



Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) Code of Care for the Sea and 101 ways to participate in marine conservation

Being a responsible kaitiaki of the marine environment- etiquette guide

- **Sensitive habitats**
 - Don't walk on fragile dunes. Sand can easily blow away once vegetation is removed/ damaged by foot traffic. . Dunes provide a barrier to wind and water to prevent beach erosion and often contain native plants vital to local ecosystems
 - Look after mangroves (they look after you, by catching sediment and providing valuable habitat for our sea life).
 - Be aware of sea grass beds which have fragile habitats and can easily be damaged.

- **Fishing**
 - Use re-curve style hooks to minimise gut & foul hook ups.
 - Big fish are the best breeders and are best released unharmed.
 - Know the regulations that apply to the area you are harvesting from, as different rules apply to different areas.
 - Make sure you are **not** fishing in a Marine Reserve or other Marine Protected Area with special rules against fishing
 - Remove any rubbish from your fishing area and dispose of responsibly, this includes fishing line, bait bags.
 - Put unwanted fishing lines, nets and bait packages in the rubbish as they can cause damage and/or kill organisms.
 - Be gentle with any fish you intend to release.
 - Limit your catch, don't catch your limit.

- **Bird Watching**
 - Avoid unnecessary disturbance, use binoculars to observe them.
 - Leave the dog at home or ensure they are controlled to avoid disturbing the birds.
 - Do not walk in areas where there are burrows; for birds like penguins and shearwaters may nest there.

- **Marine Mammals**
 - All marine mammals are fully protected in New Zealand waters. It is an offence to harass or disturb them. For information about marine mammals,



including how to behave around them to ensure their safety and yours, go to www.doc.govt.nz/marinemammals

- Pollution
 - Be careful your plastic bags don't fly away or go overboard.. Fish, squid, whales, and other marine life may mistakethem as food, this can cause damage and/or kill the organisms.
 - Drains are only for rain. Storm water drains eventually lead to the sea, do not put rubbish down the drain.
 - Take only photos leave only footprints.
 - Do not bury rubbish. It will soon be uncovered by the tide, animals, or people's feet.
- SCUBA Diving /Snorkelling
 - Control buoyancy. A single fin kick can wipe out hundreds of years of growth.
 - Always go with a Buddy.
 - Always check the weather forecast and tides.
 - Never turn your back on the ocean.

If taking marine life for a feed, make sure you only take what you need and that you're familiar with local regulations and any marine protection. Don't leave legs of Crayfish behind. Remember the 'big ones' have an important role on the rocky reef. Consider



your impact on marine life through your interactions. Some divers/snorkelers may feel compelled to touch, handle, feed or hitch rides on certain marine life. These actions may cause stress to the animal, interrupt feeding or mating behaviour, introduce food items that are not healthy for the species or even provoke aggressive behaviour in normally nonaggressive species.

- MPA (Marine Protected Areas)
 - Be aware of the rules, such as activities that are not allowed or restricted, i.e. removal of organisms, restrictions on fishing, species that can be caught, fire, camping and vehicles.
 - Do not disturb Māori ancestral areas. All are protected by law.
 - Do not disturb relics of early settlers and shipwrecks. Important information can be lost.
- MR (Marine Reserves)
 - No fish feeding.



- No fishing.
- No taking or disturbing of any marine life, including rocks, shells, shellfish, seaweed from the reserve.
- No fires are allowed.
- Rock pools
 - Always turn the rocks back as you found them. Organisms will die if left exposed to the sun.
 - Leave rock pool marine life in the water.
 - Do not remove sea weed, as it is shelter for other organisms.
- Beach combing
 - Collect only empty shells. Any live animals will die if removed from their habitat.
 - Report turtle stranding's (alive or dead) to your local Department of Conservation office
- Look after Yourself
 - Learn to recognise possible animal hazards and do not pick them up or handle them. These include jellyfish, sea anemones, kina, and crabs.
 - Make sure you can always see where you place your hands.
 - Wear protective footwear when exploring intertidal rock pools and the coastal environment.
 - Be Sun Smart. Protect yourself from the sun by wearing clothes, a hat, and sun block.
 - Keep watch on sea conditions at all times. Conditions change continuously.
 - Be aware that the weather affects the time and level of the tide, currents and waves.
 - Do not explore the beach alone.
 - Always snorkel or dive with a buddy
 - Be aware of your surroundings, look out for unstable banks or cliffs
- Found an unusual marine organism?
 - Think it's exotic?
 - Note exact location.
 - Take a photo or sample where possible
 - Seal in a plastic bag with a small amount of seawater and chill, or preserve in methylated sprits



- Phone MPI on 0800 80 99 66

- **Keep your boat or vessel clean.** If you are a boat owner, particularly of a vessel that's moored or berthed seawater for lengthy periods – keep your vessel's hull clean and anti-fouled. Fouled boat hulls are a major means of spreading marine pests.
- **Clean camping and Fishing Equipment.** When moving between waterways you could spread didymo and other aquatic pests if you do not take the right actions. Always be sure to Check Clean Dry any camping, fishing or sporting equipment that has come into contact with waterways here or abroad.

101 ways to participate in marine conservation

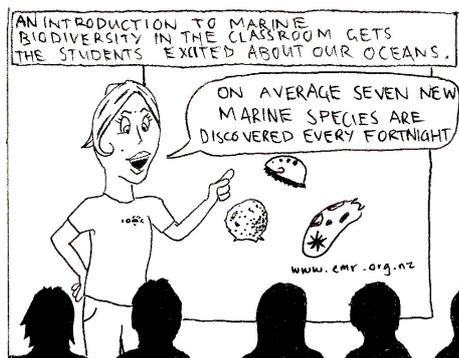
1. Get inspired - go snorkelling or diving in your local marine environment or marine reserve. This is likely to give you an appreciation of what is at stake.



2. Get involved – write letters to politicians & your local papers
3. Start a marine monitoring project like Marine Metre Squared www.mm2.net.nz
4. Organise a marine conservation advocate to speak in your community or marae
5. Erect public marine awareness signs or work with your local school to create these
6. Organise or get involved in coastal & riparian planting events



7. Start a fundraising project for your local marine conservation initiative or group
8. Support local marine conservation community or iwi/hapu groups
9. Initiate a marine reserve or other marine protection project
10. Address a local marine issue
11. Make a submission for a marine conservation project
12. Make a public marine conservation display
13. Promote marine reserve biodiversity, compliance and boundary awareness
14. Start a storm water awareness project.
15. Organise a snorkelling tour for your school or community group www.emr.org.nz
16. Visit your local marine reserve, write a story about it for your local paper and social media site
17. Make sure you don't let anything but rain go down the drain - everything eventually ends up in streams, rivers and the ocean.
18. Help lobby for a marine reserve in your local area.
19. Start lobbying for a marine reserve in your local area.
20. Start a conversation at your school, work, club or flat on marine conservation.



21. Organise a group to do a beach 'clean-up' at your local beach. Rubbish has been found in the stomachs of dead turtles, seabirds and other marine animals...it shouldn't be in our oceans!!



22. Report marine mammal or sea turtle stranding's to your local Department of Conservation office
23. Stop eating slow-growing fish like Orange Roughy and opt for more sustainable options
24. Clean up your rubbish, even when not near the water. It's amazing that a vast majority of waste in our waterways that comes from land-based activities. Even rubbish discarded miles inland can make it to the ocean, carried by the rain and the winds.
25. Retrieve your monofilament fishing line. Don't leave fishing line in the water and remove others' when you find it...being careful not to tug on snagged lines that could be caught on important habitat below the surface.
26. Contain and properly clean spills when boating. Use oil-absorbent rags or even nappies to clean spills.
27. Recycle used motor oil and oil filters. Your local gas station or refuse centre should have facilities for recycling these materials. Never pour oil, paint, antifreeze, or other household chemicals into the storm water drains.
28. Find alternative household chemicals. Avoid fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that can wash into open waters. Try lemon juice, vinegar and baking soda for household cleaning.
29. Become a storm drain sentry.
30. Stencil your local drains to remind people where the things they dump there end up...and of the potential consequences. Consult your local council; they might have some stencils already made up that you can borrow.
31. Spread the word about caring for our storm water drains
32. Don't dump anything in the drain - like chemicals or rubbish.
33. Keep your eyes out on the water – report anything unusual in the sea
34. Use cloth bags for groceries. Take them with you when you shop to reduce the number of plastic bags you use. Plastic bags can choke marine life when mistaken for food.
35. Properly dispose of used batteries and electronics. Use your local recycling centre. Electronics leach harmful chemicals into the environment. Once there, these toxic pollutants can effect the environment for decades.
36. Contact your elected representatives. Let them know you care about the effects of marine debris and that you are watching what they do to prevent it



37. Vote for candidates who support marine debris prevention and are good stewards of our ocean.
38. Don't wash your car by a drain. Clean your car on the grass so that the grass acts as a sponge and soaks up the soapy water
39. Do your bit by not littering our world and persuade other people from littering
40. Take care to prevent rubbish from going overboard or astray when boating or picnicking on the beach Pay attention to environmental news.
41. Conserve water in your household.
42. Recycle - reuse - reduce!!
43. Take action to help threatened species in New Zealand and around the world
44. First, accept that you are only able to control your actions and responses to changing conditions around you.
45. Take responsibility for your actions in all things. It sounds simple but being accountable to yourself will help you make the necessary changes.
46. Stop to consider the consequences of your actions (if I choose to do this, what will be the result?).
47. Lead by example! If you can change, then it just might inspire others. Be the change you want to see!
48. Remember that one person can make a difference. Small accomplishments add up quicker than you might think.
49. No matter what your economic standing, you can help save the environment and money at the same time.
50. You the consumer drive the market; products are made because you buy them.
51. Learn about Global Warming/Climate Change, , join www.350.org to get behind the movement
52. Educate yourself - Read resources on how to protect the ocean
53. Become a marine biologist—or better yet, a marine conservation biologist. This emerging field of marine biology is an important area of research needed to inform policy makers by providing evidence-based data that shows the ocean is in trouble and the solutions that are needed.
54. Don't buy live saltwater fish caught in the wild for your aquarium. The fishing methods, such as cyaniding and dynamiting, for the live fish trade are horribly degrading to the marine environment. Never return aquarium fish into the ocean or other body of water. This practice has introduced non-native species to many



areas disrupting the balance of marine ecosystems often causing widespread destruction.

55. Learn to scuba dive if you want to experience the underwater realm. Take a digital camera or even a video camera with you! .If you learn to dive, learn to dive responsibly. Don't touch the reefs or marine life, control your buoyancy. Leave only bubbles.
56. Use your dive skills for science and conservation. Participate in monitoring programme. To help census fish populations and other reef species.
57. Join an underwater clean-up group like Project Aware.
58. Patronize restaurants that recognize the need to consume seafood sustainably. Make your voice heard! Complain to the management of restaurants and retailers selling endangered fish
59. Vote! Vote for candidates who support marine conservation and contact your representatives to notify them of your concerns for marine life and the marine environment. We only have one ocean.
60. Support Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and support organizations working to establish MPAs
61. Take your kids to the beach! A fun day at the beach can inspire years of wonder and provides a perfect opportunity to teach your kids about the ocean.
62. Follow the EMR care code above for enjoying the beach.
63. 27. Keep beaches clean. Plastics, fishing line, and other debris harm sea life and pollute the ocean. Clean up after yourself. Get involved!
64. Practice safe and clean boating. Obey no-wake zones, and watch out for marine life. Promote marine conservation in your school or through social activities. Many people are unaware that the ocean is in jeopardy.
65. Take whatever opportunities you can to spread the word.
66. Start a local marine conservation club to promote awareness.
67. Don't purchase items that exploit marine resources unnecessarily such as coral jewellery or shark fin soup.
68. Get behind a controversial and current issue such as banning shark finning in NZ waters - public pressure can result in these important issues being addressed
69. Replace light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs or other energy efficient light bulbs. Note: Luminescence is the amount of light produced, watts is the amount of power used. Both should be printed on the box. Look for bulbs with low watts and high luminescence.



70. Buy energy efficient appliances.
71. Turn off lights when not in use.
72. Turn off your computer, television, etc. when not in use.
73. .Use email instead of snail mail for informal letters.
74. .Manage your bills and bank accounts online with paperless statements.
75. .Print or copy on both sides of the paper whenever possible.
76. Take action against the loss of marine biodiversity, such as Maui dolphins
77. Take action against alien and exotic species – clean your vessel hull and encourage other to do so
78. Look to, thrift stores, auctions, recycled goods shops for used household goods instead of buying new ones. “One man's trash is another man's treasure.”
79. Avoid buying food or household products in plastic or Styrofoam containers. They can't be recycled, deplete the ozone and are not biodegradable.
80. Use washable coffee mugs instead of disposable cups. Carry them with you in your vehicle or handbag
81. Collect rainwater from your home's downspouts to use for watering the garden.
82. Start a Community Garden! Plant trees or other vegetation to offset your carbon footprint.
83. Avoid use of chemical fertilizers (which causes pollution, and helps create excessive algae blooms in the ocean, aka red tides) or peat moss (which comes from ancient bogs that cannot regenerate). Instead, make your own mulch and use organic fertilizers only when needed.
84. Take extra plastic and rubber pots back to the nursery for reuse.
85. Keep your car tuned up, not only will proper upkeep save your pocketbook but it helps prevent oil and other hazardous materials from leaking onto your driveway, into the local water system, and ultimately into lakes and streams, rivers, and the ocean.
86. Keep the tires on your car adequately inflated and drive conservatively to get the best gas mileage.
87. Carpool or use public transit whenever possible. Ride your bike or walk.
88. Buy locally-grown food and locally-made products when possible. They'll be fresher and less fuel is used for transport.
89. Buy organic coffee and free-trade certified to ensure no pesticides were used and that the grower received a fair price.



90. Ask your local District Council which beaches you can exercise your dog on.
Always keep your dog under control and pick up its waste
91. Make a marine awareness sign for your local beach
92. Teach children to respect nature and the environment. Take them on hikes, or camping. Help them plant a tree or build a birdhouse. Be a good example and role model.
93. Join a marine conservation organization or club
94. Getting involved in Global Marine Conservation issues is at your finger tips
95. Get involved in marine conservation through social media
96. Volunteer for marine conservation projects and programmes
97. Donate, or sponsor marine conservation organizations
98. Stand up for what you believe in and take the time to educate others
99. Use the Marine Reserve 'how to kit' to action your marine reserve project
100. Choose to be an active kaitiaki of your marine environment!
101. Be connected and involved!