

Science warning: When the climate gets hot, the ocean will become more toxic

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Specifically, researchers from Stony Brook University in New York, USA, have announced that a rapid rise in global temperatures will cause seawater temperatures to rise, activating two unique marine algae that are now proliferating, blooming, forming in the North Atlantic and North Pacific regions.



Since 1982, temperatures in many ocean basins have warmed up, creating more conditions for two of the toxic algae family to grow most, Dinoflagellate, Alexandrium and Dinophysis.

Christopher Gobler, marine science professor at Stony Brook, said: " *The toxic algae blooms are similar to the red tide phenomenon. These specific phenomena can be toxic to the sea, destroying the shellfish, the cave shellfish when exposed to marine algae toxins emitted and may even damage marine ecosystems include killing both fish and other marine organisms* ".

This new finding has just been published in detail in PNAS, showing the direct impact of the increase in ocean temperature due to climate change with the distribution, intensity of flowering and spread of toxic algae.

In addition, the scientific team has also developed models, maps, using high temperature data of the ocean to classify and control sensitive sea areas, increase the risk of spread and invasion of toxic algae.



Theresa Hattenrath-Lehmann, a graduate student at Gobler Laboratory in Stony Brook, said: *"It is amazing and reassuring to see our hindcast models in accordance with the observations presented in the literature. It has been published for the past 30 years, giving us the belief that these model parameters could be an important premise in supporting future HAB forecasting."*

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