

# Welcome to the Island Bay Snorkel Trail

Taputeranga Marine Reserve is known as a mixing place of ocean currents. These bring a richness of marine creatures.

The diversity of fish, seaweeds and marine life is yours to explore.

## To make sure you snorkel safely think about:

- Weather conditions can be wild on the South Coast – avoid swimming if there is white water or waves breaking on the Trail's reef.
- Keep between the buoys and the reef.
- Water temperature – a full wetsuit is recommended to provide flotation and keep you warm.
- Water clarity will be affected by recent rain, storm waves, southerly winds etc.

## Swim Safely:

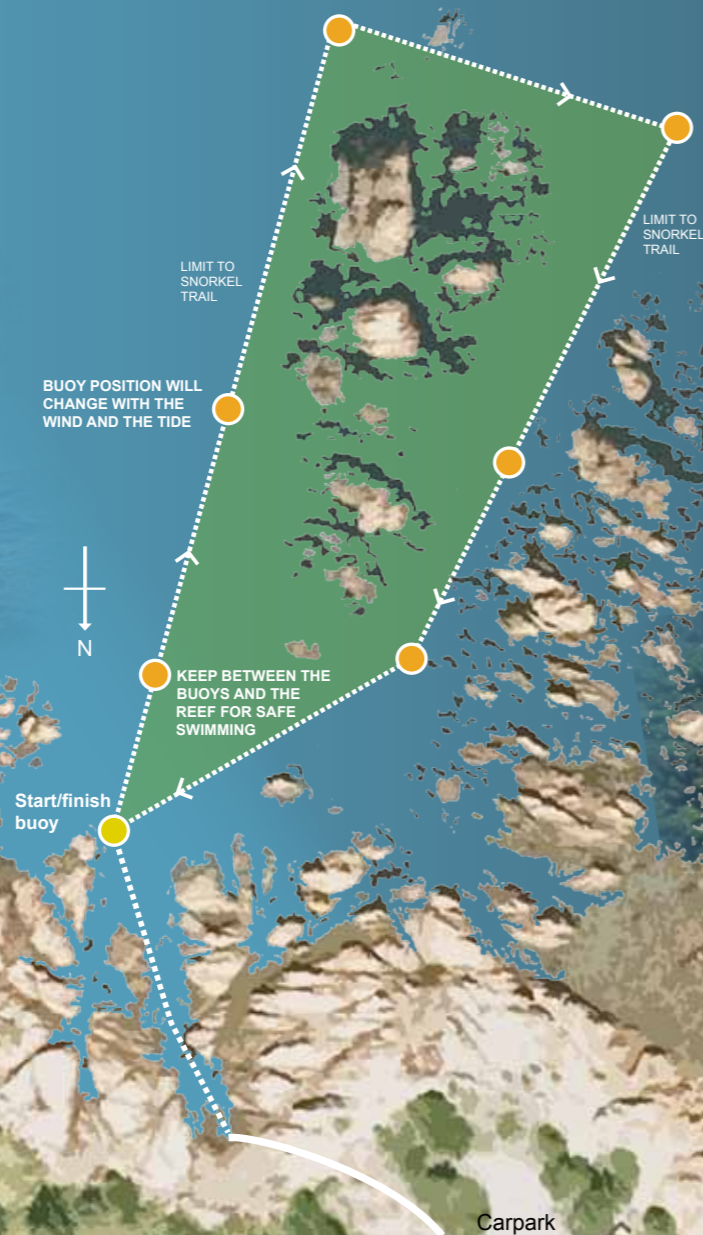
- Always snorkel with a buddy; don't go into the water alone.
- Supervise children.
- Wear a mask, snorkel and fins, and always bring warm and dry clothes to wear afterwards.
- The best time to snorkel is on a warm, sunny day and an incoming or full tide.

## You are the visitor. Be considerate to your marine hosts.

- Do not feed the fish. Feeding them alters their natural behaviour; they need to fend for themselves.
- Seaweeds and kelps should not be used to hold on to the reef as they are fragile.



Photo: Helen Keffles



## What can you find in your Snorkel Trail?

### The area between low and high tide is the 'intertidal zone'.

There are limpets, chitons and lower down, seaweeds that are in the 'splash zone' where they stay wet most of the time.

Large red anemones cling to rocks near low tide, looking like black jelly blobs.

### Look at the seabed as you start your swim.

Pebbles, cobbles and sand. Keep the rocky reef on your right.

Small triplefin fishes use the reef seaweed as a home.

Larger butterfish graze the seaweeds for food. Paua cling to the rocks and also eat seaweeds.

### Can you see banded wrasse, spotties or blue cod?

These fish eat other sea animals.

Look out for crayfish which eat shellfish and clean up the debris left by other fish and marine life. Crayfish live in crevices.

Check out starfish, sea cucumbers, and sea anemones

### Seaweeds and kelps form the reef 'forest'.

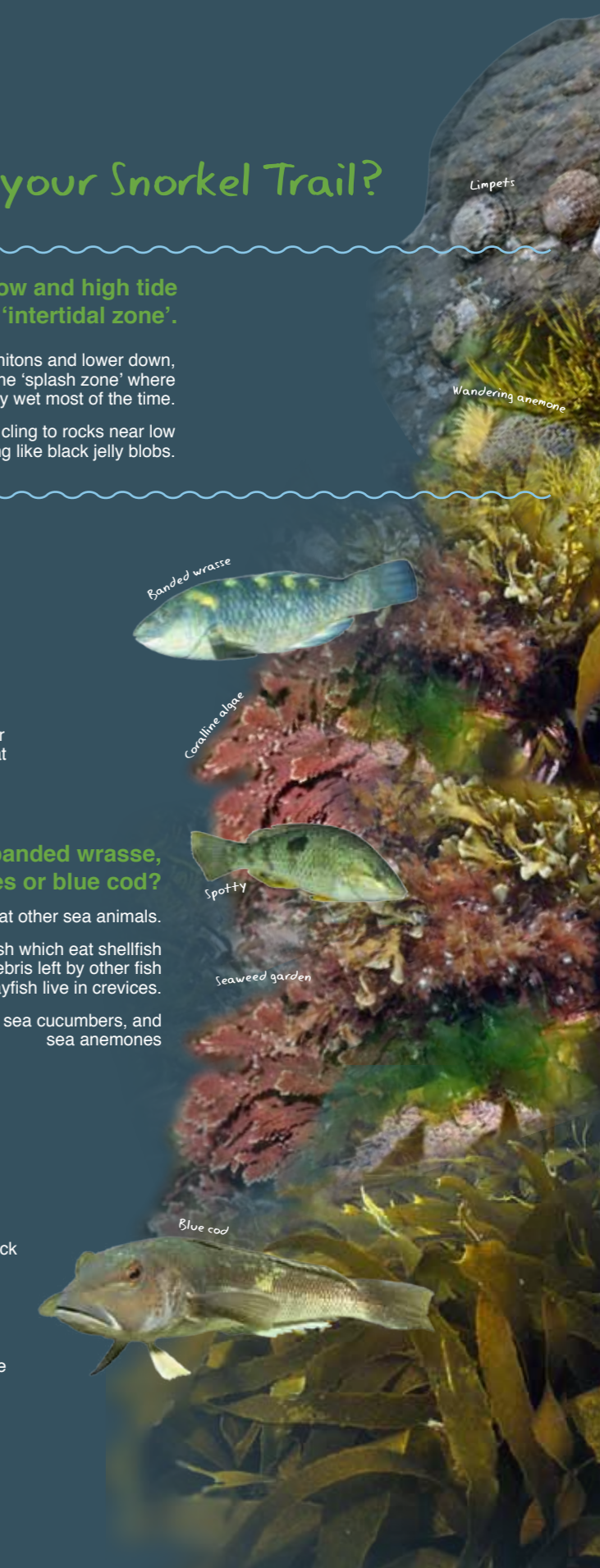
Can you see:

Shallow water: Neptune's necklace, flapjack

Midwater: Leathery strapweed, sea rimu.

At the outer end of the reef, floating at the surface: Bull kelp

Look for red seaweeds that love the shade under taller brown algae.



All marine life is protected  
Please report offences to the  
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