

## *Gambierdiscus toxicus*



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Credit: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

*Gambierdiscus toxicus* is Florida's second most problematic HAB species. It occurs worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters—including in and around coral reefs. In Florida, *G. toxicus* is found from Palm Beach to the Dry Tortugas and Florida Bay.

*Gambierdiscus toxicus* is suspected in fish kills and disease events and produces a toxin called ciguatoxin, which causes ciguatera fish poisoning (CFP). The symptoms of CFP appear within 3 to 24 hours and can last several days or recur for years. One telltale sign of CFP is temperature reversal—a piece of ice will feel hot to the touch, and a hot cup of coffee will feel cold.

More than 400 species of fish can cause CFP. Some of these are grouper, mahi mahi, snapper, and amberjack.