

TIRITIRI MATANGI

Marine Reserve



draft proposal for public discussion
A chance to have your say

Introduction

The New Zealand Underwater Association is proposing a marine reserve in the waters around Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula in the Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand.

We want to ensure that the views of the community are widely discussed before a formal application for a marine reserve is made. Therefore, we are seeking your views and comments on this proposal. The attached questionnaire gives you a chance to have your say. Please send replies by Friday 28th February 2003, to:

New Zealand Underwater Association
PO Box 875
AUCKLAND or fax 09 623 3523

This document and questionnaire are available from www.nzunderwater.org.nz

Tiritiri Matangi Island

Tiritiri Matangi Island is one of New Zealand's conservation treasures. Once farmland, the island has been replanted through the efforts of the local community. Rare and endangered native species have been returned to the island, including the little spotted kiwi, takahe and kokako. Seabirds such as penguins and petrels nest on the island.

As well as being an important conservation sanctuary, Tiritiri Matangi is also an 'open scientific reserve'. That means that the public are welcome to visit the island for recreation, education and research.

Whangaparaoa Peninsula

The Whangaparaoa Peninsula is separated from Tiritiri Matangi Island by a 3 kilometre channel. Shakespear Regional Park, owned by the Auckland Regional Council, covers around three quarters of the end of the Peninsula, the remainder of the land being owned by the Navy.

Shakespear Regional Park is open to the public and attracts more than 600,000 visitors each year.

Below the tideline

Tiritiri Matangi Island and Shakespear Regional Park are conservation areas. Plants and animals on the land are protected from damage - but below the tidal zone, marine species have no special protection.

Why the difference? The ecological communities above and below the tidal zone overlap and interact. This is not recognised by reserves that end at the tidal mark. Protecting the marine area adjacent to land reserves provides a continuum of protection from the land to the sea.

Our vision

Our vision is a marine reserve protecting the habitats and species that live in the sea, seabed and foreshore around Tiritiri Matangi Island and Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Fish and marine life will benefit by having a refuge where they can live in safety.

Protecting the marine environment will also help enhance the ecological value of the land reserves, by protecting the full range of biodiversity in the area. Both land and marine reserves will allow people to visit, study and enjoy a healthy environment.



Hobbs Beach is a popular anchorage on the western side of Tiritiri Matangi Island (Karli Thomas)



The masked triplefin is only 10cm long, one of several triplefin species in the area (Roger Grace)

The New Zealand Underwater Association would like to thank the Project AWARE Foundation and the Department of Conservation for their assistance with this project. We would also like to acknowledge the help we have received from many groups, organisations and individuals in getting the Tiritiri Matangi marine reserve proposal to this stage.

Cover Image: Hobbs Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island. Photograph by Matt Low.

Tiritiri Matangi Marine Reserve

Why this area?

This area has been chosen for a marine reserve proposal for several reasons:

- ~ A marine reserve will provide continuity to the land-based conservation of Tiritiri Matangi Island and Shakespear Regional Park. It will give the marine environment equivalent protection as is given to the habitats, plants and animals on the adjacent land.
- ~ The marine area includes a wide range of habitat types, many of which are not protected in existing reserves in the Hauraki Gulf. It will therefore contribute to a representative network of marine protected areas both within the Gulf, and for New Zealand as a whole.
- ~ Tiritiri Matangi Island is an open scientific reserve and is already an important location for scientific research. A marine reserve would make the area more natural and undisturbed for existing scientific research, and provide new opportunities for marine research.
- ~ Tiritiri Matangi Island and Shakespear Regional Park are important places for education. Hundreds of schools from the Auckland region and beyond visit these special places each year. A marine reserve would give children and adults the chance to learn about the marine environment in an undisturbed state.
- ~ The marine area contains several regionally significant geological features, including the shore platforms around Tiritiri Matangi Island and the cliffs and intertidal platforms around the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. These have been identified in the proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal.
- ~ The marine area and adjacent land contain sites of cultural significance to a number of iwi. Other historic sites in the area include the wreck of the Royal Tar near Shearer Rock and sunken hulks off the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.
- ~ The area is accessible to the public of Auckland, the North Shore and Rodney. Visitors from outside the region will also be welcome to enjoy the marine and land reserves.

What are marine reserves?

Marine reserves are areas of the sea, seabed and foreshore where the marine habitat, plants and animals are preserved in a natural state for the scientific study of marine life.

Marine reserves are open for the public to visit and enjoy. They provide opportunities for scientific study, education, recreation and conservation.

Marine reserves are managed by the Department of Conservation under the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

A ferry from Auckland and Gulf Harbour brings visitors to Tiritiri Matangi Island (Fullers Ferries)



Sponges are common on the deeper rocky areas near Wellington Reef (Roger Grace)

The giant seven armed Astrostele starfish grows to over half a metre and eats kina (Roger Grace)



Kelp forest gives way to sponges in deep water around Tiritiri (Roger Grace)

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Marine Reserves



Right: North-east coast of Tiritiri Matangi Island
Below: Hobbs Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island
(Matt Low)



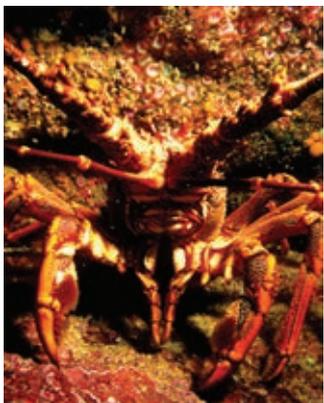
Local Iwi

There are a number of iwi who have connections with Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Archaeological evidence shows Maori lived on Tiritiri Matangi Island by the 14th Century. Kawerau A Maki had a Kawerau pa on the island, and Ngati Paoa also had the smaller Papakura pa there. Ngai Tai and Ngati Maru have ancestral links to Tiritiri Matangi as well as other islands in the Hauraki Gulf. Hauraki iwi have links to Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.



The variable triplefin lives in a territory of only a few square metres
(Roger Grace)

Crayfish and snapper are species that will increase dramatically in numbers and size within the reserve
(Roger Grace)



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What is the purpose of marine reserves?

The Marine Reserves Act 1971, section 3 states that the purpose of the Act is:

“Preserving, as marine reserves for the scientific study of marine life, areas of New Zealand that contain underwater scenery, natural features, or marine life, of such distinctive quality, or so typical, or beautiful, or unique, that their continued preservation is in the national interest.”

What can you do in a marine reserve?

Marine reserves are open for the public to enjoy and study the marine environment. Activities that do not damage or disturb marine life are allowed in marine reserves. That includes boating, anchoring, picnicking, swimming, snorkelling, diving, and many other forms of recreation.

What can't you do in a marine reserve?

Generally, activities that damage or disturb the habitat and marine species are not allowed within marine reserves. Commercial fishing is prohibited, and usually recreational fishing and seafood gathering is as well.

Can fishers enter a marine reserve?

People fishing outside a marine reserve can pass through a marine reserve with fish or fishing gear on board their boat, but can not catch fish within the reserve. Fishers are able to use boat ramps and other facilities inside marine reserves, provided that they comply with the rules of the reserve while they are in it.

Tiritiri Matangi Marine Reserve

The process for creating marine reserves is set out in the Department of Conservation's Marine Reserves Handbook for prospective applicants. The process is divided into two main parts, the initial non-statutory stage, and the statutory stage.

Before a formal application is made, the process is non-statutory. This stage involves site investigations and consultation. Once a formal application is made, the statutory stage begins, and this is carried out under the Marine Reserves Act 1971. The Act sets out requirements that must be met (for example public notification) and the timeframes in which these must be completed.

The non-statutory stage

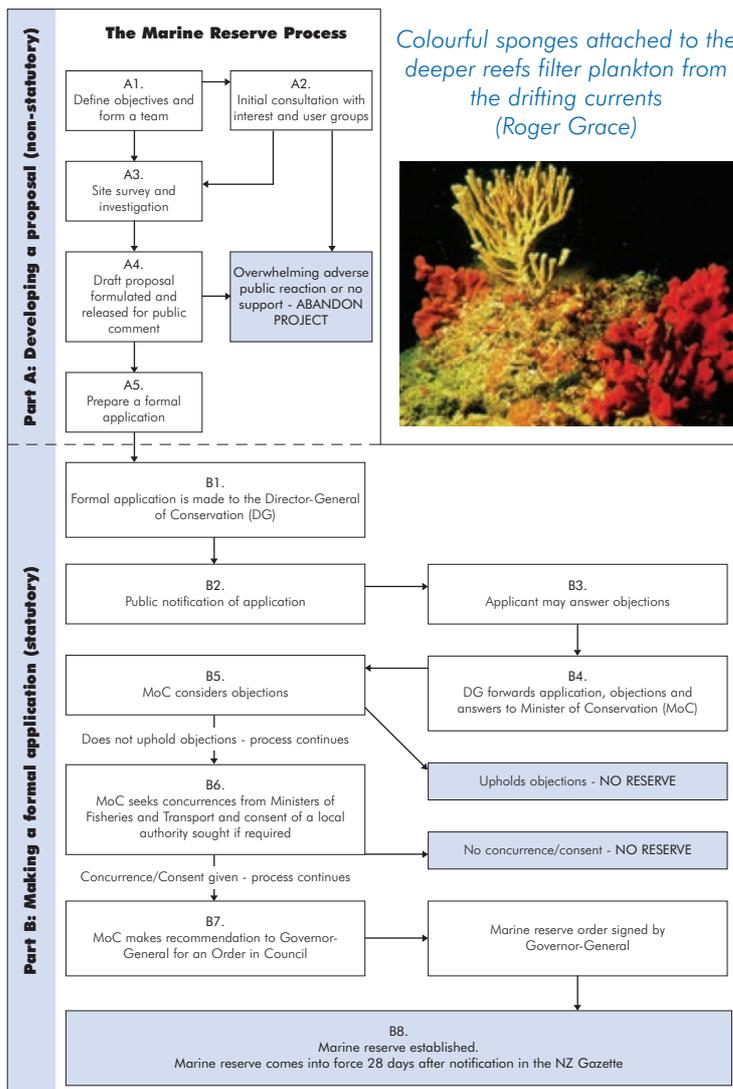
The Tiritiri Matangi marine reserve proposal is currently at this stage. This is when we ask what stakeholders and the community think of the proposal. The formal application has not yet been made, so the feedback we receive will help us make decisions about boundaries and other issues. The questionnaire at the end of this document is your chance to have a say on the ideas presented here.

The statutory stage

After the initial surveys and investigation and consultation with stakeholders and the community, a formal marine reserve application may be made.

Once a formal application is made, the public has another opportunity to have their say. The formal application is publicly notified and made available for the public to read and consider. People have two months to make a submission on the formal application.

The Minister of Conservation considers the formal application and the submissions that have been made when making their decision.



Underwater life: From left to right sponges and zoanths; jewel anemones; triplefin on red sponge (Roger Grace)



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Whangaparaoa and T

The northern coast of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula consists of extensive rock platforms. The geology is interesting, with ridged and faulted layers of rock visible above and below the water. Large rock pools along the coast provide an opportunity for education and to study intertidal species.



Large rock pools along the coast from Army Bay - the largest is over 100m long. (Roger Grace)



Urchin barrens, caused by depletion of snapper and crayfish. (Roger Grace)

Wellington Reef is good habitat for crayfish and reef fish such as snapper and red moki. There are urchin barrens over parts of the reef.

The Whangaparaoa Peninsula lies between the Tiritiri Matangi and contains a mixture of shelly sediment and extensive dog co

Wellington Rock is a popular recreational fishing spot

Wellington Rock

Army Bay is a popular area for recreation, and has a boat ramp. Soft-sediment areas off Army Bay contain scallop and horse mussel beds.

Army Bay boat ramp
Army Bay

Wellington Reef

Lighthouse

Huaroa Point

Sewage outfall

Whangaparaoa Head

Whangaparaoa Peninsula

Shakespear Regional Park

Shakespear Regional Park is administered by the Auckland Regional Council. The park attracts many visitors and is important for recreation and education. The YMCA run a lodge in the Park.

Okoromai Bay

Te Haruhi Bay

Gulf Harbour Marina

Navy Degaussing Strip

The degaussing strip is used to register the magnetic field. No fishing or anchoring is allowed.

Okoromai Bay is a silty sand bay, with a dense bed of Zostera (seagrass) and a cockle bed.

SS Wainui hulk, Whangaparaoa. (Roger Grace)

On the end of Shakespear Point four ship hulks have been sunk to act as a breakwater. Some of the hulks, in particular the S.S. Wainui, are still visible and create reef and cavern type habitats. The hulks have abundant seaweed and fish life making them a good shallow dive.

Te Haruhi Bay is mainly soft sediment; fine sand and mud. The bay contains a pipi bed and scallops. Te Haruhi Point is rocky with a mixture of seaweed forests and kina grazed areas.



Scale 1:40 000

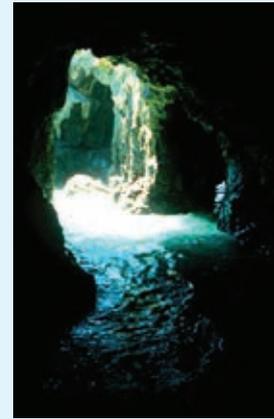
- ARC / DOC Administered Land
- Land
- Intertidal & Reef
- 0 - 5m Depth
- 5 - 10m Depth
- Boat Ramp

Tiritiri Matangi Island

Paraoa Passage
 Peninsula and
 Matangi Island. It
 of soft and
 areas, with
 rock beds.

The western side of the island has a mixture of rocky and soft-sediment habitats. In the soft sediment areas are scallop beds, eagle rays, flounder, stargazer and other species.

The north-east coast of Tiritiri Matangi Island is predominantly rocky reef habitat. It has interesting rock features, with arches, caves and tunnels both above and below water.



Tidal arches and caves, Tiritiri Matangi Island. (Matt Low)

Shag rock (exposed) and Shearer rock (just below the surface) are important habitat for kelp forest, reef fish and crayfish. These rocks and the marker buoy near Shearer Rock are popular recreational fishing spots.

Whangaparaoa Passage



Hobbs Beach is a popular anchorage, where people enjoy swimming, snorkelling and picnicking.

What remains of the wreck of the Royal Tar is located near Shearer Rock. This is a cultural heritage site listed in the Auckland Regional Council's coastal plan.

Hauraki Gulf

is used by the Navy
 signature of ships,
 ng is allowed.



Hobbs Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island. (Matt Low)

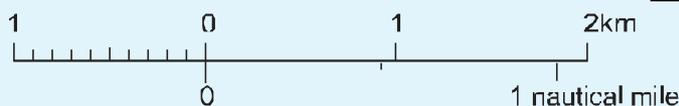
Explosives Dumping Ground (disused)

soil
 mud.
 bed,
 int is
 wood
 as.

Submarine cable zone
 (no anchoring or fishing)



Scale:

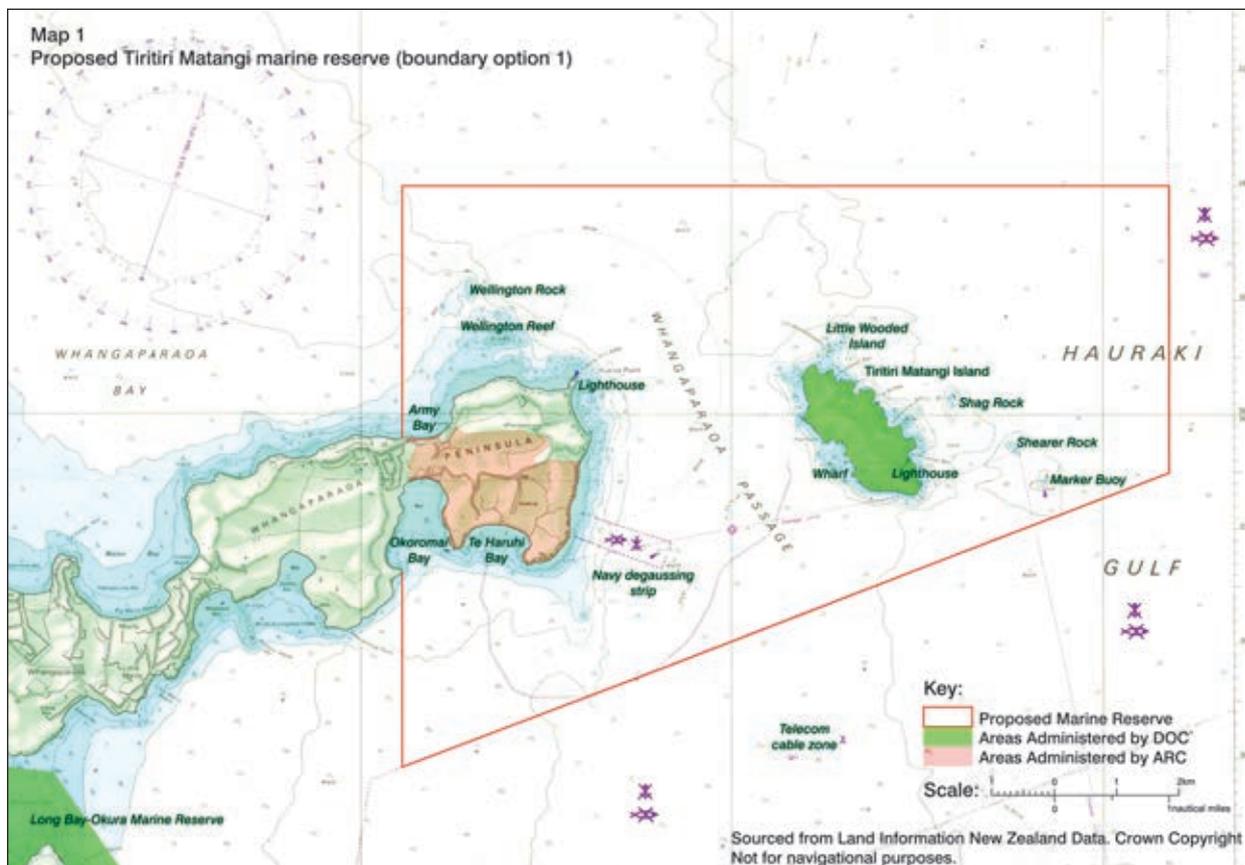


Boundaries

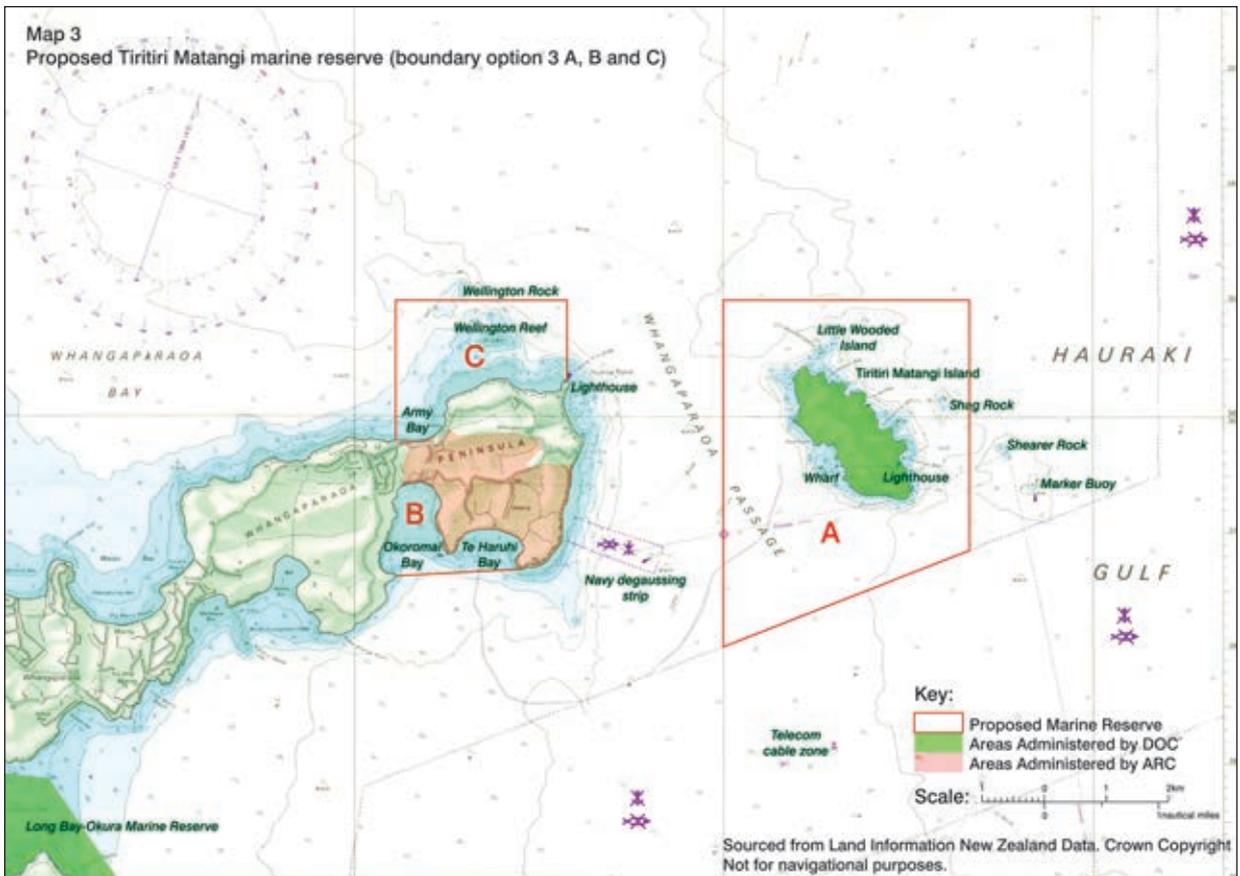
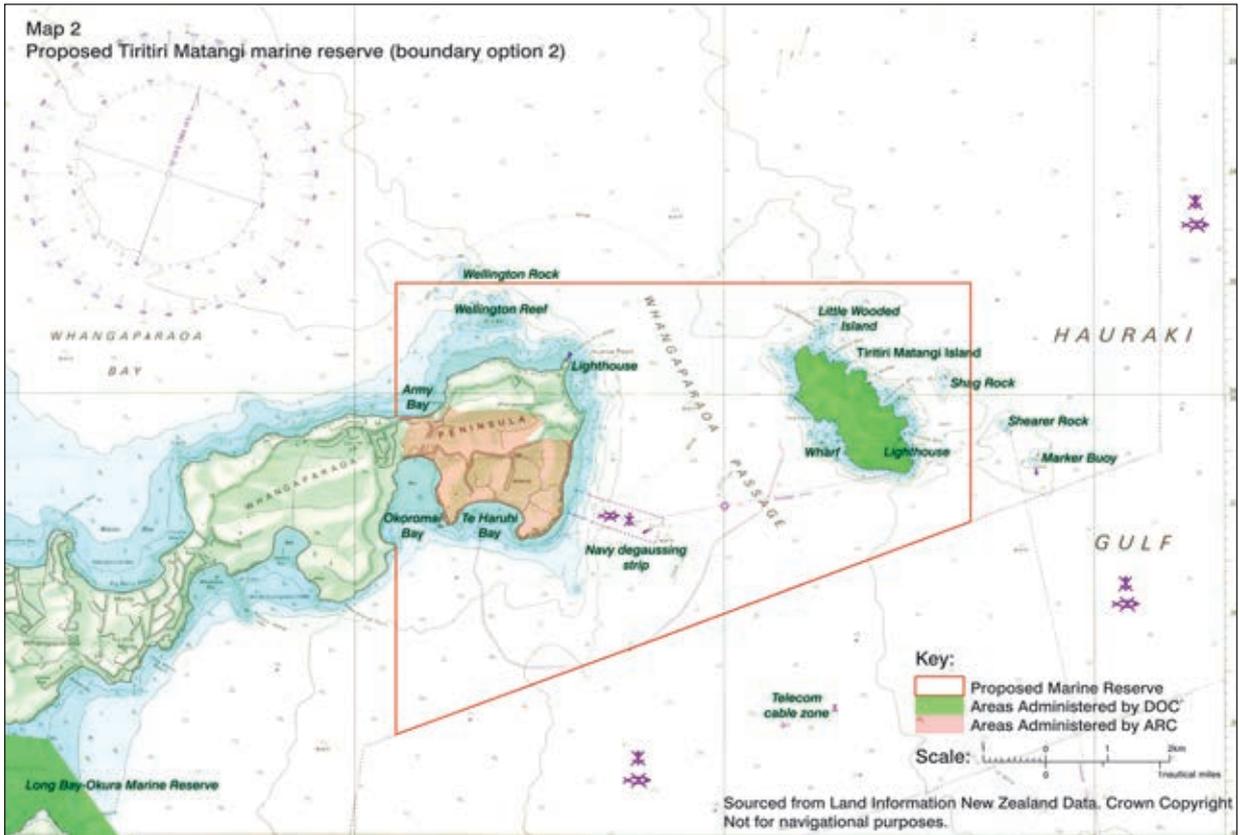
At this stage we have not decided on boundaries for a formal marine reserve application. We want to ensure that everyone has a chance to have their say, and to do this we are presenting three options for discussion. These boundaries are based on the marine habitats and species as well as values and uses of the marine area.

These ideas are not final, and we are now we are seeking the views of the public. This is your chance to comment on the proposal, and the boundary options presented here. You can tell us whether you support a marine reserve, which boundary you prefer, and if you wish, make alternative suggestions.

On the basis of the feedback we receive and further consultation and scientific information about the area, a marine reserve boundary can be decided. This would be the boundary included in a formal application for a marine reserve. The public has the opportunity to make a submission on the final boundary that is proposed, and the boundary may be adjusted by the Minister of Conservation in response to submissions.



Tiritiri Matangi Marine Reserve



Draft Proposal for Public Discussion

The Bigger Picture

This draft proposal for a marine reserve in the waters around Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula fits into a bigger picture of marine conservation. New Zealand is developing a network of marine protected areas both regionally and nationally to help conserve our biodiversity. As well as meeting the requirements of the Marine Reserves Act 1971, this proposal will also help achieve the goals of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

Biodiversity Strategy

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy was launched in the year 2000. It is the government's strategy to protect New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity.

"The Strategy establishes national goals to "turn the tide" on the decline of our biodiversity, and to maintain and restore a full range of our remaining natural habitats and ecosystems and viable populations of all native species." (Rt Hon Helen Clark)

The Biodiversity Strategy sets out desired outcomes for 2020, including:

"New Zealand's natural marine habitats and ecosystems are maintained in a healthy functioning state. Degraded marine habitats are recovering. A full range of marine habitats and ecosystems representative of New Zealand's indigenous marine biodiversity is protected." (Theme 3)

The Biodiversity Strategy sets out an action plan to achieve this outcome. The action plan includes:

"Achieve a target of protecting ten percent of New Zealand's marine environment by 2010 in view of establishing a network of representative protected marine areas." (Objective 3.6, Action b)

Key players for this action are the Department of Conservation (identified as the lead government agency), the Ministry of Fisheries, Te Puni Kokiri, regional councils, iwi/hapu, fishing industry and non-government organisations.

More information about the Biodiversity Strategy is available from: www.biodiv.govt.nz



Regional Policy & Plan

The Auckland Regional Council have prepared their Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) and proposed Regional Plan: Coastal (ARPC).

"The Auckland Regional Policy Statement recognises that marine protected areas are areas of special value within the Auckland region, and that they are important for scientific recreational and education purposes." (ARPC Appendix A)

"As a goal, the Auckland Regional Council will support a move towards ten percent of the area of representative marine habitat types in the Auckland Coastal Marine Area being fully protected marine reserves." (ARPS 7.4.8 method 4)

The Auckland Regional Policy Statement states that the Council "will support the establishment of marine protected areas as a method of sustainably managing Areas of Special Value within the coastal environment", provided that the proposal meets a set of criteria outlined in the Policy Statement (ARPS 7.4.8 method 3).

In supporting the establishment of marine protected areas, the Council states that they will have particular regard to sites that contribute to the provision of accessible marine protected areas region-wide, and sites that are adjacent to regional parks. (ARPS 7.4.8 method 3)

NOTE: These are the general policies of the Auckland Regional Council, not the views of the Council on this marine reserve proposal.

More information is available from the Auckland Regional Council website:

www.arc.govt.nz (About ARC: Publications)

We believe that a marine reserve around Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula would play an important part in a network of marine protected areas for the Auckland region and for New Zealand.

Tiritiri Matangi Marine Reserve

Have Your Say

We want to know what you think about a marine reserve around Tiritiri Matangi Island and the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Please have your say by completing this public questionnaire. Additional copies of the discussion document and questionnaire are available from the New Zealand Underwater Association, PO Box 875 Auckland, or on our website www.nzunderwater.org.nz. Please feel free to photocopy the document and/or questionnaire for others to use.

Personal information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Group, organisation or iwi (if applicable):

Use of the area

Do you use coastal or marine areas of Tiritiri Matangi Island and/or the Whangaparaoa Peninsula?

Yes, frequently

Yes, occasionally

No

What activities do you do in the area?
(tick as many as apply)

Boating

Swimming

Recreational fishing

Commercial fishing

Diving or snorkelling

Walking, picnicking etc

Education or study

Other: _____

Views on a marine reserve

Do you support or oppose the creation of a marine reserve around Tiritiri Matangi Island?

Support

Oppose

Do you support or oppose the creation of a marine reserve around Whangaparaoa?

Support

Oppose

Marine reserve boundaries

Of the options presented in this document, which is closest to the area you would like to be a marine reserve?

OPTION 1: Tiritiri coastline, Whangaparaoa Passage, Wooded Island, Shearer and Shag Rocks, Whangaparaoa Peninsula (north and south)

OPTION 2: As above, but excluding Shearer Rock and marker buoy (south east of Tiritiri Matangi Island) and Wellington Rock (north of Whangaparaoa).

OPTION 3: Three separate areas: please tick the area(s) that you would like to be marine reserves

A: Tiritiri Matangi Island, not including Shearer Rock and buoy A

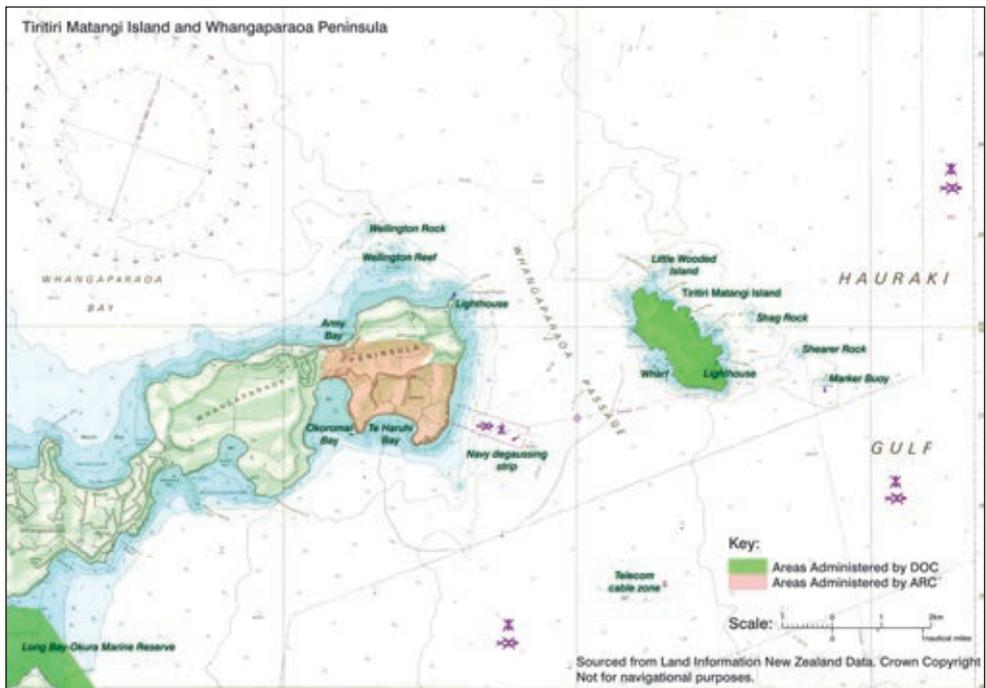
B: Okoromai and Te Haruhi Bays (Shakespear Park) B

C: Army Bay to Huaroa Point, not including Wellington rock. C

If you support a marine reserve with boundaries different to the options presented here, please indicate the area you prefer on the map overleaf.

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If you have alternative boundary suggestions please indicate on this map, and make comments in the space below.



FOLD

FREEPOST
NUMBER
3142

FREEPOST NUMBER 3142
New Zealand Underwater Association
PO Box 875
AUCKLAND

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Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire
Please fold with the address and freepost code outwards, tape or staple to close, and mail (free of charge) to the New Zealand Underwater Association by Friday 28th February 2003.