

KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE

Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring

2012 Progress Report

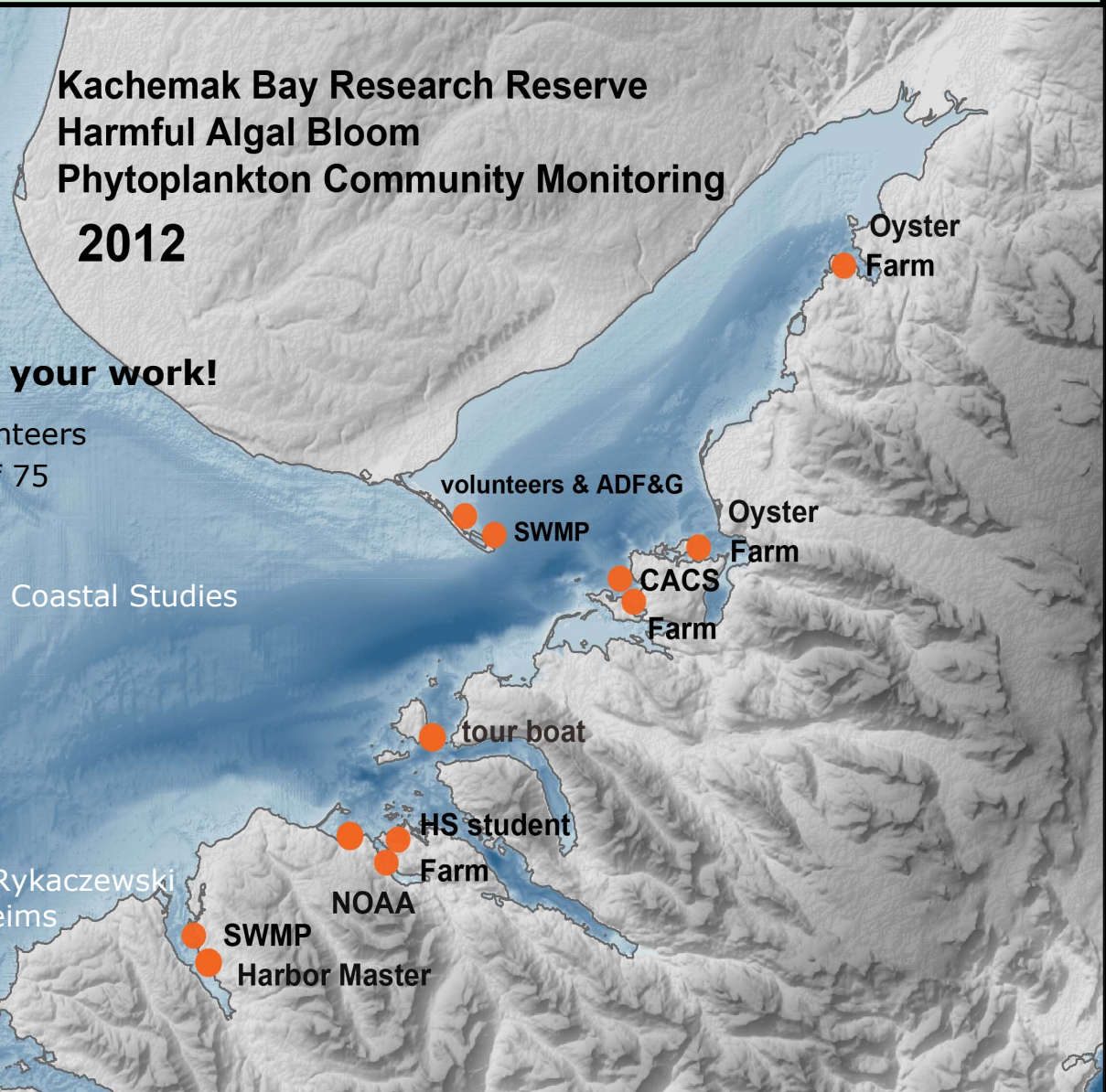
The main goal of the Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring program is to look for groups of phytoplankton that are known to carry toxins that can result in shellfish poisoning. We did not detect any large harmful algal blooms this summer, however we did have a few spikes of Pseudo-nitzschia. We will be looking more closely at this plankton in 2013. Monitoring phytoplankton also provides us with valuable baseline information on the bloom cycles in Kachemak Bay. Check out the next page to get a rough picture of what that looks like.

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Harmful Algal Bloom Phytoplankton Community Monitoring 2012

Thank-you for your work!

The following volunteers gathered a total of 75 samples this year:

Weatherly Bates
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Aiden Coyle
Danielle Dickson
Vicky Merrell
Jane Middleton
Ginger Moore
Layla Peterson
Daniel Querrero
Cheryl and Steve Rykaczewski
Tux and Debbie Seims



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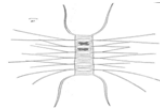
Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring in Kachemak Bay

Dominant phytoplankton by month - Inner Kachemak Bay

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	light blue	light blue	light blue	tan	light blue	light blue	light blue	light green	light green	purple	light blue	light blue
2012	light blue	light blue	light blue	tan	light blue	light blue	light blue	tan	purple	red	tan	light blue



Chaetoceros



Leptocylindrus



Pseudo-nitzschia



Rhizosolenia



Thalassiosira



various phytoplankton (low numbers)

This is a large overview of what our blooms look like in the inner bay. Chaetoceros is by far our most abundant diatom, hands down. It seems to give up the ghost in the inner bay in late summer (but not so the outer bay). When that top spot opens up, it gets filled by other diatoms. Leptocylindrus, Thalassiosira and Rhizosolenia all seem to compete. Our program is young enough that we are just beginning to roughly sketch out any kind of pattern, but each sample and each year helps fill it in, so thanks for your help!



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