

Red tide sighted

A red tide was sighted over the past week, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (March 19).

The red tide was spotted by a mariculturist on March 15 at O Pui Tong, including O Pui Tong fish culture zone. The red tide still persists and no associated deaths of fish have been reported.

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

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) urged mariculturists at the fish culture zones of Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong and Sha Tau Kok 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.