

Red tide sighted

A red tide has been sighted, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (November 30).

The red tide was spotted by staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at the Yim Tin Tsai fish culture zone today.

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

A spokesman for the working group said, "The red tide was formed by *Prorocentrum balticum*, which is not commonly found in Hong Kong waters and is non-toxic."

The AFCD urged mariculturists at the Yim Tin Tsai, Yim Tin Tsai (East), Yung Shue Au and Lo Fu Wat 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.