

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO
COOK ISLANDS

NOTICE OF RULES RELATING TO SUWARROW NATIONAL PARK

PURSUANT to the Cook Islands Government Declaration of Cabinet dated the 29th of June 1978 signed by Gaven Donne acting as High Commissioner

DECLARING Suvarrow to be a NATIONAL PARK of the Cook Islands

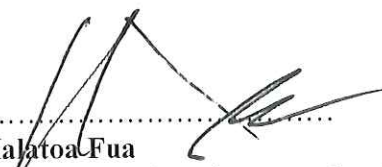
THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE OF THE COOK ISLANDS pursuant the Environment Act 2003 is empowered to issue rules, policies and guidelines for any areas under its control and management

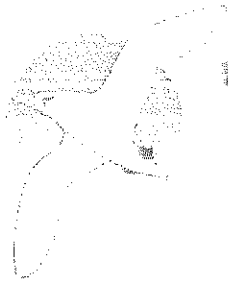
THE ATTACHED RULES are issued in relation to Suvarrow National Park effective as of the date of this Notice

“Suvarrow National Park” means the island of Suvarrow, its lagoon including the reef surrounding the lagoon, and including also surrounding waters, being those waters extending six kilometers outwards from the high-water mark on the outer edge of the reef.

DATED THE 26th DAY OF May 2022

SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR)
OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF)
THE COOK ISLANDS)


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Mr Halatua Fua
Director - National Environment Service
Cook Islands



SUWARROW NATIONAL PARK RULES

Entry

1. No entry to the Suwarrow National Park before 1st June and after the 1st November each year.
 - No entry through the passage of Suwarrow National Park before 7am and after 6pm.
 - The Q flag must be hoisted upon entry into Suwarrow
 - Vessels with 12 and more persons on board require permission from the National Environment Service prior to entry to the island.

2. Access to Suwarrow National Park is permitted upon payment of an entrance fee of, subject to –
 - (a) \$50USD per vessel for up to 2 people per vessel, staying no more than 10 days;
 - (b) \$10USD per person per 7 days for any additional person on the vessel;
 - (c) Children 15 years of age and under are free of charge;

Prohibitions

3. No taking of :-
 - (d) shells or flesh from shells;
 - (e) any birds or eggs, or part of any bird or egg, or taking of or tampering with any nest;
 - (f) female lobster with eggs attached;
 - (g) female coconut crab with eggs attached;
 - (h) any live fish for aquariums;
 - (i) any clam (Paua) shell from the lagoon;
 - (j) any whale bone or whale tooth from the islands.

 4. No use of spear guns within the lagoon.

 5. No entry into bird or turtle nesting areas.

 6. No harassing, disturbing, harming or killing of any marine mammals.

 7. No littering.

 8. No discharging or dumping of :-
 - (a) any waste on the islands, sandbanks, or in the lagoon
 - (b) any plastic, paint, oil, batteries, or other pollutants from any vessel inside the lagoon.
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9. No vessels are permitted:-
 - (a) inside the lagoon without sewage holding tanks or on-board marine toilets ;
 - (b) to dump, discharge or flush any sewage holding tanks inside the lagoon;
 - (c) to carry out any cleaning of vessels within the lagoon;
 - (d) to leave any anchorage within the lagoon before mid-day, except in cases of emergency.
10. No domestic dogs, cats or other animals permitted on the islands.
11. No introduction of any non-Native:-
 - (a) plant or seed;
 - (b) plant pest; or
 - (c) insects,onto the islands.
12. No removal of sand, shells, or coral from any islands or the lagoon.
13. No person may:-
 - (a) create any nuisance while on any island;
 - (b) operate any motorized vessel at excessive speed within the lagoon;
 - (c) pollute, poison, or waste any freshwater on the islands;
 - (d) para-sail, wind surfing, waterski, jetski or kite-board in the lagoon.
14. No cleaning of fish, or dumping of any fish waste in the lagoon.
15. No use of fishing nets, poisons, or explosives to catch fish.
16. The use of narcotics on the islands is strictly prohibited and is a criminal offense in the Cook Islands.
17. No tampering with, damage to, or removal of any historic artifact which is in excess of 20 years old.
18. No hampering, hindering or interference with the lawful duties of the Park Rangers.

Restrictions

19. No taking of :-
 - (a) any lobster;
 - (b) any coconut crab;
 - (c) any fish;without permission from the Park Ranger.

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20. The following activities are restricted on and within Suvarrow, unless permitted from the Park Ranger;
 - (a) SCUBA diving
 - (b) Fishing
 - (c) Setting of fires
 - (d) Clearing or cutting of any vegetation.
 - (e) Construction
 - (f) Taking of freshwater
 - (g) The use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)
21. No scientific research without permission from the National Environment Service
22. All vessels are to anchor at designated anchorage points as determined by the Park Ranger.
23. All visitors are required to return to their vessels by 7pm, unless permission for extension is granted by the Park Ranger
24. No commercial tours on or within Suvarrow without permission from the National Environment Service, and subject to the payment of fees and compliance with any requirements as determined by NES.
25. No person may sleep or camp overnight on any island without permission from the National Environment Service
26. No person may visit the islets (motu) without permission from the Park Ranger, which may be granted subject to:
 - availability and accompaniment by the Park Ranger/s
 - the payment of a fee not exceeding US\$10 per person per day;
 - Payment of any costs incurred by the Park Ranger
 - Compliance with such requirements as may be determined by the Park Ranger

Penalties

27. On-the-Spot Fine not exceeding US\$500 for any violation of these Rules.
28. Liable to an additional penalty of US\$100 for each day the offence continues.
29. Any wreckage and associated debris, on and within Suvarrow lagoon, will be subject to further fines, penalties and charges. Fines, penalties and charges will take into account the environment impact of the wreckage and debris, and be applied for every day the wreckage or debris remains in Suvarrow.

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