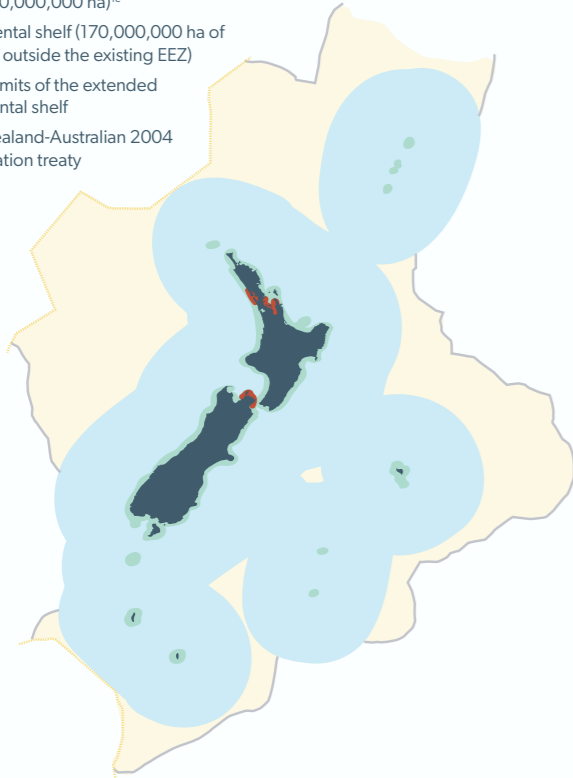


# Infographic 2: Marine space and protected areas

This infographic forms part of the McGuinness Institute's OneOceanNZ project. For references see [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/infographics](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/publications/infographics)

## I: Marine area<sup>1</sup>

- Internal waters (landward of the territorial sea baseline (TSB). LINZ is hoping to provide more detail in 2024, but the largest internal waterways are likely to be Marlborough Sounds, Kaipara Harbour, Hauraki Gulf and/or Thames Harbour.<sup>1a</sup>
- Territorial sea (12-mile limit) (est. 18,100,000 ha)<sup>1b</sup>
- Exclusive Economic Zone (est. 430,000,000 ha)<sup>1c</sup>
- Continental shelf (170,000,000 ha of seabed outside the existing EEZ)
- Outer limits of the extended continental shelf
- New Zealand-Australian 2004 delimitation treaty



## II: 9 coastal marine biogeographic regions<sup>2</sup>

1. Biogeographic regions are areas constituting a natural ecological community with characteristic flora, fauna, and environmental conditions and bounded by natural rather than artificial borders.<sup>2</sup>
2. Illustration excludes a number of small islands.
3. Size in total is estimated as 18,109,595 ha.<sup>2</sup>



## III: Marine protected areas (MPAs) network<sup>3</sup>

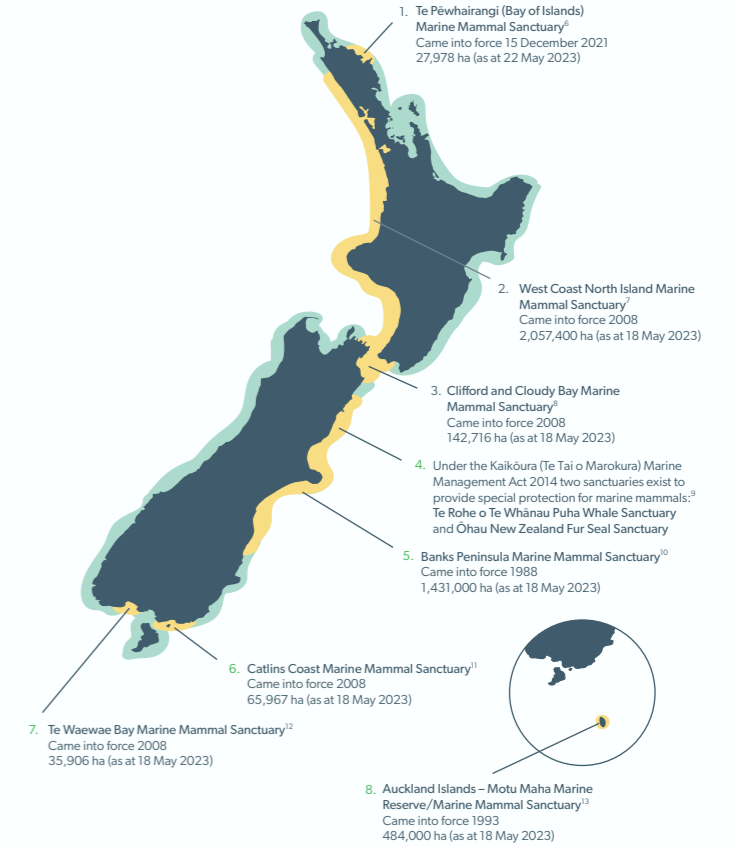
1. A marine protected area (MPA) is protected because it is considered unique or rare and/or a function of how the area serves marine life, and therefore fishing is not allowed.<sup>3a</sup>
2. Illustration excludes a number of small islands.



- 44 marine reserves  
As at 2014 (est. 1,726,007 ha)
  - 2 marine parks  
As at 2014 (est. 1,202,000 ha)<sup>3b, 3c</sup>
  - 3 marine protected areas  
As at 2014
- Fiordland/Te Moana o Atawhenua (not found)  
 – Kaikōura/Te Tai o Marokura (not found)  
 – Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands (749 ha)

## IV: 8 marine mammal sanctuaries<sup>4, 5</sup>

1. Illustration excludes a number of small islands.
2. Type 3 areas protected include marine mammal sanctuaries which cover a total est. 4,244,967 ha. See description of Type 3 areas below.



## V: About

'New Zealand has the fifth largest EEZ (roughly 430 million hectares) in the world, about 15 times the size of our land mass', which means '[u]nder international law we have "sovereign rights" over this area'.

'New Zealand's marine ecosystems and species are highly diverse. This is due to a combination of factors, including our geological history and isolation, the range and complexity of habitats, and the influence of major ocean currents. The result is a wide variety, if patchy distribution, of marine plants and animals.'

'Marine scientists estimate that perhaps as much as 80% of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is found in the sea. While many of our marine fish also occur in other countries' seas, many of our benthic (bottom-dwelling) marine species are found only in New Zealand waters. Evaluating the state of New Zealand's marine biodiversity is difficult due to the very limited information we have about deep-sea species.'<sup>14</sup>

### Convention on Biological Diversity

'Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of ... inland water, and coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems ...'<sup>15</sup>

'On March 4, 2023, and after nearly two decades of negotiations, UN member states, including Aotearoa New Zealand, reached the successful conclusion of negotiations for a new global treaty on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, commonly known as the high seas ... Nearly two-thirds of the ocean lies outside any country's national jurisdiction or control. These areas include the sea column beyond countries' EEZs and the seabed beyond countries' continental shelves ... The new agreement will help to protect biodiversity in these areas in two main ways: by enabling the international community to establish marine protected areas, and by setting clear procedures and requirements for assessing the environmental impacts of activities.'<sup>16</sup>

There is a variety of legislation and protections which cover the classification and management of marine protected areas in New Zealand.<sup>18</sup>

### By the numbers

**5th**

New Zealand has the fifth-largest EEZ in the world (roughly 430 million hectares)<sup>14</sup>

**80%**

80% of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is in the sea<sup>14</sup>

### Where we are now in 2023

**9.5%**

New Zealand has protected about 9.5% of its territorial sea<sup>17</sup>

### Where we need to be by 2030

**30%**

New Zealand has agreed to conserve and manage 30% of inland water and coastal and marine areas by 2030<sup>15</sup>

### MPAs network levels of protection

- **Type 1 (high-level protection for flora and fauna)**  
Type 1 areas protected est. 1,726,007 ha<sup>19</sup>
- **Type 2 (low-level protection from fishing)**  
Type 2 areas protected at least 1,202,749 ha

To date this type of protection covers the 44 marine reserves established under the Marine Reserves Act 1971. DOC is responsible for the implementation, management and monitoring of marine reserves.<sup>20</sup>

Includes 2 marine parks, 3 marine protected areas and a range of other small areas (such as submarine cable and pipeline protection zones). These areas have been established outside of the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and put in place protections against the adverse effects of fishing under the *Marine Protected Areas: Classification, Protection standard and implementation guidelines* (2008).<sup>21</sup>

### Protections outside the MPAs network

**Type 3 (anything else)**  
Includes the 8 marine mammal sanctuaries (see IV above) and any other form of protection that might exist in the network that does not need to meet the biodiversity requirements set out in the 2008 protection standard (mentioned under Type 2).<sup>22</sup>  
Note: The Fisheries Act 1996 provides for customary fisheries (e.g. māitaitai reserves).

## VI: Maritime boundary definitions<sup>23, 24, 25, 26</sup>

