

## **Maze of toxicity**

Raphidophyceae; harmful microalgae in Dutch coastal waters

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All the marine microalgal species of the class Raphidophyceae are "harmful algal bloom" (HAB) species. These raphidophytes are feared for their induction of toxicity to fish and benthic life. Several of these species are present in Dutch coastal waters, where they may develop into harmful algal blooms. In this presentation most attention is paid to *Fibrocapsa japonica* because this particular species has been observed most frequently in Dutch coastal waters since 1991. This raphidophyte has caused for instance the death of many fish in Japanese coastal waters. The purpose of the research presented here was not only to find the combination of environmental conditions that is likely to induce *F. japonica* blooms along our coasts but also to study the causes and consequences of its toxicity.