Bay of Islands Marine Field Course

A 5-day residential field skills accelerator in applied marine science & vessel operations

Immersive field training in marine ecology, conservation and coastal research — delivered by active marine scientists in one of Aotearoa's most biodiverse coastal regions.

Location: Bay of Islands, Northland
Duration: 5 days
Website: www.trioceans.org

Course overview

The TriOceans Marine Field Course is an immersive one-week programme based in the Bay of Islands, combining vessel-based research operations, coastal survey techniques and structured data analysis.

Participants train alongside experienced marine scientists using the tools and workflows employed in active marine research programmes — from vessel-based survey techniques to structured data collection and spatial analysis.

The course emphasises hands-on learning, teamwork and scientific thinking in one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most biodiverse coastal environments.

Who is this course for?

🎓 University Students

Undergraduate and early postgraduate students in marine science, ecology or environmental disciplines seeking practical vessel-based and data-driven field skills beyond lecture theatres

🌍 Gap-year & Emerging explorers

Motivated young adults (18+) exploring study or career pathways in marine and environmental fields, who want real-world exposure to scientific fieldwork.

🌿 Conservation & field practitioners

Rangers, NGO staff, council officers and conservation workers looking to strengthen practical survey methods, data collection skills and boat-based experience

No prior qualifications required

🔄 Career changers & life-long learners

Professionals transitioning into environmental or conservation careers who want structured, hands-on training in marine research operations.

What you will gain

- 2–3 days of vessel-based field experience
- Introductory helm handling and manoeuvres
- Digital field data collection systems
- Spatial mapping and visualisation in GIS
- ROV underwater survey experience
- Insight into how marine field data flows from ocean to analysis
- Understanding of marine protection legislation in New Zealand

Delivered in the Bay of Islands, within Marine Mammal Sanctuary, Rahui and Mataitais, participants work alongside practising scientists, using structured field exercises designed to reflect real-world marine research.

What your week looks like

Sample Week at a Glance

Day 1 – Field Systems & Data Foundations	Sampling design, digital field data collection system creation, and introductory GIS mapping.
Day 2 – Vessel Handling & Nautical Literacy	Rules of the road, charts and markers, followed by practical helm training including transects, key manoeuvres and man-overboard recovery.
Day 3 – Structured Research at Sea	Full-day vessel-based surveys including ROV and BRUV deployment, marine mammal observation protocols, reinforcement manoeuvres, student-led helm decisions. Weather and student key interests will determine time at sea and in the classroom
Day 4 – Structured research at Sea	
Day 5 – Integrated Scenario & Evaluation	Marine protection legal frameworks and final assessment

Field Methods & Techniques Covered

Vessel & Field Operations

- Introductory helm handling
- Transect steering
- Man-overboard procedures
- Scientific gear deployment

Structured Data & Spatial Analysis

- Digital field database design
- GIS mapping & visualization
- Effort-weighted heat maps

What You'll Be Doing, Day-to-Day

This is an active field course. Participants are expected to contribute directly to data collection and scientific workflow.

- Working in small field teams
- Rotating through sampling roles
- Operating field equipment under supervision
- Scientific gear used may include BRUVS, ROVS, theodolites, SLRs mounted with photogrammetry scalers, and hydrophones

Professional standards & Field Safety

Safe field operations

TriOceans applies a high professional standard to all its operations

- ✓ Commercially surveyed research vessel
- ✓ Qualified and experienced skippers
- ✓ Daily risk and weather assessments
- ✓ Involvement of students in field decision making

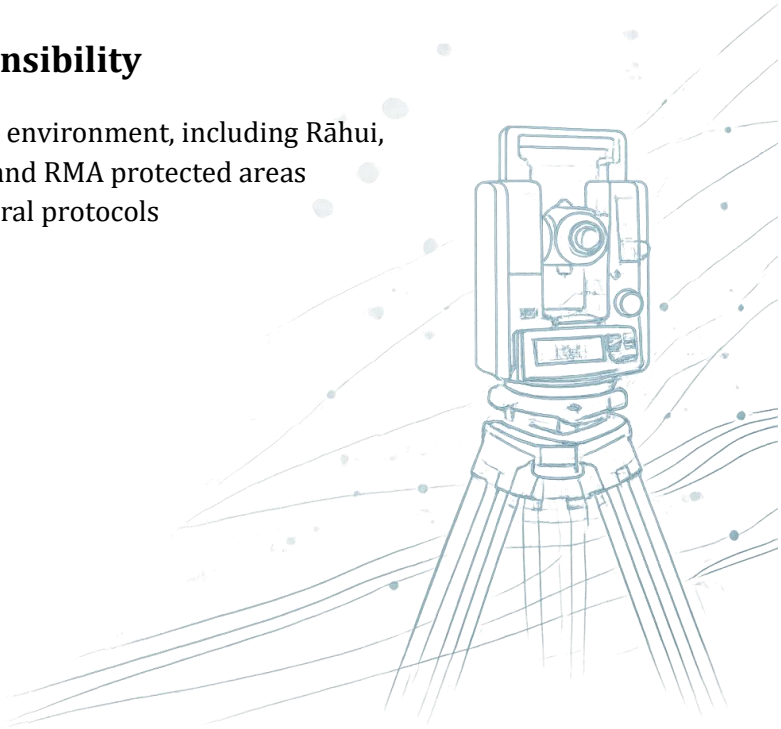
Science in Practice

Course activities draw directly on established marine research and monitoring methods.

- ✓ Training led by marine researchers with over 15 years of experience
- ✓ Consideration of research ethics, permits and data quality
- ✓ Integration with current conservation and scientific initiatives

Cultural & Environmental Responsibility

- ✓ Respect for regulations in a diverse legal environment, including Rāhui, Mātaitais, marine mammal sanctuaries, and RMA protected areas
- ✓ Engagement with local tikanga and cultural protocols



Logistics & Practical Information

Location

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
Te Tai Tokerau / Northland
Aotearoa New Zealand

Pricing & What's Included

Indicative Course Fee

NZD $3,200 per student
(Final pricing confirmed for each intake)

Small cohort — maximum 6 participant

Included

- ✔ Five-day residential programme
- ✔ On-Site accommodation at our Bay of Islands field headquarters (Aroha Island)
- ✔ All vessel time and skipper instruction
- ✔ ROV deployment and field equipment
- ✔ Digital field data collection systems
- ✔ GIS mapping and spatial analysis workshops
- ✔ Transport during the course (including Kerikeri access)
- ✔ Course datasets and materials to take home
- ✔ Certificate of completion

Not included

- ❌ Initial travel to and from Kerikeri *(airport or bus transfers can be arranged)*
- ❌ Personal travel insurance
- ❌ Meals (shared kitchen provided — group catering options may be available)

Accomodation

Participants stay on-site at our Bay of Islands field base at Aroha Island, with shared rooms, communal kitchen facilities and direct access to vessels and survey sites. The residential format supports small cohorts, collaboration and evening data sessions.

2026 Course Dates

Autumn	Spring	Early Summer
20–24 April 2026	28 September – 2 October 2026	23–27 November 2026

Why learn with TriOceans?

TriOceans is a Bay of Islands-based marine science organisation delivering research, monitoring and education programmes across Northland and beyond.

- Active marine research programmes
- Government and university collaborations
- Long-term regional monitoring experience
- Education delivered by working scientists

Our team includes marine scientists, experienced commercial skippers, educators and cultural advisors with deep regional knowledge.

Group Bookings & Institutions

We welcome enquiries from universities, training providers and organisations interested in booking dedicated cohorts or integrating the course into accredited programmes.

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Ready to take your place on the research vessel?

Join a small cohort of motivated participants for five days of vessel-based research training in the Bay of Islands

info@trioceans.org
www.trioceans.org

TriOceans | Bay of Islands, Aotearoa New Zealand