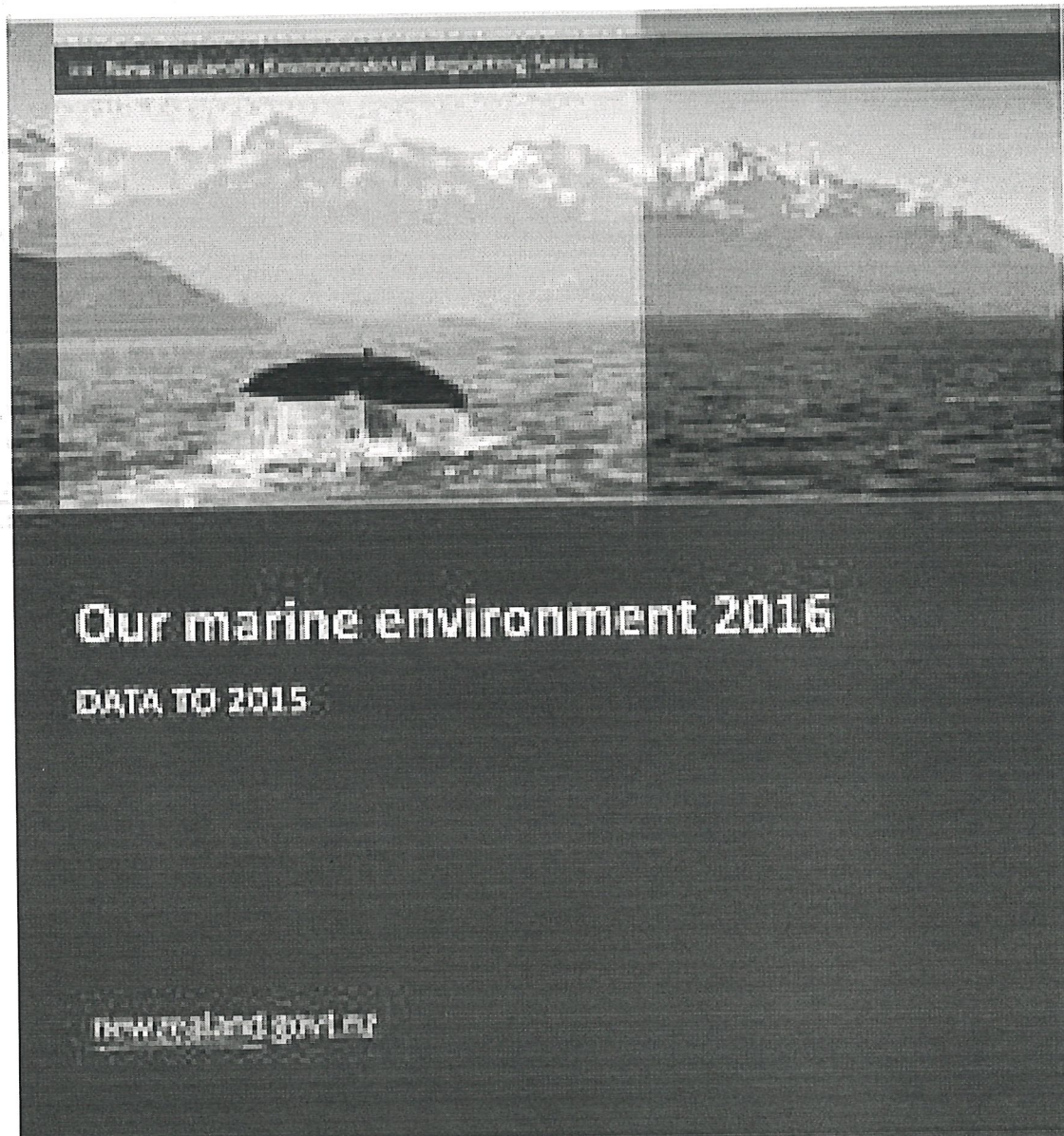


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## About the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary

This page has information on the new Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary which the Government announced in September 2015.

### Overview

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary (the sanctuary) will be created in the Kermadec region of the South Pacific Ocean about 1000 kilometres north of New Zealand.



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At 620,000 square kilometres, it will be one of the world's largest and most significant fully protected areas. It will be 35 times larger than the combined area of New Zealand's existing 44 marine reserves. The sanctuary will mean 15 percent of New Zealand's ocean environment will be fully protected.

The sanctuary will cover an area of New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from 12 to 200 nautical miles from the five Kermadec Islands of Raoul, Macauley, Cheeseman, Curtis and L'Esperance which lie halfway between the Bay of Plenty and Tonga. It will be the first time an area of our EEZ has been fully protected.

The Government has introduced legislation to Parliament to enact the new sanctuary with the intention to have it in place by 1 November 2016. To find out more about the sanctuary see About the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill.

The sanctuary follows the establishment in 1990 of the Kermadec Marine Reserve which consists of 7500 square kilometres. The marine reserve extends 12 nautical miles from the cliffs and boulder beaches of the various Kermadec Islands and rocks, out to the edge of the territorial sea.

## The Kermadec ocean environment

The Kermadec area is one of the most pristine and unique places on earth. It includes the world's longest chain of underwater volcanoes and the world's second deepest ocean trench at over 10 kilometres – deeper than Mount Everest is tall.

Its waters are home to:

- over six million seabirds of 39 different species
- over 150 species of fish
- 35 species of whales and dolphins
- three species of sea turtles – all endangered
- many other marine species unique to this area such as corals, shellfish and crabs.

## Importance of protecting the Kermadec ocean environment

We are faced with increasing fishing, seabed mining and pollution across the world's oceans. It is therefore important to protect our remaining pristine ocean environments and ecosystems.

As well as being home to many unique habitats and ecosystems the region provides an important migration path for species crossing the Pacific.

## What the sanctuary means

The following activities will be prohibited in the sanctuary:

- commercial fishing and aquaculture
- recreational fishing
- fishing-related tourism
- oil, gas and mineral prospecting, exploration and mining.

This is similar to prohibitions in place in marine reserves in our territorial sea.

## Rights in the sanctuary compared with the Kermadec Marine Reserve

New Zealand has sovereign rights in its territorial sea with very few limitations. Our rights and obligations in our EEZ are different but include the rights to manage fishing and minerals resources. These rights (eg, over navigation and submarine cables) must be exercised with due regard for those of other states.

Rights and limitations are:

- no fishing or mining applies to both the sanctuary and marine reserve
- ships will be allowed to exchange ballast water in the sanctuary (subject to regulation) but not in the marine reserve
- marine discharges from ships and yachts (subject to regulation) will be allowed in the sanctuary but not in the marine reserve
- submarine cables will be allowed in the sanctuary but are not permitted in the marine reserve.

## Responsibilities for the sanctuary

The responsibilities of government agencies are as follows.

- The Department of Conservation, which is responsible for managing nature and marine reserves, will administer the Act which will create the sanctuary.
- The Environmental Protection Authority, which implements the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act), will be responsible for any permitting of activities (eg, scientific research).
- The Defence Force and the Ministry of Primary Industries will assist in enforcement of the Act which creates the new sanctuary.
- Maritime New Zealand is responsible for managing discharges from ships.

## Changes to the current regulatory framework in the Kermadecs area

### Marine reserve

All fishing and mining is prohibited in the marine reserve (the territorial sea out to 12 nautical miles around the Kermadec Islands). This is unchanged by the sanctuary.



