



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2009

Contact: Lance Newkirk
Deputy Director of Public Works
City of Bainbridge Island
(206)780-3586
lnewkirk@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

Algae Blooms Identified

Bainbridge Island, WA, July 8, 2009 – Algae blooms caused by the recent stretch of sunny, warm weather have prompted some residents to call the city with concerns about possible water pollution. Tests have indicated that blooms reported around the island this past weekend were caused by the noctiluca plankton, which is harmless to humans and marine life.

Other agencies around the region have also reported a high number of calls from citizens concerned by algal blooms, which are often mistaken for spilled paint, oil, or sewage.

Noctiluca blooms, which have a red, rusty color, are a common summer occurrence in Puget Sound. They are monitored by the State Department of Ecology water quality program. Noctiluca blooms are not the same as “red tide,” which is sometimes associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning. “Red tide” is produced by a different plankton.

Citizens who wish to report water pollution concerns in Kitsap County (including Bainbridge Island) should call 1-800-825-4940 during business hours (8 am – 4:30 pm), or 911 in case of emergency or after hours.

More information and photos of plankton blooms is available on the Department of Ecology (DOE) website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2009news/2009-121.html>. A DOE video is posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCN3PPglSx8>

#