

Northland's Coast and Us



Our rocky shores

Where are Northland's rocky shores?

- Northland has 3200 kilometres of coastline with rocky shores at just about every turn.
- Northland's rocky shores are found from Cape Reinga to Mangawhai on the east coast, and to the Kaipara Harbour on the west coast.



Explore your
nearest rocky
shore.

What is a rocky shore?

Study the life on your nearest rocky shore.

A rocky shore is an area of coast covering any or all tidal zones where solid rock is the most dominant feature.

Rocky shores are rich in life. They make an ideal natural laboratory for the study of intertidal biology and ecology.



How are Northland's rocky shores formed?

Northland's rocky shores were formed by a mixture of

- volcanic and geological activity
- erosion – wind, water and waves

What evidence is there of wind and wave action on a rocky shore near you?



What shapes Northland's rocky shores?



Mimiwhangata
Photo: Grace and Kerr
www.marinenz.org.nz

Rocky shores are constantly changing as sea, wind and rain erode the land. The eroded sediment accumulates to reshape the shore.

Ask older people in your community what changes they have noticed on rocky shores over the years. What caused the changes?

What zones make up rocky shores?

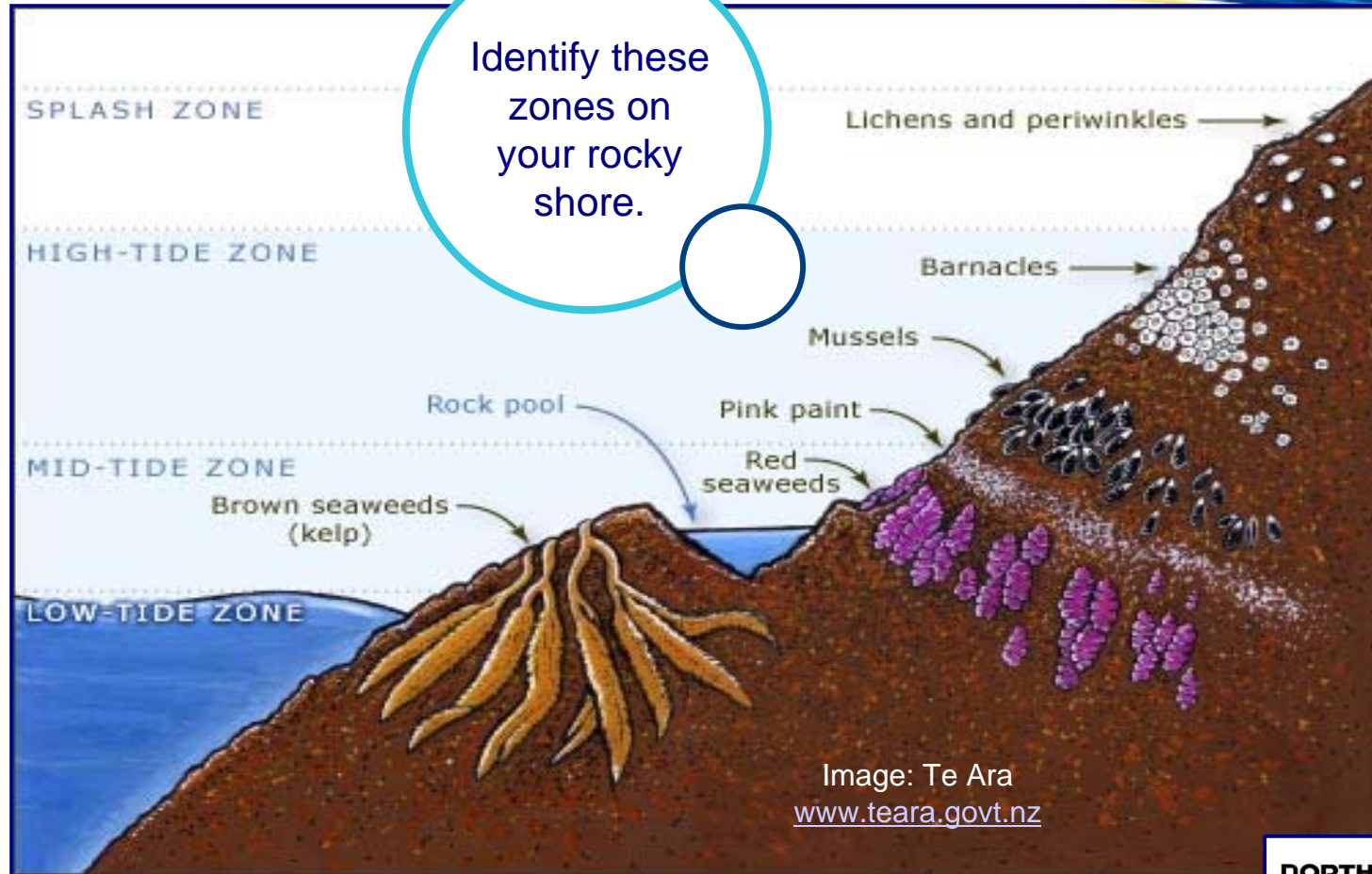
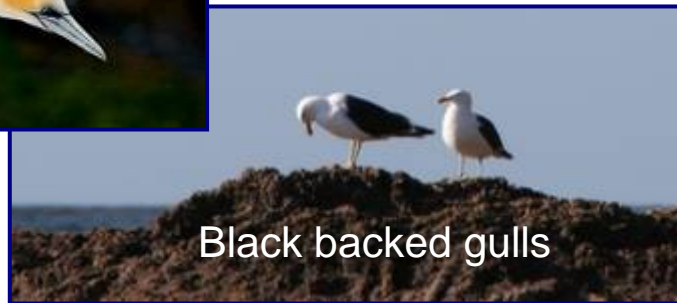


Image: Te Ara
www.teara.govt.nz

What birds live on rocky shores?

Gulls and Australasian gannets are among the birds that look for food around rock pools and nest on rocky headlands.

What other birds live on the rocky shore?

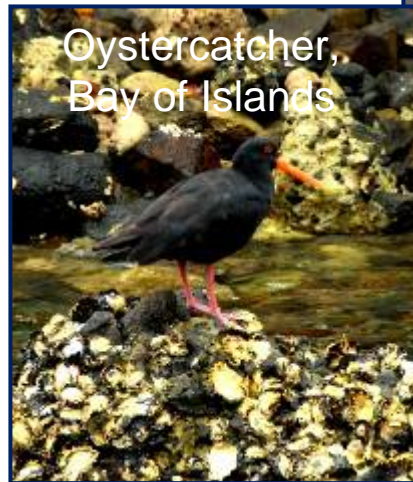


What birds live on rocky shores?

Other birds, such as oystercatchers, herons and shags can be seen resting, feeding and nesting here too.



Shag,
Whangamumu Harbour



Oystercatcher,
Bay of Islands



Blue heron,
Mitimiti

Where are these birds found on the rocky shore? What are they doing? Why would they choose the rocky shore for this activity?

What plants live on rocky shores?

Northland's exposed cliffs and rock faces support grasses, ferns, coastal flax and succulents such as horokaka, also known as Māori ice plant.

Pōhutukawa trees may also cling precariously.



What plants live where on rocky shores? How well are they surviving?

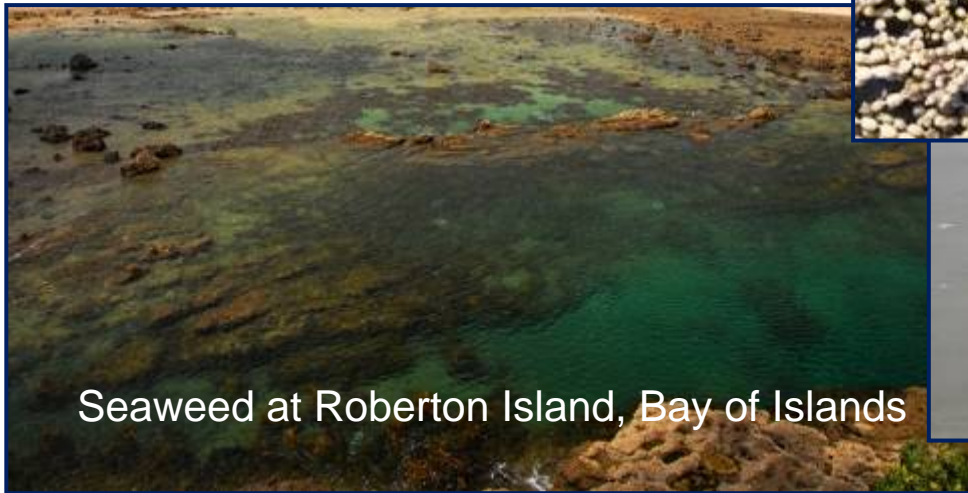
What plants live on rocky shores?

Three distinct colours of seaweed can be found on Northland's rocky shore – green, red and brown.



Neptune's necklace, Spirits Bay

Check out the different seaweed types and colours on the rocky shore. Where are they?



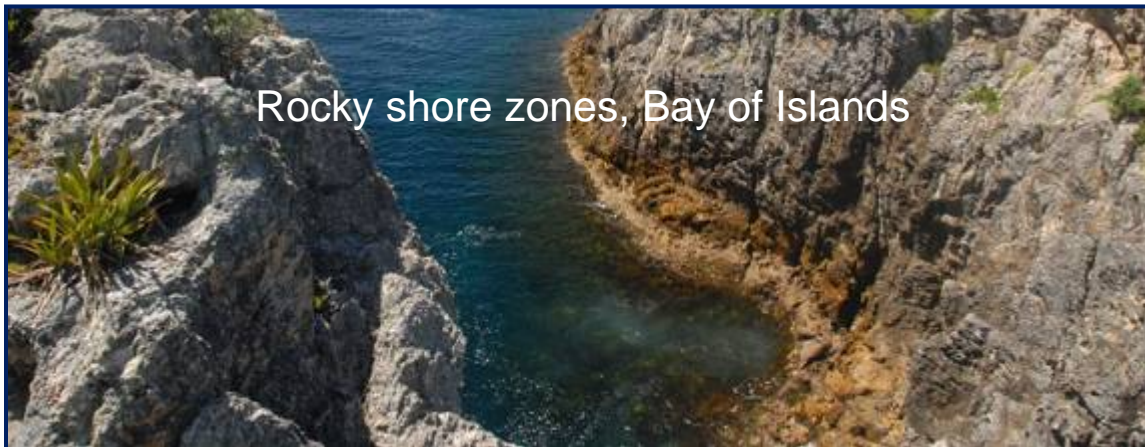
Seaweed at Robertson Island, Bay of Islands



Bull kelp, Mitimiti

What creatures live on rocky shores?

Each rocky shore zone has its own creatures. Some can be found only in one zone, others in many zones.



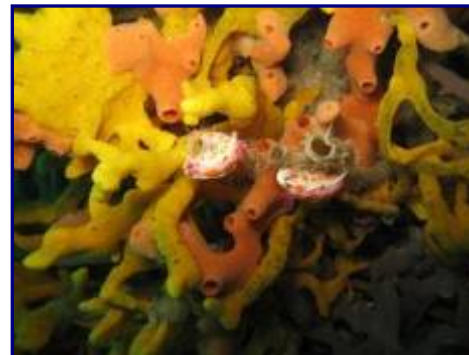
Investigate which zone on the rocky shore contains the most creatures.

What creatures live on rocky shores?

Anemones
(low tide zone)



Sponges
(low tide zone)



Without disturbing them, locate these creatures on the rocky shore.

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What creatures live on rocky shores?

Worms
(low tide zone)



Barnacles
(high tide zone)

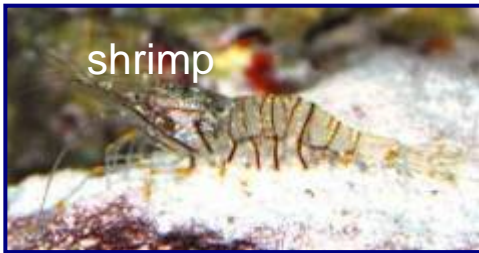


Without disturbing them, locate these creatures on the rocky shore.



What creatures live on the rocky shore?

Shrimps, sandhoppers and sea slaters (all zones)



Without disturbing them, locate these creatures on the rocky shore.

Crabs (all zones)



What creatures live on rocky shores?

Sea stars (mid tide to low tide zone)

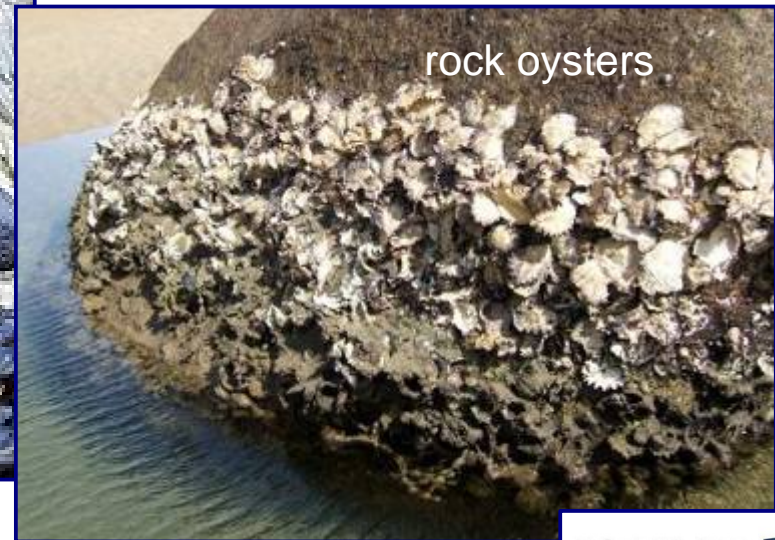


Use the [Portobello Marine Studies' Centre Rocky Shore Guide](#) to identify these creatures on your rocky shore.

What creatures live rocky shores?

Shellfish (all zones)

What shellfish are found on the rocky shore?
Where are they and why do they live there?



Why are Northland's rocky shores special to Maori?

As a source of identity – a sense of place.



Invite a guest speaker to tell you about the ancient history surrounding the rocky shores.

Why are Northland's rocky shores special to Maori?

As a food basket (kete).

How have Maori traditionally used rocky shores?



What threatens rocky shores?

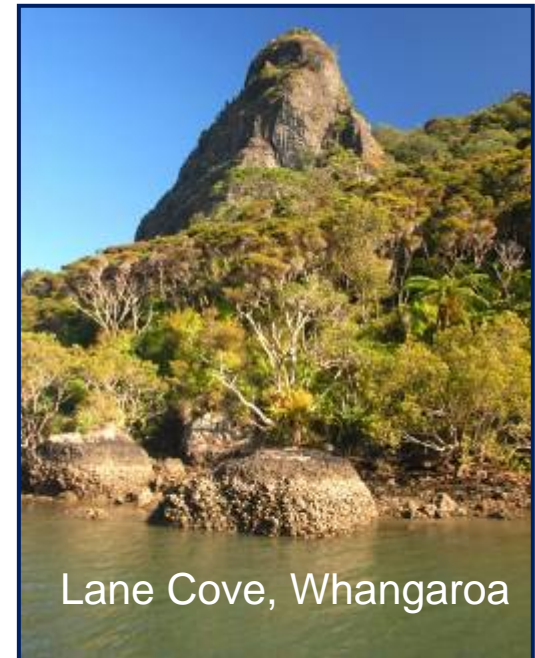
- careless human activity
- creature, habitat and plant removal
- habitat disturbance
(rocks, shells, seaweed)
- eroded material covering them
- buildings built too close
- pollution

What can you do to help protect Northland's rocky shores?



What can we do to protect rocky shores?

- tread carefully
- handle creatures with care
- leave creatures where they are
- leave attached seaweed in place
- carefully replace rocks
- leave empty shells on the shore



How do you
care for the
rocky shore
when you
visit?

How can you keep safe on rocky shores?

- check tide times at www.nrc.govt.nz
- take someone with you when you explore
- watch for changing weather
- look out for waves
- beware of slippery and uneven rock surfaces
- pick up rubbish and dispose of it appropriately

How can you help your friends and family to keep safe when they visit the rocky shore?



Northland's Coast and Us



Taiharuru

Our rocky shores

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have you clicked on yet?
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