

Department of Conservation – Motueka District

Tasman Bay Marine Reserves – Compliance Info Sheet

Dear Tasman Bay marine user,

Marine reserves are afforded the highest level of protection of any marine areas in Aotearoa. However, they are only effective if surrounding human communities protect them. Due to the nature of many of our species (i.e. non-migratory, slow growing and slow to reach maturity), a single fishing event in a reserve can have a significant impact on the local ecosystem. It is therefore essential that **NO** harvesting happens within our marine reserves. **It is legal to dive and snorkel in a marine reserve and we encourage this. Marine reserves work and witnessing abundance is an invigorating experience for anyone that loves the sea.**

Our Marine Reserve Rangers cannot protect the reserves alone. With your help reporting offences, you can help us to apprehend offenders and prevent further offences. At the very least we can identify patterns of offending and identify pressures on our reserves, which then enables us to target our compliance efforts.

All life and natural material within a marine reserve is protected. Offences under the Marine Reserves Act 1971 are strict liability, meaning ignorance is no excuse. It is the fisher's responsibility to know the rules and their location. To assist the public, we install boundary markers and signage at all the major access points surrounding the reserve. Our boundaries are shown on up-to-date chart plotters, nautical charts and other navigation apps as well. DOC recommends fishers download 'Marine Mate' to inform them where they are and what Marine Protected Areas are in the area.



The Marine Mate App



The default penalty for taking marine life from a marine reserve is a \$600 infringement fine. For serious or repeat offending it may result in prosecution and forfeiture of gear used in the offending, The penalty can be up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 3 months in prison. For commercial offending, the fine can be up to \$250,000.

Safety is our highest priority. If gathering evidence may put you in a dangerous situation (including weather, unsafe terrain or aggressive offenders), please refrain, withdraw and call DOC as soon as possible.

We thank you for your assistance in protecting these rare and precious places from harm, we could not do it without your help. Your information and identity will be treated with utmost confidentiality, and we will keep you informed of outcomes should you wish.

Stew Robertson – Marine Reserve Ranger - Te Tai o Aorere

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Instructions:

If you see suspicious activity (someone collecting or harming marine species) occurring in a marine reserve and it is safe to do so, please:

Take photographs of the offence occurring. Try to *safely* capture as much detail as possible: the vessel, lines / pots / nets / divers in the water, details of who is fishing, landmarks that help to demonstrate their position.

Take notes - we need to know:

- Date, time, and duration of incident
- Location, description and GPS co-ordinates
- Description of events: *Be clear and concise, what did you witness?*
- Description of vessel / vehicle: *Make, name, colour, rego numbers, distinguishing features.*
- How many people on board / in group: *and how many are actively fishing / gathering? Adults + children*

Please inform the Department of Conservation immediately or as soon as possible.

If we are on the water, our Warranted Officers can be reached on:

Marine Channel 16

- DOC Boat – Kina (Tonga Island and Horoirangi Marine Reserves)
- DOC Boat Otuwhero (Tonga Island Only),
- TDC Harbourmaster Boat Sentinel (Tonga Island Only)

and/or call: 0800 DOC HOT (362 468)

Any supporting information can be emailed to Stew Robertson

strobertson@doc.govt.nz