

Coastal Rockpools

What are rockpools?

Rockpools are tidal pools in the intertidal zone, where land and sea meet. These pools usually form where there are areas of hard rock, and parts of the rock have eroded away to form holes or craters in the rock.

At high tide, ocean water collects in these deep holes. As the ocean tide is always changing this means so does the what marine life you find living in rockpools.

Why some animals love living in rockpools!

There are many advantages for some marine life to choose to live in a rockpool:

- Algae and other intertidal plants grow in the abundant sunlight.
- Constant wave action supplies the tide pool with nutrients and oxygen.
- Lots of food.
- There tends to be a lot of rocks, sand and plants which provides hiding places and surfaces to cling to or hide from prey!

Why rockpools are considered extreme habitats!

- Exposure to the sun. While this exposure can help grow algae, it can also dry up moisture and increase the water temperature
- There is a lot of competition for space amongst the animals that live with in a pool
- As the tide rises and falls, the level of salt in the water (what we call salinity) constantly changes so the animals within this zone need to be well adapted to these extreme levels.
- There are a lot of waves in this zone which can risk animals being washed away. Most of the animals within this zone will have great ability to stick to the rock walls of their habitat

How we can PROTECT these environments!

Some tips to share with your friends or family to protect this environment! Can you think of anymore?

1. Take your trash with you when you leave the beach.
2. Return overturned rocks to their original positions.
3. Try to retrieve fishing line and other trash off snags to help clean up the rock platform.
4. Tread carefully so as not to damage plants, animals, and their habitats
5. Take nothing but photographs, leave the animals in their natural home.