



# MPA reform in Aotearoa

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New Zealand's marine environment

New Zealand's current MPA framework

Triggers for MPA reform, and history of reform

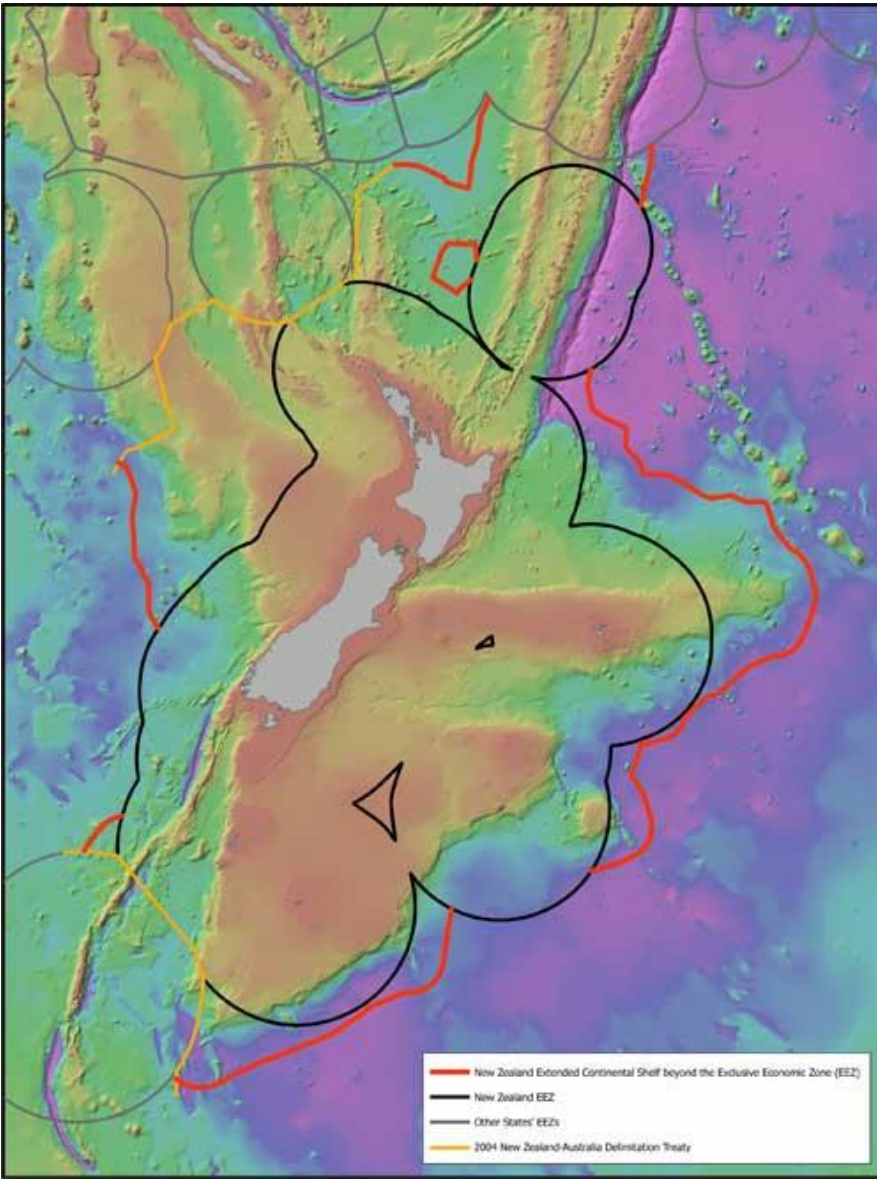
MPA reform

- Proposal: planning processes, protection standards, categories
- Treaty partnership and use of customary tools
- Process for consulting on the reform

Progressing MPA reform



# New Zealand, a Marine Nation



4.8 M km<sup>2</sup> of ocean  
=16x NZ's landmass

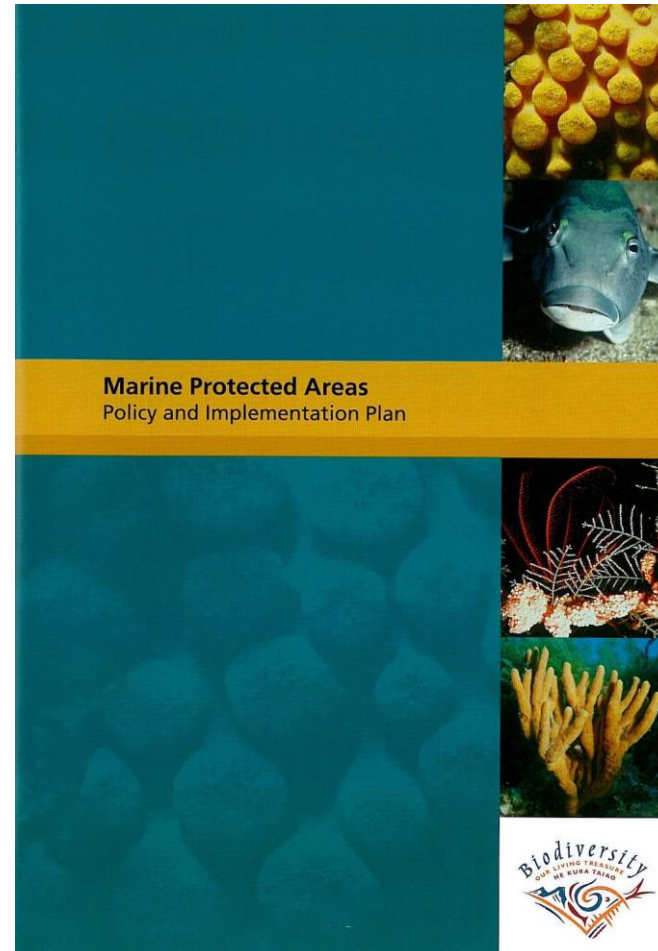
EEZ 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the  
world

Global marine biodiversity  
hotspot

# Current MPA framework



- Since 1953 a patchwork framework of tools has created:
  - 44 marine reserves
  - 34 other marine protected areas
    - ❖ Wildlife Act 1953
    - ❖ Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1963
    - ❖ Marine Reserves Act 1971
    - ❖ Reserves Act 1977
    - ❖ Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
    - ❖ Resource Management Act 1991
    - ❖ Fisheries Act 1996
    - ❖ Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act 2012
- Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation guidance



Percentage of each of New Zealand's **biogeographic regions** that is protected within marine reserves.



Three Kings Islands: **0%**



Kermadec Islands: **100%**

West Coast North Island: **<1%**



North Eastern: **<1%**



South Cook Strait: **<1%**



East Coast North Island: **<1%**



West Coast South Island: **1.32%**



North Cook Strait: **<1%**



Fiordland: **<1%**



East Coast South Island: **<1%**



Chatham Islands: **0%**



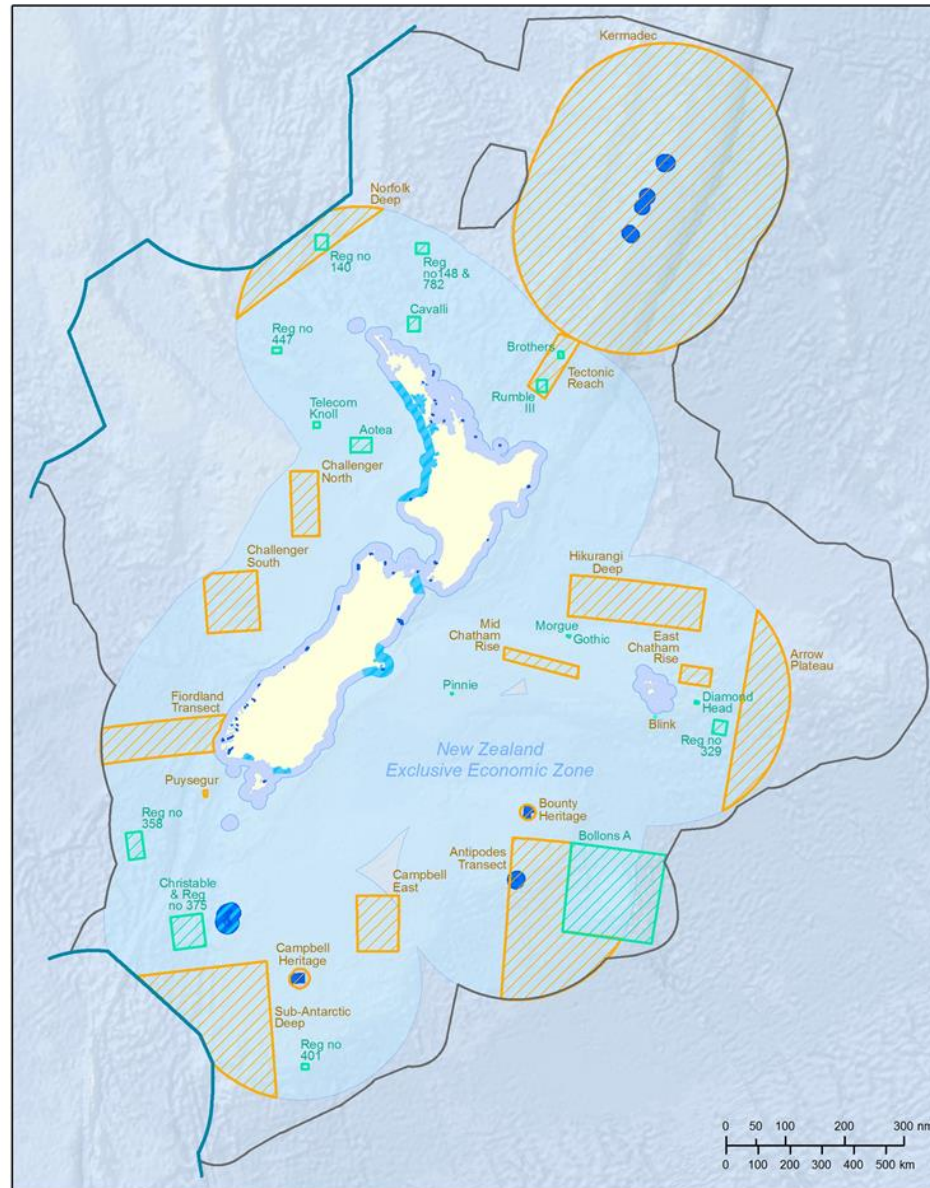
Southern South Island: **<1%**







Snares Islands: **0%**

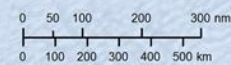


Subantarctic Islands: **78%**



-  Seamount Closure
-  Benthic Protection Area
-  Marine Reserve
-  Marine mammal sanctuary hatched where coincides with a marine reserve

-  New Zealand-Australia Maritime Boundary (2004 Treaty)
-  New Zealand Continental Shelf (as approved by CLCS)
-  New Zealand Territorial Sea (12 nm)
-  New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nm)



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# MPA reform: triggers and history

- Reform ongoing since 2005
- Adversarial nature of existing processes created uncertainty for stakeholders
- Evolution of marine protection from specific proposals to spatial proposals to spatial planning





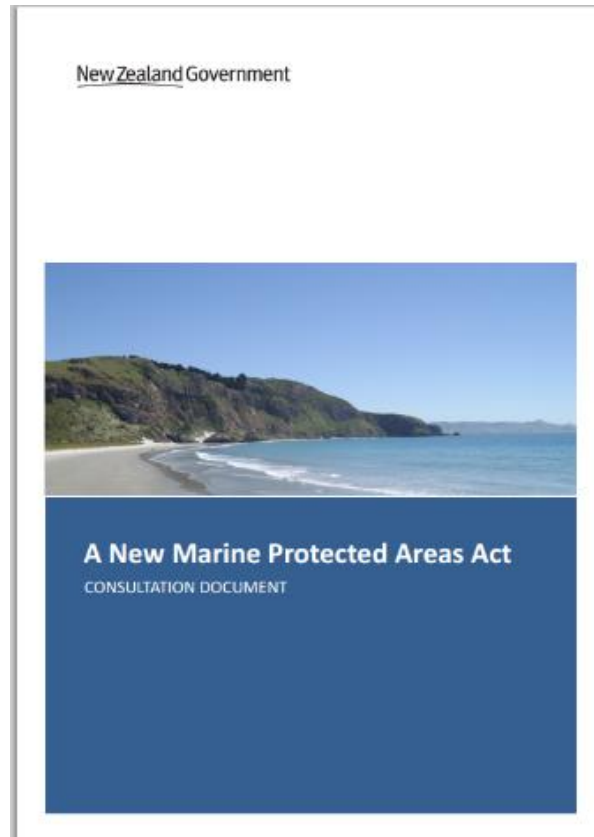
# Treaty partnership in marine protection

- From consultation, to participation, to co-governance
- Range of customary tools
- Treaty of Waitangi settlements and indigenous interests in the ocean



# MPA reform proposals

- Public consultation in 2016 by the previous Government on a new MPA Act
- Objectives of the reform proposal
- Focused on marine protected areas in the territorial sea







# MPA reform - protection standards & categories

- Four categories of protection

<b>Marine reserves</b>	<p>Preserve and protect areas in their natural state for the conservation of indigenous marine biodiversity.</p> <p>No-take marine reserves.</p>
<b>Species-specific sanctuaries</b>	<p>Preserve and protect one or more named species while allowing sustainable use.</p> <p>Restrictions depending on the species and purpose of the sanctuary.</p>
<b>Seabed reserves</b>	<p>Preserve and protect the seabed environment while allowing sustainable use.</p> <p>Seabed mining, bottom trawl fishing and dredging will be prohibited in these areas.</p>
<b>Recreational fishing parks</b>	<p>Enhance the enjoyment and value of recreational fishing in high demand areas by reducing the impact of commercial fishing.</p> <p>Commercial fishing prohibited but ability for exceptions. Customary fishing will continue.</p>



# MPA reform - protection standards & categories

- MPA Policy protection standards
- Aligning with the IUCN categories
- Enabling customary and other types of uses in MPAs

Category	Description
<i>Ia</i>	<i>Strict Nature Reserve</i> : Protected area managed mainly for science.
<i>Ib</i>	<i>Wilderness Area</i> : Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection.
<i>II</i>	<i>National Park</i> : Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation.
<i>III</i>	<i>Natural Monument</i> : Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features.
<i>IV</i>	<i>Habitat/Species Management Area</i> : Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention.
<i>V</i>	<i>Protected Landscape/Seascape</i> : Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation.
<i>VI</i>	<i>Managed Resource Protected Area</i> : Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

# MPA reform – process improvements

- Collaborative and Board of Inquiry processes for developing MPAs
- Packaging MPA tools and alignment with marine spatial planning
- Improving iwi involvement





# Public consultation on the MPA reform proposals

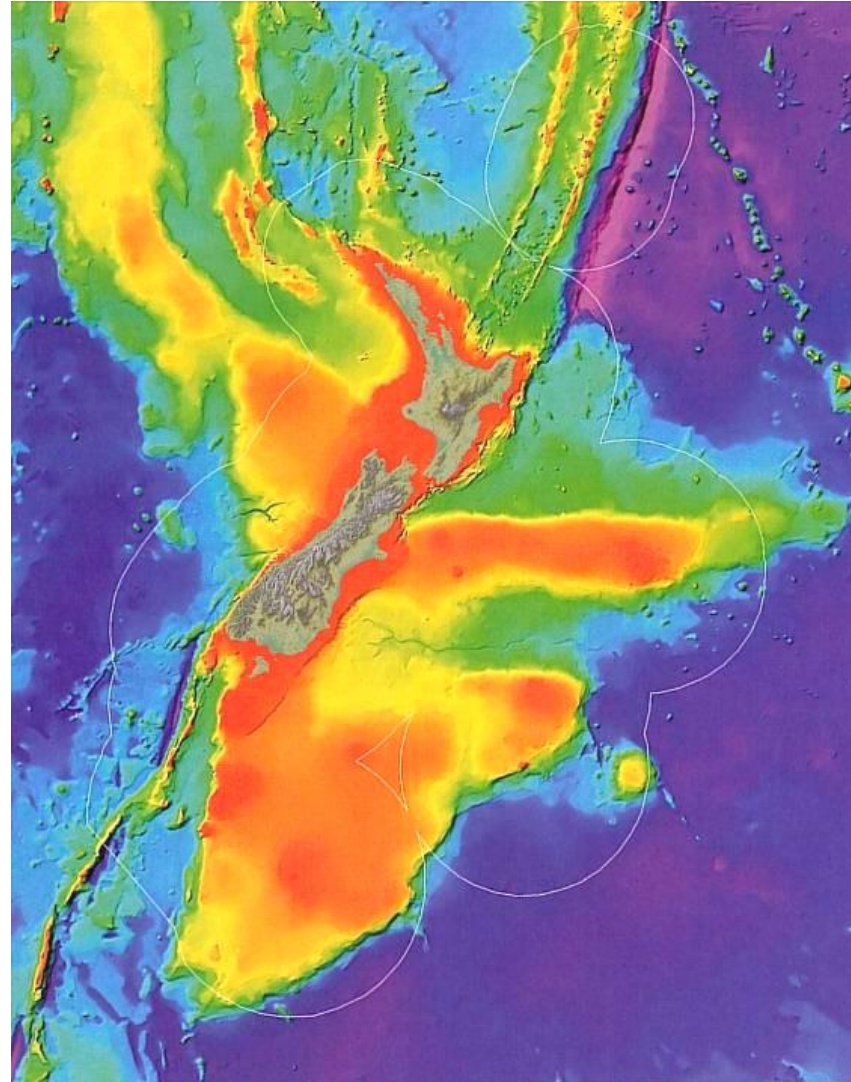
- Public Consultation
  - Sought feedback on a wide range of issues
    - need for reform
    - scope
    - how a reform package could be implemented
  - 22 public engagement events including 14 hui
  - 5,393 written submissions
- Ongoing consultation with the Iwi Leaders Group
  - Iwi Chairs Forum: over 50 iwi organisations representing over 400,000 members)



# Progressing New Zealand's MPA reform



- Next steps
- Prioritisation of areas for species, habitats and ecosystems for protection
- Non-legislative policy
- Legislative policy





Thank you



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