

Background: West Coast marine reserve sites

Kahurangi Marine Reserve - has an area of 84 square kilometres and is the second largest in mainland New Zealand. It extends approximately 15.8 kilometres from Wekakura Point southwards to near Crayfish Point, and approximately five kilometres offshore and includes rocky and sandy coast habitats reaching out to the inner continental shelf areas to depths of about 50 metres. The reserve adjoins natural coastlines and catchments within Kahurangi National Park.

Punakaiki Marine Reserve - has an area of 36 square kilometres and extends approximately 10.8 kilometres from Perpendicular Point southwards to the vicinity of Maher Swamp, and approximately 3.7 kilometres offshore and adjoins natural coastlines and catchments within Paparoa National Park. As mentioned the reserve does not include two inshore areas in the vicinity of the Pororari River beach and Punakaiki River beach. It includes natural examples of six habitat types, including rocky, gravel and cobble shore habitats reaching out to sandy seabed areas to depths of about 20 metres.

Waiou Glacier Coast Marine Reserve - has an area of 46 square kilometres and extends approximately 10.7 kilometres from the vicinity of Kohuamarua Bluff southwards to the northern side of Omoeroa Bluff, and approximately 4 kilometres offshore. It includes moraine boulder and gravel shore habitats reaching out to sandy and muddy seabed areas to depths of about 25 metres, and the coastal marine area of the Waiho River. The reserve adjoins natural coastlines and catchments within Westland Tai Poutini National Park and Te Wāhi Pounamu Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area.

Tauparikākā Marine Reserve - has an area of 16 hectares. It extends approximately 630 metres from Tauperikaka Point southwards to near the southern lookout on the Ship Creek Beach walk, and approximately 200 metres offshore. The site includes the coastal marine area of Ship Creek and provides natural examples of three habitat types including sandy shore and river mouth habitats reaching out to depths of about five metres. The reserve also adjoins Te Wāhi Pounamu Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area. While small in size the area presents an immediate microcosm of typical features. Visitors can experience, learn and appreciate within minutes the key characteristics, components and values of this integrated coastal environment of protected lowland forests, coastal waterways and ocean beach.

Hautai Marine Reserve – has an area of 8.5 square kilometres, extending approximately 5.8 kilometres from near Longridge Point southwards to Hackett River, and approximately one kilometre offshore. It includes natural examples of five habitat types including boulder and sand shore habitats reaching out to seabed areas to depths of about 30 metres. The reserve also adjoins Te Wāhi Pounamu Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area.