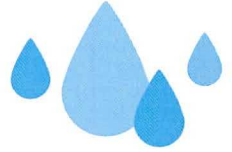


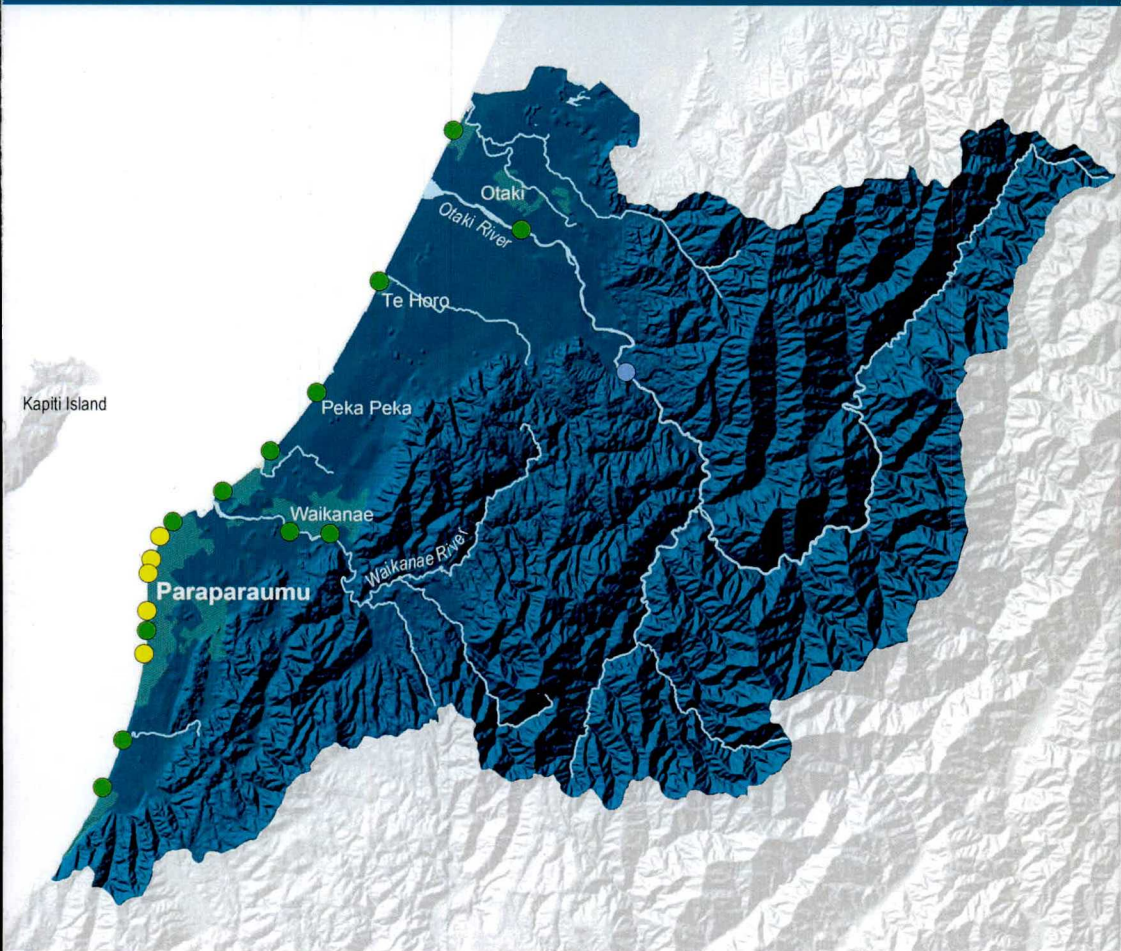
# Is it safe to swim in Kapiti?

Recreational water quality monitoring  
results for the 2015/16 summer



greater WELLINGTON  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao





- **A – Very low risk of illness**  
 6% (1 sites)
- **B – Low risk of illness**  
 67% (12 sites)
- **C – Moderate risk of illness**  
 28% (5 sites)
- **D – Caution**  
 0% (0 sites)
- **F – Unsuitable for Swimming**  
 0% (0 sites)

# Yes! It's safe to swim in most places

**Recreational water quality in Kapiti is generally very good. Three quarters of sites have an overall grade of B or better. The best site was in the upper reaches of the Otaki River, which had no exceedances of the guideline for safe swimming and an overall grade of A.**

The warm, stable weather conditions experienced this summer create perfect conditions for algae growth, however only low levels (less than 20 percent cover) of toxic algae were recorded in the Otaki and Waikanae rivers.

## Wait two days after rain before you swim again...



Water quality in Kapiti is generally pretty good over the summer, except in poor weather conditions. Heavy rain flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into water and we advise people not to swim for at least two days after heavy rain – even if a site generally has good water quality.

In Kapiti only eight of the 345 samples (two percent) taken did not meet the guideline and more than half of these were associated with rainfall.

Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with your local district council, monitors four freshwater and 14 coastal sites in the Kapiti area. The results from this monitoring are compared to national guidelines and used to calculate an overall grade for each site. In Kapiti one site is graded A, 12 sites are graded B and five sites are graded C.



## 2015/16 Results

Site Name	Number of samples exceeding the guideline	Number of exceedances associated with rainfall	Overall grade*
Otaki Beach at surf club	0	NA	B
Te Horo Beach at Sea Road	0	NA	B ↑
Peka Peka Beach at road end	0	NA	B
Waikanae Beach at William Street	1	1	B
Waikanae Beach at Ara Kuaka carpark	0	NA	B
Paraparaumu Beach at Ngapotiki Street	0	NA	B
Paraparaumu Beach at Nathan Avenue	0	NA	C
Paraparaumu Beach at Maclean Park	1	0	C
Paraparaumu Beach at Toru Road	1	0	C
Raumati Beach at Tainui Street	0	NA	C
Raumati Beach at Marine Gardens	0	NA	B ↑
Raumati Beach at Aotea Road	1	0	C
Paekakariki Beach at Whareroa Road	0	NA	B
Paekakariki Beach at surf club	0	NA	B
Otaki River at Pots	0	NA	A
Otaki River at SH1	0	NA	B ↑
Waikanae River at SH1	2	2	B
Waikanae River at Jim Cooke Park	2	2	B

\* An arrow beside the grade denotes whether there has been an improvement or decline since the previous season, ie, ↑ means the grade has improved and ↓ means the grade has declined. Note that the overall grade is based on five years of data and grades for freshwater sites are 'dry weather' grades.

For more information on our **Recreational Water Quality Programme** check out [www.gw.govt.nz/is-it-safe-to-swim](http://www.gw.govt.nz/is-it-safe-to-swim)

For further detail on the 2015/16 results check out our **Is it safe to swim?** report at [www.gw.govt.nz/Annual-monitoring-reports](http://www.gw.govt.nz/Annual-monitoring-reports)

For national recreational water quality data and information check out [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz)