DESIGN AND USE OF A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM DATABASE FOR THE WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA

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The Harmful Algal Bloom-Data Management System (HAB-DMS) was developed for those interested in understanding the spatial and temporal distribution of toxic phytoplankton and shellfish toxification events. The HAB-DMS provides scientists, managers, and the public easy access to historical records of toxic phytoplankton species abundance and distribution, shellfish toxicity, and associated environmental data. Currently on the west coast of North America, records relating to HABs are stored in separate databases in Alaska, British Columbia,Washington, Oregon, and California. By integrating these distinct datasets in the HAB-DMS, spatial trends may be determined irrespective of state or international boundaries. One goal of the HAB-DMS is to bring these disparate data sets together and increase accessibility by housing them in a central location. Once the data are input to the HAB-DMS, they can be displayed and correlation can be examined using Geographic Information System software.