

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
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**SALTON SEA STATE RECREATION AREA**  
100-225 State Park Road  
North Shore, CA 92254

## Fish Report

There are 400 million Tilapia in the Salton Sea. They are a resilient fish that somehow survive the salty conditions and reproduce to great numbers. However certain conditions affect their health.

The Salton Sea is not polluted or dangerous or toxic. The biggest problem with the water is the salt. It is 50% saltier than the ocean. Salt water is denser than fresh water and holds less oxygen. When the water is very warm it also has less oxygen.

Every year, dependent on weather and water levels, conditions cause some fish to die. Warm water and excess fertilizers from agricultural run-off cause algae to grow and bloom in excess. This also uses up the oxygen in the water.

This summer the fishing has been excellent. The fish have been abundant. But now with the excess heat and algae some fish are suffering and a very small percentage have died. It does not look or smell very pretty. We are almost at the end of the summer heat cycle and generally the fish have survived well.

Other factors can also cause fish to die. These tropical fish do not do very well in cold water or sometimes windy conditions can cause a problem. There is also the possibility that at times the Tilapia populations have exceeded their carrying capacity and naturally die off. Whatever the problem, there is no cause for alarm.

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