

Red tide sighted

A red tide has been sighted over the past week, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (April 18).

The first red tide was spotted by staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) yesterday (April 17) at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island.

The red tide still persists. No associated death of fish has been reported.

A spokesman for the working group said, "The red tide was formed by *Noctiluca scintillans*, which is commonly found in Hong Kong waters and is non-toxic."

The AFCD urged mariculturists at Lo Tik Wan and Sok Kwu Wan fish culture zones to monitor the situation closely and increase aeration where necessary.

Red tide is a natural phenomenon. The AFCD's proactive phytoplankton monitoring programme will continue monitoring red tide occurrences to minimise the impact on the mariculture industry and the public.