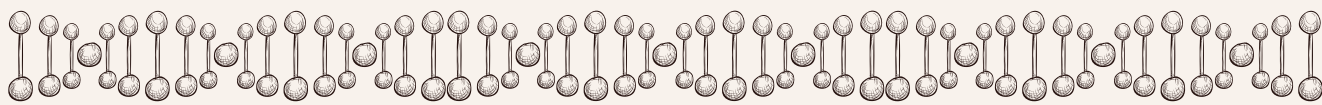




DOMOIC ACID

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

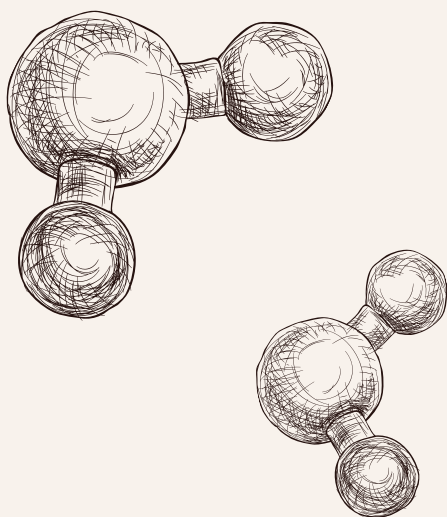


01 What is domoic acid?

Domoic acid is a neurotoxin, found in shellfish and small bony fish during algae blooms. Animals affected by domoic acid can experience seizures, muscle spasms, disorientation, and lethargy. Although not always fatal, the neurotoxin can have lingering neurological and cardiac complications.

02 Why is it relevant?

Domoic acid has been affecting marine wildlife off the coast of California, where over 50 cetaceans and pinnipeds have stranded since the start of 2025. This is the fourth consecutive year that California has been affected by the consequences of domoic acid.

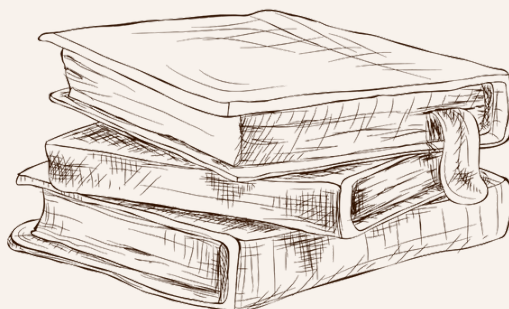


03 Why does this happen?

Domoic acid is a direct product of planktonic algae during algal blooms, but the cause of the bloom is largely unknown. Scientists have seen some correlation between algal blooms and large upwelling events, agricultural runoff (which is high in nitrogen and phosphorous), and rising water temperatures.

04 What if an animal is infected?

Those exposed to the neurotoxin can naturally pass it, so long as they discontinue ingesting the contaminated fish (a disadvantage for wildlife whose diets are not directly managed),



05 What can we do?

When spreading awareness to guests, it is important to remember that everyone can play a part in helping the health of our oceans. You can choose to discuss the role of agricultural runoff and the importance of supporting rescue and rehabilitation facilities, either financially or through volunteering.

For more information or to lend support, be sure to look into:

- Channel Islands Marine Institute
- Pacific Marine Mammal Center
- Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito
- SeaWorld