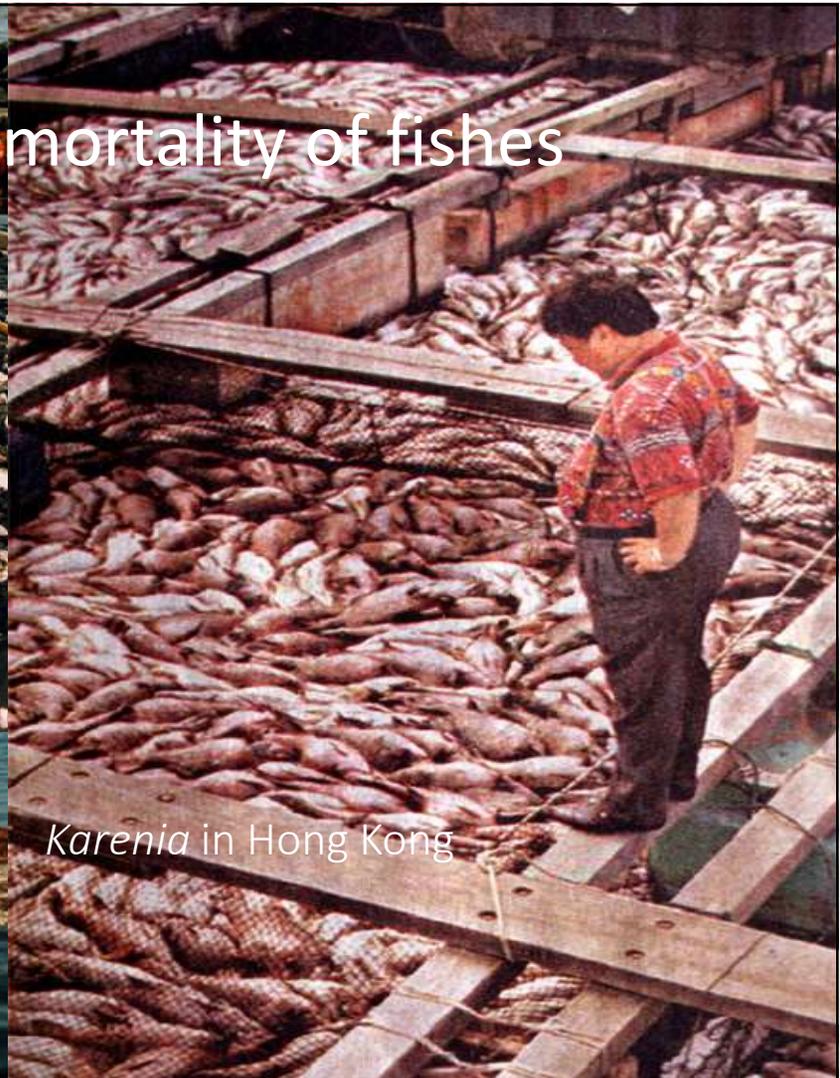
Socio-economic impacts to fisheries

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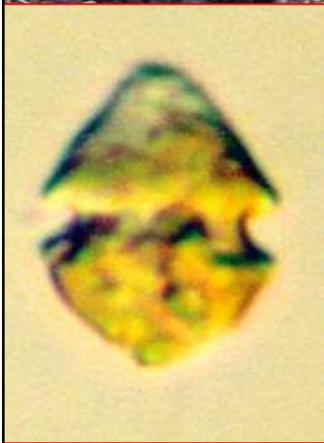
# HAB-RELATED FISH KILL EVENTS



mass mortality of fishes



## Mass mortality of shellfish



Ecology | Published: 21 October 2019

### Who is the “murderer” of the bloom in coastal waters of Fujian, China, in 2019?

Jingyi Cen, Jianyan Wang, Lifen Huang, Guangmao Ding, Yuzao Qi, Rongbo Cao, Lei Cui & Songhui Lü 

*Journal of Oceanology and Limnology* 38, 722–732(2020) | [Cite this article](#)

139 Accesses | 3 Citations | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

## HAB-related Fish kills

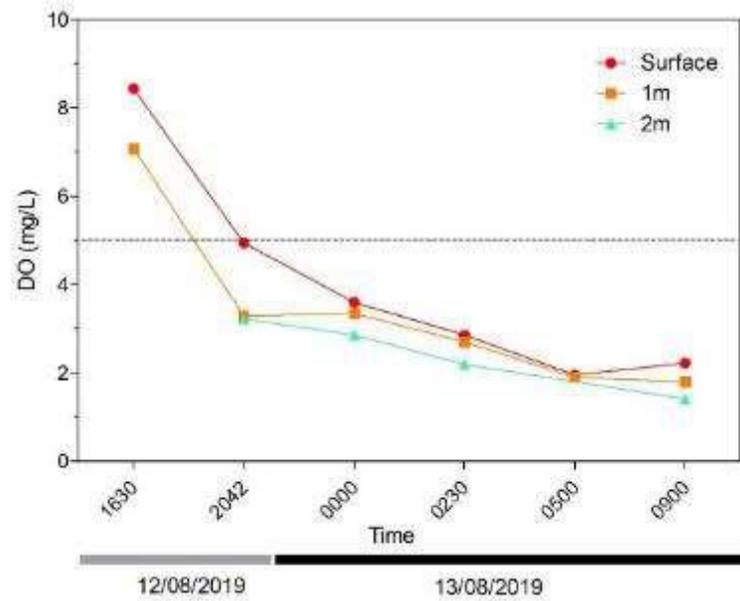
- Mechanisms of fish kills:
  1. low oxygen level in water (hypoxia/anoxia) due to degradation of blooms;
  2. Physical clogging and mucus-induced suffocation;
  3. Ichthyotoxins;
  4. Micropredation;
  5. production of ammonia by certain dinoflagellate species.



# 1. Hypoxia due to bloom degradation



Massive fish kills caused by **hypoxia** along the Malacca Strait in 2019



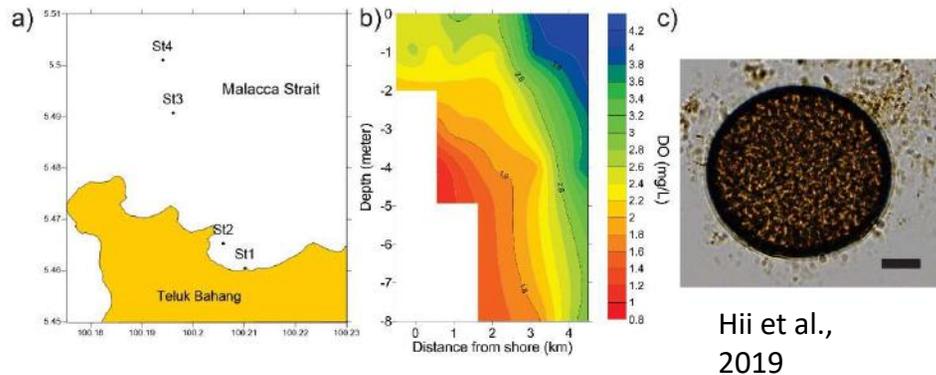
Hii et al. 2019 (*Harmful Algae News*)

## Massive fish mortality in Teluk Bahang, Penang



**Massive fish mortality in Teluk Bahang, Penang, Malaysia caused by a hypoxia-inducing algal bloom**

HARMFUL ALGAE NEWS NO. 63 / 2019



- On August 11, 2019, a massive fish kill event was reported in Teluk Bahang, Penang, Malaysia (Fig. a).
- The local farmers claimed losses of over 50 tons of caged fishes, estimated of USD 190,000.
- Dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the water columns was deficient; the lowest DO level was observed at fish cage area, with the surface DO level of only 2.47 mg/L, and 0.94 mg/L at the bottom (4 m depth) (Fig b).

- Microscopic observation have showed the highest occurrences of phytoplankton species were *Cosinodiscus* sp. ( $2.5 \times 10^4$  cells/L; Fig. c), followed by *Chaetoceros* spp., *Proboscia* sp., *Rhizosolenia* sp., *Guinardia* sp., and *leptocylindrus* sp.
- Excessive nutrients in the environment was inducing the massive phytoplankton blooms.
- The bloom-induced hypoxia has caused massive fish mortality in the area.

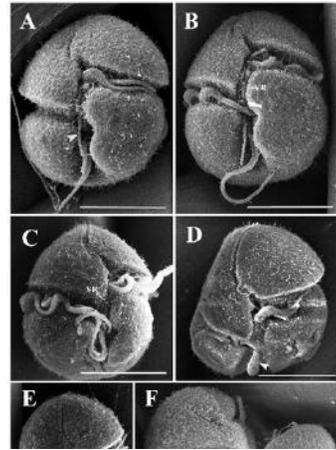
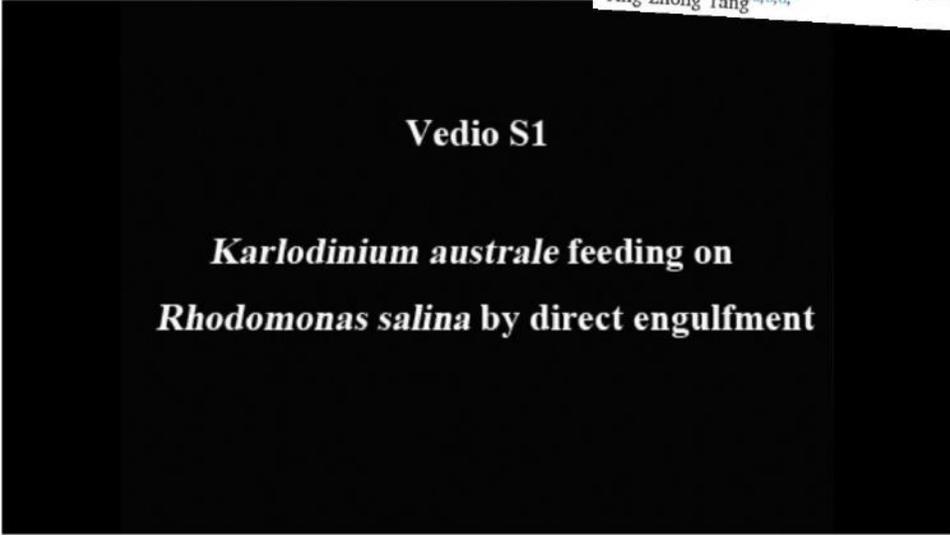
# 4. Micropredation

## Fish killing mechanisms by *K. australe*

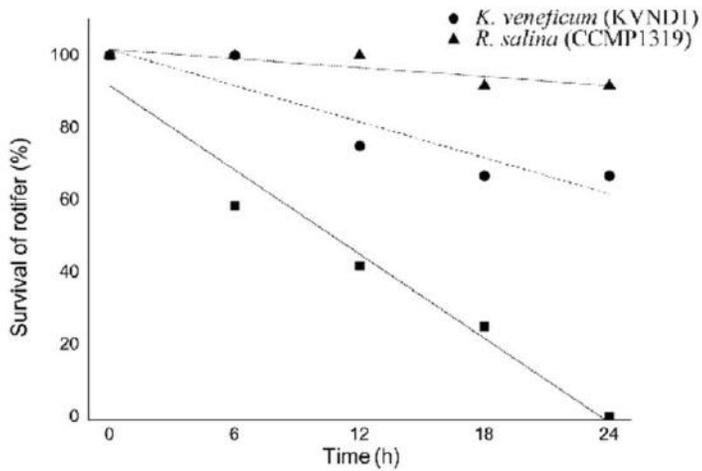
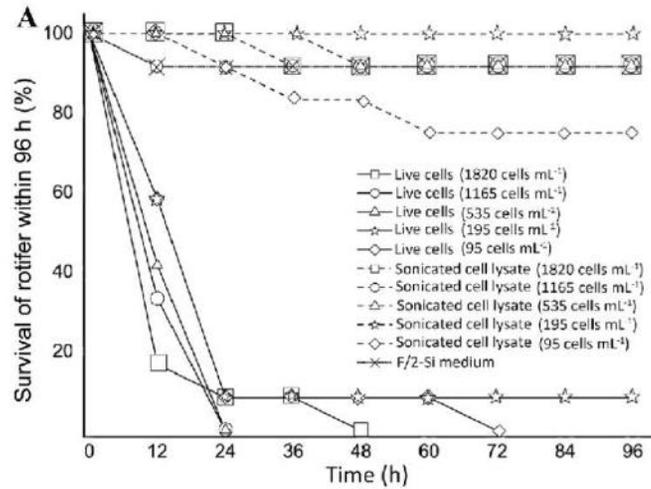


Contact micropredation may play a more important role than exotoxicity does in the lethal effects of *Karlodinium australe* blooms: Evidence from laboratory bioassays

Xiaoying Song<sup>a,c</sup>, Zhangxi Hu<sup>a,b,d,\*\*</sup>, Lixia Shang<sup>a,b,d</sup>, Chui Pin Leaw<sup>e</sup>, Po Teen Lim<sup>e</sup>, Ying Zhong Tang<sup>a,b,d,\*</sup>



Phagotrophic/mixotrophic dinoflagellates



## Lethal effects on zooplankton

**Vedio S5**

*Karlodinium australe* feeding on rotifer *Brachionus plicatilis* by tube feeding

Song et al. 2020 (*Harmful Algae*)

## 4. Ichthyotoxins + Micropredation

### Fish killing mechanisms by *K. australe*

**Table. 2**

Fish bioassay using culture plate with inserts showing fish mortality as affected by contact with, or separation from live or freeze-thaw cells of *K. australe*. The DO level measured immediately after fish death was  $8.438 \pm 0.112 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ .

Treatment		Number of fish died within 120 h ( $n = 6$ )		Average mortality
		Test 1	Test 2	
Live cells (1,700 cells mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Outside insert (with cell contact)	5/6	4/6	75%
	Inside insert (no cell contact)	0/6	0/6	0
Freeze-thaw lysate (equivalent to 1,700 cells mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Outside insert (no cell contact)	2/6	1/6	25%
	Inside insert (no cell contact)	3/6	2/6	42%

Song et al. 2020 (*Harmful Algae*)



Teng et al. unpublished data

# 5. Ammonia production

*Noctiluca scintillans*



*Noctiluca* bloom in Perak (2016)



[www.harmfulalgae.info](http://www.harmfulalgae.info)

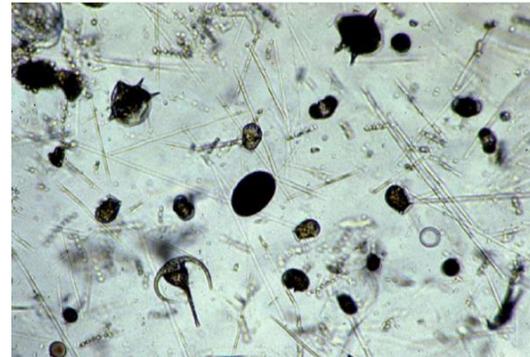
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# HAB MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

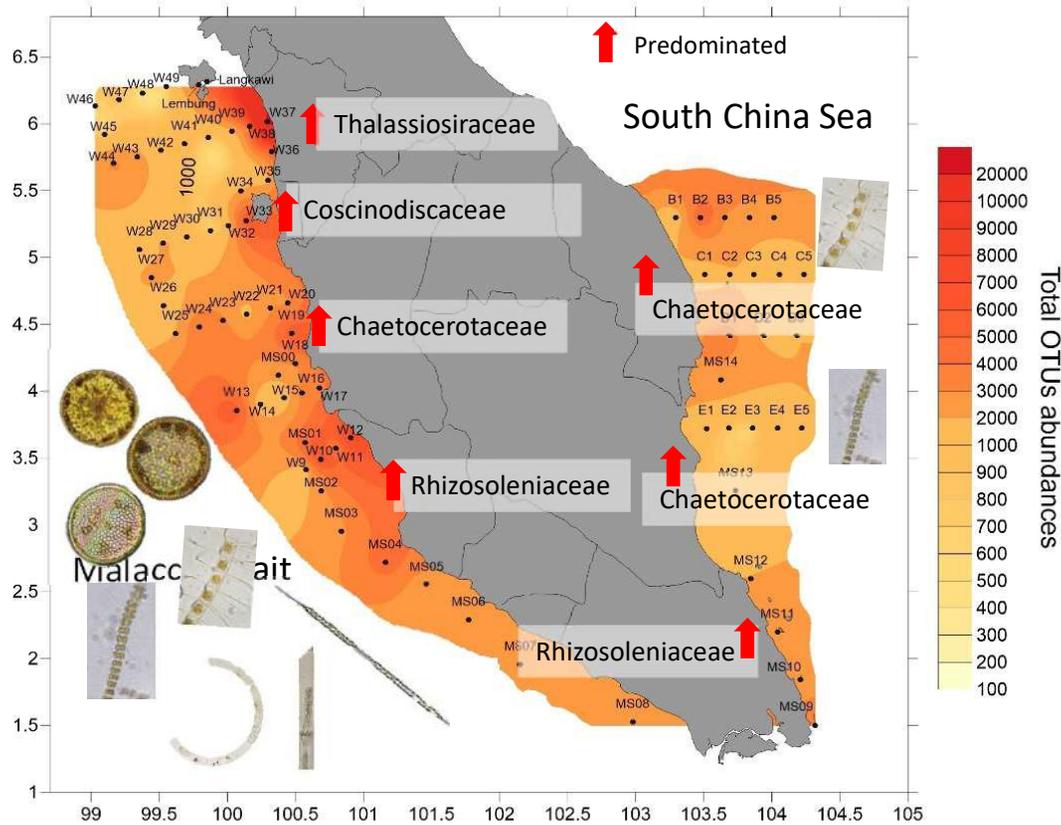
## Aquaculture site selection

- Carrying capacity (e.g. Guide for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture)
- Water quality, affect from other anthropogenic activities (e.g. poultry farm, industries waste etc.)

HAB risk assessment ? The use of metabarcoding of environmental DNA?



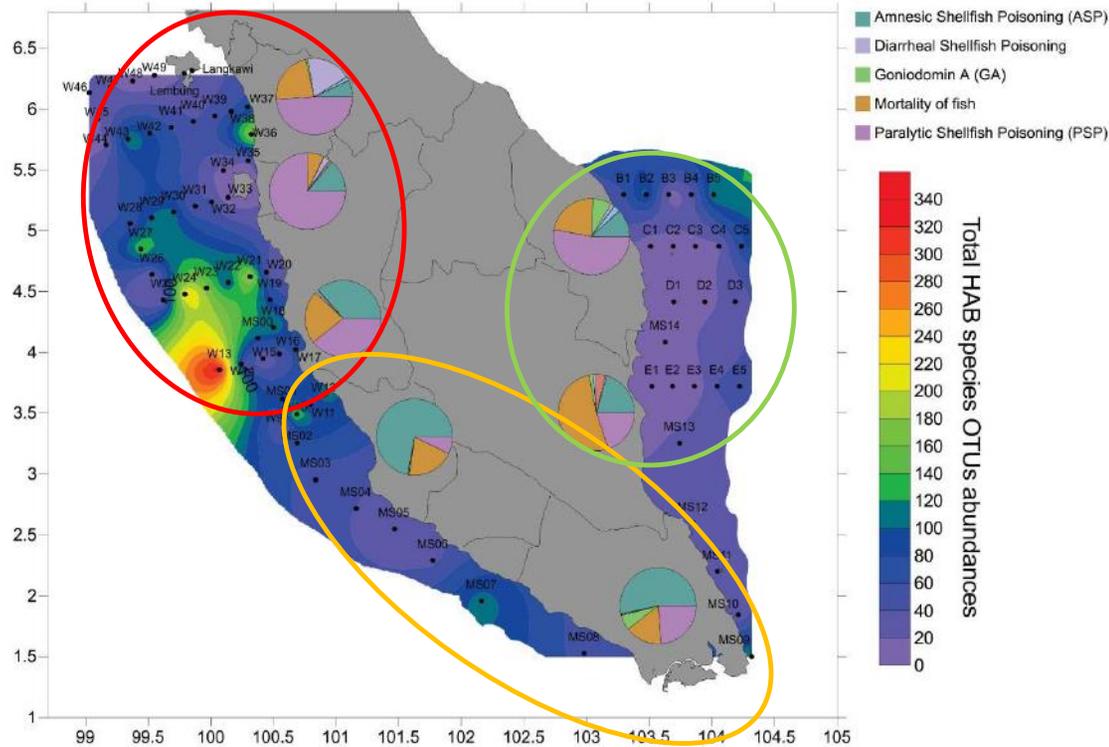
## OTUs Abundance of phytoplankton



- High OTU abundances of phytoplankton were found at **shore** sampling stations of Malacca Strait.
  - This was likely influenced by high nutrient loading in the region.

Hii et al., Unpublished data

## Harmful algal bloom species and its threats



- A total of **28 harmful algal bloom (HAB) species** was annotated from OTU, with **7 new records** in Malaysian waters.
- **High OTU abundance** of HAB species were mainly found in **Malacca strait**.

## *What to monitor in mariculture operation?*

We need to know what to monitor “regular basis” and for what “purpose”

- Blooms forming species – to prevent fish mortality? (economical losses)
- Toxin producers- to warn of shellfish contamination (public health)
- Capacity building-technical know how
- Modernization of aquaculture infrastructures and operation



[www.harmfulalgae.info](http://www.harmfulalgae.info)

- HABs species have been recognized as one of **the most unwanted** species (IAS) that has been introduced to various regions of the world via discharge of ships' ballast water.
- IMO has established a guideline in 1991, and the international convention for the control and management of ship's ballast water (WM) was adopted in 2004 (IMO, 2004).



# Biological control

(seaweed, algicidal bacteria, or species specific viruses)

## Strategies and ecological roles of algicidal bacteria

PLOS ONE

OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED  
RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Selective Algicidal Action of Peptides against Harmful Algal Bloom Species

Seong-Cheol Park, Jong-Kook Lee, Si Wouk Kim, Yoonkyung Park

Published: October 26, 2011 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0026733>

AEM Accepted Manuscript Posted Online 27 July 2018  
Appl. Environ. Microbiol. doi:10.1128/AEM.01015-18  
Copyright © 2018 American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Christoph Meyer, Arite Bigalke, Anett Kaulfuß, Georg Pohnert

MS Microbiology Reviews, Volume 41, Issue 6, November 2017, Pages 880–899,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/femsre/fux029>

Published: 22 August 2017 Article history

- 1 The algicidal activity and characteristics of the novel marine
- 2 algicidal bacterium *Paracoccus* sp. Y42 against a harmful algal
- 3 bloom causing dinoflagellate, *Prorocentrum donghaiense*
- 4 Fuxing Zhang<sup>1#</sup>, Qian Ye<sup>1#</sup>, Qiuliang Chen<sup>2</sup>, Ke Yang<sup>1</sup>, Danyang Zhang<sup>1</sup>,
- 5 Zhangran Chen<sup>1</sup>, Shasha Lu<sup>1</sup>, Xueping Shao<sup>1</sup>, Yongxiang Fan<sup>1</sup>, Luming Yao<sup>1</sup>,
- 6 Lina Ke<sup>1</sup>, Tianling Zheng<sup>2</sup>, Hong Xu<sup>1,2\*</sup>



Science of The Total Environment

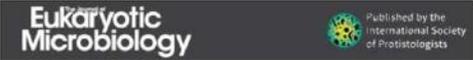
Volume 707, 10 March 2020, 135561



### Kelp cultivation effectively improves water quality and regulates phytoplankton community in a turbid, highly eutrophic bay

Zhibing Jiang<sup>a,b,d</sup>, Jingjing Liu<sup>a</sup>, Shanglu Li<sup>a</sup>, Yue Chen<sup>a</sup>, Ping Du<sup>a,b</sup>, Yuanli Zhu<sup>a</sup>, Yibo Liao<sup>a,d</sup>, Quanzhen Chen<sup>a</sup>, Lu Shou<sup>a</sup>, Xiaojun Yan<sup>a</sup>, Jiangning Zeng<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Jianfang Chen<sup>a,d</sup>

# How to mitigate?



## Controlling Harmful Algal Blooms Through Clay Flocculation<sup>1</sup>

MARIO R. SENGCO ✉, DONALD M. ANDERSON

First published: 11 July 2005 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1550-7408.2004.tb00541.x> | Citations: 150

<sup>1</sup> Symposium presentation for a joint meeting of the Society of the Protozoologists and the Phycology Society of America. 14–19 June 2003, Gleneden Beach, Oregon.



Photo from NFRDI

Published: 31 October 2015

## Flocculation of harmful algal cells using modified clay: effects of the properties of the clay suspension

[Yang Liu](#), [Xihua Cao](#) ✉, [Zhiming Yu](#) ✉, [Xiuxian Song](#) & [Lixia Qiu](#)

*Journal of Applied Phycology*, **28**, 1623–1633(2016) | [Cite this article](#)

493 Accesses | 11 Citations | [Metrics](#)

*J. Mar. Sci. Eng.* **2015**, *3*, 154-174; doi:10.3390/jmse3020154

OPEN ACCESS  
Journal of  
*Marine Science  
and Engineering*  
ISSN 2077-1312  
[www.mdpi.com/journal/jmse](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/jmse)

Article

### Mitigating Fish-Killing *Prymnesium parvum* Algal Blooms in Aquaculture Ponds with Clay: The Importance of pH and Clay Type

Andreas Seger <sup>1,2</sup>, Juan José Dorantes-Aranda <sup>1</sup>, Marius N. Müller <sup>2</sup>, Adam Body <sup>3</sup>, Anton Peristy <sup>4</sup>, Allen R. Place <sup>5</sup>, Tae Gyu Park <sup>6</sup> and Gustaaf Hallegraeff <sup>1</sup>



### Effect of yellow loess on clearance rate in seven species of benthic, filter-feeding invertebrates

Sandra E Shumway, Dana M Frank, Lisa M Ewart, J Evan ward

First published: 10 December 2003 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2109.2003.00958.x> | Citations: 37

✉ **Correspondence:** S E Shumway, Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, 1080 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340, USA. E-mail: [sandrashumway@hotmail.com](mailto:sandrashumway@hotmail.com), [sandra.shumway@uconn.edu](mailto:sandra.shumway@uconn.edu)

”.....it may not necessarily be an environmentally advisable or responsible approach to dealing with HABs”

Marine Biology (2004) 144: 553–565  
DOI 10.1007/s00227-003-1222-5

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

Marie-Claude Archambault · V. Monica Bricej  
Jon Grant · Donald M. Anderson

### Effects of suspended and sedimented clays on juvenile hard clams, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, within the context of harmful algal bloom mitigation

Received: 28 September 2002 / Accepted: 4 September 2003 / Published online: 5 November 2003  
© Springer-Verlag 2003

“These results suggest that repeated clay applications in the field are likely more detrimental to clams in a high-energy environment...”

Desalination and Water Treatment  
www.deswater.com  
doi:10.5004/dwt.2016.0346

59 (2017) 65–71  
January

Bull Environ Contam Toxicol  
DOI 10.1007/s00128-016-1742-6



Ozone-based advanced oxidation processes for the removal of harmful algal bloom (HAB) toxins: a review

Kavithaa Loganathan

Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar, Tel. +974 77968323, Fax +974 4454 1528, email: kloganathan@qf.org.qa

Received 27 March 2016; Accepted 12 June 2016

REVIEWS IN  
Aquaculture



Review

### A critical review on control methods for harmful algal blooms

Juan J. Gallardo-Rodríguez ✉, Allisson Astuya-Villalón, Alejandra Llanos-Rivera, Veronica Avello-Fontalba, Viviana Ulloa-Jofré

First published: 17 May 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/raq.12251> | Citations: 15

### Evaluation of the Destruction of the Harmful Cyanobacteria, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, with a Cavitation and Superoxide Generating Water Treatment Reactor

Victor F. Medina<sup>1</sup> · Chris S. Griggs<sup>1</sup> · Catherine Thomas<sup>1</sup>



*Toxins* (Basel), 2014 Sep; 6(9): 2657–2675.

Published online 2014 Sep 9. doi: [10.3390/toxins6092657](https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins6092657)

PMCID: PMC4179153

PMID: 25208009

### Application of Hydrogen Peroxide to the Control of Eutrophic Lake Systems in Laboratory Assays

Letizia Bauzá,<sup>1</sup> Anabella Aguilera,<sup>2</sup> Ricardo Echenique,<sup>3</sup> Dario Andrinolo,<sup>1</sup> and Leda Giannuzzi<sup>1,\*</sup>

# RAS as an alternative solution

## Aquaculture in coastal urbanized areas: A comparative review of the challenges posed by Harmful Algal Blooms

Aurore Trottet , Christaline George , Guillaume Drillet  & Federico M. Lauro  

Published online: 17 Mar 2021

Download citation  <https://doi.org/10.1080/10643389.2021.1897372>

Full Article

Figures & data

References

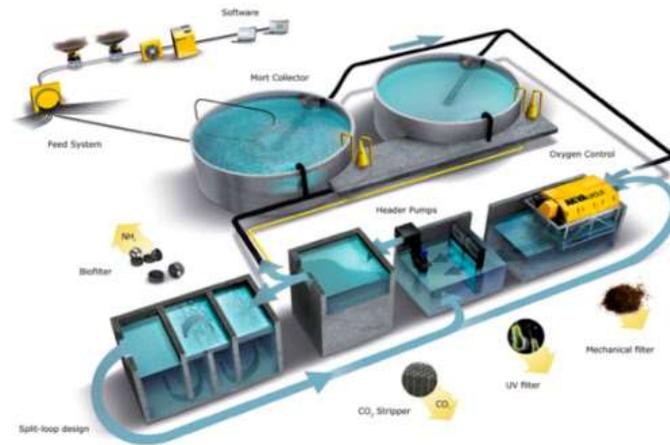
Citations

Metrics

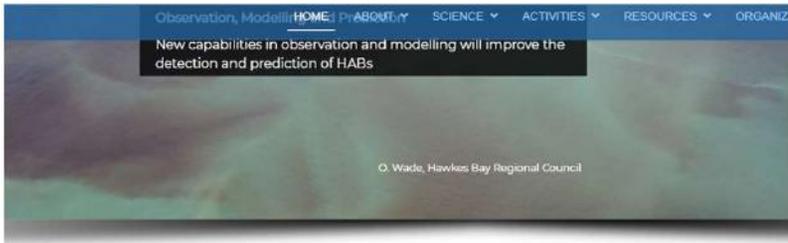
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PDF



# IOC SCOR GlobalHAB program



- News & Events**
- Scientific Steering Committee Meetings
- GlobalHAB activities
- Calendar
- Get Involved**
- Invitation to participate
- Useful Links**
- GlobalHAB Reports and Publications
- IOC HAB Programme
- SCOR

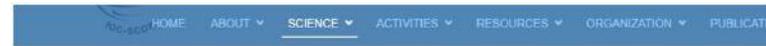
## Global Harmful Algal Blooms - GlobalHAB - an international science programme on HABs building on the foundations of GEOHAB

SCIENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

An international programme sponsored jointly by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

[Click here to view and download the PDF.](#)

<http://www.globalhab.info/>



### THEME 7. HABs and Aquaculture

**Overall objective:** To determine the link between marine aquaculture and HAB occurrence in different regions and to find efficient methods to protect farmed seafood products from HABs impacts.



Mussel harvester, Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand. Photo: Cawthron Institute.

**Rationale.** Fin-fish, shellfish, crustaceans and macroalgae aquaculture has many benefits, including the production of nutritious high-protein food, reducing the pressure on natural resources and supporting sustainable economic development and employment. In some countries, marine aquaculture is an important contributor to the national economy and future projections suggest there will be large increases in global production in coming decades.

# International collaboration

## Joint Activities by GlobalHAB and other international programs:

**Venue: Puerto Varas, Chile**

**Dates: 8th – 11th October, 2019**

**Funding:** GlobalHAB (IOC & SCOR) and Gobierno de Chile

**Organizing Committee:** L. Guzmán, J. Mardones, O. Espinoza, A. Cembella and the IPHAB Task Team on Fish Killing Algae

TOPICS and Coordinators:

1. Climate change and fish-killing algae. *G. Hallegraeff, Australia*
2. Taxonomy and molecular characterization of fish-killing algae. *M. Iwataki, Japan*
3. Current knowledge of ichthyotoxins produced by fish-killing microalgae. *T.O. Larsen, Denmark*
4. Mechanisms of algal-induced fish-killing syndromes. *P.J. Hansen, Denmark*
5. Development and validation of current fish- or cell-based bioassay methods for assessing ichthyotoxicity. *H. Hégaret, France and J. Mardones, Chile*
6. Impact of fish-killing algal events on other components of coastal marine ecosystems. *L. Mackenzie, New Zealand*
7. Assessment of mitigation strategies and their effectiveness. *D.M. Anderson, USA*

**White Paper (in prep) See presentation by the IPHAB Task Team on Fish Killing Algae**



Venue: Puerto Varas, Chile  
Dates: 8th – 11th October, 2019

## Concluding remarks

- Impact of HABs on the socio-economy (food safety and security) has been recognized as a global issues and required collective efforts by both national and international partners.
- Understanding the bloom dynamics of existing and emerging harmful species is crucial to provide more holistic HAB management and monitoring programs.
- Advancement of technologies in monitoring and mitigation of HABs will help to minimize the impact of HABs and ensure sustainable development of mariculture industries



