

**MINUTES**  
**HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM WORKGROUP**  
**October 2, 2008**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**NRC Room 2003**  
**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

Attending the meeting were Barbara Dorf, Alex Nunez, Dennis Pridgen, Meridith Byrd (TPWD), Paul & Mary Meredith (TX Master Naturalists), Dewayne Hollin (Sea Grant), Leo Trevino (Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program), Jamie Ingold (USGS), Jace Tunnell (CBBEP), Paul Carangelo (Port of Corpus Christi), Katie Swanson, Johannes Hagstrom, and Tracy Villareal (UTMSI). Attending by phone were Luci Cook-Hildreth, Faye Grubbs (both of TPWD) and Doug Jacobsen (EPA.)

The meeting began with introductions and then a talk by Dr. Joanna Mott of TAMU-CC on *Vibrio vulnificus*. Dr. Mott began with an introduction to *V. vulnificus* and then presented 4 studies that her lab has recently conducted (or are ongoing) in the Texas coastal bend area.

Drs. Paul and Mary Meredith gave a quick talk on their involvement as Texas Master Naturalists in NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network. They have been active monitors of their site at the Port O'Connor fishing pier since mid-2007 and found Texas' first confirmed toxin-producing *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. bloom late last year.

Dr. Johannes Hagstrom, a post-doctoral student at UTMSI, gave an update on his study of the use of clay flocculation to control *Prymnesium parvum* blooms.

The group discussed the possibility of expanding TPWD's sampling plan during the next red tide.

**Updates:**

[TPWD/TCAFS Golden Alga Symposium and Annual Meeting](#)

The keynote speaker for the Golden Alga Symposium is Don Anderson of WHOI and for the TCAFS meeting is Larry McKinney of Harte Research Institute (and formerly of TPWD.) Only invited speakers will be presenting at the Golden Alga Symposium; researchers are encouraged to submit abstracts for the symposium's poster session. The TCAFS annual meeting, in contrast, includes at least a half-day HAB session so TexHAB members are invited to submit an abstract for both oral and poster presentations. Poster and oral presentation abstract submissions are due December 1; early registration ends December 20. The inexpensive registration fee allows you to attend one or both meetings if you wish. More information found on the above link and on the [meeting homepage](#).

*Dinophysis acuminata* archived samples

Analysis is almost finished. More *Prorocentrum* spp. has been found in the samples than *D. acuminata*. Once the analysis is done a report will be submitted to MERHAB.

Bloom Updates

Golden alga has been present throughout the summer in the Rio Grande, Colorado and Brazos River basins. The Pecos River at Cayanosa has seen varying toxicity throughout the warmer months but no fish kills. One fish kill was reported in the Colorado basin at

Odessa's Comanche Trails Park Pond. Samples taken from lakes Colorado City, E.V. Spence and Moss Creek have had low concentrations of golden alga but no toxicity. Lakes Diversion and Possum Kingdom had low cell concentrations and varying toxicity when sampled in July.

Don Hockaday (UTPA) received a report of *Noctiluca scintillans* blooming at South Padre Island' near the Sea Ranch Marina. Surface streaks and a small number of dead sheepshead and perch were reported along with the bloom.

Meridith received an e-mail from Cindy Heil of FWRI alerting of a possible bloom off the coast of Galveston that appeared in some MODIS imagery forwarded by U of South Florida's Center for Red Tide Prediction. The imagery is still in the testing phase and Cindy stressed that she believed the image did not represent *K. brevis* but rather a diatom bloom resulting from resuspension and runoff from Hurricane Ike. A NOAA satellite imagery bulletin received the same day did not show any HABs in the area.

Alex Nunez responded to a cyanobacteria bloom in Ingleside's Swan Lake last month. Bright green water with a reddish tint was reported and Alex sent a water sample to CyanoLab for analysis after it was determined that the cells were too small for him to identify. Analysis showed the most abundant species to be *Glaucospira laxissima*, *Pseudanabaena limnetica*, *Planktolyngbya* cf. *microspira* and *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. Other algal groups observed in the sample included green algae (Chlorophyta), cryptophytes (Cryptophyta), euglenophytes (Euglenophyta), yellow-green algae (Xanthophyta) and dinoflagellates (Pyrrophyta).

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be December 4 at TPWD's A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.