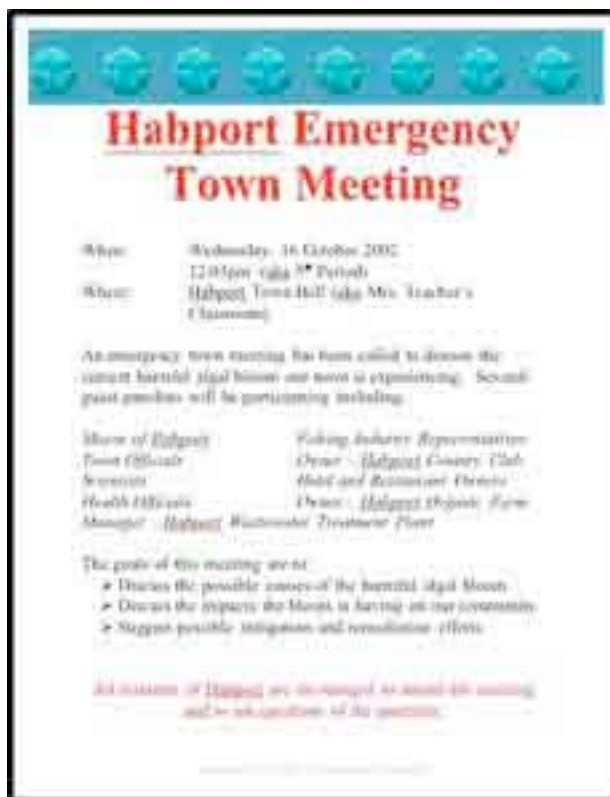


Toxic and Harmful Algal Blooms “A Community in Crisis - Scenario”

Harmful Algal Bloom Alert in Habport!

The local media has been reporting observations related to what appears to be a harmful algal bloom in your area. In order to assess the current situation and hopefully resolve the issue, a town meeting has been called. The goal of the meeting is to come up with some suggestions for mitigation of the bloom, as well as detection and prevention of future blooms. The flyer announcing the meeting is posted to the right.

All of you will be attending the meeting. Some of you are invited speakers who will serve on the discussion panel. Others of you will attend as concerned citizens who want to understand what is happening and be involved in the decision-making process in dealing with the bloom. All of you will have the chance for your voices to be heard. You have a week to prepare for the town meeting. Good luck!



Details about your town: Habport is located on a small peninsula on the gulf coast. It is a semi-rural town with a year-round population of ~3000. During the summer and fall (the prime tourism seasons), the population of Habport has been known to approach 30,000. Local industries include tourism (hotels, restaurants, entertainment), fishing, and to a lesser degree, farming. All residents use city water (as opposed to wells). Most of the town is on a sewer system; however, some of the more rural homesteads utilize septic systems.

As you can see from the Habport map on the next page, Habport Harbor houses most of the boat docks. The harbor was dredged last spring to allow improved boat passage. On the other side of town, the coast is dominated by sandy beaches, which provide an attractive landscape for the local hotels.



Details about the harmful algal bloom: As the local media has reported, there have been several sightings of dead fish washing up on the shores of Habport. One week ago, the local environmental quality officer was quoted as saying, “Our scientists are currently conducting assays on the dead fish.” Since then, a spokesperson from Habport Memorial was quoted as having said, “We have been receiving complaints of respiratory irritation from a few individuals. If you have respiratory problems, allergies, or asthma, we recommend avoiding the coastal areas.” Just this morning, a pelican was seen acting uncharacteristically on the beach. The animal is currently under the care of the environmental scientists and the local animal hospital. The most recent statement from the environmental quality office attributed the events to a bloom of *Karenia brevis*.