

## Red tide sighted

A red tide has been sighted over the past week, an inter-departmental red tide working group reported today (March 8).

The red tide was spotted by staff of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at Golden Beach, Tuen Mun, on March 4 and the red flag was hoisted at the beach immediately. The red tide has dissipated and no associated death of fish has been reported.

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

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) urged mariculturists at Ma Wan fish culture zone 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.