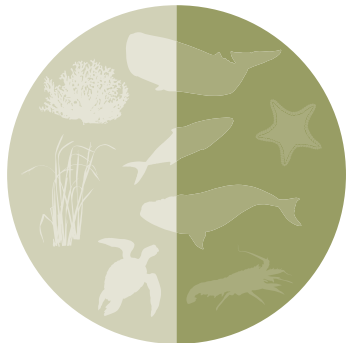


Te whaitua moana | The marine domain

*The people are guardians of the natural world, and the natural world is a guardian of the people.
He kaitiaki ngā tāngata o te ao tūroa, ā, ko te ao tūroa he kaitiaki o ngā tāngata.*



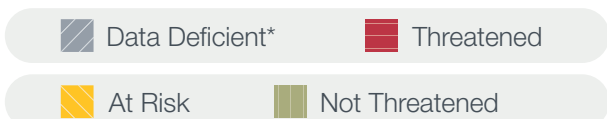
Around **50%** of our marine flora and fauna are found nowhere else on earth. Our marine habitats are diverse, including sheltered inlets, fiords, estuaries, seagrass beds, rimurapa/kelp forests, shellfish beds, hydrothermal vents, extensive sandy coasts through to rocky coasts and reefs, and seamounts and trenches in the open ocean.



Aotearoa New Zealand has **15 times** more sea area than land.

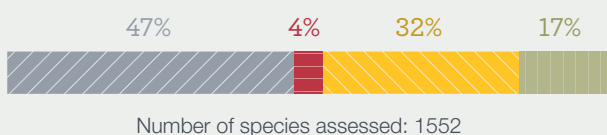
New Zealand's marine environment spans 4.2 million km² and 30 degrees of latitude. Only 0.4% of this is protected in no-take marine reserves.

Marine biodiversity state and trends



*A species is 'Data Deficient' when not enough is known to assign a conservation status.

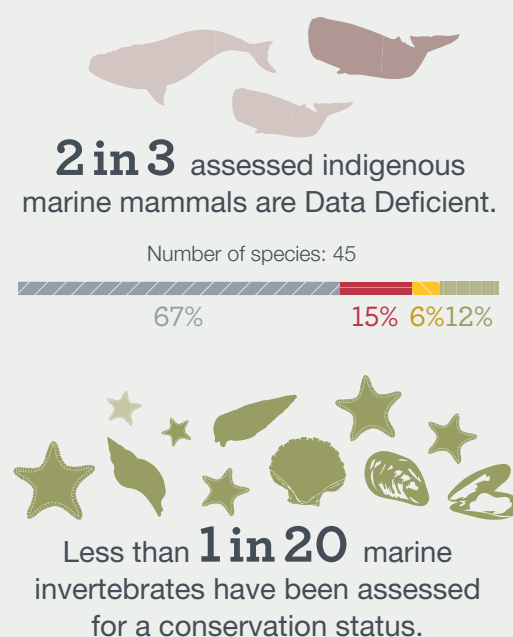
Conservation status of resident indigenous marine species 2019



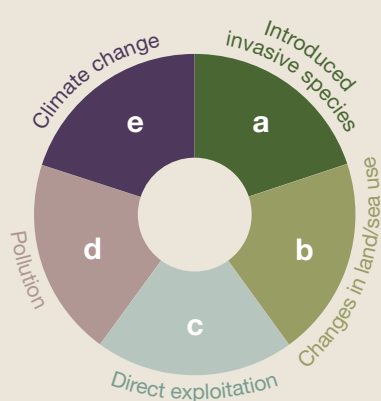
Species under Threat



What we don't know

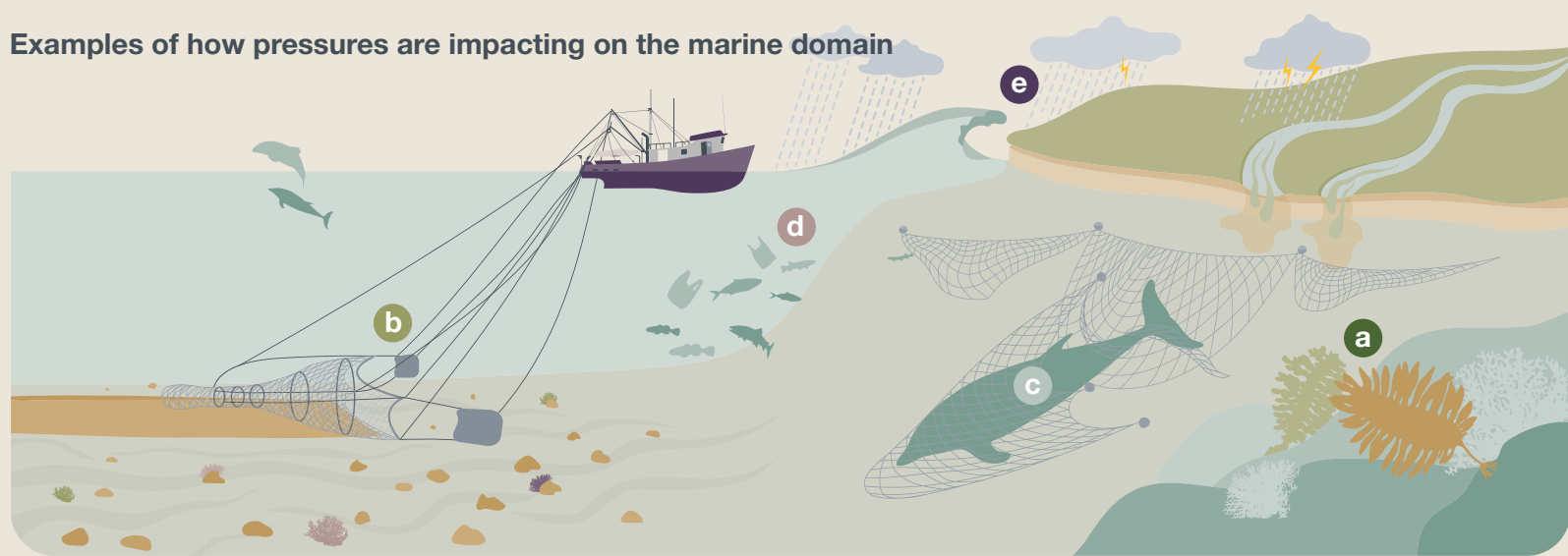


Marine biodiversity pressures



Five pressures, related to human activity, are causing the decline of biodiversity in Aotearoa. Their impacts are complex and different for each domain.

Examples of how pressures are impacting on the marine domain



- a** The seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida* is an invasive seaweed now in several locations around New Zealand where it crowds out indigenous species.
- b** Bottom trawling is one of the greatest threats to New Zealand's marine habitats, causing damage to seabed communities.
- c** Fishing and its wider impacts, including bycatch, can pose a risk to some species and habitats.
- d** Plastic pollution is in zooplankton, fish and shellfish throughout the Pacific Ocean.
- e** Climate change means: food web changes, water acidification, warmer sea water, sea level rise, storm surges, sedimentation.

Related Resources:

The information presented in this series of factsheets is sourced from the report Biodiversity in Aotearoa – State, Trends and Pressures: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity>

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/anzbs-strategy> sets a strategic direction for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in Aotearoa for the next 30 years. Separate sheets are available for **land** and **freshwater** domains as well as a generalised sheet for combined domains at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity>