



# WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL

## Marine Biology



*Ko te wai te ora ngā mea katoa - Water is the life giver of all things*



The ocean is such a magical place! There is nowhere else on earth you can feel like an astronaut and be surrounded with such exquisite life. Even if you are not a fan of being in the water – the ocean touches you every day! With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you are connected to the sea.

At Whakatane High School, students can study the unique Science subject

of Marine Studies. The earth's oceans are a very important part of the earth's ecosystems and as a coastal town facing the Pacific Ocean, the marine environment is very important to our community.



At year 12 (NCEA Level 2) and 13 (NCEA Level 3) students receive four hours of lessons a week from a science teacher who has had special training in marine studies.

The year 12 course covers the coastal ecology of the rocky shore, the biology of mussels and crayfish, living in the extreme environment of the Deep Ocean, different marine reproduction strategies, a practical investigation on the effect of climate change on shrimp, and the sustainability of fishing practices.

The year 13 course has a wide variety of standards students can choose from based on their needs and interests. These range from implementing a

personal action to help our oceans, to investigating NZ and worldwide policies on shark finning, fishing practices, the biology of Snapper, Paua, Oysters, and Kina, the implications of marine reserves, a practical investigation into crab behaviour, as well as learning about customary Maori fishing practices, where you have to make and use Maori fishing hooks.



**Whakatane High School**  
**Goulstone Road**  
**Private Bag 1021**  
**Whakatane 3158 · New Zealand**  
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### SCUBA DIVING

Each year there are three (April, September, & December), four day, Scuba Diving trips run by Dive Zone Whitianga in the beautiful Coromandal, a 3 hour drive from Whakatane. On these trips you can complete any of the PADI Scuba diving courses – open water, advanced, rescue, or free diving.



The cost to do a course & the trip is \$800.00 NZD, or if you already have your open water certificate you can just scuba dive for \$300.00 NZD.

All gear is provided on the trip and you will need to have a Padi scuba diving medical certificate, which is best to have done by your doctor at home before you come to NZ.



### HERON ISLAND TRIP

All year 13 and international marine studies students are invited to go to the beautiful Heron Island on Australia's Great Barrier reef. The 10 day trip is run during the last week of school in Term 2.



The group stays at the Queensland University Research Station. You do not have to be a scuba diver to come on the trip as most of the amazing wildlife is best seen by snorkelling. The trip cost \$3000.00 NZD.

This amazing trip gives you an insight into the complex ecosystem of coral reefs, and the impacts climate change is having on them.

Check out all the cool things the Whakatane Marine Studies Classes get up to on face book - <https://www.facebook.com/WHSMarineStudies/>



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Member of  
ODENZ and Education Tauranga



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