

# REPORTING A BLOOM

Contact PMN Staff by Phone or Email:  
843-762-8656 or 843-762-8657

## FedEx Shipping Address:

PMN  
219 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC 29412  
(843) 762-8656

If you think you may have observed a bloom or high abundance of a potentially toxic phytoplankton species, please contact Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN) staff *immediately* via phone and/or email. Make as many observations as you can about the site: weather conditions, water coloration, tides, local flora and fauna, and/or any organism mortality. Record these observations on your data sheet. If you have a camera, please take pictures during the event.

**For your safety, do not handle or touch any dead organisms found at the site.**

Depending on the phytoplankton species, you may be asked to preserve a sample or collect a live whole water sample to be shipped to the Charleston PMN office for further investigation.

**Make sure to use the PLANKTON SAMPLE LABELS to indicate the location, date of collection, plankton in sample, and live or preserved sample on all bottles shipped.**

<b>Phytoplankton Monitoring Network</b>	
▶ PLANKTON SAMPLE LABEL ◀	
<small>(843) 762-8656 (843) 762-8657</small>	
Sample Location: _____	State: _____
Collection Date: _____	By: _____
Plankton in Sample: _____	
Comments: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Live Sample <input type="checkbox"/> Preserved - Lugol's <input type="checkbox"/> Preserved - Glutaraldehyde <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

## ► Preserved Samples

When preserving a sample, **do not use the Sea-Gear plankton bottles** in order to avoid staining and contaminating future samples.

- 1) Gently mix the sample in the Sea-Gear bottle and then transfer sample from the Sea-Gear bottle into the 4oz (small) sample bottle, leaving about half the bottle empty.
- 2) Add 1 ml of Lugol's to 50 ml of plankton sample for a 1% - 2% dilution.  
The sample bottle holds approximately 100ml, so add up to 1.0 – 1.5 ml of Lugol's.  
The pipet holds approximately 2 ml when filled up to the bulb.
- 3) Mix gently once or twice. The preserved sample should lightly resemble the color of tea.
- 4) Place the preserved sample in a zipped plastic bag (taping the lid of the bottle is not necessary).
- 5) Pack the sample into a FedEx box.
- 6) *FedEx Priority Overnight the sample to the PMN office using the PMN FedEx account.*

## ► Live Whole Water Samples

When collecting a live whole water sample, it is important that it is shipped the same day as it is collected.

- 1) Collect the live sample by taking a direct water sample with the 1L (large) sample bottle.  
**No net tow needs to be performed.**
- 2) Live samples **may** need to be shipped with packing ice *during extreme periods of heat*.  
Blue ice, frozen soda bottle, etc. can be used. Place the packing ice on the bottom.
- 3) Create a small buffer/space between the ice and the sample (bubble wrap or newspaper).
- 4) Pack the sample into a FedEx box (coolers are not required).
- 5) *FedEx Priority Overnight the sample to the PMN office using the PMN FedEx account.*

**PMN is especially interested in these potentially toxic genera:**

**Diatoms:** *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp.

**Dinoflagellates:** *Alexandrium* spp.

*Dinophysis* spp.

*Gambierdiscus* spp.

*Karenia* spp.

*Karlodinium* spp.

*Prorocentrum* spp.