



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger (Visitor Experience Pilot)

Location	Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve (Aka Goat Island)
Dates of Employment	16th November 2026 to 26th February 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$61,189 to \$67,446

Mō te tūranga | About the role

The Cape Rodney - Okakari Point Marine Reserve, commonly known as 'Goat Island' is a one of the most popular visitor destinations in the country for both New Zealanders and international tourists. Approximately 350,000 people visit this Marine Reserve each year.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is piloting paid car parking at this location.

This is part of a national pilot to help manage visitor numbers at locations with significant visitation pressures. By paying for parking, visitors can give back to the environment they are visiting, helping create a more sustainable model to help protect New Zealand's precious biodiversity.

As a Ranger Summer – Marine (Visitor Experience Pilot) working in the Marine District, this role focuses on public engagement, education, and advocacy. You will support the paid parking trial while also using your skills to advocate for marine protected areas and protected species. You will be working on the frontline, interacting with visitors and local communities to encourage responsible behaviour and support compliance outcomes.

You will be mentored by a dedicated Supervisor, and work closely with Marine Community Rangers, Marine Protection Rangers and the wider DOC team.

Key Tasks

- Manage vehicle parking during peak periods.
- Monitor parking over spill onto Goat Island Road, and parking behaviour.
- Proactively interact with visitors and provide information on the requirements for paid parking, and report back to the paid parking project team on issues and observations
- Complete visual inspections of paid parking hardware such as; solar and battery equipment, camera equipment, signage and payment kiosks and troubleshoot any issues that may arise
- Download traffic data weekly from the site and report to DOC insights team
- Provide visitor information regarding the Marine Reserve, including rules and regulations.

- Engage with the public about marine protection, including marine protected areas, and species
- Report compliance issues and escalate to Warranted Officer where necessary
- Assist Rangers with the maintenance of the facilities, advocacy and public engagement
- Carry out other duties as required to support conservation outcomes

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Ability to work outdoors in a range of weather conditions
- Comfortable working independently and in small teams
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with confidence engaging the public
- Ability to manage challenging situations and maintain positive relationships
- Positive, approachable attitude
- Passion for marine conservation, including marine protected areas and species
- Competence with Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook)
- Availability to work all weekends and public holidays in the employment term
- Current First Aid certificate
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

This role is part of DOC's Auckland Marine District, which focuses on marine protected areas including marine reserves, high protection areas, seafloor protection areas and protected marine species.

You will be part of an enthusiastic marine-focused team delivering conservation outcomes across a range of coastal and marine environments. The role provides opportunities to work alongside experienced DOC staff and contribute to meaningful marine protection work across the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana.

You will be required to make your own way to the Cape Rodney - Okakari Marine Reserve, as this is your primary working location. There will be opportunities for you to work with your colleagues at other locations, or out on boat patrols, but you should expect 90% of your workdays to be at this location.

Additional Information

Monday to Friday, Hours: 08:00 to 16:30. Flexible hours may be required, including early starts and late finishes depending on operational needs

Public holiday work required.

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Adam Whatton – Principal Ranger Marine – awhatton@doc.govt.nz