

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FRESHWATER CITIZEN SCIENCE

NEWSLETTER



What is the National Advisory Group?

In 2017, the National Advisory Group on Freshwater Citizen Science was established to bring together people and organisations interested in furthering freshwater citizen science in New Zealand.

The purpose of the Group is “to foster well-resourced and coordinated freshwater citizen science monitoring programmes in NZ”, including developing and promoting a cross-sector collaborative strategy.

It includes representatives from central government, local government, industry and monitoring NGOs.

Read more about the Group and its members on the [NZ Water Citizens website](#).

NZ Water Citizens website is now live!

NZwatercitizens is a landing page for anyone in New Zealand interested in volunteer stream monitoring.

The site provides a database for storing, understanding, presenting your data, and for viewing data from other sites; resources to help you learn stream monitoring methods; a link for ordering NIWA's Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit, and a forum for giving feedback, asking questions and sharing stories.

The website can be found at www.nzwatercitizens.co.nz. Check it out and let us know what you think.

Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK): An Update

The New Zealand Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit was first released in 1998. It was the end result of three years of development that involved a great many organisations and individuals from all over New Zealand - the main partners being Federated Farmers and NIWA.

In 2017, NIWA initiated updates to SHMAK in response to opportunities provided by new technologies and changing interests of the public.

The most recent updates to the kit include several new variables (e.g., *E. coli*, dissolved nutrients, rubbish), improved identification guides, instructional videos, an updated manual and is accompanied by web- and soon to be mobile phone-based platforms for data entry, storage, retrieval, analysis and sharing.

More information about the latest SHMAK variables and information on how to order SHMAK can be found at www.nzwatercitizens.co.nz or www.niwa.co.nz/shmak



Training videos

Interested in learning more about stream monitoring?

In September 2018, NIWA and Greater Wellington Regional Council staff braved some wild spring weather to shoot a series of instructional videos.

The videos demonstrate correct procedures for carrying out different monitoring protocols for assessing stream health.

The videos will appear on the NZ Water Citizens website in May 2019. Stay tuned!

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