

FORESTS of the SEA

Seaweeds belong to three different groups: brown, green and red algae.

Did you know?

- ✦ In Te Reo Māori, the name for seaweed is rimurimu!
- ✦ Seaweeds are marine macroalgae that often live on rock and other structures in coastal areas
- ✦ The seaweed gardens create important and productive coastal marine ecosystems
- ✦ Seaweeds provide shelter and nutrients for a variety of marine species
- ✦ Seaweed buffers waves to protect coasts from erosion and they indicate the health of our marine environment
- ✦ Seaweeds are under threat from land reclamation, pollution, overfishing and ocean warming

Wellington Harbour hosts a range of native seaweeds that create underwater gardens.



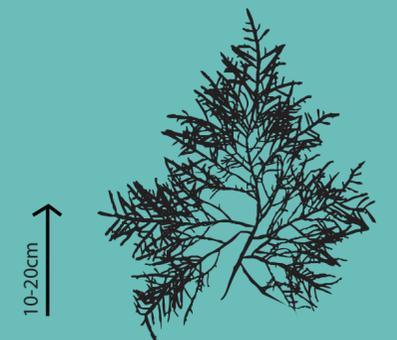
MACROCYSTIS PYRIFERA

Also known as Giant Kelp, this is a large brown seaweed that grows in underwater forests. Individual algae can grow as long as 45 metres!



CARPOPHYLLUM MASCHALOCARPUM

Or Flapjack, this is a brown seaweed that resembles leather. Air filled spongy cells grow on the algae to help support the plants stems underwater.



PTEROCLADIELLA CAPILLACEA

Bush-like and dark red / purple in colour, this seaweed prefers shallow water. It is commonly found in coastal lagoons like Wellington's Whairepo.

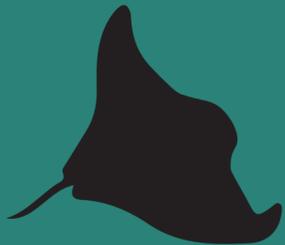


Marine plants produce over 70% of Earth's oxygen!

#loveseaweed

WHO lives HERE?

EAGLE RAY | WHAI REPO



Rays belong to the group of cartilaginous fish. They use electro-sensory organs to find prey. Both eagle rays and sting rays frequent the Wellington waterfront and Whairepo lagoon.

SPOTTY FISH | PAEKIRIKIRI



Spotties are native to New Zealand so they are as important to biodiversity as the kiwi. Young juvenile fish feed on small crustaceans which cling to kelp.



OCTOPUS | WHEKE

The common octopus is among the most intelligent and flexible of all invertebrate animals. The tiny pygmy octopus is often found during clean ups in Wellington.

HERMIT CRAB | KĀUNGA

The colourful hermit crab uses empty shells to hide their soft hind, as well as it's egg mass while it is incubated. As the hermit crabs grow they change their home for larger shells.



WANDERING ANEMONE | HUMENGA

The wandering sea anemone is the largest anemone species found in shallow water around New Zealand, growing up to 200 mm in length and 100 mm wide. It can detach itself and move to new locations.



STARFISH | PAPTANGAROA

The small cushion star is the most abundant starfish found around Wellington. It is often seen scattered across flat rocks and sediment covered reef in shallow water.

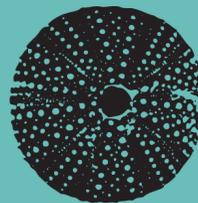


EAR SHELLS | PĀUA



Pāua are commonly found along rocky coasts in depths down to 10 m. Pāua eat seaweed and they are most active at night, moving freely about on the surface of rocks.

SEA URCHIN | KINA



Small kina (1-2 cm) are found under rocks and overhangs, while adult kina can reach 10-15 cm. Kina are mainly herbivorous, feeding on large brown algae, red algae and encrusting substrate.



SEA HORSE | MANAIA

Sea horses are ambush hunters that anchor to seaweed with their curled tails, waiting for food to swim by. They blend in with their surroundings changing colour with pigment cells in their skin.

SAVE our SEAWEED

Wellington Underwater Club

We are a community based Dive Club promoting a healthy marine environment for everyone to enjoy. Our members explore and document Wellington's coast and love being in the water. We have an active voice on marine related topics and run a variety of club projects, including citizen science, outreach & education projects:

- Wellington's underwater gardens - seaweed gardening and monitoring of giant kelp
- Marine reserve monitoring
- Maritime archaeology

Follow us on Facebook @wellingtonunderwater
Check out more information at www.wuc.org.nz



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Mural and Infographic design by Tamara Kogler in collaboration with the Wellington Underwater Club

How can you help Wellington's seaweed?

- Remember to reduce, reuse & recycle your waste, find out when your local recycling pick-ups are
- Don't litter! Drains are only for rain, rubbish left on the road can end up in the ocean
- Tell your city councillor that the marine environment is important to you
- Join one of Wellington's community groups and support local cleanups and restoration projects

