



THE ECOHAB MISSION

The program acronym ECOHAB was coined by Dr. Donald Anderson of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). This program was developed to focus on the ecological aspects of harmful algal bloom research. The motivation behind the development of the ECOHAB Program is best described by the following paragraph excerpted from Dr. Anderson's Web outreach from the WHOI. Dr. Anderson is a renowned expert in phytoplankton blooms and is considered one of the founders of the ECOHAB Program.



Red tide in California

"Over the last several decades, the United States has experienced an escalating and worrisome trend in the incidence of problems associated with harmful and toxic algae (commonly called 'red tides'). Formerly only a few regions were affected, but now virtually every coastal state is threatened, in many cases over large geographic areas and by more than one harmful species. Impacts include mass mortality of wild and farmed fish and shellfish; human illness and death from contaminated shellfish or fish, death of marine mammals, seabirds, and other animals; and alterations of marine habitats or trophic structure. These economic, public health, and ecosystem impacts are strong practical motivations for a

coordinated, multidisciplinary research program."

In brief, the goals of the national ECOHAB Program include: "...developing an understanding of the population dynamics and trophic impacts of harmful algal species which can be used as a basis for minimizing their adverse effects on the economy, public health, and marine ecosystems," and "...investigating fundamental physical, biological, and chemical oceanographic questions critical to scientifically based management of fisheries resources, public health, and ecosystem health in regions threatened by toxic and harmful algae."

With the support of the **National Science Foundation** and the **National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration**, two scientific workshops convened in order to develop a National Research Program. Technical documents from each of these workshops have been published. To view the online versions (text only) of those documents, select a conference title:

- **Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algae: A National Plan**
(<http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/s-kplan/s-kcontents.html>)
A workshop convened at NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Center, Charleston, SC, 21–24 April 1992
- **ECOHAB: The Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms
A National Research Agenda**
(<http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/ECOHAB/ECOHABhtml.html>)

A workshop convened at Snow Mountain Ranch Conference Center, Snow Mountain Ranch, CO,
23–28 August 1994

You may also view a graphical print version of the [ECOHAB Document](http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/ECOHAB/PDF/ECOHABPDF.html)
(<http://www.redtide.whoi.edu/hab/nationplan/ECOHAB/PDF/ECOHABPDF.html>).

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