



Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy
Factsheet 170
July 2008

Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve

BYLAWS AND GENERAL AUTHORISATIONS

The reserve

The foreshore along the Abel Tasman coastline became a scenic reserve in January 2007. The Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve (ATFSR) covers the foreshore (the tidal area from the Mean High Water Mark to Mean Low Water Springs) adjoining Abel Tasman National Park (including around the islands) and private land, from the Marahau causeway in the south to Wainui Bay in the north (including the Torrent Bay and Awaroa settlements).

The ATFSR is 774 hectares in area and is around 70 km long.

Purpose and management

The ATFSR was created to better manage visitor pressures along the Abel Tasman coastline, particularly in the national park. With reserve status, concessions are now required for any commercial activity on the foreshore, including guided sea kayaking and water taxis. The commercial activity will be managed at a sustainable level to protect the environment and the visitor experience.

The ATFSR is jointly administered by the Tasman District Council (TDC) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) under an Administration Committee comprised of TDC's Chief Executive and DOC's Nelson/Marlborough Conservator.

TDC and DOC have worked with the Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum on foreshore management considerations, including the development of the bylaws and general authorisations. The forum includes representatives of Awaroa and Torrent Bay residents, tourism operators, Nelson Tasman Tourism, iwi, the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and environmental and boating groups.

Activities on the foreshore

When the foreshore was made a reserve it became subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. Under this Act a number of activities, which have historically been carried out on the foreshore, became offences and/or require authorisation from the Administration Committee. This includes activities like recreational fishing and the taking of shellfish, walking a dog, or lighting a fire. The bylaws and general authorisations for the reserve (see more detailed information below) are an interim step, allowing these everyday activities to be carried out. The bylaws also provide controls over undesirable behaviour such as pollution, littering, misbehaviour and excessive noise.

New Zealand Government



These interim bylaws and general authorisations will be in place until a management plan for the ATFSR is approved. The management plan is being developed by TDC and DoC. Consultation with key stakeholders will establish what activities are, or are not, considered appropriate on the ATFSR. The public will have an opportunity to have their say when the draft management plan is publicly notified for submissions (probably early 2009). Some of the bylaws and general authorisations may change, depending on what is decided by the management plan process.

Interim bylaws and general authorisations

In summary, the bylaws control the following activities:

- Misbehaviour – to prevent visitors to the reserve being harassed or abused by other people.
- Dangerous weapons – are not allowed.
- Fires – are only allowed with a permit, where they present no fire hazard, and provided they are kept under constant supervision and are fully extinguished.
- Pollution and littering – are not allowed.
- Dogs – are allowed, provided they are under control and do not cause a nuisance or danger to other people or wildlife. Dogs may be seized if there is non-compliance with this bylaw.
- Sports and games, and vehicles – are allowed, provided they do not cause a nuisance, disturbance, danger or damage to other visitors, native plants or animals, or landforms.
- Parking (a vehicle) – is allowed, provided it does not block the entrance to a track in the national park or private property.
- Noise – to prevent visitors to the reserve being annoyed by noisy activities.
- Camping – is only allowed on board a vessel.
 - Vessels – are allowed, provided they do not: (i) cause a nuisance, disturbance, danger or damage to other visitors, native plants or animals, or landforms; (ii) block the entrance to a track in the national park or to private property; and (iii) remain anchored in one place for a total period of more than four weeks from 1 November to 31 March.

Contact information

For general enquiries
(including a copy of the bylaws
and general authorisations)
please contact
TDC on 03-5438400 or
DOC on 03-5469335.

**For emergencies on the
foreshore, call**
TDC on 03-543 8400 or
DOC's HOTline 0800 362 468.

For fire and search and rescue
call 111.

For more information visit the
DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz



The general authorisations allow the following activities to be carried out within the ATFSR, except where it overlaps with the Tonga Island Marine Reserve:

- (i) The use of traps, nets or fishing lines;
- (ii) The taking of fish, including shellfish;
- (iii) The taking of seaweed, provided that it is collected by hand, and is not attached to the seabed or to a rock; and
- (iv) The taking of driftwood, provided that it is limited to an amount that can be personally carried, and a chainsaw, axe or other like machinery or implement is not used.