

Strange *Karina brevis* known as 'Red Tide' noxious algae returns to Florida beaches after back-to-back hurricanes

By Frank Sargeant
The Water World.com

Florida's strange, malodorous malady, *Karina brevis*, also known as "red tide", has returned to the central west coast of the peninsula this fall after back-to-back hurricanes with torrential rains washed all sorts of garbage and sewage into coastal waters. The noxious algae has shown up along the beaches and in the bays of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Collier counties, or roughly from Clearwater to Naples. It's described as

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being in "low" concentrations, but even at that there have been sizeable fish kills and beach goers are reporting respiratory irritation.

When red tide is at its worst, the irritants get airborne on a windy day and can be detected a mile or more inland, creating a catch in the throat and a reaction in the sinuses of those who are sensitive. There are also sometimes rafts of stinking dead fish washing up on



The red tide is at its worse when it releases airborne irritants. (Photo/Courtesy: Water World.com)

the beaches.

Not surprisingly, this makes a whole lot of visitors unhappy with their Florida beach vacation.

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The last bad red tide on Tampa Bay was in 2018, when the

bloom lasted from October 2017 through spring 2018. The bay had a huge slump in resident fish like trout and snook after that extended event, and there were even numerous manatees found dead as a result of breathing at the surface where the algae was thickest.

The bay had pretty much fully recovered by this year, with plenty of adult trout and snook as well as lots of redfish for those who knew where to look. But the impact of this fall's red tide remains to be seen. So far, it's been rel-

atively mild, with mostly bait species rather than gamefish showing up dead on shore.

Red tide can even affect offshore species like grouper. About 10 years ago large areas of the sprawling limerock bottom area off Tarpon Springs, usually alive with black and red grouper as well as other reef species, was completely empty of fish for many months after a red tide event in the area. Fortunately, the reef species appear to migrate, and the area was pretty quickly

repopulated.

Counties along the west coast, well aware of the impact of red tide on their beach oriented businesses, maintain red tide alert systems online, and if you're planning a vacation there in the next few weeks, you can check with the county government, local vacation bureaus or with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide>) to get the latest on where red tide is present and how intense it might

be. There's currently no cure or treatment for waters affected, but scientists are becoming convinced that the intensity of the blooms is closely related to nutrient-rich runoff from land. Red tide has apparently always been here—the first Spanish explorers into Tampa Bay reported seeing it—but has become more intense as Florida has grown from a quiet rural state into a sprawling megametro on its way to becoming another California—though hopefully not politically.

If you're planning a fishing trip as part of your Florida vacation, a call to guides in your target area will give you the inside scoop. Nobody wants you to catch fish more than your guide, and they assuredly don't want to take clients out on waters where the chances of success have been ruined by red tide. Guides who rely on live bait can't fish when red tide is present, in any case, because just a trace of the stuff in livewell water kills all their sardines and threadfins.

Bottom line is red tide is a curse that's not going away anytime soon, and that will probably get worse as Florida continues to grow, more sewage is created and more vacant lands are gobbled up by development. The good news, I guess, is that the influx has slowed a bit, down from 1,200 new residents a day in 2022 to about 875 a day this year. Although, a couple more hurricanes and who knows . . . ?

B.A.S.S. announces registration dates for the newly rebranded Elite Series AmBASSador program competition

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. has announced registration dates for the newly rebranded AmBASSador program that pairs individuals with Elite Series anglers during competition. AmBASSadors, formerly known as marshals, have the best seat in the tournament to view the biggest names in professional bass fishing.

Registration dates for the AmBASSador program are:

- Life and Nation Members online Dec. 3 at 9 a.m. CT
 - All other B.A.S.S. members online Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. CT
 - Registration will remain open until all spots are filled
 - More information on registration is coming soon
- "The AmBASSador rebrand more accurately reflects what the program embodies," said Elite Series Tournament Director Lisa Talmadge. "Any B.A.S.S. member can be an AmBASSador. There's no special training or knowledge of rules needed; AmBASSadors aren't present to enforce rules. Being an AmBASSador is a fun way for fishing fans to get an on-the-water experience with an Elite angler and an opportunity to learn new techniques and bodies of water.

"AmBASSadors also should be willing to help with BassTrakk and Skype and to take photos that



may be featured on Bassmaster.com as part of tournament coverage," Talmadge added.

AmBASSadors can sign up for one Elite event or multiple events over the course of a season. For the \$99 AmBASSador program fee, fans will receive an AFTCO shirt, an AFTCO hat, an AFTCO gift card, a B.A.S.S. hat and, most importantly, the best view in professional bass fishing.

"I had been away from bass fishing and wanted to get back into it when I retired," said Rick Moore, an 11-year veteran of the marshal program. "A lot of baits and methods had changed over the past 20 years, so I did it to accelerate my learning, and I did (within) two years of participating in the program.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go to the lakes I had read about in Bassmaster Magazine, and the program gave me the opportunity to do that," added Moore, who currently resides in California. "Also, I get the chance to fish on the lake a couple of days

after the event to try out techniques I've observed, and I get to experience the communities."

Moore said he spends his time on the water taking plenty of photos and videos as well as observing the Elite pros fish the latest techniques and technology.

"One of the best things I think about watching the pros is I get to see how they react when they're struggling," Moore said. "As a fisherman, that's critical — learning how to deal with difficult situations such as when the bite stops. If you're serious about fishing, this is how you learn — by watching the best in the world in action."

Visit Bassmaster.com to register for the AmBASSador program. About B.A.S.S.

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birm-

ingham, Ala., the organization's fully integrated media platforms include the industry's leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events. For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.

The Bassmaster Tournament Trail includes the most prestigious events at each level of competition, including the Bassmaster Elite Series, St. Croix Bassmaster Opens Series presented by SEVIIN, Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier Series presented by Lowrance, Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Strike King Bassmaster High School Series, Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Team Championship, Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series scored by TourneyX, Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter and the ultimate celebration of competitive fishing, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour.

Connect with #Bassmaster on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

Los Angeles Auto Show announces winners of Signature Consumer Choice Awards known as 'The ZEVAS 2024'

2024 competition received thousands of votes honoring the best in electric and hybrid vehicles available for sale or pre-order

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 19, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- The Los Angeles Auto Show (LA Auto Show), the premier global automotive and lifestyle event, recently announced the winners of the 2024 edition of its signature zero-emission vehicle awards program, THE ZEVAS™. This year's winners were chosen by the public via two voting rounds that took place across October and November.

Eight overall category winners were chosen from an initial pool of more than 130 qualifying vehicles that are currently available for sale or pre-order. Thousands of enthusiasts, influencers, and active car buyers from around the world voted for this year's exciting range of winners from these honored brands.

THE ZEVAS winners for 2024 are:

- Top Compact/Coupe** - BMW i4 eDrive40
- Top Crossover** - Hyundai IONIQ 5
- Top Hybrid** - Toyota Prius Prime

- Top Sedan** - Lucid Air
- Top SUV** - Rivian R1S
- Top Truck** - Ford F-150 Lightning
- Top Ultra Luxury** - Ferrari SF90 Stradale
- Most Anticipated** - Volkswagen ID. Buzz

"We are so grateful to our amazing community of car fans and LA Auto Show attendees who have again helped to make THE ZEVAS a huge success this year," said Terri Toennies, president and chief operating officer of the LA Auto Show and Auto-Mobility LA. "Our signature awards program is a showcase for innovation in electric and hybrid vehicles, and we give our heartfelt congratulations to all the 2024 winners."

Select winning models will be featured at the 2024 LA Auto Show within participating automaker displays or test drives, including Ford, Hyundai, Lucid, Rivian, Toyota and Volkswagen.

Following the announcement, THE ZEVAS website (www.thezevas.com) will continue to serve as a valuable online resource. Consumers eager to educate themselves on the entire landscape of EV and Hybrid offerings available today can re-

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