

Horoirangi Marine Reserve

Introduction



Sea Anemones
Photo: Ken Grange

Horoirangi Marine Reserve comes into being on **26 January 2006** after which all marine life within its boundaries will be totally protected; **no fishing will be allowed**. This fact sheet provides some brief information on the new marine reserve which was applied for by Forest and Bird. A more detailed pamphlet will be available in the next few months.

The reserve's name was chosen by Nelson iwi. Horoirangi was an important Maori ancestor who is regarded as a guardian of her people bringing fertility and abundance. Horoirangi is also the Maori name of the highest peak overlooking the marine reserve.

How to get there



Boulder Bank Sponge
Photo: Ken Grange

Measuring 904 ha and a little over 5 km in length, Horoirangi Marine Reserve is around 11 km north of Nelson city along the eastern side of Tasman Bay. It extends north-east from Glenduan ("the Glen") to Ataata Point, the southern headland of Cable Bay, and offshore for one nautical mile (see map).

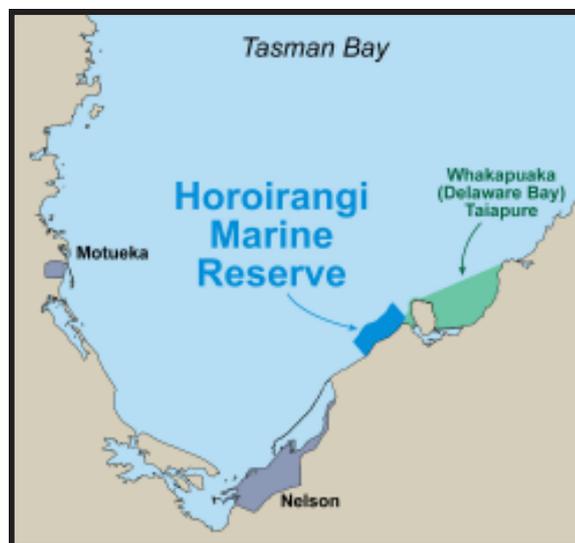
The reserve is accessible by foot from the Glen. Kayaks can also be launched and retrieved - with care - across the boulder bank. While there is no foot access to the northern end of the reserve, kayaks and small boats can be launched from the Cable Bay beach for a pleasant trip across to Ataata Point and beyond. For larger boats, there are good launching facilities in Nelson. Please note that most of the adjoining land is privately owned with no public access except along the Cable Bay Walkway.

What to see and do



Ataata Point
Photo: John West

Spectacular bluffs and steep eroding hillsides provide a dramatic backdrop to Horoirangi Marine Reserve. They also act as the rock source for the extensive intertidal and subtidal boulder reefs which distinguish this reserve. Rocky outcrops and bedrock reefs become more common towards the north of the reserve.



The subtidal reefs extend from around 100 m to over 400 m offshore and down to a depth of about 20 m. Soft sediment habitats occur beyond the outer reef edge with various mixes of mud, sand, shell and gravel closer to shore and soft mud offshore.

Although fishing will not be allowed in the marine reserve, other forms of recreation are welcomed. Walking, exploring the intertidal zone, kayaking, snorkelling, diving, general boating and sightseeing are all popular activities.

The lower intertidal boulder reef is a fun place to explore and study, especially when there is a very low spring tide and the sea is calm. If you do look around or under boulders, please be very careful not to crush any animals or plants. All boulders should be carefully returned to their original position.

Some of the best diving and snorkelling is found towards the north of the reserve, especially near Ataata Point. Look out for crayfish lurking in overhangs and crevices, and some of the more common reef fish - wrasses, triplefins, goatfish, blue cod, blue moki, tarakihi, and perhaps an elusive snapper. Sponges, some quite large, are a notable feature to keep a watch for, particularly along the outer reef edge and on the deeper bedrock reefs.



Rules and regulations

Enjoy your visit to Horoirangi Marine Reserve. You are welcome to boat, anchor, dive, swim, land, picnic and walk here. Please remember, once the reserve comes into force, **all animals and plants, and the sea bed, will be totally protected.**

- **No fishing, netting, hand gathering, taking or killing of marine life.**
- **No polluting, disturbance or damage of marine life or the sea bed;**
- **No removal of any natural material from the marine reserve.**

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Blue Cod
Photo: M.P.Francis



Ambush Starfish
Photo: Ken Grange



Goatfish



Crayfish
Photo: Roger Grace

