



Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve (highlighted in green).  
Photo: Sean Cooper

## Welcome to Ulva Island/ Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve

**THIS RESERVE** was established in 2004 and covers 1075 hectares, or about 15%, of Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera adjoining Ulva Island.

Managed by the Department of Conservation, it is surrounded by Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera Mātaitai Reserve, an important Māori fishing and food gathering area where commercial fishing is prohibited and fisheries are managed to ensure its sustainability.



Tube anemone. Photo: Steve Wing

Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

Marine Reserve itself provides a safe haven and nursery not only for fish and shellfish, but also for animals such as seals, penguins and other seabirds that breed on land but feed at sea. It's also a place for the public to experience and enjoy. Picnicking, swimming, boating, diving and photography are all encouraged, provided the reserve is treated with respect. We hope you enjoy your visit.

### KEEP ULVA ISLAND RAT AND WEED FREE!



- Check your clothes and boots for seeds
- Check your boat for rats
- Check and re-pack your bag before you leave for Ulva Island

### Further information

- ▶ For Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve, contact the Department of Conservation:

PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840  
Email [invercargill@doc.govt.nz](mailto:invercargill@doc.govt.nz)  
Ph. (03) 211 2400 Fax (03) 214 4486

PO Box 3, Stewart Island 9846  
Email [stewartislandfc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:stewartislandfc@doc.govt.nz)  
Ph. (03) 219 0002 Fax (03) 219 0003

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

- ▶ For Paterson Inlet /Whaka a Te Wera Mātaitai Reserve, contact:

Ministry for Primary Industries  
[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**

**Report any safety hazards  
or conservation emergencies**  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

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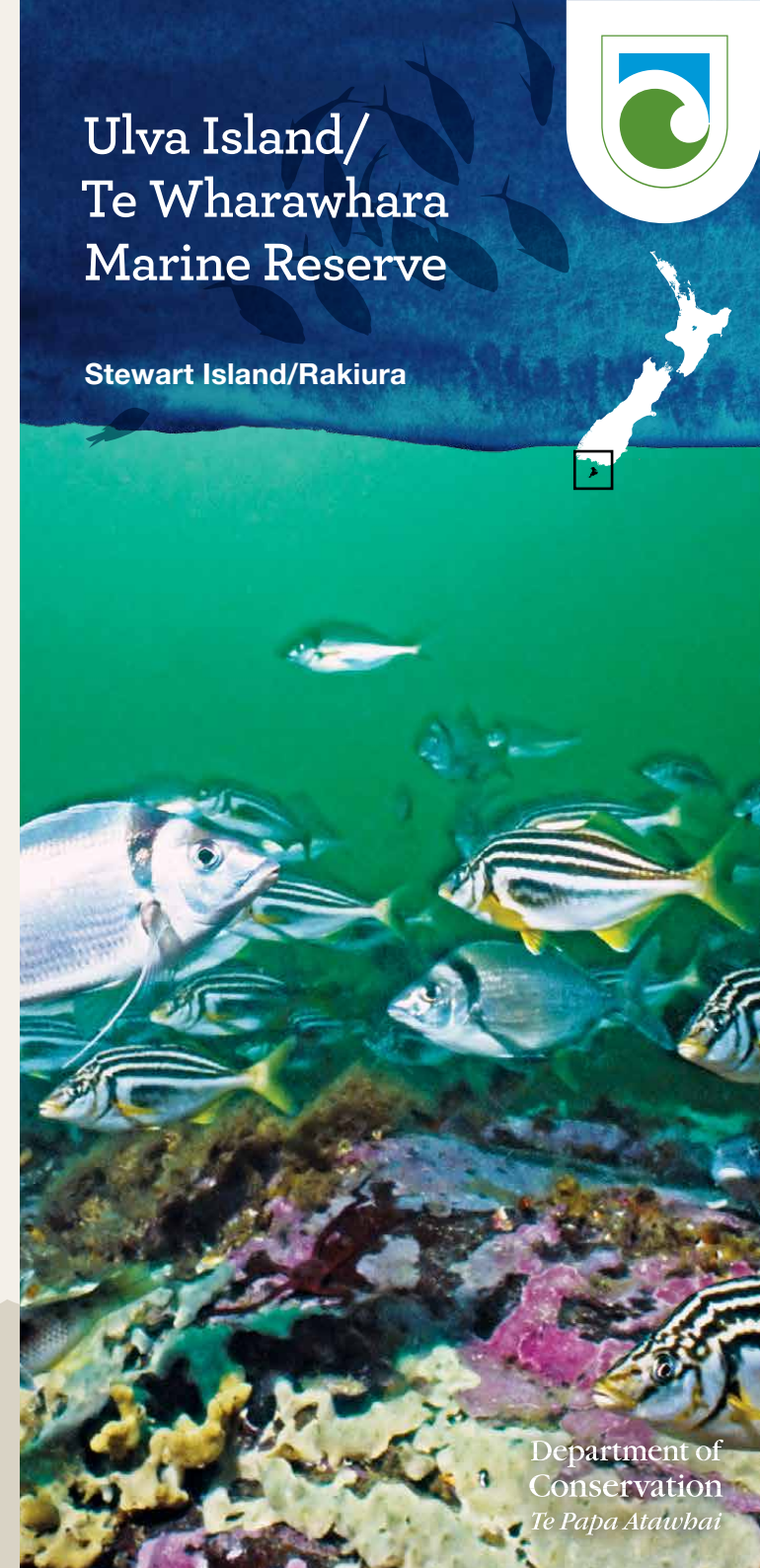
Cover image: A variety of fish species found in Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve.  
Photo: Kim Westerskov

[newzealand.govt.nz](http://newzealand.govt.nz)



## Ulva Island/ Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve

Stewart Island/Rakiura



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

## Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve Boundary Co-ordinates

Datum is WGS 84 GPS format - degrees° minutes.minutes' e.g. 46° 56.02'

<b>1</b> Trumpeter Point 46° 56.78' S 168° 03.72' E	<b>6</b> Flagstaff Point 46° 55.52' S 168° 07.92' E	<b>10</b> East Ulva Island 46° 56.11' S 168° 09.30' E
<b>2</b> Tamihau Island 46° 56.02' S 168° 06.32' E	<b>7</b> Sydney Nugget 46° 55.57' S 168° 08.12' E	<b>11</b> 46° 56.00' S 168° 09.73' E
<b>3</b> West Ulva Island 46° 55.53' S 168° 06.57' E	<b>8</b> 46° 55.85' S 168° 08.45' E	<b>12</b> East Native Island 46° 54.95' S 168° 09.77' E
<b>4</b> West Snuggery 46° 56.30' S 168° 08.03' E	<b>9</b> Manawahei Nugget 46° 55.83' S 168° 08.82' E	<b>13</b> West Native Island 46° 54.93' S 168° 08.85' E
<b>5</b> West Paua Beach 46° 57.52' S 168° 05.77' E		



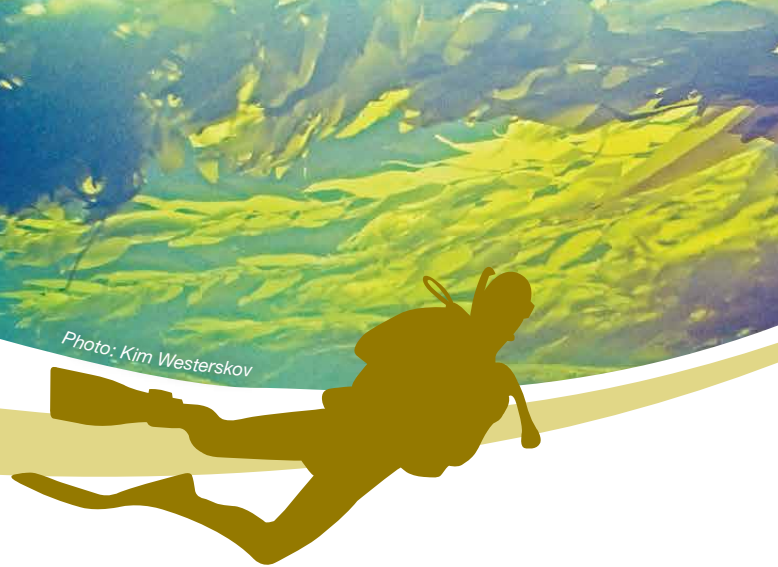
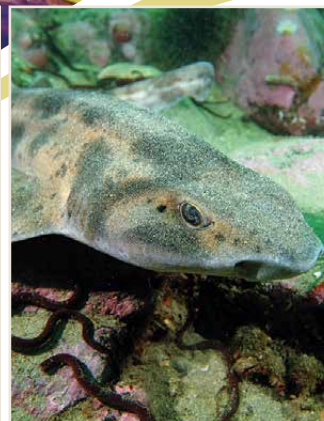


Photo: Kim Westerskov



Rock Lobster. Photo: Lou Hunt



Carpet shark. Photo: Steve Wing

## What are marine reserves?

Marine reserves are special areas of sea where all marine life is fully protected. Free from exploitation, a reserve can return to its natural state, providing opportunities for study and enjoyment in an undisturbed marine environment. Marine reserves allow the study of marine life in an environment

where there is minimal human disturbance, and provide a benchmark against which the effects of other activities in our seas can be compared.

New Zealand's record in protecting natural areas on land is good, but only in recent years have we realised the importance and benefits of protecting our diverse sea and coastline.



Blue cod. Photo: Steve Wing

## Why is Paterson Inlet / Whaka a Te Wera so special?

Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera is a shallow ria - an ancient river valley that has been submerged. It provides one of the largest sheltered harbours in southern New Zealand.

Because the rivers that flow into it drain pristine, undeveloped land, they carry little sediment or nutrient run-off. As a result the inlet waters nurture a rich range of plants and animals.

This lack of sedimentation has created a unique environment where many species that don't usually live on sandy ground, including kina, sea cucumbers, starfish and brachiopods, are equally at home on sandy inlet floors as on rocky reef.

The inlet is also an important habitat and nursery for more than 50 species of fish. Warm subtropical waters mix with cool subantarctic waters in the currents around Stewart Island/Rakiura to create an affinity with both regions.

This has added to the diversity of species found within the inlet.



Diver and giant kelp. Photo: Kim Westerskov

“E tangi ana ngā reanga o utu, e mahara ana ngā reanga a tai mā ta aha rā e whakamahana taku ora kia tina.”

“When the land, river and sea creatures are in distress then I have nothing to be proud of.”





Brachiopods. Photo: Steve Wing

## Brachiopods – living fossils

Brachiopods or lamp shells are the most ancient of filter feeding shellfish. They were abundant in prehistoric oceans at the dawn of life 300 to 550 million years ago. Today their fossils are common, but living examples are comparatively rare.

Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera is home to brachiopod species that live both on rock and sediment, thriving at depths of less than 20 metres. This makes the inlet one of the richest and most accessible brachiopod habitats in the world.



Bull kelp. Photo: Steve Wing

## Forest of seaweed

Stewart Island/Rakiura has more varieties of seaweed than anywhere else in New Zealand. Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera is home to 70% of these, including 56 brown, 31 green and 174 red seaweed species.

Seaweed forests provide habitat, protection and food to support diverse populations of fish, invertebrates and marine mammals. Meadows of small, red seaweed grow on the sandy inlet floor. They help to stabilise sediment and also provide an important shelter for scallops and a surface for spat and larvae to settle on.

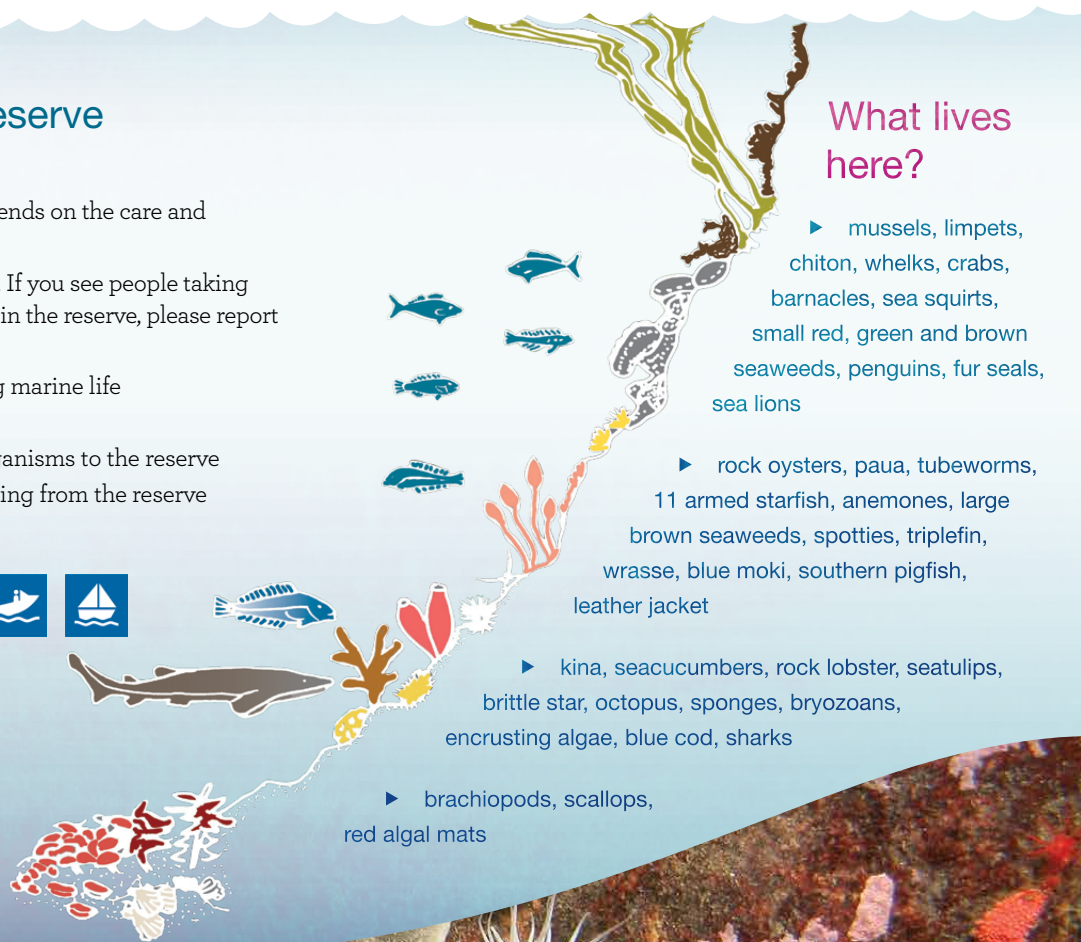
## Looking after the reserve

### In the water

The marine reserve's success depends on the care and attention of visitors.

All marine life is totally protected. If you see people taking fish or other marine life from within the reserve, please report this to DOC as soon as possible.

- ✘ No catching, taking or killing marine life
- ✘ No discharge of pollutants
- ✘ No introduction of living organisms to the reserve
- ✘ No removal of any natural thing from the reserve e.g. shells, rocks, seaweed



### What lives here?

▶ mussels, limpets, chiton, whelks, crabs, barnacles, sea squirts, small red, green and brown seaweeds, penguins, fur seals, sea lions

▶ rock oysters, paua, tubeworms, 11 armed starfish, anemones, large brown seaweeds, spotties, triplefin, wrasse, blue moki, southern pigfish, leather jacket

▶ kina, seacucumbers, rock lobster, seatulips, brittle star, octopus, sponges, bryozoans, encrusting algae, blue cod, sharks

▶ brachiopods, scallops, red algal mats

## Visiting the marine reserve

### In the water

The best way to view the marine reserve and its inhabitants is in the water. From land the best snorkelling is found off the beach at the north end of Sydney Cove on Ulva Island, but wear a wetsuit as the average February water temperature is 16°C, dropping to 8°C in July. Scuba diving is most rewarding off the north east end of Ulva Island in 5–12 metres of water. Use a flashlight to illuminate the colourful array of life hiding below the kelp canopy and carry a dive knife in case you become entangled in the giant kelp forest – but remember, no catch bags or fishing spears!

### On the water

Boat passengers and sea kayakers gain a perspective of the reserve not available to those on land. The southern coast of Ulva Island has particularly pristine coves that are only accessible from the sea. Wildlife is best viewed from the water too. Fur seals, sea lions and yellow-eyed penguins are regular visitors to the inlet and can often be spotted. There are several boat launching ramps in Oban; contact the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre for further information.

### From the beaches

**ULVA ISLAND** is a 10 minute boat ride from Golden Bay. A water taxi can be booked from various information centres in Halfmoon Bay. There are two beaches in the marine reserve that are easily accessible from well-formed gravel tracks.

**SYDNEY COVE** is a 5 minute walk from the Ulva Island Wharf at Post Office Bay. The cove is a 200 metre stretch of golden, sandy beach with a shelter, toilet and picnic area. There is a rocky point at the north end and a small island out the front that offer interesting snorkelling from the beach.

**BOULDER BEACH** is a 30 minute walk across the island from Post Office Bay. As the name suggests, it is a boulder-strewn beach, and there is usually a band of weka picking through the drift seaweed above the high-tide mark. There are no facilities at Boulder Beach.