

An illustration of an underwater scene. A diver in a black bikini and mask is swimming in the upper right. A shark is swimming in the middle left. A jellyfish is in the middle left. A stingray is in the middle right. The background is a deep blue with various sea life silhouettes and bubbles.

# MARINE RESERVES

Why and where do we need more of them?

BY KYRA B.

# What marine reserves does NZ have already?

As you all know, we have 44 marine reserves in NZ covering 0.3% of our waters.

Even then, our two largest marine reserves, located on offshore islands Auckland and the Kermadec Islands, account for 97% of that 0.3%. In our total EEZ (Economic Exclusive Zone), only 0.0042% is a fully protected marine reserve. We clearly have a lot more to do..

Even worse now, right?

**But what can we do?**



# Benefits?



Before I go any further, let's just go over some of the benefits a marine reserve.



## **Conservation of biodiversity**

It helps to conserve biodiversity and allows ecosystems to return to a more natural state. Species have the time to increase in diversity, abundance and size in Marine Reserves.



## **Better manage the marine environment**

Thanks to Marine reserves, we can better understand the marine ecosystem and how it evolves naturally, with and without human intervention.



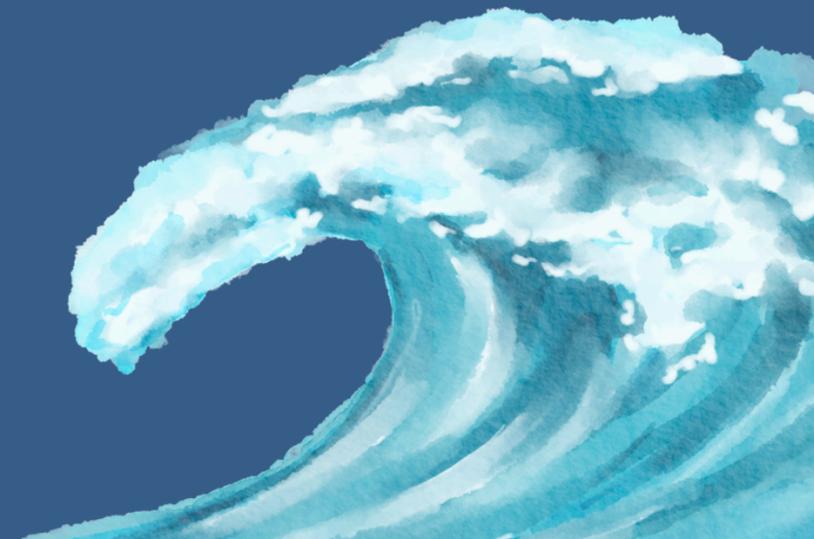
## **Community**

Through environmental education and management, by connecting people to their 'big blue backyard' and creating unique attractions that boost the local economy.



## **Outside the reserve**

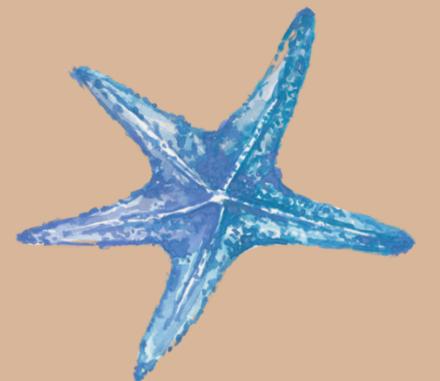
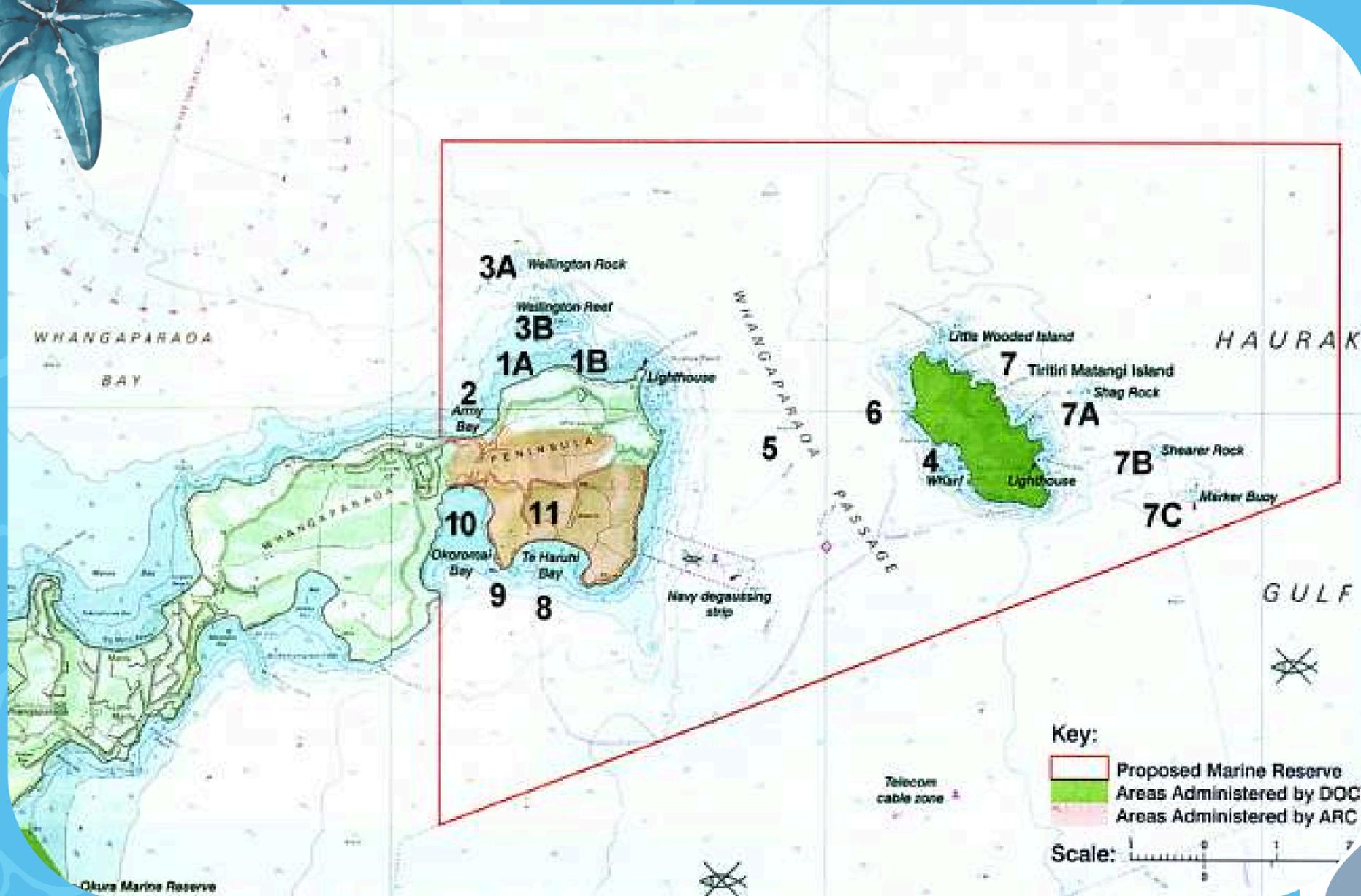
Marine reserves also help the area around them. Because not many fish are going to stay in that area for their whole lives, which means the area around them gets more fish, crayfish, seaweeds, and other things. This is called the spill-over effect.



# Island reserves

## A couple of questions

- If the island is protected, why isn't the sea?
- How would it be done?
- Which Islands would be best to protect?
- When would be best?



# The 30x30 project

## What is 30x30?

The plan to conserve 30% of nature by 2030 represents a promising vision to create connected, protected areas across the globe that form an extensive network with a variety of habitats.

## The Nature Conservancy:

“The world’s wild places are being lost, and along with them we are losing the natural systems that protect us from the consequences of climate change. Scientists agree that we must protect at least 30% of lands, fresh waters and oceans by 2030 to have any chance of stemming the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change facing our planet.”

I recommend reading Forest and Birds website on the NZ side of this:

[www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/30-x-30](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/30-x-30)

# Ideas

## Ocean survey

Like the garden bird survey, but for the ocean. Including Marine meter square and EMR.

## EMR

Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) is a national programme that connects communities with the marine environment through hands-on education. It empowers participants, especially students, to explore marine reserves, compare protected and unprotected areas, and become kaitiaki (guardians) of the moana.

## Posters

Creating posters is another effective way to raise awareness for various causes, including ours.

## David Attenborough's Ocean movie

I know for a fact that Attenborough can explain this 100 times better than any of us can. So recommending people to watch it is in my opinion a good plan

# THE END!

Thank you for listening to me talk, and thanks to everyone who gave me advice and help with this project!



My sources:



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**CONSERVATION CORRIDOR**



New Zealand  
**GARDEN BIRD  
SURVEY**  
Run by Manaaki Whenua

