

Naming New Zealand's undersea features

New Zealand's vast undersea area is largely unmapped. More than 1000 features on the ocean floor are named but there could potentially be thousands more.

Have you discovered or written about an unnamed undersea feature such as a seamount, canyon or trough? If so, we encourage you to make a proposal to the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to name the feature.

Once made official an undersea feature name will:

- provide context for exploration, environmental protection and research
- be a consistent reference for science and fishers
- tell the story of discovery and culture
- be an aid for navigation and assist maritime safety
- be available for the whole world to see.



Whenuanuiapa Plain - Bathymetry sourced from NIWA
Overleaf: Tamatea - Artwork by Cliff Whiting, Geographic Board copyright



We want proposals that:

- are relevant to New Zealand, including Māori connections
- use the name of an associated land feature
- describe the feature and where it is
- honour the memory of people involved in ocean sciences, exploration or protection
- commemorate ships, expeditions or events.

The naming rules and the types of undersea features are in the *Standard for undersea feature names*.

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