

Submission Form

Draft Conservation Management Strategy



Once you have completed this form

Send by post to: CMS Submissions, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 3072, Hamilton 3240
Or email to: cmsnorthisland@doc.govt.nz

Submissions must be received no later than 4.30pm, Friday 15 March 2013

Anyone may make a submission, either as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Please ensure all sections of this form are completed. You may either use this form or prepare your own but if preparing your own please use the same headings as used in this form. A word version of this form is available on the Department's website: www.doc.govt.nz/cms

Submission on: Northland CMS Submitter details:

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I wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means you can speak at the hearing)

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission
(tick one box)

Signature:

Your submission is submitted as part of a public process and once received by the Department it is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1981. The Department may post your submission on its website and also make it available to departmental staff; any consultant used; the relevant Conservation Board and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Your submission may be made available to any member of the public following a request made under the Official Information Act 1981.

Submission:¹

NZMSS urges the Department of Conservation to take a more active role in marine conservation. Community groups are not sufficiently well resourced to take on this responsibility. There is a need to strengthen the Department of Conservation's capacity for marine conservation work.

Section:	Submission:	Decision sought:
1.2	Long term vision Northland 2060 has little relating to the natural world	<p>ADD the following or equivalent policies:</p> <p>The naturalness of terrestrial and aquatic (freshwater and marine) ecosystems has been restored and protected across representative areas of the diversity of Northland's terrestrial and aquatic environments</p> <p>The majority of terrestrial and aquatic threatened species known in 2013 are flourishing</p>
1.5	Key outcomes for 2024 do not address marine environments other than the Poor Knights Marine Reserve	Expand key outcomes to include the protection and restoration of a diversity of marine environments in Northland. This should include: internationally significant harbours such as Rangaunu; important estuarine habitats in other harbours (e.g. extensive mangroves and connected saltmarsh and freshwater wetlands in inner Bay of Islands (e.g. parts of Waikare Inlet (especially Waikino), Karetu, Haumi, Parekura Bay); extensive seagrass beds in Harbours (Parengarenga and Rangaunu); variety open coast marine habitats adjoining the mainland and new shore islands
	Priority ecosystems on public conservation lands for management should include more than 1 marine location (only Poor Knights Marine Reserve at present)	Expand the list of ecosystems on public conservation lands to include other marine locations with high conservation value and vulnerability, including the ASCVs which have been incorporated into the current RCPlan
1.5.1.5	This is the main marine conservation objective and is inadequate	Expand this objective and add policies than provide further direction on specifically how the Department might "contribute to a national network of marine protected areas"

¹ Further information can be appended to your submission. If you are sending this submission electronically we accept the following formats – Microsoft Word, Text, PDF and JPG. The file must not be more than 9MB.

1.5.4	<p>The CMS identifies a number of marine environments where there are new business opportunities (Cape Brett and Ipiriri; Hokianga, Kaipara and Whangarei Harbours; and a marine recreation park. However no new opportunities for marine restoration and protection are provided</p>	<p>Add a section that identifies potential opportunities for marine restoration and protection. Department commissioned work comparing Mimiwhangata (long-standing marine park) and the nearby mainland coast has shown no significant difference in fish populations. This means that a wider recreation marine park along this coast may deliver little in the way of marine biodiversity benefits (compared to no-take marine reserves). The Society would like to see the Department focus its efforts on marine protection and restoration or at least do this concurrently with providing for business opportunities. It should be noted that marine parks do not provide the type of recreational experience of a sufficiently large fully protected no-take marine reserve. Such experiences are being increasingly sought by international divers and often form the basis of marine ecotourism elsewhere</p>
2.1	<p>There is no mention of marine restoration and protection in the outcomes for the Three-Kings-Te Pahi Places</p>	<p>Add outcomes addressing marine restoration and protection. Possible areas include the waters around the Three Kings Islands and the significant bryozoan beds off Spirits Bay. The latter was identified by DOC as an ASCV and therefore included in the Regional Coastal Plan as a Marine Protection Area. There needs to be greater congruence between the different planning instruments approved by the Minister of Conservation</p>
2.2	<p>There is no mention of marine restoration and protection in the outcomes for the Parengarenga-Aupouri-Kaimaumu –Karikari Places. It is unclear what support for community protection initiatives (only used in this section) means</p>	<p>Add outcomes addressing marine restoration and protection. Possible areas include the clear waters and outstanding seagrass beds in Parengarenga Harbour, the internationally significant wildlife habitat and extensive seagrass beds and mangroves in Rangaunu Harbour, as well as subtidal open coast habitats around the tip of the Karikari Peninsula and nearby islands.</p> <p>These three were identified by DOC as ASCVs and therefore included in the Regional Coastal Plan as Marine Protection Areas. There needs to be greater congruence between the different planning instruments approved by the Minister of Conservation</p> <p>Clarify what is meant by support for community marine protection initiatives</p>

2.4	There is no mention of marine restoration and protection in the outcomes for the Whangaroa-Cavalli Places. However the outcomes address marine recreation opportunities	Add outcomes addressing marine restoration and protection. Possible areas include the waters around the Cavalli Islands (several are already DOC administered) the tip of the Mahinepua Peninsula (DOC administered) and Pekapeka Bay in Whangaroa Harbour (mostly adjoins DOC administered lands)
2.6	There is no mention of marine restoration and protection in the outcomes for the Bay of Islands Place and no mention of the intensive community and iwi efforts to gain marine protection and help restore parts of the waters of the Bay of Islands. There is no reference to protecting mangroves and saltmarsh in intertidal scientific reserves or increasing the reserve network to protect additional such areas	Add outcomes addressing marine restoration and protection. Possible areas include the Black Rocks, Cape Brett peninsula, eastern Bay of Islands (including Ipipiri); the extensive mangroves, connected saltmarsh and freshwater wetlands of the inner Bay of Islands (e.g. parts of Waikare Inlet (especially Waikino and Man-o- War-Creek), Karetu, Haumi, Parekura Bay); Most of these adjoin DOC protected lands and have been identified by DOC as ASCVs and therefore included in the Regional Coastal Plan as a Marine Protection Area. There needs to be greater congruence between the different planning instruments approved by the Minister of Conservation
2.7	There is no mention of marine restoration and protection in the outcomes for the Whangaruru-Mangawhai Place for areas other than the Poor Knights and Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserves.	Add outcomes addressing marine restoration and protection. Possible areas include brown teal habitat at Matapouri and Whanaaki Estuaries; Hen and Chicken Island waters and Mimiwhangata (currently a marine park that achieves little in the way of biodiversity outcomes). There is no guarantee that participation in the investigations for a recreational marine park will deliver much in the way of marine protection and restoration.
3	Marine Mammal Tourism. The Society urges caution when the current 5 year moratorium for new permits for interactions with whales and dolphins expires in 2014. Research has shown that marine tourism impacts on bottlenose dolphins and may stress animals, possibly leading to detrimental effects at the population level.	Add a policy to adopt the precautionary principle when reviewing the moratorium and any permit applications. Such a policy should place the long-term welfare of whale and dolphin populations as a requirement of any assessment of permit applications. Recent research indicates that reduced numbers of bottlenose dolphins using the Bay of Islands may be related to reduced food supply, and therefore Marine Reserves may redress this issue.
3	The CMS fails to address other impacts on marine mammals.	Add policies on the management of fishing, marine mining, pollution and other impacts on marine mammals, with particular focus on Maui's dolphin. For example "Support research into and monitoring of the impacts of fishing, mining and pollution on marine mammals", "Take a precautionary approach to the level of human impact on marine mammals, from activities such as fishing, marine mining and pollution", "Develop a management plan for the West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary to ensure human impacts are reduced to sustainable levels within 5 years". As explained in our submission on the Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan, protection for Maui's dolphins needs to be extended to the 100m depth contour.