

# Integrated Public Health/Environmental Monitoring and Response Plans

Conducted for the

Aquatic Toxins Program  
Division of Environmental Health  
Florida Department of Health

under

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by

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI),  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission (FWC),  
St. Petersburg, Florida

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# Personnel

- Jan Landsberg, PhD:
  - project manager and research coordinator
- Karen Steidinger, PhD: coordinator/ facilitator
- Florida HAB/Public Health Technical Panel
  - (FLHABPHTP)

# Objectives

- Develop contact list for information or analyses
- Coordinate technical panel meetings to discuss response plans and identify responsibilities
- Develop working relationship between technical panel and a volunteer county health office to determine feasibility of draft response plan
- Submit the response plan to the FL HAB Task Force
- Assist in the development of a statewide database tracking HAB events, distribution, duration, frequency and reported illnesses

# Past Year Accomplishments

## Activities

- Planning meeting held with FWC, Florida Institute of Oceanography, and Florida Department of Health (DOH) staff
- Letters sent to more than 20 invitees for first FLHABPHTF meeting held in St. Petersburg mid September 2004

# Public Health Significance

- Will provide county health departments with recommendations to develop contingency plans for HAB-related health events
- Will assist selected county health department(s) with implementation of a response plan
- Will evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of the plan

# Challenges

- Multiple HAB species at the state level requires priority decision making at local level as to public health significance

# Future Direction

- Assist with the development of response plans for four major HAB toxins in Florida
- Develop integrated environmental/public health database between FWC and FDOH, then expand to other users

# Synergism and collaborations

- Close working relationship of FWC with FDOH
- Recommendations for the development of response plans to protect public health from multiple HAB events
- Research collaborations with HAB researchers and managers
- Participation in FLHABPHTP by Centers for Disease Control (CDC), FDOH, FWC, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), academia, private labs, county health departments
- Recognition of CDC support

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