

Akaroa Harbour Marine Life

Akaroa Harbour has a variety of coastline habitats including rocky outcrops, seaweeds and sandy beaches. Scientists estimate that as much as 80% of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity may be found in the sea.

Recreational fishing is popular in Akaroa Harbour and butterfish, blue moki, kahawai and blue cod are often targeted. Mussels and paua are gathered off the rocks at low tide.

White-flipped penguins, the smallest penguins in the world, frequent the harbour and occasionally the much rarer yellow-eyed penguin.

Red billed gulls, cormorants, Australasian gannets, petrels and mollymawks are regularly seen in Akaroa Harbour. In the outer harbour there are breeding colonies of white-fronted terns and black-backed gulls.

Hector's dolphin, the smallest and rarest marine dolphin, frequent Akaroa Harbour.

Albatross, orca and whales visit occasionally.

New Zealand fur seals/kekeno are numerous and often seen with their pups on a sunny rock.

In the outer harbour the Dan Rogers Bluff at 275m dominates the landscape. Below low tide there is a striking increase in plant and animal communities. Large green-lipped mussels, sea tulips, hydroids, sponges and sea squirts extend into the seabed.

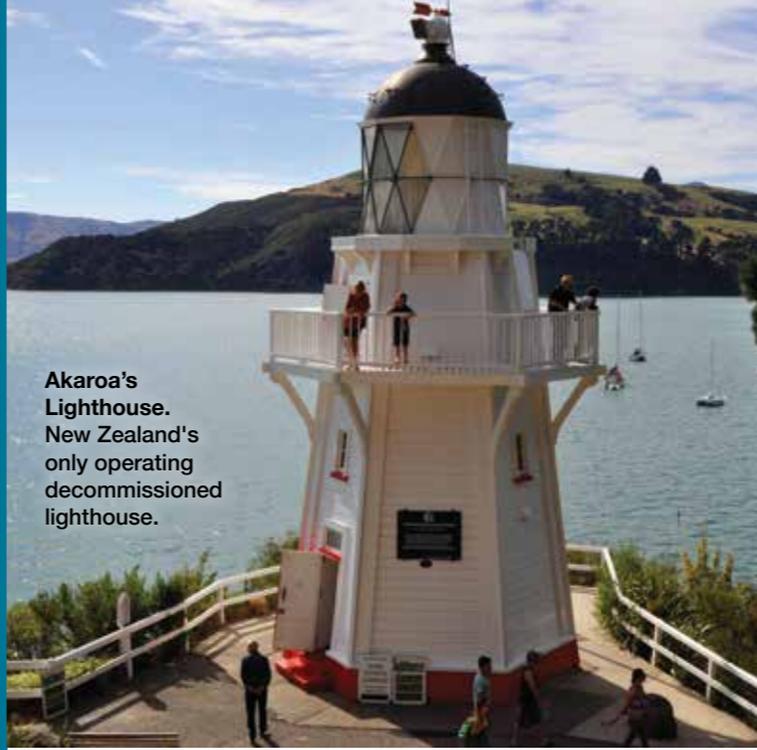
The seaweed *xiphophora gladiata novae-zealandiae*, absent in many Banks Peninsula bays, has been recorded in Haylock's Bay which indicates the presence of special environmental features there.



Butterfish

Akaroa Harbour is Special Because ...

- *It has four locally marine protected areas encompassing cultural and conservation principles.*
- *Endangered and endemic Hector's dolphins are regularly seen in Akaroa Harbour.*
- *The Akaroa marine reserve is adjacent to three land reserves protecting a sequence of land to sea.*
- *The commercial sectors of aquaculture, tourism and cruise ship visits are balanced with biodiversity protection and conservation awareness.*
- *The exquisite New Zealand Blue Pearls are farmed in Akaroa Harbour, home of the original Blue Pearl, and one of only a few Eyris® Blue Pearl farms in New Zealand.*
- *Akaroa Harbour dissects the eight to nine million year old volcanoes of the Akaroa Volcanic Complex.*
- *The landscape reflects volcanic process, erosion, sea level, influences of periods of glaciations and human occupancy both Maori and European melded together to form spectacular vistas.*
- *Akaroa hosts many internationally significant and unique geological, ecological, archaeological and historic sites in which preservation, conservation and education is at the forefront of community efforts.*
- *Nature watching, swimming with dolphins and harbour cruises offers a rewarding way to enjoy and appreciate the seascape and landscape.*



Akaroa's Lighthouse.
New Zealand's only operating decommissioned lighthouse.



www.akaroa.com



AKAROA AND THE BAYS



TO AKAROA.COM

Akaroa Information Centre

Information, Accommodation, Activities,
Bookings & Hire Equipment
Address: 74a Rue Lavaud, Akaroa
Phone: **03 304 7784**
Email: akaroaadventurecentre@gmail.com

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Raquel Smith, Wade Doak, Elise Cailleau,
Coast Up Close and Pohatu Penguins.*

WHY IS Akaroa HARBOUR SPECIAL?



Hector's Dolphin



Yellow Eyed Penguin



NZ Fur Seal

Akaroa Marine Reserve



Little Penguins

The Akaroa Marine Reserve is a fully and permanently protected area, similar to a national park on the land.

No fishing or extraction is allowed but people are welcome to visit the reserve, take photographs, snorkel, dive, kayak and swim.

It is hoped that without interference the marine reserve will return to a fully restored natural state.

The Akaroa Marine Reserve is adjacent to three terrestrial reserves: Dan Rogers Bluff Scenic Reserve, Palm Gully Nature Reserve and the Lighthouse Historic Reserve. Thus there is a sequence of land to sea protection. There is no road access to the Akaroa Marine Reserve.

Ten per cent of the species in this area are categorised as “undescribed” – a valid reason to give full protection to the area for future scientific study.



Hector's Dolphins



NZ Fur Seal

Akaroa Harbour Taiāpure

A taiāpure is a local management tool established in an area that has customarily been of special significance to an iwi or hapū as a source of food or for spiritual or cultural reasons. The Akaroa Harbour Taiāpure was established in 2006.

There are additional restrictions over and above the South-East Area Amateur Fishing Rules further limiting the quantity of fish that can be caught in the taiāpure and marine protected areas. Recreational fishers need to be aware of these before setting out.

The main purpose of a taiāpure is to manage, conserve and enhance fisheries resources for present and future generations to use and enjoy.

Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary

The Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary was established in 1988 to protect the endangered Hector's dolphin. It covers 413,000 hectares and 389km of coastline from the Rakaia to the Waipara River and 12 nautical miles (Nm) out to sea.

The last 40 years has seen a rapid decline in dolphin numbers. In the 1970s their population sat at around 29,000. Today, fewer than 8,000 dolphins remain.

Set-nets can entangle Hector's dolphin so commercial set-netting is banned out to 4 Nm. Seasonal set netting by amateur fishers in some areas is still permitted.

The Hector's dolphin is one of the world's smallest marine dolphins rarely exceeding 1.5m in length. Although they may live for 25 years, the females produce only four or five calves in their lifetime.

Pōhatu Marine Reserve

Pōhatu Marine Reserve in Flea Bay was established in 1999 and covers 215 hectares. Flea Bay is 11km from Akaroa on the south-eastern coastline of Banks Peninsula.

Pōhatu Marine Reserve is permanently and fully protected from fishing or extraction. Although small in area, the reserve encompasses an entire embayment with two sandy beaches backed by shingle.

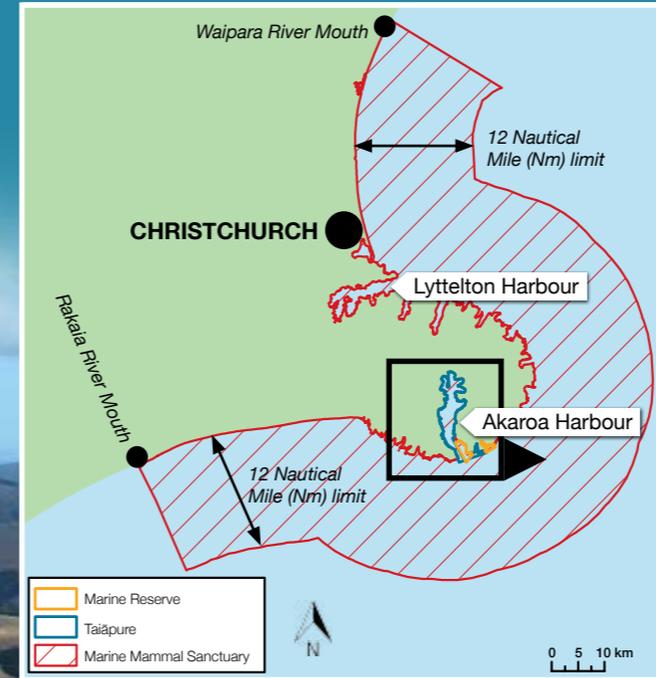
Pōhatu has the largest 'Little Penguin' (korora) colony on mainland New Zealand which is mainly composed of the white-flipped variant (endemic to the Canterbury region). Also found in this reserve are yellow eyed penguins, New Zealand fur seals/ kekeno regularly rest on the rocky shoreline and Hector's dolphin are frequently seen.

Visitors who enjoy rockpooling will see many kinds of crabs, shellfish, anemones and seaweed at low tide.

There is public road access to Flea Bay/Pōhatu via the Lighthouse Road. The road is shingled, rough and narrow. 4WD is recommended. Not suitable for campervans.



Marine Mammal Sanctuary, Taiāpure and Marine Reserves



These maps are an approximate guide and may be inaccurate or unsuitable for some purposes. Accordingly, no liability is accepted for any use that is made of these maps.

More information is available from: www.doc.govt.nz and www.mpi.govt.nz. Map information sourced from www.nabis.govt.nz © Crown Copyright 2015.

