

Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary



New Zealand Government



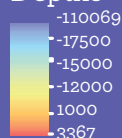
The islands

The Kermadec Islands are a group of subtropical volcanic islands in the heart of the region.

New Zealand has a close association with the islands. Raoul Island was settled by Polynesians between 600 and 1000 years ago. Europeans discovered the islands in the 1700s and settlers endured massive storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions when trying to settle there.

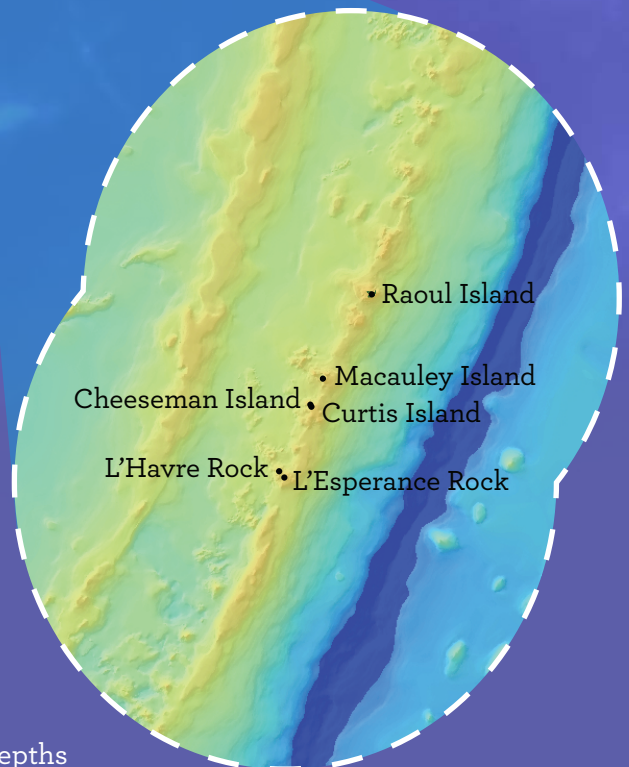
Today, the islands are uninhabited except for a Department of Conservation field station on Raoul Island.

Depths



[Dashed Box] Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary

0 50 100 200 Nautical Miles



The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary is located in the South Pacific Ocean about 1,000 km northeast of New Zealand. Its deep, clear waters are home to an amazing array of marine life and provide an important migration path for many marine species crossing the Pacific.

There is nowhere else in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where you find such a range of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate species of fish, birds and marine mammals co-existing together.

The area is one of the most geologically diverse in the world. It contains the world's longest chain of submerged volcanoes and the second deepest ocean trench with a depth of 10 kilometres.



To date, the isolation of the area and the depth of water has ensured a very low level of human impact but increased activity in fishing, seabed mining and the spread of pollution across the world's oceans makes it more important to protect our remaining pristine environments.

The Territorial Sea is the name for the coastal waters extending up to 12 nautical miles around a country. The Exclusive Economic Zone stretches out to 200 nautical miles from a country's coastline.

Protecting our oceans

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary extends out to the 200 nautical mile limit covering 620,000 km², or 15 per cent of New Zealand's EEZ. This is twice the size of our landmass, and 50 times the size of our largest national park.

It is 35 times larger than the combined area of New Zealand's existing marine reserves.

To protect the unique marine environment of the area the following activities will be prohibited in a similar way to marine reserves in our territorial sea:

- Commercial fishing and aquaculture
- Recreational fishing
- Fishing-related tourism
- Oil, gas and mineral prospecting, exploration and mining



New Zealand's ocean management

New Zealand values its marine areas, which make an important contribution to its economy and cultural wellbeing. We are a globally significant maritime nation and committed to being a leader in the responsible management of our marine environment. This makes protecting and managing these areas a key priority for New Zealanders and the Government.

The New Zealand fishing Quota Management System, initially introduced in 1986, is internationally recognised as world's best practice for sustainable fisheries management. Initially covering just 26 species of fish, a total of 97 species are now managed under the system.

New Zealand was one of the first countries to create marine reserves through the Marine Reserves Act in 1971. The first marine reserve was the Cape Rodney-Okakari Point Marine Reserve created in 1975. We now have a total of 44 marine reserves covering an area of 17,700 km² including 10 new marine reserves created in 2014.

New Zealand is an active member of the international community advocating for marine protection and has jointly sponsored a resolution to protect the high seas. Legislation introduced in 2012 put in place a comprehensive environmental management regime for our oceans in the EEZ and continental shelf. This law enables the Environmental Protection Authority to responsibly manage activities like oil, gas and mineral prospecting, exploration, mining and discharges.

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary is the next step in New Zealand's ongoing commitment to improving marine management.

Key facts on the Kermadec Region

Over 6 million seabirds

The Kermadec area is home to over 6 million seabirds of 39 different species, ranging from tiny storm petrels to large wandering albatrosses.

2nd deepest ocean trench in the world

The Kermadec area has the second deepest ocean trench in the world which, at 10,000 metres, is deeper than Mt Everest is tall.



The Kermadec area contains more than

30 submarine volcanoes



and is the longest chain of submerged volcanoes.

Up to 35 species



of dolphin and whale (including the blue whale) migrate through the Kermadec area.

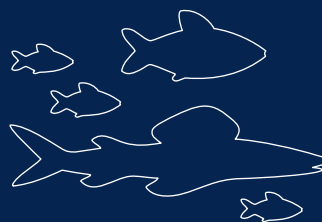
More than

250 species

of corals and tiny animals called bryozoans have been found in the region.

3 of the 7 sea turtle species

are found in the Kermadec area (hawksbill, leatherback and green turtles). They are all endangered or critically endangered.



150 species

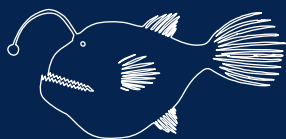
of fish are found in the Kermadec area.



32%

of all the fish species known in New Zealand are from the Kermadec area, and more than **50% of those are from the marine sanctuary area.**

Large areas are virtually unexplored and it is highly likely that future surveys will reveal new and rare species.



The New Zealand Government wishes to acknowledge the Kermadecs Initiative partners – the Pew Charitable Trust, WWF New Zealand, and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for their advocacy which has helped create this globally significant ocean sanctuary.

Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment

Published in September 2015 by the
Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao
PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143, New Zealand

ISBN: 978-0-908339-08-2
Publication number: INFO 750

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This document is available on the
Ministry for the Environment's website: www.mfe.govt.nz



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Ministry for the
Environment
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