

Factsheet

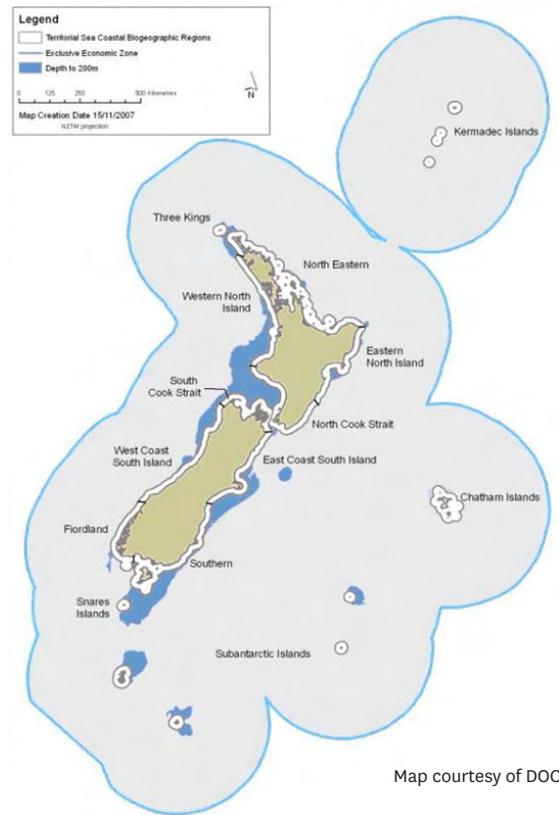
ONE – OCEAN Too much love? Turning the tide!

New Zealanders have long been deeply connected with the sea. Most of us live within 10 kms of the coast (75%) and 96.6% live within 50 kms. This makes it easy for people to access beaches, shorelines, and the wider ocean, for recreational and commercial purposes. While some activities may have almost no impact on the coastal or ocean ecosystem, others can be quite destructive.

Each of us can play a role in ensuring our oceans and coastlines remain teeming with life, rich in biodiversity, and continue to be places we want to visit and play in.

Our ocean...

New Zealand has rights over a huge area of ocean surrounding our land areas. This is our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and its size is 15 times our land area! Within that zone live many different marine species – plants, birds, fish, molluscs or crustaceans. Research shows high levels of biodiversity in our ocean but there are several threats to that diversity, including fishing, mining, chemical pollution, coastal nutrient and sediment input, habitat loss, aquaculture, invasive species, harmful algal blooms, and climate change!!



Map courtesy of DOC

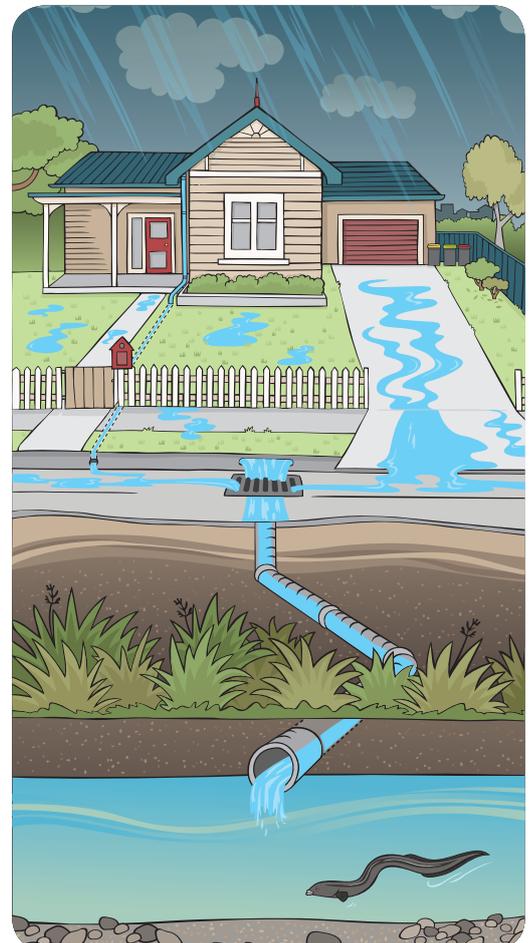
Some definitions to help you!

- EEZ** - Exclusive Economic Zone
- Bycatch** - Living creatures caught unintentionally by fishing gear; usually unwanted and unused.
- MSC** - Marine Stewardship Council
- QMS** - Quota Management System
- Bottom trawling** - dragging a net along the sea floor to catch fish.

What can go wrong?

While we love our beaches and sea we sometimes don't fully understand how change in one part can affect change in another part of the system. In Canterbury many of our coastal waters are highly valued as a wildlife habitat as well as for recreation and, in places, marine farming. Thankfully most of our coastal marine area has high water quality but in some areas human activities have led to water quality problems. When it rains, the run-off from the land carries with it contaminants such as pesticides, or rubbish from the stormwater drains. These pollutants can be harmful to our marine environment and the creatures that live there.

Pressure from development, recreational use, and climate change can threaten the natural form of the coast and ecosystems. We can all make a difference to the health of our oceans by thinking first before washing the car or dropping litter that could be washed down our drains.



Seafood

Many people love eating seafood – fish, shellfish, crustaceans – but there is a limit to what we can catch as these resources are limited. There are rules regarding what we can catch whether fishing by hand or on a trawler. Strict regulations apply to saltwater fishing methods, maximum catches, fishing seasons and prohibited areas and there are specific rules about gathering shellfish. www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Recreational/default.htm

Industrial fishing is subject to the QMS within our 200 mile EEZ. The QMS limits the total annual commercial catches of each type of fish to sustainable levels. For more information about commercial fishing visit the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council: www.seafood.co.nz

Various methods are used to conserve fish stock:

- **Rahui** – a ban on taking kai moana for a period of time; to assist in replenishing the stock of the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed in an area.
- **Taiapure** - translated literally as “a coastal patch”. Māori of a particular area are acknowledged as tangata whenua, and therefore entitled to have rangatiratanga over their fisheries.
- **Mātaitai** - customary food gathering areas, recognising tangata whenua may use management practises over traditional fishing grounds. There are two Mātaitai in Canterbury - Rapaki Bay and Koukourarata (Lyttelton Harbour).
- **Marine reserves** are defined areas of the sea and foreshore that are managed to preserve them in their natural state as the habitat of marine life for scientific study. Marine reserves tend to be areas that contain stunning underwater scenery or distinctive or unique marine life that it is in the national interest to preserve. Within a marine reserve, all marine life is protected and fishing is prohibited. The Pohatu Marine Reserve on Banks Peninsula is a good example: www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-protected-areas/marine-reserves-a-z/pohatu/



For more information take a peek at:

www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/oceans

www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/oceans/kids/importance.html

www.ecan.govt.nz/our-responsibilities/Coast/Pages/key-issues.aspx

Recreation and tourism

With such a vast coastline New Zealanders spend a lot of their leisure time on or around the sea. Our country is also well known for big game fishing and for adrenalin-pumping recreational activities. There is so much to do on the water – wave boarding, surfing, boating, water skiing, wind surfing and yachting are all popular.

We can probably claim to have more boats per head of population than anywhere else in the world! With all the activities we can do there's bound to be some interaction with other marine species – sometimes these interactions are positive but at other times they can be detrimental. Think about it from the perspective of a Little Blue penguin – would you like your landing beach invaded by noisy machines daily or your nest site polluted by a noisy, nosy dog? It's a fine line between respectful interest and home invasion! Remember the slogan:

“Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Footprints”

Activity ideas

1. FIND OUT

What kinds of marine animals live in and around the Canterbury Bight? Choose two species and investigate what kind of ecosystem they prefer to live in. Display your findings in an eye-catching way.

2. KUPU

There are a number of Māori terms used in this fact sheet but not enough room to explain them all. Create a crossword puzzle with clues that will help people understand these words.

kai moana	taiapure
taki	mātaitai
rangatiratanga	manaakitanga
mauri	rahui

3. TELL US YOUR STORY

Discuss some of the threats our marine environment is currently facing. Your challenge or taki is to do something to help one species survive these threats so children in the future can see them.

4. CHALLENGE

Create a Wordfind or Crossword from terms relevant to the culture, traditions and history of the coast and sea. Try it out on your family and friends or submit it to your school newsletter.

5. WHAT IF...? IMAGINE THE FUTURE

Create a What if? wall in your classroom to illustrate these two ‘what ifs’ or scenarios for our oceans:

1. What if we love our ocean and coastline, look after it and nurture all creatures that live in or on it, what would it look like in 2050?
2. What if we exploited the ocean's resources for everything it could provide for us – food, fuel, fun. It's all about us after all. What would it look like in 2050?

