

# FISH KILL PLAN & ALGAE BLOOM INCIDENT REPORTING GUIDE



## Miami-Dade County is ready to respond to a fish kill or algae bloom event.

The Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources – Division of Environmental Resources Management (RER-DERM) will serve as the lead agency in the event of an environmental crisis, such as a fish kill or algae bloom event.

The County has the services of certified canal cleaning contractors in place who are on-call to remove the fish biomass from the affected areas and properly disposed. The biomass must be removed as soon as possible as decomposition can exacerbate the existing poor water quality conditions and release additional nutrients and bacteria in Biscayne Bay. Pick up locations will be identified and coordinated with affected coastal municipalities.

The Miami-Dade County Communications Office will coordinate all daily media updates & briefings and public information will be provided via social media, and the County's Biscayne Bay website.

## DERM Contact for Fish Kill and Algae Bloom Incidents

Pamela Sweeney: [pamela.sweeney@miamidade.gov](mailto:pamela.sweeney@miamidade.gov)

### How to report a fish kill or algae bloom?

Visit [tinyurl.com/baywatch305](https://tinyurl.com/baywatch305) and fill out the online form

Email: [baywatch@miamidade.gov](mailto:baywatch@miamidade.gov)

Or call: 305-372-6955

Report environmental complaints 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### What causes a fish kill?

Very high air/water temperatures, heavy rain events resulting in discharges of large amounts of stormwater and canal discharges rich in nutrient pollution such as fertilizer, fuels, oils, plastic, trash. This combination of factors fuels the growth of algae and bacteria causing low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. DO is the amount of oxygen available for all life in the water for both plants and animals.

### What are the main nutrients that cause fish kills and algae blooms?

Phosphorous and nitrogen coming from sources such as sewage leaks, septic tanks, stormwater runoff, canal discharges, and fertilizer overuse.

### How to prevent fish kills? What can you do?

- Stop using fertilizers & pesticides. Learn more at [miamidade.gov/fertilizer](https://miamidade.gov/fertilizer).
- Reduce the use of plastic & polystyrene.
- Pick up trash & dog waste.
- Only flush toilet paper.