

## What can you do in the reserve?

Marine reserves are ideal places for scientific study, education, snorkelling, diving, eco tourism, swimming and exploring rock pools. You are welcome to visit Taputeranga Marine Reserve where all these activities, together with boating, are encouraged.

**Walking:** Walk the beaches, and if you are keen, visit Sinclair Head and Red Rocks scientific reserves, which can be found 1 km west of Taputeranga Marine Reserve. Sinclair Head/Te Rimurapa is a winter haul-out for the New Zealand fur seal.

**Explore:** Explore the rock pools but put any rocks you turn over back in their original position. This will help protect the plants and animals living on and under them.

**Boating:** Boats are allowed within the marine reserve, but care should be taken to avoid damaging marine life by dragging anchors. No waste, sewage or ballast water should be discharged within the reserve.



## Help take care of this reserve

Taputeranga Marine Reserve is managed by the Department of Conservation. Its rangers watch over the area and enforce the 'no take' restrictions. Taking or attempting to take from a marine reserve is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of up to 3 months in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

All marine life within the marine reserve is protected from disturbance or harm, including all plants and animals. No fishing or collecting marine life or unnecessary disturbance is allowed. The seabed, foreshore and all natural material such as sand, rocks and shells are also protected.

There are also penalties for feeding fish, discharging toxic substances or pollutants, building an unauthorised structure, littering, failing to give your correct name and address to a ranger and threatening or bribing a ranger.



## How you can help

If you see people taking anything from the reserve, please report the activity to the DOC HOTline (0800 36 24 68).

To report pollution, oil spills, navigation hazards and dangerous boating, contact:

24/7 Environmental Hotline  
**0800 496 734**

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



**greater WELLINGTON**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If you want to get involved in helping to protect, maintain and enhance the reserve contact your local community group

**Friends of  
Taputeranga  
Marine Reserve.**



[enquiries@taputeranga.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@taputeranga.org.nz)  
[www.taputeranga.org.nz/get-involved/](http://www.taputeranga.org.nz/get-involved/)

Please keep dogs on leads, they can be a threat to nesting shore birds. Wellington City Council dog bylaws apply.



*The success of a marine reserve depends on a caring community that supports conserving the reserve in its natural state for all to enjoy.*

## Further information

Wellington Visitor Centre  
18 Manners Street, Wellington  
Ph 04 384 7770 (office hours)  
Email: [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz)

*Cover photo: Rob Marshall*

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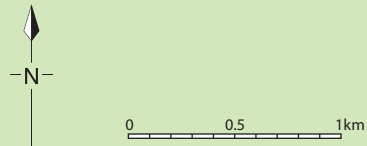
# Taputeranga Marine Reserve


Wellington South coast





**Department of  
Conservation**  
Te Papa Atawhai







 Marine reserve boundary markers

 Information shelter

 Toilets / changing rooms

 Boat launching ramp

 Shipwreck site  
Wellington 1874  
Cyrus 1874  
Progress 1931  
Yung Pen 1982



The bathymetry shown is an extract of data recorded by NIWA.

## TAPUTERANGA MARINE RESERVE

No fishing

### What are marine reserves?

Marine reserves are areas of sea and foreshore where all marine life is totally protected. They are the national parks of the marine world and fishing, shellfish gathering and any other disturbance of marine life is strictly prohibited. Marine species and habitats are left to grow naturally and degraded areas are allowed to recover. This makes them ideal places to study marine ecosystems and for comparisons with other unprotected marine areas.

*A process of community consultation and application for the marine reserve began in 1991 by the South Coast Marine Reserve Coalition and Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. The reserve was formally established in 2008.*

### Getting there

Taputeranga Marine Reserve is approximately 6 km from Wellington City centre. Buses run regularly from central Wellington to Island Bay, Houghton Bay, and nearby Lyall Bay.

Visit [www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz) for bus information.



Photo: Matt Barnett



Photo: Joanne Long



## Visiting the marine reserve

### Fish

Over 180 fish species have been recorded on the south coast. Common species include butterfish, blue moki, blue cod, banded wrasse, variable triplefin and spotty. Occasionally seen species include snapper, long-tailed stingray, and the seahorse. Common seahorses are well-camouflaged during the day, but at night their eyes can be picked up by torchlight, shining like cats' eyes.

### Invertebrates

The area is particularly rich in invertebrates (animals without backbones). Octopus, rock lobsters, crabs and starfish are common. The sandy shores are characterised by animals, such as shellfish and worms, which

live in the sediment. On shady underwater rock walls which are free from algae, filter-feeding animals—such as anemones, sea sponges and sea squirts—thrive. Less common are the ancient brachiopods—shallow water shellfish with two different-sized hinged valves. Keep an eye out for nudibranchs—molluscs

noted for a huge range of colours and forms. Also found here, feeding on seaweed, is the sea hare.

### Seaweed

Providing habitat, food and shelter, almost half of New Zealand's 850 seaweed species can be found here. Hardy species able to tolerate burial and sand abrasion, such as *Gymnogongrus furcatus*, *G. humilis*, and *G. torulosus* are common on the sandy, exposed shores of the marine reserve.

The brown, leathery straps of *Durvillaea antarctica* (bull kelp), can be seen swirling near the surface in rough wave-exposed rocky shores. In more sheltered spots, such as between Island Bay and Taputeranga Island, forests of *Macrocystis pyrifera* (giant kelp) up to 20 m tall are found with blades floating on the surface.

Blue cod  
Photo: Joanne Long

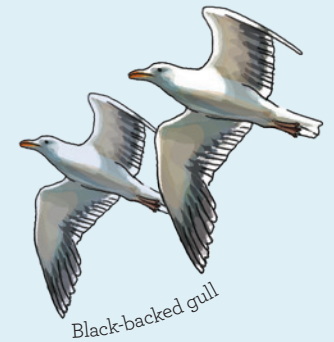


Pot-bellied seahorse  
Photo: Rob Marshall



Octopus  
Photo: DOC

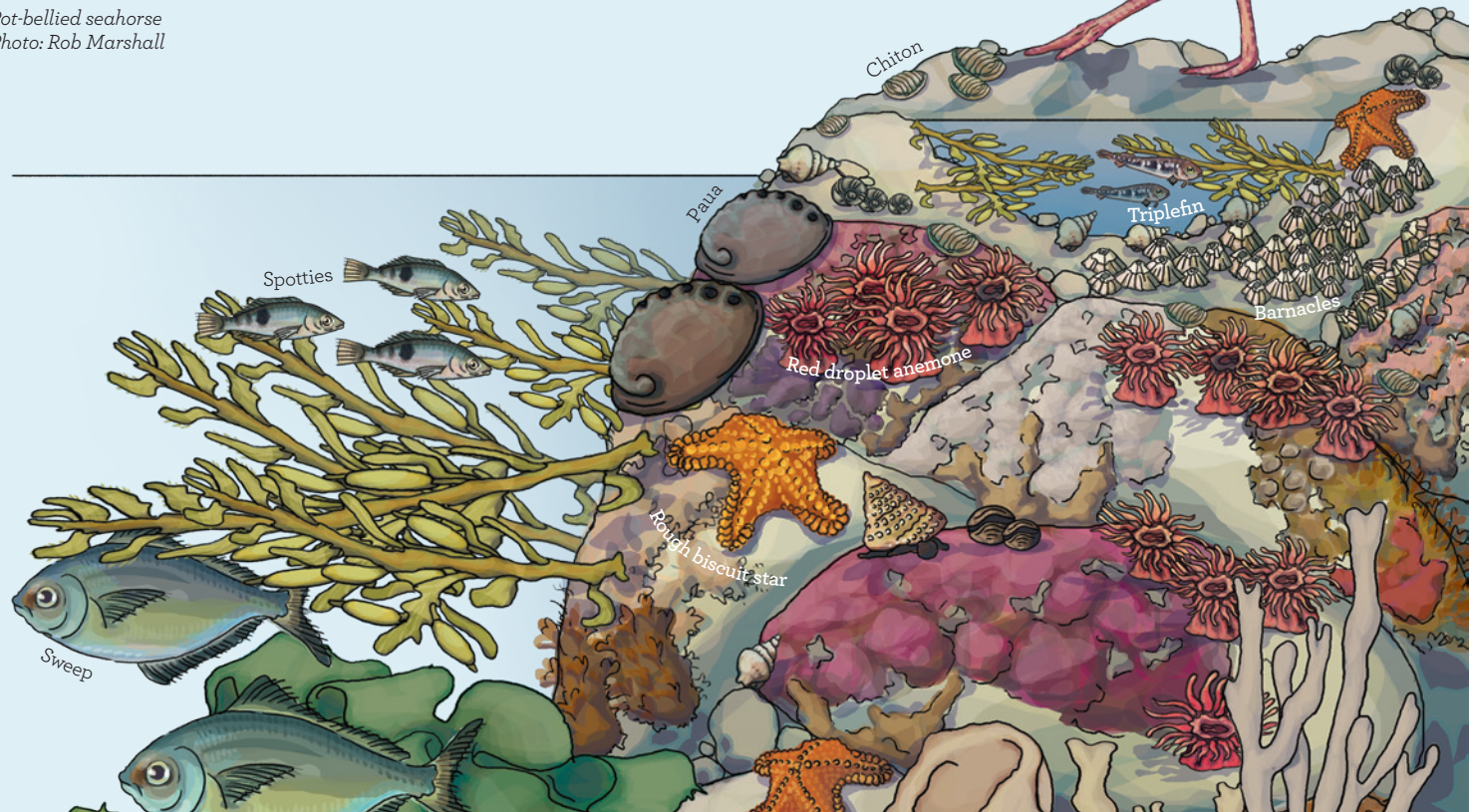
**Taputeranga Marine Reserve,** an 854-hectare area extending approximately 2.3 km off Wellington's south coast, is right on the doorstep of the capital city, giving easy access to study, interact with, and record marine life and habitats. The reserve takes the full force of the southern ocean swells and lies in the confluence of three oceanic currents. These currents influence the shaping of exposed shorelines into a wide range of habitats and bring a rich mix of plants and animals together.



Black-backed gull



Variable oystercatcher





Closer to the shore, beds of brown algae, such as *Gymnogongrus furcatus*, *G. humilis*, and *G. torulosus* are common on the sandy, exposed shores of the marine reserve.

The brown, leathery straps of *Durvillaea antarctica* (bull kelp), can be seen swirling near the surface in rough wave-exposed rocky shores. In more sheltered spots, such as between Island Bay and Taputeranga Island, forests of *Macrocystis pyrifera* (giant kelp) up to 20 m tall are found with blades floating on the surface. Closer to the shore, beds of brown algae, such as *Xiphophora gladiata* (strapweed) and *Carpophyllum maschalocarpum* (flapjack) are mixed in with many other brown, green and red seaweeds.

### Rock pools

The beaches and rocky shores are best explored at low tide. In and around rock pools you can find plants and animals dependent on the rise and fall of the tide. These include crabs, snails, anemones, starfish and seaweed. Remember, if you look under the rocks, turn them back the way you found them.

### Above the water

Some of the wildlife is visible above water. Many different types of bird, including the Australasian gannet, white-fronted tern, little blue penguin and gulls, depend on the sea for food. The threatened variable oystercatcher and reef heron are often seen feeding around the shoreline. Marine mammals also visit the area—common dolphins are regularly observed and occasionally whales. To the west of the reserve, at Sinclair Head, New Zealand fur seals can be seen lazing on the rocks.

### Where are all the mussels?

Mussels are common in Wellington Harbour but absent from the south coast. Scientists believe this may be because of a shortage of food suspended in the water.

