

# Sea Country in Tasmania

## BEFORE COLONISATION

List ways why Sea Country is important for palawa/pakana people:

*Physical and spiritual connection, cultural identity, wellbeing, community, source of food and materials, historical value*

What natural materials were used to make a ningher (canoe)?

*Reeds, stringy bark and paperbark*

How did Aboriginal fish traps help protect fish populations?

*Rock fish traps allowed people to release young fish while keeping larger fish for food. Keeping fish numbers healthy*

What kinds of sea life were gathered or caught by First Nations people?

*Women gathered shellfish along with seals and fish.*

Why have shell necklaces been important for more than 2,000 years?

*Necklaces are a tradition that expresses identity, connection to Sea Country and links to ancestors. Also used in ceremonies and trade*

## AFTER COLONISATION

How might colonisation have changed access to Sea Country?

*Colonisation restricted First Nation access to coastal land and waterways meaning they couldn't gather fish in traditional places.*

What new fishing tools or boats were introduced by colonisers?

*Metal hooks, nets and larger wooden boats, which were very different from ningher canoes and sustainable First Nations tools.*

How could changes to the environment (like pollution or clearing) affect fishing?

*Clearing land, pollution and new industries damaged waterways and reduced the number of fish available*

Why might fewer shells be available today for making necklaces?

*Climate change and environmental pressures reduced shell numbers*

Why is it important that Aboriginal fishing and necklace traditions continue today?

*Traditions keep culture, identity and knowledge strong and connect to Sea Country. Preserve skills and stories that have passed down*