

Lineage – Scientific methodology

Marine Protected Area Coastal Biogeographic Regions

These biogeographic regions form part of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Policy - an initiative of the New Zealand Government.

The Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Fisheries are jointly responsible for implementing the MPA Policy. Other government agencies, local government, tangata whenua and stakeholder groups will also be involved in implementing the MPA Policy.

Data was supplied by the Department of Conservation (DoC).

There are 14 coastal biogeographic regions:

- Kermadec Islands
- Three Kings Islands
- Northeastern
- Eastern North Island
- Western North Island
- North Cook Strait
- South Cook Strait
- East Coast South Island
- West Coast South Island
- Fiordland
- Southern
- Chatham Islands
- Snares
- Subantarctic

New Zealand has been divided into 14 coastal biogeographic regions. This approach is based on the premise that similar physical habitats and ecosystems, if separated by enough space (100s to 1000s of kms), will contain different biological communities due to a combination of broad-scale factors. Such factors may include oceanography, current dynamics, large-scale latitudinal gradients, climate or barriers to dispersal. Because the biogeographic regions have been determined with imperfect data and information, there is a degree of uncertainty with regard to the location of their boundaries; they are considered to reflect major coastal biological patterns.

For more information please refer to this website:

http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/seas/biodiversity/protected/mpa_policy.html