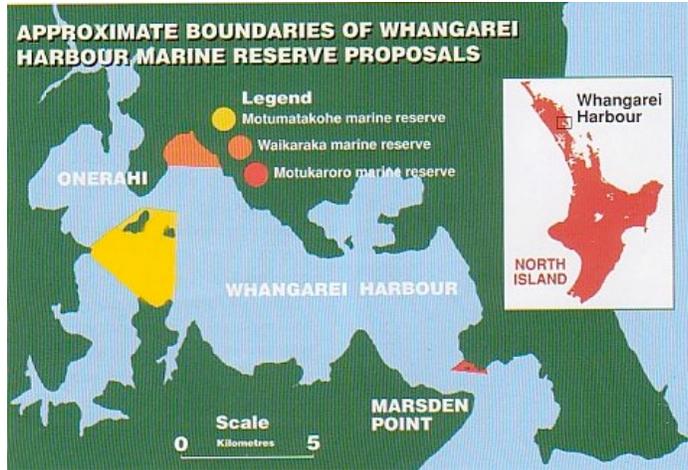


Te Wahapu O Terenga Paraoa KamoHigh School Marine Reserve Application

Submissions of support due by May 15 Have your say!!!!!!!

Kamo High School's seventh form geography class has, for the past 10 years, been involved in setting up a marine reserve made up of three different areas, all within Whangarei Harbour. The areas are at Waikaraka, Motumatakohe



(Limestone Island) and Motukaroro (Passage or Aubrey) Island. Each reserve is distinct, making its own unique contribution to the overall ecology of the harbour's marine environment. Under the Marine Reserve Act the application was notified on March 15th. The public has until May 15 to put in their objection or submission of support to the DoC and Kamo High School. All submissions will be considered in a report prepared for the Minister of Conservation who will make the final decision.

We need your support

If you support the aim of establishing a network of marine reserves in New Zealand, please support this application by putting in a submission now your submission will make a difference. Please have a discussion with as many people as you can and ask for their support.

Excerpts from the application

3.5 Objectives

The Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve's main objectives are:

1. To protect and maintain the marine ecosystem at the highest possible level, so marine life can flourish.
2. To conserve, protect and enhance the greatest possible variety of marine life, ranging from the rare to the typical or representative.
3. To establish a marine reserve of high recreational value.
4. To form a link in a national network of marine reserves.
5. To raise public awareness of our relationship to and responsibility for our coast and marine life.
6. To establish suitable areas for scientific study.
7. To establish marine reserve areas that represent the values of the inner and outer harbour habitats.
8. To raise the public's awareness and understanding of marine biodiversity conservation.
9. To develop reserve areas which complement and are contiguous with land reserves already in place, thus creating a connected sequence of protection from land to marine habitats.
10. Protect a sequence of mangrove and mudflat habits and channel areas.
11. Protect a unique rocky reef habitat near the harbour entrance.

Benefits of the proposed marine reserve

- Depleted fish populations may increase and thrive
- Research opportunities for marine scientists
- A focal point for restoration work in the Whangarei Harbour
- Enhanced conservation objectives for Limestone Island

- Create a "Wet Library", where students can extend class work in a natural environment. This can be done just by putting on a mask and looking in waist deep water or for trained students, descending to the near limits of scuba range.
- Valuable fish nursery areas protected
- Potential for a better understanding of impacts in the Whangarei Harbour
- Create eco-tourism opportunities for Whangarei
- Monitoring sites for bio-security

5.1.2 Proposed ecological effects of conservation and restoration in Whangarei Harbour

- Marine life will return to and flourish in the area as a result of the restoration of the marine ecosystem around Motumatokohe and its nearby islands, Motukaroro and the Waikaraka mangroves and mud flats.
- The marine reserve areas at Motumatokohe and Motukaroro will provide a unique, protected ecological sequence of habitats, from forest to subtidal marine areas.
- Some marine life is likely to spill out of the protected areas into the rest of the harbour.
- The marine reserve areas will help to maintain and enhance learning opportunities leading to the better understanding of the ecology of the harbour and dynamics of restoration.
- The marine reserve areas will ensure the preservation of marine life for the enjoyment of future generations.
- The marine reserve areas will provide important monitoring opportunities.

5.2 Values of the three proposed marine reserve areas

The three areas of this application make up a system and an ecological sequence of marine habitats. They will work to protect areas of each habitat and they will support each other and the whole system. In marine systems habitats and their communities are highly connected. This is especially important in harbours. There are many examples of fish that we commonly see using the various habitats of the harbour at different times. There is also much interdependence that we cannot easily see such as larval dispersal, plankton enrichment and migration of freshwater species.

Appendix 9: Testimonial

A 'Wet Library' for Whangarei - Wade Doak, author/diver/photographer

This marine reserve proposal for Whangarei harbour is a milestone in the history of coastal conservation. By seeking to protect a sequence of related habitats within a harbour ecosystem we gain far more than with the ad hoc process to date, whereby we have only set aside a meagre one per cent of our enormous coastline for future generations.

These young people of Kamo High School seeking a secure tomorrow for the sea remind us that marine reserves were intended for scientific purposes. We must realize that this should include, most importantly, high school level studies. All students in New Zealand need access to a local marine reserve as part of their education.

Just as we take for granted the availability of libraries, parks, reserves and green spaces as essential amenities, so on an ocean planet the generation preparing to take over responsibilities should have access to untrammelled blue spaces. I hope every high school in New Zealand will demand a similar facility within their area. This could be a worthwhile millennial goal. Hitherto, it is only our limitations as land dwellers that have blinded us from such a perspective as to the importance of the sea world.

For more information (full application and other info available on CD) please contact:

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