

# What to do in the presence of **TOXIC MICROALGAE?**

## What to do ?

A **microalga** *Ostreopsis spp.* was detected in the Basque coastal waters in the summer of 2021. It could reappear and could **affect the health** of users, causing respiratory and/or cutaneous problems.

### What is *Ostreopsis*?



This microalga, which is invisible to the naked eye, can give water a metallic taste. It can sometimes be present in the form of brown gelatinous material on the surface in deposits on rocks and on macroalgae.

### What symptoms may appear?



Swimmers, surfers, walkers, local residents and workers exposed to this algae (**inhalation, sea spray, contact**) may feel flu-like, irritating or cutaneous symptoms : **cough, sore throat, runny nose and eyes, nasal bleeding, respiratory difficulty, fever, trembling, muscle pain, headache, nausea, skin rash, etc.**

These symptoms can appear within 6 hours of exposure, and generally disappear within 3 to 4 days.

#### For further information :

[www.nouvelle-aquitaine.ars.sante.fr](http://www.nouvelle-aquitaine.ars.sante.fr)



For information about swimming conditions,



Download the  
application **KALILO**



### Recommendations in the event of high concentrations of this microalgae

- > After swimming, **take a shower** (body and hair)
- > After fishing, as with all fish, **eviscerate them** (even small ones) before eating them, and don't eat other seafood products (mollusks, crustaceans, etc.).
- > **Fragile people** (antecedents: ENT, pulmonary - asthma, chronic bronchitis... - allergies, cardiovascular diseases - hypertension, arrhythmia, stroke... - diabetes, etc.) **should not go to the beach or to surrounding areas.**

▶ **In case of minor symptoms**, contact the regional health monitoring and emergency platform of the ARS Nouvelle-Aquitaine (0 809 400 004 / [ars33-alerte@ars.sante.fr](mailto:ars33-alerte@ars.sante.fr)).

▶ **If symptoms persist or worsen** (marked respiratory discomfort, prolonged muscle pain or tremors), call the Bordeaux Poison Control Center immediately at 05 56 96 40 80.

▶ **In case of emergency, call 15.**

