**Northern NZ SANDY & MUDDY SHORE GUIDE**

A handy guide to the common animals and plants living on the sandy and muddy seashores of northern New Zealand.

**SHOW RESPECT FOR SEASHORE CREATURES**
- Treat carefully.
- Leave creatures where you found them.
- Leave attached seaweed in place.
- Handle creatures with care - close to the ground with wet hands.
- Carefully put sediment and rocks back to the same location you found them.
- Limit your collection of empty shells as other creatures may use them as homes.

**AVOID DISTURRING WILDLIFE**
- Keep your distance from seabirds including penguins.
- Keep your distance from seals and sea lions.
- Use the zoom on your camera or binoculars for close viewing.
- If sea lions approach you - back away slowly.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Pick up any rubbish found.

**BE CAREFUL AND KEEP SAFE**
- Check tide times to avoid being cut off by rising tides.
- Do not explore the seashore alone.
- Watch for changing weather.
- Look out for waves - never turn your back to the ocean.
- Soft mud can be dangerous. If you start to sink turn back.
- Check signs for any local hazards.

This guide illustrates only some of the more common seashore animals and plants. Visit our website for a comprehensive list, Maori names and information about their ecology.

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