

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

What to do ?

A **microalga** of the genus *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



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.**

If the symptoms persist and get worse (marked difficulty breathing, prolonged muscle pain and trembling), **see a doctor quickly** and call the poison control center, mentioning the exposure to microalgae. **In the event of an emergency, call 15.**

In the event of symptoms that may be linked to exposure within the framework of your work, **contact your usual Occupational Health Service.**

