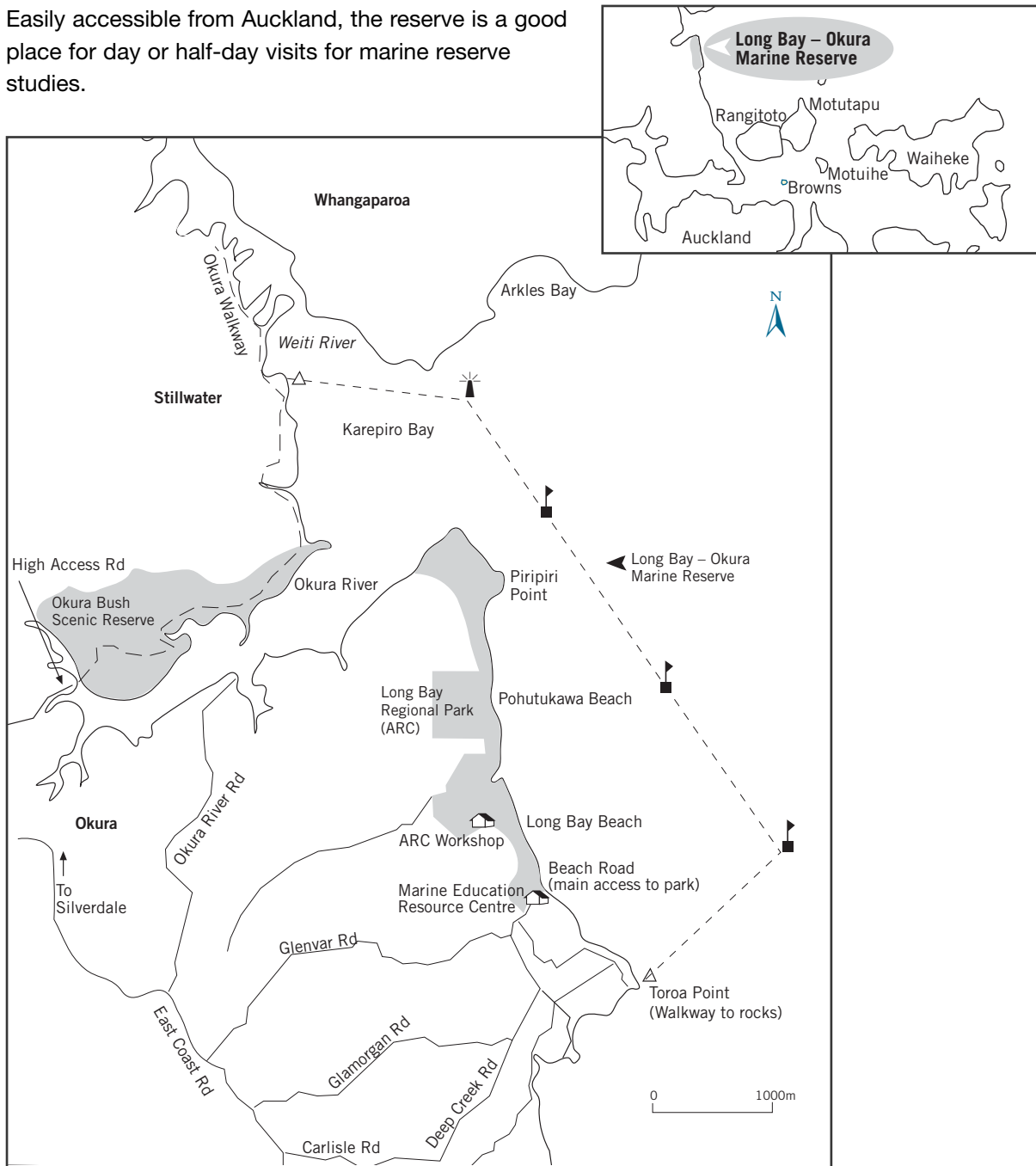


Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve

The marine reserve at a glance

The Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve (along the east coast just north of Auckland City) protects a typical area of the Hauraki Gulf. The Long Bay Regional Park (administered by the Auckland Regional Council) adjoins the marine reserve.

Easily accessible from Auckland, the reserve is a good place for day or half-day visits for marine reserve studies.



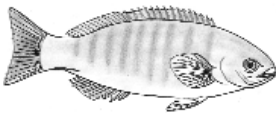
What's special about the marine reserve?

Protecting Long Bay and Okura's marine life

The Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve, established in 1995, is Auckland's most recently protected marine reserve. Marine reserves are areas of sea and foreshore where all marine life is totally protected and fish, shellfish, seaweeds and other species can recover from over-fishing and other threats.

Protecting a range of New Zealand's coastal and marine ecosystems

The Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve protects an area of coastline typical of much of the Waitemata Harbour and inner Hauraki Gulf. It is moderately sheltered and largely formed of Waitemata sandstones and mudstones. The purpose of a marine protected area network around the New Zealand coastline is to safeguard representative examples of our different coastal and marine habitats.



Diverse habitats

Sandy beaches and rocky reefs are the main habitats to be found in the Long Bay section of the marine reserve. Waitemata rock formations are clearly visible, and the intertidal zone on the rock platforms provide plenty of rock pool life to investigate.

Estuarine mudflats and mangroves (one of the most productive ecosystems on earth) also feature in the marine reserve in the sheltered upper reaches of the Okura River.

Getting an overview

The Long Bay coastal walk leads from the northern end of the beach up on to the coastal cliffs. Piripiri Point gives good views over the marine reserve and its boundary markers.

Planning a visit

Getting there

The reserve is 20km from downtown Auckland. The best access point for school visits is the Long Bay Regional Park main entrance. There is plenty of carparking.

The mangroves and mudflats of the Okura Estuary are most easily accessed from the Okura River Road.

Checking the tides

A visit to the marine reserve should be organised at low tide. Be sure to check tide timetables before you set your dates. You should be able to carry out most of the suggested activities at the site two hours either side of low tide.

Facilities

There are toilets and shelter at the Long Bay Regional Park. A kiosk sells snacks and drinks.

The Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC) located at the southern end of Long Bay beach is administered by the MERC Trust. The Centre offers residential outdoor recreational experiences for schools and other groups. It needs to be booked in advance. Phone 09 473 0714.

There is an Auckland Regional Council Information Office which includes an interactive environment centre. The building may not always be staffed.

Be prepared

What you need to bring

Good walking shoes, warm clothes and wet weather gear, swimming gear in summer, sunblock, hat, food and drinking water.

Safety and emergencies

The marine reserve is managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) Auckland Conservancy but a DOC ranger may not always be present.

In an emergency, contact ARC Parksline in the first instance, phone 09 303 1530 or use the Parksline phones in the park. There is one in the first carpark (yellow phone) near the noticeboard. A second is located at the kiosk/information centre towards the middle of the park.

Teaching resources

This is it! Marine Reserves Super Site Teachers' Kit provides information to plan a day's programme at the Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve. It includes background material on marine reserves and coastal ecology, student activities for both site and classroom, and links and references to other resources. A supplementary resource box is available on loan from the department. DOC cannot provide staff support at the site.

Also, the ARC has a teacher resource for schools and runs programmes for schools at the site. Contact Parksline 09 303 1530.

Help look after the marine reserve

Please ensure that your class does not take or disturb marine life during your visit. Remember that all marine life in the marine reserve is protected by law. Even shells and rocks should be left as you find them.

Activities which aren't allowed in a marine reserve are:

- Fishing
- Taking or disturbing any marine life, including shellfish and seaweed
- Removing any part of the sea floor
- Erecting any structure
- Feeding the fish (it alters their natural feeding behaviour)

Surveillance and enforcement in the marine reserve is carried out by Department of Conservation officers and honorary rangers (community volunteers appointed under the Marine Reserves Act.)

If you see anyone taking marine life from the marine reserve during your visit, please contact DOC immediately, phone 09 307 9279.

Contact

To report marine reserve offences:

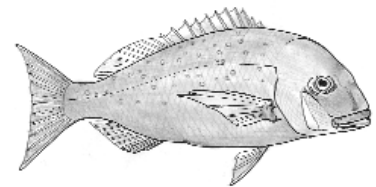
Compliance and Law
Enforcement Officer
phone 09 307 9279

To order kits and resources:

Education Officer
Auckland Conservancy
phone 09 307 9279
fax 09 377 2919
aucklandeducation@doc.govt.nz

For information about Long Bay Regional Park and facilities

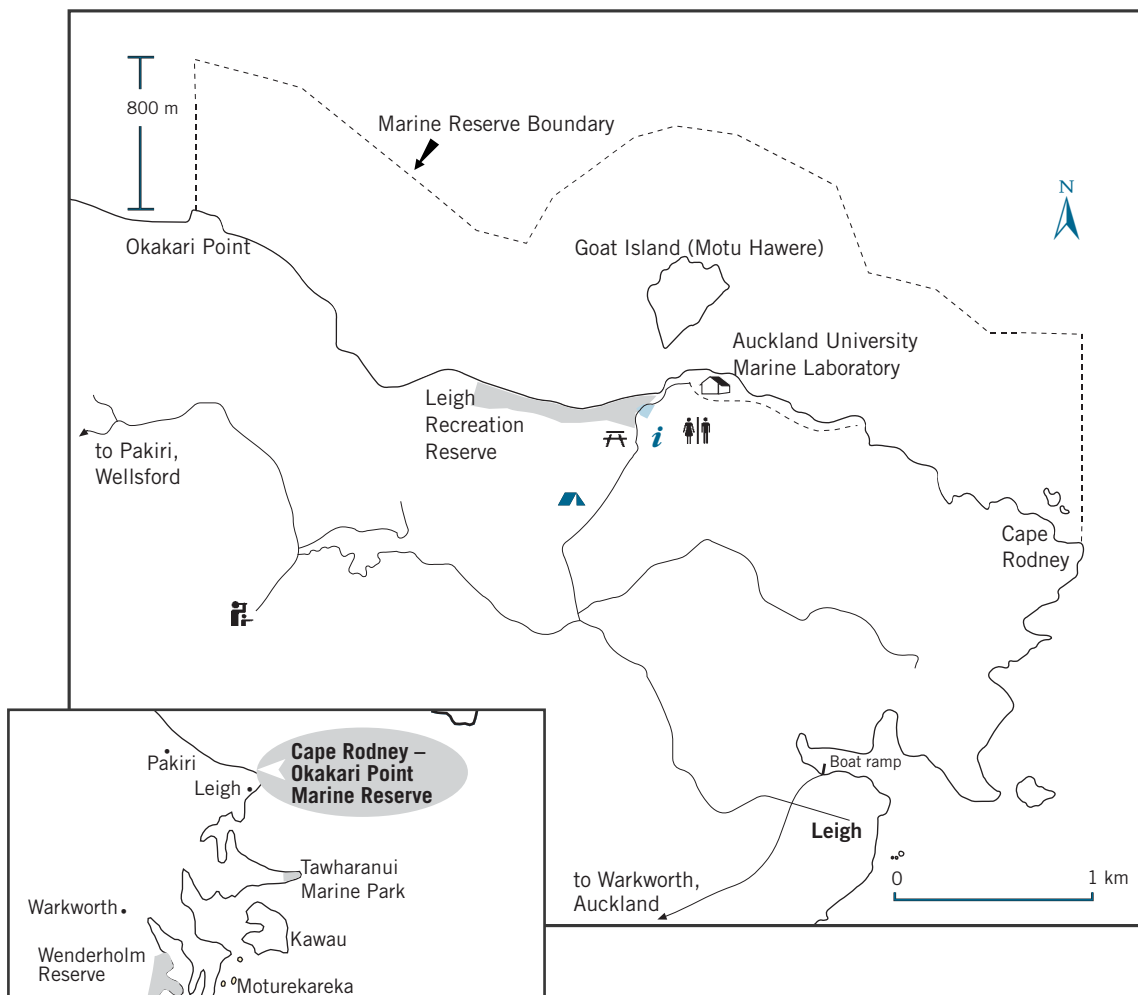
Phone ARC Parksline 09 303 1530



Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve

The marine reserve at a glance

The Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve, New Zealand's first marine reserve, was established in 1975 and protects 547 hectares of shore and sea just north of Leigh. Safe from fishing and other disturbance, marine life flourishes in the reserve and its waters now teem with blue maomao, snapper and other species. One and a half hour's drive north of Auckland, the reserve is suitable for day trips.



What's special about the reserve?

Ngatiwai – iwi guardians

The traditional guardians of this area are Ngatiwai who have lived and fished here since the 14th century. Motu Hawere (Goat Island) is important to the history of the Northern tribes and in particular to Ngatiwai. They, along with many Taitokerau tribes, claim direct lines of descent through Ngaitahuhu from Manaia, the people who came from the legendary ancestral land of Hawaiki 52 generations ago. Ngaitahuhu occupied Motu Hawere following the landfall by the Whakatuwhenua canoe which was captained by the great grandson of the first Manaia. The stream that runs out beside the Goat Island beach entrance is the Whakatuwhenua Stream.

Marine laboratory

Along the coast overlooking Goat Island is the University of Auckland's marine laboratory. This is a centre for scientific study of marine life. One of the purposes of marine reserves is to provide undisturbed marine environments for scientific study. The marine laboratory is not open to the public but visits can be made by appointment.

Diverse shoreline habitats

Within the marine reserve there are pohutukawa-fringed beaches of coarse sand, pebbles and boulders. There are also three distinct rock types, as well as varied and accessible seashores – pounded rocky headland, sedimentary conglomerate and large boulders. Each shore has characteristic plants and animals adapted to live on or in the different conditions.

Nurseries of life

Snapper and lobster numbers in the reserve have increased substantially over the last 25 years. Scientists record numbers of species in the reserve on a regular basis and compare them with similar studies in nearby unprotected waters where numbers recorded are much lower. Marine reserves are proving to be invaluable nurseries for our marine life.

Planning a visit

Getting there

Take SH1 to Warkworth and the route is well signposted from there. The marine reserve is about half an hour's drive from Warkworth. There is car and bus parking near the beach.

Checking the tides

A visit to the marine reserve should be organised at low tide. Be sure to check tide timetables before you set your dates. You should be able to carry out most of the activities in the teachers' kit at least one hour either side of low tide. It is advisable to avoid days when there are strong winds from the northerly direction. Under these conditions the sea is very rough.

Facilities

There is a store at Leigh township and dive and snorkel equipment can be rented from Goat Island Dive, near Leigh on the road between the township and the reserve.

There are toilets at the marine reserve but no shelter, shops or other facilities (see page 133–4). On-site information panels describe fish species and marine life.

A glass bottom boat operates in suitable weather and is very popular. Bookings phone 09 422 6334.

A short walkway commences at the marine laboratory entrance and follows the coastline towards Cape Rodney, providing views of the outer Hauraki Gulf and Goat Island. The track passes through a small section of coastal forest and farmland. Allow approximately two hours for the return walk.

Be prepared

What you need to bring

Good walking shoes, warm clothes, swimming gear in summer, snorkelling gear, sunblock, hat, food and drinking water.

The reserve can get crowded in summer – try to avoid public holidays and weekends.

Safety and emergencies

The marine reserve is managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) Auckland Conservancy. In the case of emergency, phone 09 425 7812 or 111.



Teaching resources

This Marine Reserves Super Site Education Kit provides information to plan a day's programme at the Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve. It includes background material on marine reserves and coastal ecology, student activities for both site and classroom, and links and references to other resources. A supplementary resource box is available on loan from the department.

DOC cannot provide staff support at the site.

A pre-trip visit to the site by the trip leader is recommended to enable the best organisation for class/es on the day.

Help look after the marine reserve

Please ensure you do not take or disturb marine life during your visit. Remember all marine life in the marine reserve is protected by law. Even shells and rocks should be left as you find them. And remember, **don't feed the fish!**

Activities which aren't allowed in a marine reserve are:

- Fishing
- Taking or disturbing any marine life, including shellfish and seaweed
- Removing any part of the sea floor
- Erecting any structure
- Feeding the fish (it alters their natural feeding behaviour)

Surveillance and enforcement in the marine reserve is carried out by Department of Conservation officers and honorary rangers (community volunteers appointed under the Marine Reserves Act).

If you see anyone taking marine life from the marine reserve during your visit, please contact DOC immediately, phone 09 425 7812.

Contact

To report marine reserve offences:

The Department of Conservation
Warkworth Area Office
phone 09 425 7812

To order kits and resources:

Education Officer, Auckland
Conservancy
phone 09 307 9279
fax 09 377 2919
aucklandeducation@doc.govt.nz

Marine reserve echinoderm reef pamphlet

The following pamphlet was produced as an interpretation guide to the echinoderm reef (rocky shore near the beach entrance) of the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve in 1977. This was shortly after the area was declared New Zealand's first Marine Reserve. Since then the basic ecology has not changed though the abundances of some species have increased.

The description of the shore is therefore still accurate today, but students may not recognise some of the scientific names which have been updated by marine taxonomists (scientists who study the correct naming of marine animals and plants and make amendments according to international naming conventions). The cat's-eye *Lunella smaragda* is now called *Turbo smaragdus* and the white rock whelk *Neothais scalaris* is now called *Dicathais orbita*.