

Toxic and Harmful Algal Blooms
“Can You See the Link?”

The table below provides a summary of a few research studies that investigated the transfer of algal toxins through the food web. The organisms in red are ones that were either made ill or died as a result of the toxin. Look back at the articles your class reviewed in "HABs in the News," (http://www.bigelow.org/edhab/tracing_toxins.html#habsnews). Do any of your articles discuss a toxin food web path similar to one in the table below? For the articles that don't suggest a food web path, can you form a hypothesis as to how the algal toxin might have affected the different organisms discussed in your article?

<u>Food Web Path</u>	<u>Source</u>
Diatom > Anchovy > Sea Lion	Scholin, C, et al. 2000. Mortality of sea lions along the central California coast linked to a toxic diatom bloom. <i>Nature</i> 403:80-84.
Dinoflagellate > Zooplankton > Mackerel > Whale	Geraci, JR, et al. 1989. Humpback whales (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) fatally poisoned by dinoflagellate toxin. <i>J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.</i> 46:1895-1898.
Diatom > Krill	Bargu, S, et al. 2002. Krill: a potential vector for domoic acid in marine food webs. <i>Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.</i> 237:209-216.