

Announcement

During May 1988, an exceptional bloom of the small flagellate *Chrysochromulina poly-lepis* Manton and Parke (Prymnesiophyceae) developed in the Skagerrak-Kattegat area. During the bloom period high mortalities of fish (wild and farmed) and invertebrates occurred down to ~15–20-m depth. Also red and brown macroalgae were found dead in the sea and in laboratory experiments with water containing the flagellate. The symptoms recorded agree with those reported for toxic species of the closely related genus *Prymnesium*: by toxins damaging the cell membranes. In salinities $\approx 10\text{--}13\text{‰}$, most organisms survived even in high cell concentrations.

The event and its severe effect on the marine biota has caused much concern among scientists, fishermen, and government authorities in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. We are now in *urgent need of information* that can help us to explain the cause of the mass appearance and why this species was toxic (to our knowledge it is the first time toxicity has been reported for any *Chrysochromulina* species, nor do we have information of seaweeds being injured by phytoplankton blooms). If you have any information (unpublished data will of course be respected) of similar events, factors enhancing blooms or toxicity, specific physiological characteristics of toxin structure of prymnesiophycean flagellates, or any hydrographic, chemical, or biological data from prebloom measurements in this or adjacent areas during 1988, please write to:

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