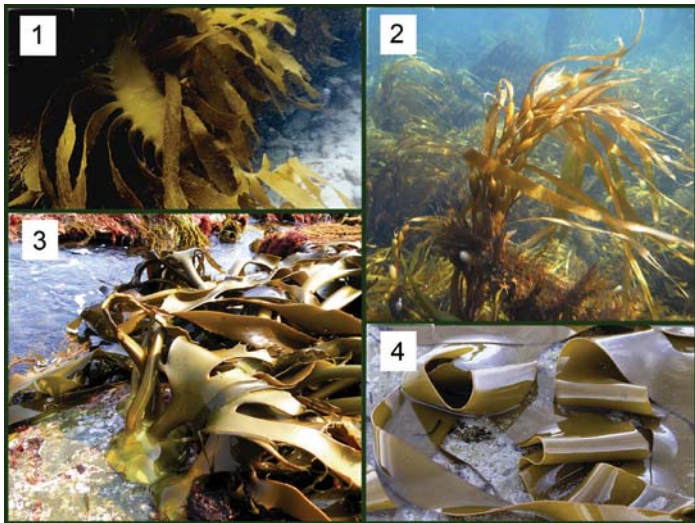


# Brown Algae

(Phylum: *Heterokontophyta*)



Large Brown Algae that form habitats in deeper pools or on the reef edge are referred to as “kelps” and the dense habitat they create referred to as a “kelp forest”. The species shown on this page grow on the outer reef areas of the Marine Sanctuary and are also found in deep pools.

Strong attachments called *holdfasts* allow these algae to withstand strong wave action. Some holdfasts are big enough to create microhabitats for many smaller marine species.

	Name	Description
1	<i>Ecklonia radiata</i> Leathery Kelp (to 2 m)	Forming a complex habitat this species has fish using the blades for cover, while invertebrates and smaller red algae live beneath.
2	<i>Macrocystis angustifolia</i> Giant String Kelp (to 10 m)	Large flotation bladders support this fast growing kelp which forms extensive forests across the outer sandstone reef.
3	Bull Kelp holdfast	Marine algae do not have roots but are cemented onto reefs with a tough structure called a “ <i>holdfast</i> ”.
4	<i>Durvillea pototarium</i> Bull Kelp (to 8 m)	This massive cool water species has tough fronds and a large holdfast allowing it to thrive where there is plenty of wave action.