

Recreational Water Quality

Monitoring Summary 2012-13

Key points

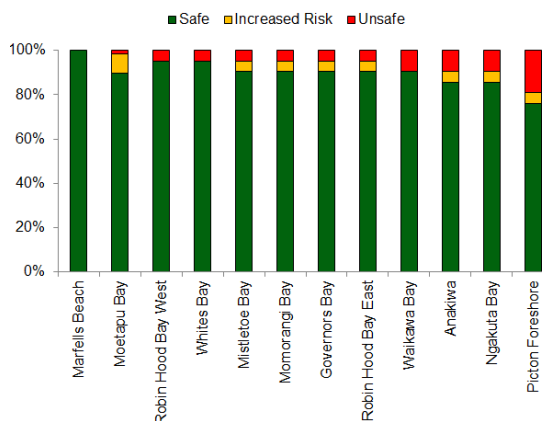
- * 21 swimming sites were monitored weekly during the summer
- * Swimming should be avoided during and after rainfall, particularly in urban and intensively farmed areas
- * The Beach Grades for one coastal beach and three river sites have improved
- * One coastal site had to be downgraded
- * 40% of all sites have a Beach Grade of "Very Good" or "Good"

Why we monitor

- * The levels of faecal indicator bacteria in the water of twelve coastal beaches and nine river sites are monitored to determine the health risk associated with water borne pathogens.
- * Weekly samples are taken from the beginning of November until the end of March and analysed for the concentrations of E.coli or Enterococci which were assessed in accordance with the national Recreational Water Quality Guidelines.
- * Results are published on the Marlborough District Council website.

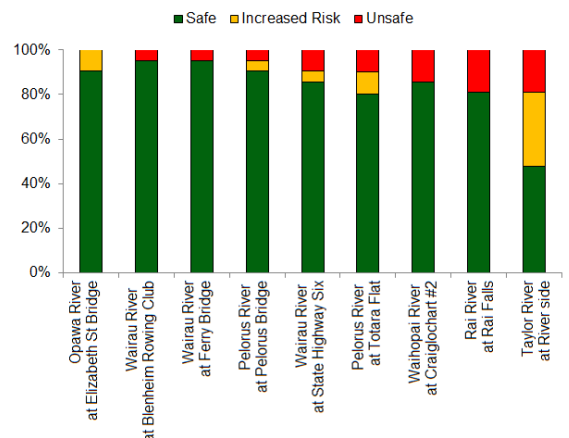
Coastal water results 2012-13

- * Recreational Water Quality of coastal beaches was generally very good with three quarter of sites considered safe for contact recreation more than 90% of the time.
- * Marfell's Beach had the best water quality with no exceedance of the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines.
- * Picton Foreshore had the highest number of exceedances, but was still safe for contact recreational use for more than 75% of the time.



Freshwater results 2011-12

- * Most River sites were safe for swimming more than 80% of the time.
- * All sites exceeded the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines at least once with most of the exceedances linked to rainfall or high flows.
- * The Taylor River at Riverside had the worst water quality. A catchment characterisation study will be carried out to provide information about possible causes.



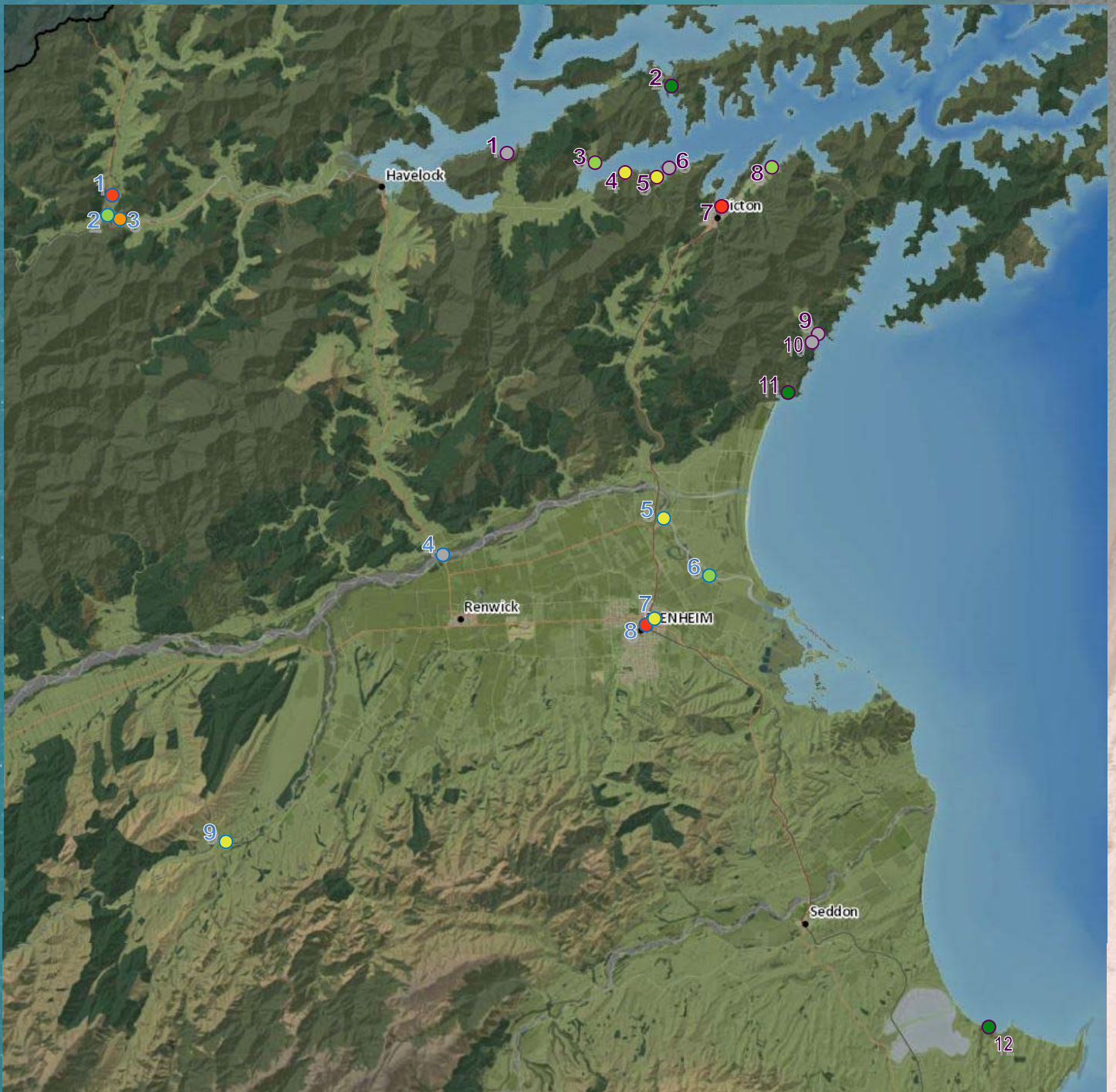
Beach Grades (SFR Grades)

- * Suitability for Contact Recreation Grades (SFR Grades or Beach Grades) provide an overall measure for the microbial water quality of a coastal beach or river site. They combine catchment assessments and monitoring results into one Grade.
- * The Beach Grades for one coastal site and three river sites improved, while one coastal site had to be downgraded.

Coastal sites	old Grade	new Grade
Ngakuta Bay	Very Good	Fair
Picton Foreshore	Very Poor	Poor

River sites	old Grade	new Grade
Pelorus River at Totara Flat	Very Poor	Poor
Wairau River at Blenheim Rowing Club	Fair	Good
Waihopai River at Craiglochart #2	Poor	Fair

- * 40% of all sites have a Beach Grade of "Very Good" or "Good", whereas 25% are graded "Poor" or "Very Poor"



River sites

- 1 Rai River at Rai Falls
- 2 Pelorus River at Pelorus Bridge
- 3 Pelorus River at Totara Flat
- 4 Wairau River at State Highway Six
- 5 Wairau River at Ferry Bridge
- 6 Wairau River at Blenheim Rowing Club
- 7 Opawa River at Elizabeth St Bridge
- 8 Taylor River at Riverside
- 9 Waihopai River at Craiglochart #2

Coastal sites

- 1 Moetapu Bay
- 2 Mistletoe Bay
- 3 Anakiwa Bay
- 4 Momorangi Bay
- 5 Ngakuta Bay
- 6 Governors Bay
- 7 Picton Foreshore
- 8 Waikawa Bay
- 9 Robin Hood Bay East
- 10 Robin Hood Bay West
- 11 Whites Bay
- 12 Marfells Beach

Beach Grades

- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor