

NELSON CITY BIODIVERSITY COASTAL AND MARINE ACTION PLAN 2013

This Action Plan is one of three that set out the priority actions of the Partners in the Nelson Biodiversity Forum. The Action Plan functions under the umbrella of the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy and provides more detail on the coastal and marine environment. The numbering and cross referencing in the Action Plan reflects that in the Strategy.

Links

Coastal habitats receive nutrients, sediment and contaminants from the terrestrial environment, through freshwater linkages, as well as from oceanic sources through hydrodynamic transport.

Delivers sediment, salts and nutrients to the land.

Native species share coastal marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats, and pathways for two-way migration across salt gradients are important to ecosystem function.

Coastal, freshwater and terrestrial habitats are linked through vectors of invasion from exotic species.

VISION for next 50 Years

Nelson's coastal and marine environments have fully functioning indigenous ecosystems where ecosystem health and productivity and diversity are maximised while minimising adverse human impacts. We better understand ecosystem functioning and key stressors and have acted wisely to manage peoples' use of the coastal and marine environments. The ecosystem services provided to people by coastal and marine environments are sustained, wisely used and valued. Our marine environment is a valued part of the local food basket. Natural terrestrial coastal margins are restored and natural coastal vegetation is re-established over at least 10% of the length of our coastal lands. The community takes responsibility for protecting and enhancing coastal and marine ecosystems. Biodiversity valued by tangata whenua iwi is restored and enhanced. Kaitiaki roles are recognised and respected. Threatened species are sustained while damaging pests are prevented from establishing, are eradicated, or are controlled. Significant biodiversity resources in the coastal and marine environments are legally protected. Ongoing monitoring occurs to assess progress and regular information is provided on this data to the community.

In setting priorities for action the Partners take into account:

1. **Biodiversity value.**
2. **Capacity of actions** to halt decline or restore biodiversity value.
3. **Cost.**
4. **Risk** that the action might fail, or might produce unintended adverse consequences.
5. **Synergies** between the work of partners.
6. **Contribution** to other ecosystems.
7. **Capacity to create community awareness and commitment.**
8. **Actions** that resolve **bottlenecks** where one action opens up opportunity for many parties.
9. **Existing community action** where institutional support can build on what is already happening.

These principles also apply to establishing priorities between actions in the three Biodiversity Action Plans.¹

Priority Joint Action on Coastal Marine Environment & Habitat

1. Leading stakeholders and institutions to develop **integrated management of greater Tasman Bay** in a way that sustains or enhances its biological diversity and protects **sensitive habitats, biological communities and species.** (Lead: Nelson City Council). *Links to 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 34.²*
2. Identify and correct **impediments to the natural flow** of water into and through the coastal environment including reviewing the need for all tidal flap gates and ensuring consents are applied for those that are found to be unauthorised. (Lead: Nelson City Council). *Links to 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 25, 32, 34.*
3. Protect and restore the natural communities of the **Nelson Boulder Bank** and the publicly owned portions of the Whakapuaka sand flats both in the sea and on the land. (Lead: Department of Conservation). *Links to 1, 4, 7, 8, 32, 34.*

9. Monitoring the environmental health of our estuaries using the range and security of the habitat forming eelgrass (*Zostera*) as an indicator of progress. (Lead: Cawthron). *Links to 1, 2, 6, 8, 32, 34.*

Priority Joint Action on Coastal Marine Leadership, Community Knowledge and Activity

9. Improve **community knowledge** of coastal and marine environments and developing understanding and commitment to their protection. (Lead: Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay). *Links to 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34.*

Priority Joint Action on Coastal Marine Research & Monitoring

10. Collate, order and analyse information about Nelson marine biodiversity to enable effective long term management; developing a **memorandum of understanding** with marine industries (including aquaculture and fisheries) on data sharing to release information on benthic habitats currently withheld as commercially sensitive. (Lead: Nelson City Council). *Links to 1, 4, 24, 25, 32, 34.*
11. Review existing coverage and undertake **surveys of benthic marine habitats** in Tasman Bay mapping both biodiversity hot spots and risk zones. (Lead: NIWA). *Links to 1, 3, 4, 5, 32, 34.*
12. Reduce land-based pollution of the sea by:
 - Obtaining information about land use activities across Tasman Bay catchments to identify where **sediment** is coming from and estimate sediment accumulation rates as a basis for a review of land use management practices.
 - Continued assessment of **contaminated land impacts** on marine environments.
 - **Assessing all urban stormwater and initiating action to correct issues**, including adopting low impact design for sustainable urban drainage systems (e.g. rain gardens, wetlands, swales, rainwater collection, detention ponds). (Lead: Nelson City Council). *Links to 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 32, 34.*
13. Complete projections for **sea level rise** and an inventory of biodiversity resources at risk as a basis for future planning of staged coastal retreat for sea level rise with biodiversity objectives included. For example: reducing activities on and development of land vulnerable to future tidal inundation. (Lead: Nelson City Council). *Links to 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 14, 17, 18, 30, 32, 34.*

¹Also depends on effective implementation related statutory and non-statutory plans and strategies. Statutory plans of particular relevance are Resource Management Act Plans and policies, the Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Conservation Management Strategy. Non-statutory strategies include the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy, and Framing Our Future – Nelson 2060. The Nelson Biodiversity Strategy is designed to provide an input into these plans and to set out actions that may involve cooperative efforts amongst agencies and organizations.

² NIWA has a major project underway to investigate the drivers of shell fish decline in Tasman Bay and this will be a key factor in developing proposals for integrated management.