

# NCDWR Fish Kill Summary Report



**Waterbody** PAMLICO RIVER

**Total Fish Mortality**

**Location** Washington Park, Blounts Creek

10000000

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<b>Kill Number</b>	<b>Date Reported</b>	<b>Date Investigated</b>	<b>Time Investigated</b>
WA13005	9/27/2013	10/2/2013	
<b>County</b>	<b>HUC:</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
BEAUFORT	03020104	35.462483	-76.9210500

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**Species Reported**

ATLANTIC MENHADEN

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<b>Suspected Cause</b>	<b>Other Species Affected</b>	<b>Waterbody Type</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Kill Area</b>
Other	NONE	Estuary		15 miles

**Tributaries Affected**

CHOCOWINITY BAY, BLOUNTS CREEK, RUN

**Samples**

**Notes:**

The EMT was unable to respond to multiple phone calls regarding dead and dying menhaden among Chocowinity Bay, Blounts Creek, Blounts Bay, and the Pamlico proper downstream to the Pamlico Point area. Although staff were busy fielding phone calls, local river keeper Heather Deck and her staff were able to collect some water samples along several transects near the mouth of Blounts Creek out to Blounts Bay.

Three to five inch Menhaden were observed to be from several days old to recently dying and lethargic. Most of the menhaden observed (99%) had red sores/lesions. This has been observed in the past (almost exactly a year previous to date) and have been documented as Ulcerative Mycosis caused by a slime mold *Aphanomyces invadens*.

Given the large extent of the kill, and the likelihood that it will continue to occur as water temperatures cool, it was difficult to enumerate the event. A best educated estimate would put mortality numbers into the tens of millions.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\***

10/09/2013

Recent cloudy and rainy weather may decrease the impact of oscillating DO from algal blooms. However, the slime mold may continue to cause secondary mortalities.

Algal bloom reports indicate a mixture of raphidophyte algae (*Chattonella* and *Heterosigma*) were also present. Total algal sample density was 23,000 units/ml. *Chattonella* and *Heterosigma* are reported in the academic literature as capable of producing toxins, but there have been no known reports of health effects associated with them in North Carolina.

Algal community composition was typical for fall in local estuarine waters.