

MASSIVE WALK OUT OF WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER

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More than 200 tons of West Coast Rock Lobster (WCRL) washed out in Eland's Bay on the Cape West Coast this week, assessed by scientists to be the result of a harmful algal bloom following a drastic drop in oxygen levels in the water.

The bloom caused by a drastic drop in oxygen levels in the water extends about 80km's long and 3km's wide stretching from Dwarskersbos to north of the Oliphant's River.

Last weekend, nearly 30-tons of WCRL washed out or got stranded in Eland's Bay and around 6-tons were rescued during the cleanup operation. The mortalities were dumped at a municipal dumping site.

On Monday morning an estimated 30-tons, mostly mortalities, washed out in the same area and another 70-tons washed out yesterday.

The cleanup operation will continue and the Eland's Bay beachfront remains closed to the public. Access roads to other beach areas, where there are possible signs of a walkout or washout, are also closed to the public.

DAFF will continue to monitor the bloom that has now moved southwards.