

The Great Urchin Count

Calling all Divers!

Help map urchin populations and contribute valuable data for the future of our coastal marine ecosystems.

Freedivers - we want to see your images of urchin barren and kelp forests. Log your observations here:

<https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/fVhbSyab>



Scuba divers - join the **10-minute urchin count** and help us map kina & black longspined urchins.

Log your count here:

<https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/TSS9EQvM>



What extras do you need:

Freedivers - a camera

Scuba divers - a slate/wet notes

Share your
observations!



Take a
photo,
count
some
urchins

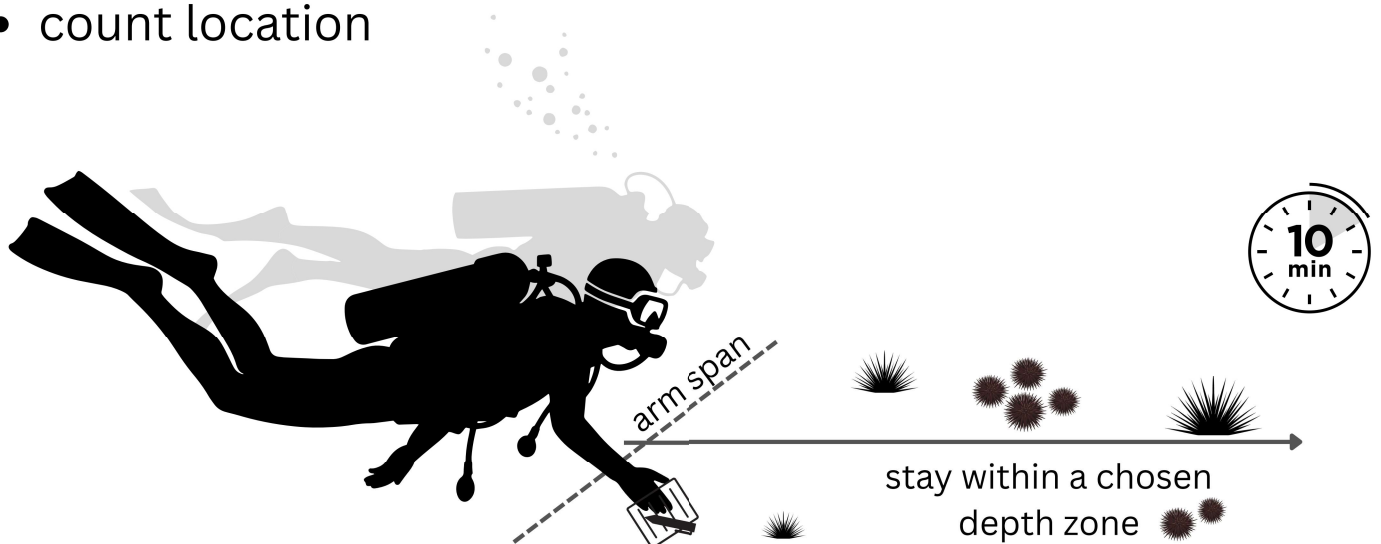
For more information email exploreyourcoast@gmail.com

The Great Urchin Count

The 10-minute count in a nutshell

Only one diver counts. For 10 minutes, swim along a chosen depth zone and count all urchins within one arm span either side of you. Note:

- kina numbers
- black longspined urchin numbers
- depth
- habitat
- count location



You can submit photos with your count.

The 10-min count is a quick and easy method to document urchin barren anywhere in New Zealand. The observations can help track change over time or support specific projects.

Find out more on <https://adventure360.co.nz/urchincount>

For more information email exploreyourcoast@gmail.com

The Great Urchin Count

Counting urchins, 10 minutes at a time

Scuba dive in **buddy pairs of two** and **decide on your role** before entering the water. **Use a dive slate or wet notes** to record details of the count. Complete your notes in your buddy pair immediately after the dive and submit your report from the dive site or as soon as you can.



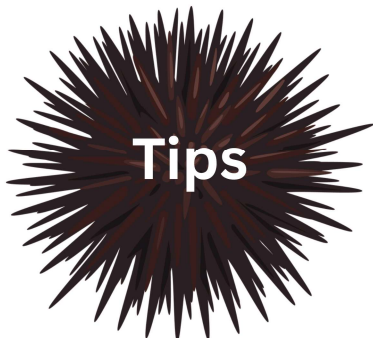
**Report your
urchin count**

Diver 1: Time & Depth Keeper, responsible for

- Recording the depth at the start and end of the 10-min count
- **Monitoring** buddy pair **air supply** (safety is always first!)
- Keeping a consistent depth (+/- 1m) where possible
- Keeping track of time and recording the **direction** of the survey swim
- Maintaining a slow and steady pace (don't rush!)
- Optional: Recording habitat notes

Diver 2: Urchin Counter, responsible for

- Counting urchins - kina & black longspined urchin (up north)
- Recording urchins found within approximately one arm span on either side while swimming forward



Count urchins in the **first part of your dive** while you have plenty of air and you can best estimate the location! **Focus on rocky reefs and adjacent areas.** Urchins might be visible on rocky reef surfaces, in crevices, or **might be hiding in the kelp forest, under seaweed, or under gravel or shells.** In a dense kelp patch look under the seaweed and around the holdfasts.

The Great Urchin Count

Counting urchins, 10 minutes at a time




For Best Results

- Take note of your starting location by using surface references, taking surface bearings and estimating the distance to shore, or using a GPS on the boat.
- Use a dive slate or wetnotes to record depth, kina and black longspined urchin numbers.
- Push dense seaweed aside carefully to check for urchins hiding under the seaweed or around holdfasts. Kina might also hide under gravel or shells.
- Don't rush, dive at your usual pace.
- Focus on the count – take photos afterwards.
- Respect the urchins – don't collect during the 10-min count & be aware of urchin spikes – they can be painful.
- Report your count as soon as possible!

Report Your Count

To report your count **scan the QR code** or go to: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/TSS9EQvM>



-  Share photos on your social media channels
-  Tag Explore Your Coast and
-  Use the hashtags #kinacount #greaturchincount

For more information email exploreyourcoast@gmail.com