WEEKLY PHYTOPLANKTON UPDATE

Harmful Algal Bloom and Paralytic Shellfish Monitoring Program

November 14th,2025

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Phytoplankton Overview:

- *No harmful algal bloom species detected in our samples*
- *Phytoplankton populations sparse across our 3 primary sites*

Hello Harvesters!

Phytoplankton results from our 3 primary sites display very sparse results, and no harmful algal bloom species were detected. We recently conducted a 3nd shellfish blitz at the beginning of October, and the results are now posted below. We conduct the "Shellfish Blitz" to gain a better understanding of shellfish toxin levels across the Kodiak Road System, and to potentially track how HAB's are moving across the island. Please note that ***there is some variability among shellfish species in how long they retain toxins.*** For instance, butter clams can hold toxins for longer periods of time, even while blue mussels have already returned under the FDA regulatory limit. Please also note that toxin results are ***beach specific,*** and results at a specific site ***can display substantial fluctuations in toxins within a short amount of time.*** Lack of new advisories at these sites does not equate to no toxin presence, just a lack of continuous monitoring capacity at that site. Paralytic shellfish toxins (PSTs) can also vary between species and locations, so we encourage harvesters to submit a sample of their shellfish harvest to be toxin tested for free. Please contact us or follow the link below for more information on this free service! **https://kodiakhealthcare.org//what-we-do/community-services/environmental-management/**

Phytoplankton Observations

Date	Sample Site	Water Temp ˚C	Salinity (ppm)	Dominant Species	*Alexandrium*	*Pseudo-nitzschia*	*Dinophysis*	*Chaetoceros*
11/13/25	Mission Beach	5	30	Mixed Diatoms	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
11/13/25	South Trident Basin	5	31	Mixed Diatoms	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
11/13/25	Frye Point (Womens Bay)	5	31	Mixed Diatoms	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

******Alexandrium*—phytoplankton produces saxitoxin, which is associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP)
******Dinophysis*—phytoplankton produces okadaic acid, which is associated with diarrheic shellfish poisoning (DSP)
******Pseudo-nitzschia*—phytoplankton produces domoic acid, which is associated with amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP)
******Chaetoceros*- phytoplankton associated with small fish die-offs when in bloom

Shellfish Toxin Results (Primary Sites)

Date	Sample Site	Species	PST Result (µg/100g)	Collector
10/6/25	Mill Bay Beach	Blue Mussels	51	KANA
10/6/25	Pasagshak Boat Launch	Blue Mussels	48	KANA
10/6/25	Anton Larsen Bay Small Creek	Blue Mussels	28	KANA
10/6/25	Anton Larsen Bay Boat Launch	Blue Mussels	34	KANA
10/6/25	Gibson Cove	Blue Mussels	12	KANA
10/6/25	Starfish Beach	Blue Mussels	28	KANA
10/6/25	Mrytle Creek Beach	Blue Mussels	48	KANA
10/7/25	Bruhn Beach	Blue Mussels	22	KANA
10/7/25	South Trident Basin	Blue Mussels	25	KANA
10/7/25	Mission Beach NE	Blue Mussels	23	KANA
10/7/25	Frye Point	Blue Mussels	16	KANA
10/8/25	Middle Bay	Blue Mussels	15	KANA
10/8/25	Mayflower Beach	Blue Mussels	11	KANA
10/8/25	K.A. Camp	Blue Mussels	201	KANA

FDA Action Level: 80 (µg/100g) Anything above this level is considered unsafe for consumption. KANA is not a regulatory agency and the consumption of wild shellfish in Alaska is considered 'dig at your own risk'. Commercially harvested shellfish are regulated by the Department of Environmental Conservation and are considered safe for consumption.

Shellfish Blitz Map