



MARINE PROTECTION IN NEW ZEALAND

FACTS AND FIGURES

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Why do we need marine protection?

New Zealand's marine environment covers more than 4.1 million square kilometres. It is 15 times larger than our land area. The oceans are facing greater multiple and cumulative pressures now than at any other time in human history. People value and depend on the variety of marine species and habitats we have. Marine protected areas (MPAs), especially no-take marine reserves nested within a wider approach of ecosystem-based management, have consistently emerged as one of the most important tools in halting the oceans' decline and promoting their recovery.

Current Status of Marine Protection in NZ

Less than half of one percent of it has to date been set aside in fully protected areas compared to our international commitment to protect at least 10 per cent.

Proportion of New Zealand's marine environment subject to different activities

Trawl fishing	9%
Mining or oil and gas permits	12%
Marine protected areas	0.5%

As at 10 June 2014:

- New Zealand has 55 protected areas that officially meet the New Zealand Marine Protected Area (MPA) Standard. These 55 areas cover 21,817 km² and make up just 0.5% of New Zealand's marine environment.
- But 16 of these 55 are 'type 2 MPAs' - which are not all fully protected or necessarily established with the primary purpose of biodiversity protection (covering 4,592 km²). These include fisheries closure areas, mātaītai, marine parks and 'cable and pipeline zones'.
- New Zealand has 39 fully protected marine reserves, classified as 'Type 1 MPAs', covering 17,225 km² and making up only 0.4% of New Zealand's marine environment.
- No-take MPAs make up 3% of U.S. marine environment.
- New Zealand's largest MPA is the Kermadecs Marine Reserve (7,480 km²). Chile's fully protected Sala y Gomez Marine Park is 150,000 km². The UK's Chagos Islands no-take marine reserve is 636,600 km².

The Government's marine protection plans

- There are five marine reserves currently being progressed through final statutory stages (Kahurangi Marine Reserve, Punakaiki Marine Reserve, Waiiau Glacier Coast Marine Reserve, Hautai Marine Reserve, and Tauparikākā Marine Reserve on the West Coast).
- There are two Type 2 MPA proposals (Punakaiki MPA - West Coast bottom trawling and Danish sein prohibition, Gorge MPA - West Coast, south of Haast bottom trawling and Danish sein prohibition) currently being progressed through final statutory stages.
- Once formally established the number of Type 1 & 2 MPAs will number 62.
- Once formally established the area of MPAs will increase 291 km² from 21,817 to 22,004 km² (0.005%) and still comprise just 0.5% of New Zealand's marine environment.
- The average size of these eight new areas is 33 km² (ranging from 0.16 to 104 km²).
- At the rate of implementation it will take 430 years to designate 5% of New Zealand's marine environment as fully protected marine reserves. The international target is at least 10%.

Marine Protected Area Facts

MPA type	Number	Area (Km ²)	% of NZ ME*
Established Type 1 MPAs (marine reserves)	39	17,225	0.417
Established Type 2 MPAs (no-take and partial protection)	16	4,592	0.111
Sub-total established MPAs	55	21,817	0.528
Proposed Type 1 MPAs close to establishment	5	175	0.004
Proposed Type 2 MPAs close to establishment	2	12	0.000
<i>Sub-total proposed MPAs</i>	7	187	0.005
Grand Total	63	22,004	0.533

* ME = Marine Environment

What needs to happen?

- An ambitious marine protection programme commensurate with the size and importance of New Zealand's marine environment. We should be aiming for between 20 and 30% of the marine environment protected, comparable to the 30% of our land area protected.
- A demonstration of this ambition: the creation of one of the world's largest ocean sanctuaries around the Kermadecs.
- A process of marine spatial planning to determine a scientifically designed comprehensive network of marine protected areas.

Other useful background facts and figures

- Most of the area designated as marine reserves is around our remote offshore islands (16,812 km²). Only 0.2% of the New Zealand mainland coast is designated as marine reserves (413 km²).
- The record number of marine reserves established (gazetted and in force) in one year was nine in 2005 during the Labour led term.
- No progress has been made towards the EEZ MPA planning process, which could have started 1 January 2013.
- The only official Government initiated coastal MPA regional planning process currently underway is the Otago MPA planning process, announced October 2013.
- There are at least eight unofficial community marine planning initiatives underway (Bay of Islands, Hauraki Gulf, Kaipara Harbour, Kermadec region, Marlborough Sounds, Mimiwhangata, Whangarei, and Waiheke Island).

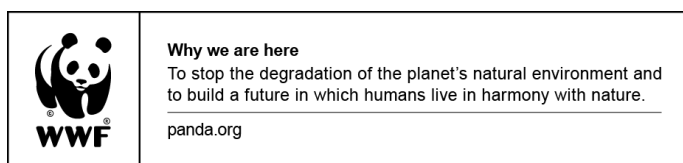
Marine area facts

	Area (Km ²)
NZ Territorial sea (TS)	181,207
NZ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	3,947,124
NZ marine environment (TS+EEZ) (15x larger than NZs land mass)	4,128,331
NZ Extended Continental Shelf (ECS)	1,700,000
NZ's total seafloor area (TS+EEZ+ECS)	5,828,331
Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary proposal	620,000
Total area of marine environment trawled	385,032
Oil and Mining Block offer & permits	624,116
No-take marine reserves (0.4% of the NZ marine environment)	17,225

Land area facts

NZ land area	268,680
DOC Land conservation (31% of the NZ land area)	84,584

Note: Figures reported here are correct as of 1 August 2014. Data are rounded to the nearest km² and areas reported here may differ from other reported figures, particularly those calculated using differing GIS projections.



For more information, contact:

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