



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

# MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

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### PRESS RELEASE

Following the Ministry's investigation, conducted to identify the type and toxicity of the algal species (microscopic plants) present in the Walvis Bay lagoon and harbour areas and after assessing the safety for human consumption of the washed-up mullets and other marine species that were observed in the Walvis Bay lagoon area on Sunday, 13th day of February, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources updates as follows;

Analysis of the collected water samples have been concluded and the results indicated that these blooms were caused by non-toxic species and thus consuming these fish poses no harm to the public, provided that they are still in a fresh state. As was presumed, the wash-up of the fish was caused by the anoxic conditions due to the use up of the oxygen by the algae in the area.

Furthermore, with the inflow of the Swakop River in the Ocean, lobster and other marine species die-off have been observed. These are due to a combination of factors including, the mud clogging the gills of the fish and crustaceans, exposure to fresh water and low oxygen. Although these species do not contain toxins, the MFMR generally does not encourage consumption of washed-up organisms as they could have started decaying and thus unfit for human consumption.

Issued by:

  
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