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Desalination, red tides and the impacts on Arabian Gulf marine life from 1980-2010

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This research study examines the effects of red tides on Arabian Gulf marine life from 1980 to 2010. Mapping oceanic data from a variety of governmental and private sources (Al-Omar, 2009; UAEMEW, 2011), as well as numerous research studies concerning the impacts of red tides on marine ecosystems, this paper examines how the increasing phenomenon of harmful algal blooms has affected Arabian Gulf marine life over the past 30 years. This study also investigates the connection between desalination processes in the Arabian Gulf and the occurrence of these harmful algal blooms, a connection which has become increasingly apparent in recent decades. The findings indicate a significant connection between historical incidences of HABs in the Arabian Gulf and fish population decline surrounding those occurrences. They also show a positive trend between the growth of desalination capacity and the occurrences of more frequent and severe HABs in the Arabian Gulf. The information gleaned from this study will complicate our understanding of both the negative impacts of water desalination on ocean life as well as the potential harm that future, unregulated desalinization processes can cause to the Arabian Gulf.

Biography

Sofia Abdulkadir has completed her Baccalaureate in Science from the University of California, Riverside and her Masters in Science, specializing in Environmental Management from the American Public University in West Virgina. She has worked for the city of San Bernardino, California as a Laboratory Chemist and she is currently Teaching High School Science and Math in the UAE.

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