

**From:** Brown, Robin <brownro@dfo.mpo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2006 9:04 AM  
**To:** Gower, Jim <GowerJ@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Pena, Angelica <PenaA@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Crawford, Bill <CrawfordB@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Masson, Diane <MassonD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Bancroft, Douglas <BancroftDo@DFO-MPO.GC.CA>; Black, Edward <BlackE@DFO-MPO.GC.CA>; Schmidt, Kim <SchmidtK@DFO-MPO.GC.CA>; Mackas, Dave <MackasD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: West coast blooms

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The last messaging I have received on this from the NSDC is that toxic algal blooms are NOT A PRIORITY ISSUE for DFO Science. With fewer staff and smaller budgets, we must avoid the temptation to "dabble" in fields that are considered to be low priority and for which we really don't have the resources.

The largest exposure here is to finfish aquaculture and the industry has a program in place to deal with this problem.

Regards

*Robin*

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**From:** Gower, Jim  
**Sent:** August 3, 2006 9:17 AM  
**To:** Brown, Robin; Pena, Angelica; Crawford, Bill; Masson, Diane  
**Cc:** Bancroft, Douglas; Black, Edward; Schmidt, Kim  
**Subject:** West coast blooms

I just took part in a teleconference call with Doug Bancroft and Ed Black in Ottawa on the state of west coast algal blooms. The calls seem to be inspired by the MERIS satellite images that I distribute, and by Ed Black's interest in Heterosigma. Calls have so far involved only Doug, Ed and Kim Schmidt in Ottawa.

Ed's contacts in Puget Sound report increasing concentrations of Heterosigma, but cell conditions that suggest low toxicity so far. He is trying to relate the MERIS satellite images to the toxicity problem. His experience suggests that we need cell counts and descriptions, and details of near-surface (0 to 20 m) stratification of the Strait of Georgia.

I suggested that Angelica Pena should be involved in this. I also suggested Nicky Haigh should be involved, since she tracks more cell count and identification data than anyone else. Doug has added my name to a METOC distribution list that should provide west coast "ocean weather" information. Doug wondered if Diane Masson would have stratification data that could be useful.

Doug is on vacation until the week of Aug 21. Kim Schmidt is on French.

Does anyone have suggestions on the most useful action DFO should or could take, and what we at IOS could contribute?

Jim

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