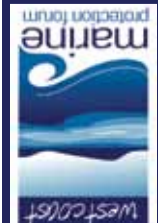


# Proposed Marine Protected Areas West Coast, South Island



## Proposed primary sites

Primary sites aim to protect viable examples of the West Coast's estuarine and marine habitats, while minimising adverse effects on existing users.

**Kahurangi** site reaches 12 miles offshore between Otukoroiti Point and Heaphy Bluff, and 2600 metres offshore from Heaphy Bluff to north of Crayfish Point. The site was chosen because Coast habitats across the full width of the coastal marine area out to depths of about 150 metres. The site is proposed as a fully protected **marine reserve**, and it adjoins the protected conservation land of Kahurangi National Park.



**Punakaiki** site reaches two miles offshore between Perpendicular Point to near Mahler Swamp. The proposal comprises a **marine reserve** for most of the area, with two **Fishes Act protected areas**, around the Pororari River mouth, and from the Punakaiki River to Nikau Scenic Reserve. The site was chosen because it includes natural examples of northern West Coast estuarine and marine habitats to depths of about 20 metres. It has a diverse geological history and significant links to the protected land of Paparoa National Park, including the Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Dolomite Point.

**Okarito** site reaches two miles offshore between Waitahi Bluff and Waitohi Beach. The proposal comprises a **Fishes Act protected area** north of Okarito Lagoon, and a **marine reserve** south of Okarito Bluff and over the northern part of Kohuamarua Bluff and over the southern part of Okarito Lagoon. The site was chosen because it includes natural examples of central West Coast estuarine and nearshore habitats out to depths of about 30 metres. The area is noted for its network of largely unmodified coastal wetlands and its glacial landforms. It adjoins Westland Tai Poutini National Park and Te Wāhponanui South West New Zealand World Heritage Area.



**Gorge** site reaches from about Barn Bay to Awarua Point, but excludes a 3 to 4km-wide coastal strip north from near Gorge River. The proposal comprises a **Fishes Act protected area** extending out to a boundary that approximates the 200 metres depth contour, and enclosing a **marine reserve** between Longridge Point and Hackett River out to about 1 kilometre offshore. The site was chosen because it includes natural examples of southern West Coast marine habitats out to the edge of the continental shelf at depths of about 200 metres. The site adjoins a large expanse of protected conservation land within the World Heritage Area.



## Proposed educational showcase sites

**Educational showcase sites** are accessible places that are already commonly used for educational purposes and public appreciation.



**Tauranga Bay** site includes a sandy bay and its enclosing headlands out to about 1 kilometre offshore. It is proposed as a **marine reserve** and was chosen as a very accessible example of northern West Coast sandy beach and rocky shore habitats.



**Mahināpua Creek/ Tūwharewhare** site covers the lower reaches of a tidal lagoon flowing into the Hokitika River from a natural lake and forest catchment. The forum proposes that the site be transferred to **public conservation land**. The site was chosen as an accessible example of a natural tidal lagoon habitat.



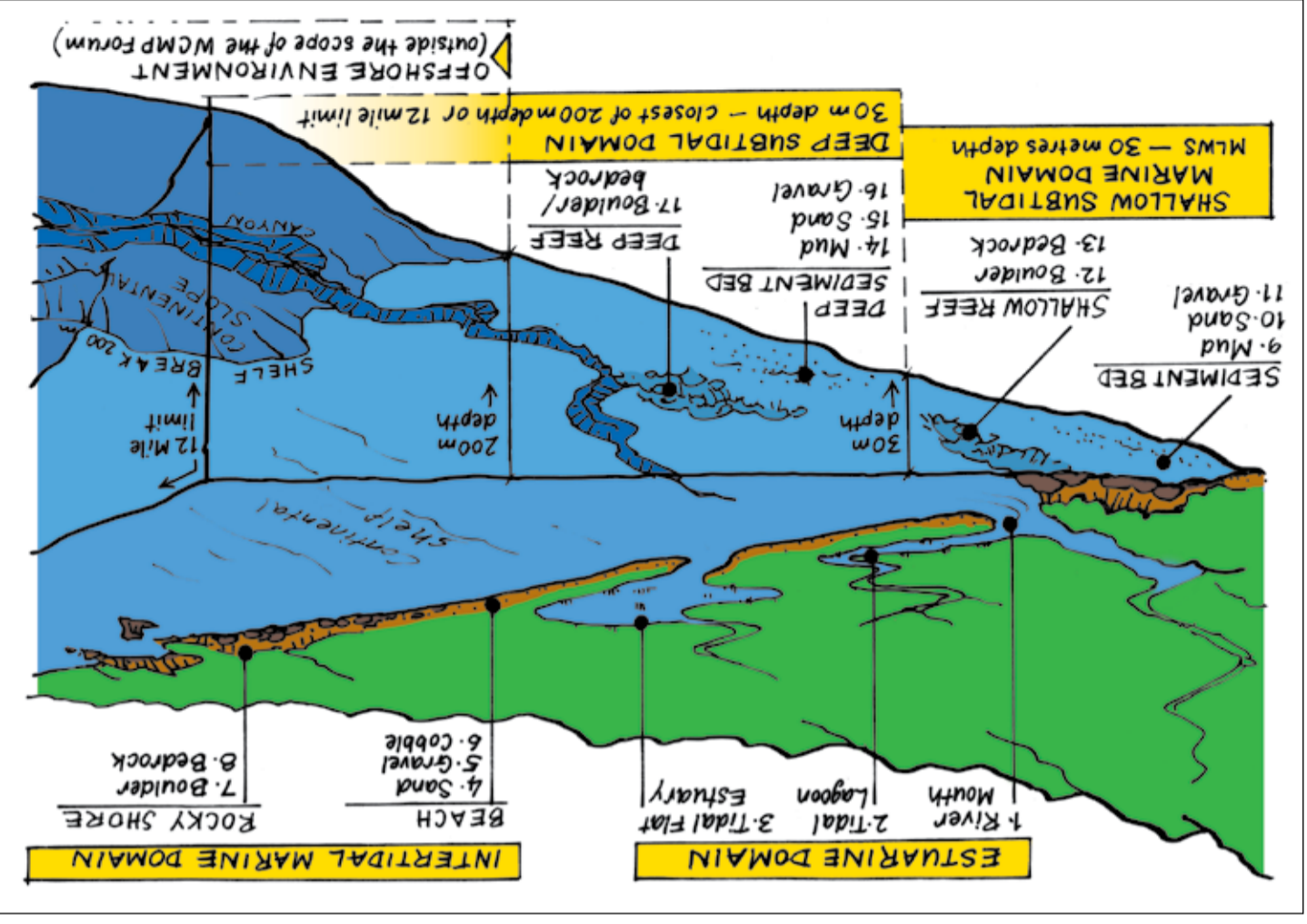
**Ship Creek** site covers an area from the northern side of Tauperkaka Point to the southern lookout on the Ship Creek beach walk, out to 200 metres offshore. The site is proposed as a **marine reserve**. It was chosen as a very accessible example of natural beach, rocky coast and tidal lagoon habitats.



**Hāpuka River** site covers the lower reaches of Hāpuka River above the road bridge, a natural tidal lagoon flowing into the Turnbull River from a natural forest catchment. The forum proposes that the site be transferred to **public conservation land**. It was chosen as an accessible example of a natural tidal lagoon habitat.



**Jackson Head** site comprises two sections of boulder shore: for about 600 metres north from Ocean Beach (at the end of Wharekai Te Kou walk) and for about 1 kilometre along the less-exposed shore in the leeward corner of Jackson Bay. The site is proposed as a **marine reserve**. It was chosen as an accessible example of southern West Coast natural rocky coastal habitat.



The forum is proposing a package of marine protected areas to protect the full range of the West Coast's marine habitat types, using a variety of protection tools at sites that minimise impacts on existing users.



The West Coast Marine Protection Forum is undertaking consultation on a package of marine protected areas for the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini. This brochure summarises the proposals and explains how to engage in the consultative process.



## Proposed Marine Protected Areas for the South Island's West Coast Te Tai o Poutini!

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday 21 August 2009. Submissions can be emailed through the website or posted to West Coast Marine Protected Areas Proposals Private Bag 701 HOKITIKA 7842

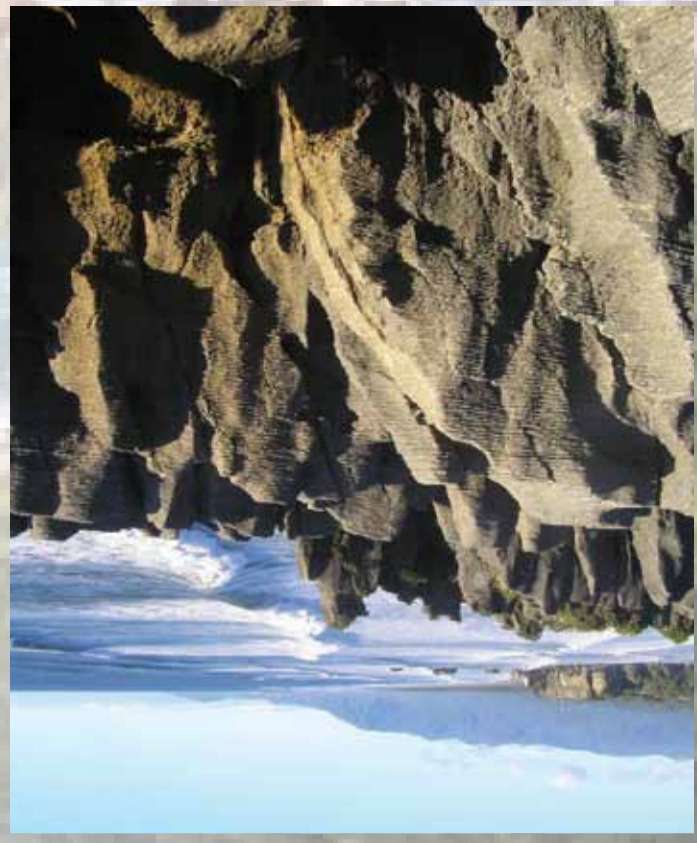
Please take the opportunity to get involved.

The full consultation document and submission form are available online at [www.westmarine.org.nz](http://www.westmarine.org.nz). A hard copy or CD can be obtained by calling into any Department of Conservation office on the West Coast or in Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin or Wanaka, Christchurch or Dunedin. Copies are available for viewing at West Coast public libraries. Email enquiries can be sent through the website: [www.westmarine.org.nz](http://www.westmarine.org.nz).

Town	Date	Time	Venue
Nelson	Monday 6 July	7.00pm	Leisure Lodge, 40 Waima Road
Karamea	Tuesday 7 July	7.00pm	Bowling Club
Westport	Wednesday 8 July	7.00pm	Salvation Army Rooms, cnr Henley and Russell streets
Punakaiki	Thursday 9 July	7.00pm	Barrytown Hall
Greymouth	Monday 13 July	7.00pm	Towbridge Room, Regent Theatre
Haast	Tuesday 14 July	7.00pm	Haast Community Hall
Ōkārito	Wednesday 15 July	7.00pm	Donovan's Store
Hokitika	Thursday 16 July	7.00pm	St Marys School Hall, Sewell St

The forum will host a series of public information evenings to present the proposed marine protected areas package and explain how people can engage in the submission process.

### Getting involved



The West Coast region is different from other New Zealand coasts. Prominent features include high-energy wave action, glacial sedimentation, dynamic marine and river hydrology, tidal wetlands and distinctive marine life. The West Coast is an important stretch of coastline for many individuals and user groups. It is culturally important to tangata whenua and it supports important commercial and recreational fisheries. The coast is used for activities such as recreation, tourism, mining and diving. The forum believes the proposed package of sites for protection minimises costs to the people who use the West Coast marine environment, while meeting the requirements of the MPA Policy.

### The West Coast region



### The proposed package for protection

- covers fifteen habitat types identified using a nearshore habitat classification system
- includes nine sites, representing 963km<sup>2</sup> (or 8.8 percent) of the area that the forum considered
- has four primary sites: Kahurangi, Punakaiki, Ōkārito and Gorge
- has five educational showcase sites: Tauranga Bay, Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare, Ship Creek, Hāpuka Estuary and Jackson Head.

### Policy and Guidelines

Protecting the marine environment helps to safeguard the long-term viability of habitats and ecosystems. The MPA Policy and Implementation Guidelines were developed to guide New Zealand's marine protection efforts. They are a direct response to New Zealand's commitment to halting the decline in global biodiversity. The policy and guidelines

- require one example of each identified marine habitat type to be fully protected as a marine reserve
- recommend protection of at least one other example of each habitat type
- are underpinned by a commitment to minimising the adverse impacts of protection on existing users of the marine environment and on Treaty settlement obligations
- provide a series of network design and planning principles to guide regional forums.

### Marine protection tools

The two main tools recommended for use on the West Coast are:

#### Marine reserves

Established under the Marine Reserves Act 1971, these give the highest possible level of protection for the purpose of preserving marine life in its natural state for scientific study.

#### Fisheries Act protected areas

The predominant Fisheries Act tools use regulations that prohibit fishing methods that impact the seabed (bottom trawling, Danish seining and dredging). Line fishing, trolling, whitebaiting and other non-bottom-impacting methods will not be affected in these areas.

The primary site at Kahurangi is proposed as a marine reserve. The other three primary sites (Punakaiki, Ōkārito and Gorge) are proposed as a combination of marine reserves and Fisheries Act protected areas.

The educational showcase sites at Tauranga Bay, Ship Creek and Jackson Head are proposed as marine reserves. For the other two educational showcase sites (Mahināpua Creek/Tūwharewhare and Hāpuka Estuary), the forum proposes transferring the land from unallocated Crown land to public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation.

### The West Coast Marine Protection Forum

The West Coast Marine Protection Forum was formed in 2005 to implement the New Zealand MPA Policy on the West Coast of the South Island. The forum is now seeking public input to ensure that the package of sites that it is proposing for marine protection adequately achieves the objectives of the policy.

The West Coast Marine Protection Forum

- is made up of people representing the range of marine users and interest groups, all with strong links to the region
- is endorsed by the Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation
- has used a systematic and thorough approach to identify the most suitable areas for protection along 600 kilometres of coast and nearshore waters, from Kahurangi Point (north of Karamea) to Awarua Point (south of Haast).