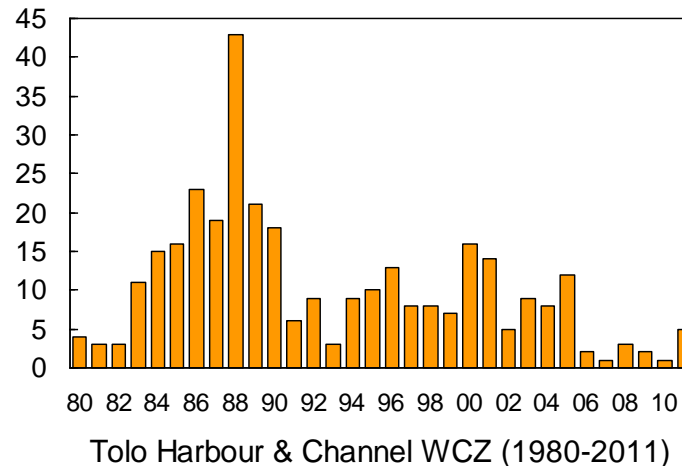


Red Tides in Tolo Harbour

- Prior to 1970, red tides were rarely recorded in Hong Kong waters. Red tides increased significantly in the 1980s due to the pollution resulted from rapid economic development and population increase in Hong Kong.
- In the early 1980s, the development of new towns especially Sha Tin and Tai Po resulted in nutrient enrichment of the harbour. The number of red tides in the harbour area increased significantly.
- In 1986, the Government initiated a Tolo Harbour Action Plan to control and reverse the situation. The nutrient levels of the harbour has been reduced.
- As a result, the number of red tide incidents in the harbour declined markedly, from a peak of 43 in 1988 to five in 2011. Fish kills were not recorded in the harbour during the last ten years.



Red tides are formed by excessive growth of some phytoplankton species. Red tides can reduce dissolved oxygen in the water and cause other organisms to die (e.g. fish kills).



Tolo Harbour is a semi-enclosed bay with poor flushing capacity. It is most suitable for phytoplankton growth and formation of red tides under favorable environmental conditions (e.g. light and nutrients).



The water quality of Tolo Harbour has been improved significantly