

1. Coastal Issues

1.0 Introduction

- 1.01 The coastal environment is very important in New Zealand. Many of us live near the coast, go to the beach and fish in the sea. Some rely on the sea for our livelihood and for Maori there are strong cultural associations with the coast and all it provides. Determining the most appropriate way to use and manage the coastal environment often causes debate. These debates, spurred by the importance of the coast to Southlanders and its place in our history highlight the fundamental role the coastal environment plays in the lives of Southlanders.
- 1.02 The coast is a dynamic natural environment with unique ecological values. Where these natural processes and valued ecosystems are under the sea, which includes the foreshore environment, we might be excused for not realising their importance and contribution toward the dynamic and diverse nature of the marine environment. The undersea environment is not a natural habitat for people and knowledge of this environment can only be gained through active research efforts. Comparatively little is known about physical processes of natural or modified marine habitats compared to our knowledge of land based activities. Furthermore, the medium of the sea is dynamic and variable; many of the fish and other animal species inhabiting it are mobile. There is a general acknowledgement among agencies with interests in coastal management that information to assess marine ecological processes and coastal processes is inadequate.
- 1.03 Within the foreshore area, the dynamic environment is more visible. There are ongoing natural processes that over the years have built up dunes, eroded headlands, deposited mud in estuaries and formed the characteristic coastlines that we see today. This constantly changing land is cloaked with distinctive vegetation and populated by birds and insects specially adapted to windy and salty conditions. On coastal land, as at sea, there are valuable natural sites. However, growing pressure from more of us wanting to visit or live near the coast means these sites are becoming rarer and more damaged.
- 1.04 The sea and the land are not separate environments. What people do on the land has major impacts on the health of the sea. Rivers bring sediment and pollution from our land use activities in their catchments into the marine environment. Looking after water quality and habitat in the sea requires us to look after the land as well. Conversely, the sea also has the potential to be a serious hazard to coastal settlements and property due to dynamic natural marine processes.
- 1.05 Balancing the use and the protection of the coastal environment clearly requires very careful management that goes beyond only looking after what we can see. The importance of the coast to us all and the many different issues located within the margin of land and sea means that the management of the coastal environment is shared between a number of authorities.
- 1.06 The management of Southland's coastal area falls under an array of legislation. The following Statutes link up with the Regional Coastal Plan but sit by themselves. Each piece of legislation deals with a specific area of coastal management. The statutes include:
- The Transport Act 1994
 - Conservation Act 1987
 - Aquaculture Reform Act 2004

- Marine Reserves Act 1971
- Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004
- Bio-security Act 1993
- Maori Fisheries Act 2004
- Fiordland Marine Management Act 2004
- Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998
- Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- Wildlife Act 1953
- Driftnet Fishing Prohibition Act 1991
- Fisheries Act 1983 and 1996
- Crown Minerals Act 1991
- Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1996.

1.07 The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires the Regional Policy Statement to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS). The RMA also requires regional councils to prepare regional coastal plans which reflect and give effect to both the NZCPS and the relevant Regional Policy Statement. The Regional Policy Statement, taking into account the matters in the NZCPS, provides the specific policy framework for the management of the coast within the Southland region. The Regional Policy Statement provides the link between the national policy framework and the detailed local area management.

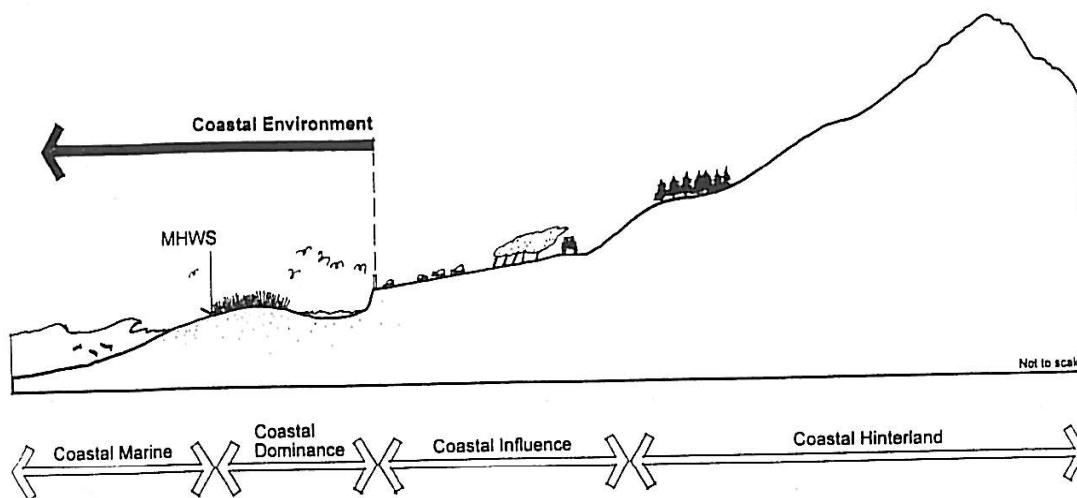
1.08 The NZCPS is prepared by the Minister of Conservation for all of New Zealand's coastal environment. The NZCPS sets out objectives and policies on a range of nationally important matters including access to the coast, maintenance and protection of natural character, improving coastal water quality, how appropriate development might be most suitably accommodated and protection of places and aspects of special value to tangata whenua. The NZCPS is currently being reviewed; this review has been ongoing for a number of years and is nearing completion.

1.09 The Regional Coastal Plan, prepared by Environment Southland in conjunction with the Minister of Conservation, details the methods and procedures to manage the coastal environment. The Plan must consider:

- a land and associated natural and physical resources.*
- b the occupation of space on lands of the Crown or lands vested in the regional council, that are foreshore or seabed and the extraction of sand, shingle, or other natural material from that land.*
- c the taking, use, damming, and diversion of water.*
- d discharges of contaminants into or onto land, air, or water and discharges of water into water.*
- e any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards and the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances.*
- f the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise:*
- g activities in relation to the surface of water.” [section 30(1)(d)] of the RMA*

1.10 The Southland region contains over 3,000 kilometres of coastline. Approximately 63% of that (1892 km) is located within Fiordland and a further 26% (781 km) is the coastline of Stewart Island. Many of these areas are only accessible by sea. Activities that take place in the coastal margins have the potential to affect and be affected by activities on adjoining land. For this reason the management of the coastal environment must recognise that the coast is subject to constant change due to natural processes such as waves and wind, tides and currents and the effects of human activities.

- 1.11 The physical attributes of Southland (sheltered waters, high water quality, cool water temperatures and appropriate water depths) provide conditions that are suitable for marine farming of many types. Within the region marine farming is presently concentrated in Big Glory Bay at Stewart Island where there are 36 marine farm sites. These sites are licensed for the farming of salmon, mussels, oysters and scallops. There are a further seven sites in Bluff Harbour and one proposed for Ruapuke Island. Marine farming activities may expand to other areas of the region in the future.
- 1.12 The RMA and the Regional Coastal Plan define the “coastal marine area” as lying between mean high water springs and the 12 nautical mile boundary of the territorial sea. River mouths and a calculated proportion of the river upstream of the river mouth are also included in this definition.
- 1.13 The landward part of the coastal environment cannot be precisely defined. One kilometre inland from the mean high water mark was used as the indicative boundary when preparing the State of Southland’s Environment report for the coastal environment. However, the definition varies depending on the type of activity being referred to, whether it is carried out on land or on water and the effects of that activity.
- 1.14 Consideration of the use and character of adjoining areas of land is also of importance when managing the coastal marine area. For example, a National Park, an area of erosion or the location of a sewage outfall may impact upon the activities or management practices appropriate to the adjoining coastal marine area. Similarly, the activities taking place in the coastal marine area may necessitate the management of adjoining land areas. For these reasons, any planning of coastal areas will need to co-ordinate the use of adjoining areas.
- 1.15 The coastal environment therefore, includes:
- the continental shelf area;
 - estuaries;
 - coastal lagoons;
 - inshore subtidal areas;
 - land margins directly affecting, and affected by, coastal activities.



2. Relevance Of Existing Regional Policy Statement And Existing Southland District Plan Issues

- 2.1 One of the purposes of this paper is to assess whether the existing issues relating to the coastal environment contained in the Regional Policy Statement and Southland District Council District Plan are still relevant to the management of the coastal environment and whether the objectives, policies and rules that are currently contained in the Regional Policy Statement and District Plan address those issues appropriately.
- 2.2 A detailed analysis of each Regional Policy Statement issue and its objectives, policies and methods is included in Appendix 1. For the purposes of this section a brief summary of the key points raised in Appendix 1 follows. Staff at the Southland District Council have provided input into this paper by way of this section, which provides a Southland District Council perspective on the coastal environment.
- 2.3 Currently, with the exception of estuaries and some frequent bathing areas, there is very little science that links the real and perceived effects of land based activities on the marine environment. Given that the coastline is a very important environment to us, there is surprisingly little information available on the coastal marine interface and how different land/coast management activities affect one another. Adverse effects arise because this interaction between activities on land and on water is not given adequate recognition.
- 2.4 On the whole, the quality of coastal waters surrounding Southland is very good. However, there are small localised areas, especially in and around some of the larger estuaries where very poor water quality may make some forms of recreation unsafe. There are also specific locations where health risks require that the consumption of shellfish and fish is monitored. Work such as the monitoring of discharges is still needed to help restore areas to their natural state or at least to a level that allows contact recreation and consumption of shellfish and fish.
- 2.5 Legitimate coastal marine users may generate noise levels that cause problems or offence to those surrounding coastal marine area. For example, ships at port may affect residential housing. Noise requirements should always be taken into account when making decisions about the management of the coastal area as there is a real need to protect legitimate activities. The issue needs to incorporate both those activities that generate noise and those activities that may be sensitive to excessive or certain types of noise.
- 2.6 In Southland we have huge areas of coastline that are considered pristine. If New Zealand legislation was to change to allow nuclear activities to occur within our borders we as Southlanders would need to consider if we would want to take the risk of letting nuclear activities take place near parts of our pristine coast. Nuclear activities are still considered an issue as they have the potential to have devastating consequences on the environment.
- 2.7 The storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances poses a potential risk to plant, animal and human life along our coastlines. Discharges from ships, ballast water and spilt product can also have negative effects on our coastlines, particularly when new organisms are introduced.
- 2.8 The maintenance and enhancement of public access to the coast is a matter of national importance. However, different means of access such as vehicular, boat, pedestrian or

air access can have different impacts. Therefore, consideration of the type of access appropriate to particular areas is required. The degree to which livestock, domestic animals and humans should be denied access to protect ecosystems, amenity values, and reduction of the sea/land buffer must also be considered. Access can be a major component of different land management practices. Therefore, regulating authorities need to have special regard to access when assessing the potential impacts of an activity in the coastal marine area.

- 2.9 Some recreational activities in the coastal environment, such as water skiing, rowing, sailing and swimming are incompatible as they compete for space. In some instances new recreational practices or greater participation in existing activities is increasing pressure for space. Continual management of this issue is required.
- 2.10 The location and design of infrastructure, for example, outfalls, roading, pipelines and power and telephone lines within the coastal area and its margins can give rise to the following adverse effects:
- detraction from the natural character;
 - impacts upon existing and potential activities, for example, recreation;
 - impeding of access to the coast and harbour areas;
 - physical damage caused by altering or interfering with coastal processes.
- 2.11 The sensitivity of the coastal environment means the potential adverse effects listed above all need to be given consideration when making decisions about infrastructure within the coastal margins. This is especially true of adverse effects on the natural character of coastlines, matters of significance to Maori, ecosystems and recreational and amenity values of and area.
- 2.12 Continued recognition of the contribution of some coastal marine structures to the region's economic and social wellbeing is very important. This needs to include the extent to which provision should be made for utilities and infrastructure (including ports) that contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of the region.
- 2.13 There has been a large amount of coastal development proposed in the recent past and these developments are ongoing. The current process for defining and protecting "natural character" while allowing for appropriate use and development is often very confusing. The best means of preserving the natural character of the coastal environment while providing for appropriate use and development has become a very important issue due to increasing pressure to develop coastal margins. To date there has been no clear resolution as to how this issue should be dealt with.
- 2.14 There is huge potential for pest plants to negatively impact on existing coastal marine environments. Pest plants are spreading in harbours and estuaries. This results in siltation and adverse affects on recreation and ecosystems.
- 2.15 Recent coastal development pressure has highlighted problems that the modification of natural sand dune systems can cause, such as erosion and the displacement of habitat for native flora and fauna. However, all development work or change to the coastal area has the potential to have adverse effects on the established environment and needs to be managed very carefully.
- 2.16 Rising sea level as a result of climate change may adversely impact upon the coastal environment. The effects of inundation, drainage, erosion and further effects of climate

change may have a large influence upon the coastal environment. Furthermore, natural processes combined with sea level rise have the potential to increase these impacts.

- 2.17 Heritage values often get overlooked yet it is very important to protect and preserve some sites so that we have records and some examples of the past. Development pressures along the coastal margin have highlighted the conflicts that can occur when proposed new developments are located on land that it is known to or may contain sites of historical importance. This remains a relevant issue that needs continued management.
- 2.18 There are also ongoing fisheries management issues. Proposals for developments or activities that affect coastal areas need to recognise that habitat modification can affect the numbers and diversity of fish populations.
- 2.19 The customary relationship between Maori and the coastal environment is now formally recognised through a number of documents and statutory processes. However, when there are any changes proposed to the coastal environment or any further issues that have arisen, appropriate consultation needs to occur to ensure the established process is followed.
- 2.20 Marine farming can potentially give rise to adverse effects, including cumulative effects, upon the environment. These could include impacts on water quality, recreation, visual amenity, benthic communities and navigation. There have been no technological or scientific advancements that have changed the impact of marine farming on the environment since the last Regional Policy Statement was formed. However, some changes to legislation have been made. Water quality is the most important factor in marine farming and it is also the biggest limitation. It is imperative that refuge areas (areas marine farms can move to for short periods of time outside of their consented areas) are set aside so that in times of poor water quality in the consented marine farm areas major losses are protected against. There may be a need to for future marine farming refuge areas in other parts of the region.
- 2.21 There are some activities that require the exclusive use of particular coastal marine areas. However, this has the potential to cause conflict with other parties who might also seek to use the same areas. Careful consideration will always be needed when making decisions regarding the exclusive rights of structures within the coastal environment.
- 2.22 The exclusive or preferential occupation for safe harbouring is an ongoing issue that has the potential to compromise the safety of vessels at sea. It could be argued that this is not a regionally significant issue and that this issue is better provided for within another forum. However, the overall issue of safety of vessels at sea does need to be included within the Regional Policy Statement. This issue could be amended to reflect this.
- 2.23 People and communities have an expectation that Crown land in the coastal marine area shall generally be available for free public use and enjoyment. This expectation has not changed since the last Regional Policy Statement was formulated.
- 2.24 The coastal marine area is highly dynamic and a lack of knowledge and understanding of the interaction between these natural processes combined with the introduction of built structures or activities and development will often result in some unpredictable environmental impacts. When making decisions about whether a particular proposal or activity should be allowed to occupy the coastal marine area there are numerous factors

that need to be taken into consideration. These factors include the size of the structure, the use, scale of activities, benefits and negatives. Exclusive preferential occupation of the coastal marine area, particularly for those activities and developments that do not require a location in that area, may preclude activities that can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area from taking place there.

2.25 Staff at Southland District Council have provided input into this paper by way of this section, which provides a Southland District Council perspective on the coastal environment.

2.26 Relevance of Southland District Plan

2.26.1 The Southland District covers approximately 11% of the land area of New Zealand and the District's coastline is approximately 3400 km long. The Southland coastline is extremely varied with a wide range of landforms and features present. These include, but are not limited to dune systems, estuaries, harbours, cliffs, beaches, indigenous forests, wetlands, rural land and urban areas. In terms of coastal resource management issues there have been a number of changes that have occurred since the existing District Plan was formulated and written. The main change has been a significant increase in the amount of development taking place within coastal areas of the district. This has led to public concern being expressed about the environmental impacts of coastal development and the emergence of a number of new coastal resource management issues. These issues need to be addressed in the formation of the second generation Southland District Plan.

2.27 Characterisation of Coastal Areas

2.27.1 The existing District Plan includes a breakdown of the Southland district's coastline into eight sub-groups with these being:

- Catlins
- Estuaries
- Sandy Point - Riverton
- Riverton to Orepuki
- Te Wae Wae
- Fiordland
- Big Bay
- Stewart Island

2.27.2 Given the varied nature and large size of the Southland district's coastal areas a breakdown into sub-groups is a useful approach when framing coastal resource management issues. The approach outlined above was adopted following a study undertaken on behalf of the Council in 1993 entitled 'Landscape and Ecology in the Southland District'. At the time this report was written Rakiura National Park did not exist and this park now covers approximately 85% of Stewart Island. A large part of the Southland district's coastline is now located within the Fiordland and Rakiura National Parks. These parks are managed by the Department of Conservation as part of New Zealand's conservation estate. While the coastal areas of these two national parks are subject to the provisions of the Southland District Plan under the RMA 1991 they are also subject to the Fiordland and Rakiura National Park Management Plans. In terms of the second generation Southland District Plan most issues associated with the subdivision, use and development of the district's coastal areas are expected to arise outside the boundaries of these two national parks.

2.27.3 A different approach towards the district's coastal areas was taken in a recent study jointly commissioned by the Southland District Council and Environment Southland. The 'Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006' was commissioned as a result of issues arising from extensive growth within the district's Coastal Resource Area. It focussed on four regional coastal areas within the district:

- Te Waewae (Bluecliffs, Waiau, Orepuki)
- Riverton (Pahia, Colac, Riverton, Otaitai)
- South Coast Estuaries (Waituna, Toetoes)
- Southwest Catlins (Otara, Haldane, Porpoise Bay, Waikawa)

2.27.4 The classification system used in this study breaks these coastal areas down further into districts and local landscape units and is focussed on areas where growth issues have arisen in recent years. This system would be of use when framing and addressing coastal growth and landscape issues in the second generation Southland District Plan.

2.27.5 The areas of the district's coastline not covered in this study include the coastal areas of the two national parks which given their unique management regime could be assessed and grouped together in the new Plan. The remaining coastline of Stewart Island that is not part of the national park is the other main coastline not covered in the study and could be considered as a separate coastal area. The existing District Plan does include separate sections relating to Fiordland and Stewart Island and a similar approach to these areas would be appropriate in the second generation District Plan.

2.28 Coastal Resource Management Issues

2.28.1 Section 4.6 'Coastal Resource Area' of the existing District Plan identifies five resource management issues relating to the coast with these being:

- the possibility of sea level rise, and its effect on low lying communities;
- land use and development can threaten wildlife habitats;
- land use and development can degrade the quality of estuary and coastal water;
- the natural character of the coast is threatened by inappropriate use and development;
- lack of recognition in the past of the significance the coast has to Maori.

2.28.2 While all these issues are still considered relevant for inclusion in the second generation District Plan there are additional issues that should be included and the framing of coastal resource management issues should be amended to reflect this. Two issues of particular relevance are climate change and biodiversity.

2.29 Climate Change

2.29.1 While sea level rise is still an issue for low lying coastal communities and needs to be addressed in the new Plan there is a need to recognise that there are a number of natural hazards that coastal communities can be subject to including tsunamis, coastal erosion, storm surges and storm events. Climate change may result in changes in the intensity and frequency of some of these natural hazard events particularly storm surges, storm events and related coastal erosion. The potential impact of climate change as a coastal resource management issue should therefore be widened to from just sea level rise issues to recognise this.

2.30 **Biodiversity**

2.30.1 Some of the coastal areas of the district contain areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna some of which may be of regional, national and international significance. The second generation Southland District Plan could state the potential impact of land use and development on coastal wildlife habitats specifically impacts on endangered species such as the Yellow Eyed Penguin. Biodiversity should be identified as a coastal resource management issue for inclusion within the coastal section of the second generation Southland District Plan.

2.31 **Coastal Resource Area**

2.31.1 The existing District Plan divides the district up into different resource areas one of which is the Coastal Resource Area (CRA). This recognises the unique nature of the district's coastal environments and allows for objectives, policies and rules to be formulated that specifically relate to coastal issues. As an example Rule COA.2 requires resource consent for the erection of buildings and structures in the CRA that could be erected as of right in other areas. The reason for this is the erection and density of buildings and structures in the coastal environment is recognised as potentially having a significant impact on the coasts natural character. The resource consent process allows the Council to assess each application on its potential impact on the coastal environment. The area of the coast the application relates to and the specific character of the local area can then be assessed.

2.31.2 The defining of a specific Coastal Resource Area is considered to be a useful approach appropriate for use in the second generation District Plan. The new Plan could build on this approach by providing more detail and information on certain coastal areas. For example, coastal areas of significant landscape or biodiversity value could be listed and defined and specific objectives, policies and rules relating to these areas could be formulated. This is discussed further in this paper under the options section.

2.32 **Rule COA.3 – Subdivision**

2.32.1 Sub-division is a discretionary activity in the Coastal Resource Area under rule COA.3 of the existing District Plan. In terms of the second generation Southland District Plan this approach has some advantages. As already noted the district's coastline is both very long and also very varied in terms of its landforms and coastal features. Very different issues may arise from sub-division proposals in different parts of the coast and discretionary status can ensure that the Council through the resource consent process can address issues that arise in each different coastal location.

3. Emerging Coastal Issues in Southland

3.1 The Coastal environment is highly dynamic and the issues are often changing. There are always numerous issues that require careful ongoing management. Since the Regional Policy Statement was made operative there have been a number of changes to legislation governing or influencing the coastal environment. Other emerging issues in the coastal environment include increased pressure to develop the coastal margin, renewed interest in discharges from land use activities including sewerage, increased tourism and the potentially the biggest climate change. There has also been heightened recognition of the customary relationship between Maori and some areas of coastal environment.

3.2 National Legislative changes influencing regional policy direction

- 3.2.1 Legislation that has become operative since the original Regional Policy Statement includes the Aquaculture Reform Act 2004, the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, the Maori Fisheries Act 2004, the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2004 and the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
- 3.2.2 The Aquaculture Reform Act 2004 amended five existing statutes and introduced two new ones. The main features of the new legislation are that it creates a single process for aquaculture planning and consents through the Resource Management Act 1991. Every marine farm now holds a resource consent for their farm. Regional councils have a clearer role and responsibility for managing all the environmental effects of marine farming, including any effects on fisheries and other marine resources. New marine farms can only be located in an Aquaculture Management Area (AMA). These are areas set aside for that specific purpose of marine farming. A new AMA can be initiated by either the regional council or privately. Councils have been given more power to allocate new space to the most efficient users. When applications for new marine farms are assessed their impacts on fishing activities will be taken into account through a test under the Fisheries Act 1996. Finally, the reform provides more protection for existing consent holders when their consents come up for review.
- 3.2.3 The Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, relates mainly to ownership of the public foreshore and seabed, rights of access and navigation and the recognition of customary rights. The main changes to the RMA relate to plan making and the resource consent processes. Local authorities and the Minister of Conservation have new obligations in relation to customary rights orders granted by the High Court or Maori Land Court. They also have new obligations relating to the establishment of foreshore and seabed reserves after the finding of territorial customary rights by the High Court. In Southland we have not had any customary rights orders or territorial rights orders made to date. However, this does not mean they will not occur in the future, which may instigate some large public consultation processes.
- 3.2.4 The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2004 created the Fiordland Marine Area, which includes Milford and Doubtful sounds. Within that area the Act created eight new marine reserves and adds to existing marine reserves. These reserves are subject to the conditions specified in the RMA and the provisions for the Marine Reserve Act 1971. The Act established the Fiordland Marine Guardians, a committee that is appointed by the Minister of the Environment. The Guardians have the power to advise and make recommendations to the Minister and management agencies in respect to the exercise of functions under the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Environment Act 1986, the RMA 1991, the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and the Fisheries Act 1996. All persons exercising functions in the Fiordland Marine Area must take into account the advice and recommendations of the guardians. The Fiordland Marine Management Act 2004 has had large ramifications for our region. The Act protects and preserves the Fiordland Marine Area for future generations to come and ensures that it remains the significant resource that it is both nationally and globally. This Act was established and is managed by locals of the region reflecting the value of the resource to the region. It has been incorporated into the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.
- 3.2.5 The Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed by the Crown and Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu on 21 November 1997 to achieve a final settlement of Ngai Tahu's historical claims against the Crown. This Act included a

new instrument called a Statutory Acknowledgement. The Statutory Acknowledgement recognises Ngai Tahu's mana in relation to a range of sites and areas in the South Island and allow this to be reflected in the management of those areas. Statutory Acknowledgements impact upon RMA 1991 processes concerning the identified areas. There are a number of these areas located along Southland's coast and if someone applies for a resource consent for an activity within, adjacent to, or impacting directly upon a statutory area, the consenting authority must send a summary of the resource consent application to Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu. They must have regard to the Statutory Acknowledgement in going through the process of making a decision on whether Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu is an affected party in relation to the resource consent application. When making a decision with respect to a consent application, the decision making must have regard to a Statutory Acknowledgement and the subsequent effects on Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu as an affected party.

3.3 Regional Issues

- 3.3.1 Specific provisions within the RMA and the Local Government Act 2002 require the relationship of Maori, their culture and traditions to their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga to be recognised and provided for. This is in order to give particular regard to kaitiakitanga and take into account principals of the Treaty of Waitangi. The RMA makes specific provisions for iwi management plans with councils taking into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority. In Southland this is 'Te Tangi a Taurira: The Cry of the People'. The Natural Resource and Environmental Iwi Management Plan that has been developed by Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku is an important document to aid councils in meeting these statutory obligations. The plan provides a living, working document that can assist Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku to effectively participate in natural resource and environmental policy and planning. This document will be important going forward when dealing with any issues in the coastal environment.
- 3.3.2 Arguably the most significant issue that needs to be dealt with in this Regional Policy Statement is climate change as it has the potential for increased coastal erosion and marine inundation. The potential for sea level rise, increased storm surges and the consequential flooding of and damage to coastal property and infrastructure assets has become a very high profile concern in the last few years. The threats to life and property and more broadly to the economy and society carry significant implications for all of the region, but especially for those who live or work on or near the coast.
- 3.3.3 Changes in the nature of existing coastal processes and the low lying nature of large stretches of the Southland Coast there is the possibility for widespread effects on coastal land. It is recommended by the Ministry for the Environment that councils plan for 20cm sea level rise by 2050 and a 50cm sea level rise by 2100 when considering sea-level rise in projects or plans.
- 3.3.4 Lack of information on the coastal marine environment is a big issue. The undersea or coastal marine environment is not a natural habitat for people and knowledge of this environment must be gained through active research. Comparatively little is known about physical processes or natural or modified marine habitats. Further the medium of the sea is dynamic and many of the fish and other animal species inhabiting it are mobile. There is general acknowledgement among agencies with interests in coastal management that information bases to assess marine ecological processes, such as nutrient supply for commercially important fisheries and coastal processes such as shoreline stability are inadequate.

- 3.3.5 In some circumstances studies of significant landscapes, special habitats, endangered species and other natural features have been undertaken, but there is still a need for more detailed knowledge. However, because the coastal marine environment is inhospitable and not very accessible, resource investigations are more expensive than investigations on land. This increases the risk that poorly known coastal resources may be damaged, with no management response possible.
- 3.3.6 Environment Southland has up to twelve years of water quality data for marine bathing and shellfish gathering at eight shellfish sites and thirteen marine bathing sites around the Southland coast. However, there is still little knowledge about the biodiversity of the coastal marine area in Southland and what information we do have is fragmented between different agencies. We do not know the effects of different activities on fisheries management, marine habitats or on other species of marine life. Further to this we do not know the effects of our land-based activities on marine ecosystems, as there are currently large gaps in our scientific research relating to potential discharges from land based activities.
- 3.3.7 Risks associated with living on the coast have been made readily apparent in recent years. Besides the catastrophic impacts of tsunamis there are the more regular but episodic storms that regularly erode the coastline and create storm surges. This process of erosion is natural, but when it comes into conflict with human occupation and sites of historical importance there are demands for sea defences and associated structures. In conjunction with considering climate change and sea level rise we will need to seriously consider long-term land use policy for the coastal environment.
- 3.3.8 Several of the above issues (use of coastal water, subdivision and development, pollution of coastal waters) can affect “natural character”. Preserving the coast’s natural character, which encompasses landform, vegetation, scenery and ecology, is a matter of national importance in the RMA. However, certain areas of the coast do need to be available for strategically important uses (port areas are an example). At the same time, there are other activities that do not need to be on the coast (other than reasons of financially capitalising on a marketable asset). The coast could be looked upon as a finite resource; the more development along the coast the less of the natural coastal landscape remains. A key issue is what types of development should occur on the coast and the potential impact of this development on the coast’s natural character.
- 3.3.9 Access to and along the coast is a statutory consideration. As noted earlier, there is a strong public perception that the coast is a community, rather than a private asset. However, there are a number of activities that can obtain coastal permits or certain rules that create private rights over parts of the coast that can often create conflict. Aquaculture is an example of this. Meeting both public expectations and private property rights, while maintaining legally prescribed access to a diminishing resource, is a complex issue. This combined with active leisure trends, which often require facilities or access close to where people live to save travel costs and time all need to be considered.
- 3.3.10 Increased tourism activity along Southland’s coastlines from commercial tourism operators, especially large cruise ships, has brought about changes in the way we manage the coastal resources. This is of particular relevance in Fiordland, where visiting cruiseships have the option of signing up to a deed of agreement. This commits them to particular environmental performance standards instead of having to apply for resource consent for each visit.

3.3.11 At the time of writing this review of the Regional Policy Statement the New Zealand Coastal Policy (NZCPS) Statement was going through a review process of its own. There are likely to be some changes through revised NZCPS that will impact on RPS review.

3.4 Local issues

3.4.1 Coastal Landscape Issues and the Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006

3.4.1.1 The Resource Management Act requires Councils, in achieving the purpose of the Act, to recognise and provide for the protection and management of landscapes with particular regard to:

- Section 6a: the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment
- Section 6b: the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes
- Section 6f: the protection of historic heritage
- Section 7c: the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, and
- Section 7f: the quality of the environment.

3.4.1.2 These sections of the RMA are of relevance in considering landscape issues within the Southland district's coastal areas. Concern about the impact of increased levels of development on coastal landscapes resulted in the Southland District Council and Environment Southland in 2006 commissioning a landscape assessment of the district's coast. Boffa Miskell Limited was commissioned to undertake the assessment and produced the 'Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006'. The key findings of this study were as follows:

- the Coastal Resource Area is identified as significant;
- some areas within the CRA are identified as worthy of consideration for an Outstanding Natural Landscape or Outstanding Natural Feature overlay to aid protection from inappropriate forms of further development;
- maintain and enhance connections at the interface between the shoreline and the coastal setting. These 'edge' landscapes are vulnerable and valuable - what happens to one will generally affect the other;
- maintain the sustainable patterns of agriculture that are reflected in much of the landscape character of these areas. The central role of farming in much of this landscape means that retaining a viable farming community is essential;
- maintain, enhance and safeguard significant open space, ecological linkages, landscapes and landforms/natural features;
- concentrate pressure for coastal subdivision in a few areas capable of absorbing landscape change, rather than submitting to the spread of isolated developments, where these will change existing settlement patterns and the rural or remote character of the coastline;

3.4.1.3 This report encourages strategic decisions such as establishing limits to settlements or determining the scale and role of commercial, recreational or other facilities, to be examined in settlement structure plans, so that these concepts are subject to further, more specific investigations. In many cases the question of whether the landscape is able to accommodate further development could be less of a matter for concern provided that policies are able to give confidence that permitted development will be appropriate in terms of its nature, scale, form, location and relationship with the character of its surrounding environment. The key findings of this study and the

approach and information detailed in it form a useful base from which coastal growth issues can be addressed in the second generation Southland District Plan.

3.4.2 Coastal Subdivision

3.4.2.1 Development along the coast of the Southland district has increased significantly in recent years and properties located directly adjacent, in close proximity or over looking the coast have become increasingly popular. Southland's unique coastal landscapes, its coastal views and its relatively undeveloped nature are all features that attract property buyers. Coastal property can also achieve a premium in the real estate market and as such it can also be an attractive investment for property developers. The increasing popularity of coastal property has resulted in an increase in demand for residential sections and a significant increase in subdivision activity in the district's coastal areas. These levels of development were not envisaged at the time the existing Southland District Plan was written and the policy and rules of the existing Plan reflect this. The construction of residential buildings and the formation of new roads and related infrastructure in new subdivision developments can have significant visual and amenity impacts. The visual impact of development tends to be emphasised and is even more of an issue in coastal landscapes.

3.4.3 Climate Change and Coastal Hazards

3.4.3.1 Since the existing District Plan was formulated knowledge about the likely impact of climate change on the coastal environment has increased significantly. The Ministry for the Environment's *Preparing for climate change' a guide for local government in New Zealand (2008)* predicts at least an average sea level rise in New Zealand of 18 – 59 cm between 1990 and 2100. Given the extent of these sea level rise predictions sea level rise is likely to be a significant issue that will need to be addressed in the second generation District Plan. Hazard avoidance measures that relate to other coastal hazards are also likely to be appropriate in addressing sea level rise hazard issues.

3.4.3.2 A number of hazards can affect the coastal areas of the Southland district including storm surges, storm events, tsunamis, river mouth migration, coastal erosion and sea level rise. Development of land within coastal areas particularly residential development potentially increases the risk of these natural hazards destroying or damaging property and in extreme cases resulting in harm to people. The existing Plan notes in the natural hazards section that people owning or buying property do not often appreciate their vulnerability to the adverse effects of actual or potential natural hazards. It is important in terms of the second generation District Plan that the hazards of the coastal landscape in the district are clearly defined. A precautionary approach towards hazards in the Coastal Resource Area is considered appropriate. Requirements for set backs or the establishment of building platforms for new sub-divisions or other hazard avoidance measures appropriate for specific sites and circumstances are examples of precautionary approaches that should be taken. The proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 reinforces the importance of hazard avoidance as opposed to hazard mitigation in coastal areas.

3.4.3.3 Subdivision is currently a discretionary activity within the Coastal Resource Area of the District Plan. New buildings and structures within the Coastal Resource Area that are not permitted activities under Rule PRA.3 are also considered discretionary activities. This current approach enables the Council to assess the site of buildings and building platforms along with the location of new lots in relation to coastal hazards. Expert hazard advice can then be obtained from Environment Southland while applicants can also be requested to provide their own expert information to support their application.

Amendments to applications for hazard avoidance and mitigation can also be requested during the processing of resource consents. The District Council can also, in terms of Section 106 of the Resource Management Act, refuse applications that don't avoid remedy or mitigate adverse natural hazard effects.

3.4.4 Infrastructure and Transportation Issues

3.4.4.1 A number of resource consent applications have been received for coastal subdivisions located outside existing urban areas along the coast and sometimes in isolated rural areas within the Coastal Resource Area. While these isolated areas may be attractive for property buyers and developers they can give rise to a number of resource management issues. These developments are often lower density lifestyle block properties. In these situations relatively high levels of isolation are seen as desirable as are unimpeded coastal/rural outlooks and views. The location of these types of developments in isolated rural areas along the coast alters the landscape character of these areas and can also give rise to infrastructure and transportation issues. Many of these developments will not be connected to reticulated water and sewerage schemes and rely on on-site effluent disposal systems. Private vehicle transport is often the only practical means of transport due to their isolation. Western coastal areas of the district particularly situated between Riverton and Orepuki and some coastal areas in the east of the district including Waikawa, Porpoise and Colac Bays have seen these types of occurring in recent years.

3.4.5 Reverse Sensitivity Issues

3.4.5.1 Much of the Southland district's Coastal Resource Area is a rural landscape with farming activity and rural land management practices as the dominant landuse. There is potential for reverse sensitivity issues to arise through the development of residential lifestyle properties. Occupiers of these properties could potentially complain to the District Council about rural activities taking place on adjoining or nearby properties. Odour and noise issues, the erection and use of farm buildings and structures and the operation of machinery could all potentially give rise to nuisance complaints. Reverse sensitivity issues can arise when residential development occurs in working rural landscapes. It is important that the second generation District Plan recognises that rural landuse and related activities are appropriate in the Coastal Resource Area and the potential for reverse sensitivity issues is addressed when resource consents for new developments proposals are assessed under the new Plan.

3.4.6 Significant Habitats of Indigenous Flora and Fauna & Biodiversity

3.4.6.1 As noted earlier the coastal areas of the Southland district contain areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous flora and fauna. The potential effects of subdivision, use and development on these areas and their biodiversity values will need to be addressed as a coastal resource management issue in the second generation District Plan.

3.4.7 Maori Perspective

3.4.7.1 One key change relating to Maori coastal resource management issues since the existing District Plan was adopted is the formulation of the Ngāi Tahu Ki Murihiku Natural Resource and Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2008. This document entitled 'Te Tangi a Taurira: The Cry of the People' has been formulated under the iwi management plan provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991. Through this document local iwi now have an increased ability to respond and participate in the management of

natural and physical resources in the Southland district. In the formation of the second generation District Plan the provisions of 'Te Tangi a Taurira' relating to coastal resource management issues will need to be taken into account.

3.4.7.2 Section 4.6 'Coastal Resource Area' of the existing District Plan identifies lack of recognition in the past of the significance of the coast to Maori. The development of the Iwi Management Plan may help rectify this problem. The existing District Plan under Rule COA.1 'Consultation with Iwi' requires applicants to consult with iwi prior to making a resource consent application and a similar rule could be used in the second generation District Plan.

3.4.7.3 A large number of findspots and other archaeological sites of importance to Maori are found along the district's coastline and within the Coastal Resource Area. Increased levels of development within the Coastal Resource Area gives rise to issues surrounding the protection and conservation of these sites. There is an increased likelihood of these sites, which are recognised as an important part of the Southland district's heritage, will be damaged or lost through the subdivision, use and development of coastal areas. The second generation District Plan needs to address this issue and should seek to ensure that the potential impact of proposals on these sites is assessed and where appropriate mitigation measures and/or conservation measures are put in place.

3.4.8 **Public Access**

3.4.8.1 Public access can become an issue in coastal areas particularly where subdivision development is proposed immediately adjacent to the coast. Ensuring that existing public access to coastal beaches, estuaries and other areas is not prevented or restricted by subdivision, use and development is a coastal resource management issue the new Plan will need to address. The new Plan could also look to encourage and facilitate public access where feasible when processing resource consent applications in the Coastal Resource Area.

4. **Options for Addressing Issues**

4.1 The biggest problems in assessing the issues and options relating to the coastal areas of the Southland region are associated with a lack of detailed scientific information about the coastal environment and the poor understanding of this environment that results from this lack of information. Many of the processes occurring along the coastal margins of the region are not fully understood and there is also a poor level of understanding about the environmental impacts of human activity on coastal areas. These impacts can, for example, include the effects of physical structures on the coastal environment as well as the effects of discharges from land on their impacts on coastal water quality. There is a real need to conduct a large amount of highly specific research in the coastal environment to increase our understanding of this highly dynamic environment.

4.2 Towards this goal the Coastal Risk Assessment 2008 has been completed. It reports on the ecological vulnerability of the Southern Coast and the biodiversity of Doubtful Sound. However, in the future a great deal more co-operation between agencies is required to ensure available resources and studies are shared.

4.3 In addition, it has been recognised at a district level that the existing approach to coastal resource management issues in the district plan is remiss of and does not address satisfactorily a number of emerging coastal issues. The existing Plan through the

definition of a Coastal Resource Area and specific coastal objectives, policies and rules does provide a useful base which the new Plan could build on. The existing approach could be refined and built on significantly.

- 4.4 A number of other District Council's in New Zealand with coastlines have not defined a specific Coastal Resource Area. Therefore, coastal areas often fall within Rural sub areas. Given the length and prominence of the Southland District's coastline, its unique character and landscapes the use of a Coastal Resource Area is considered a helpful and appropriate approach in the development of the second generation Southland District Plan.
- 4.5 The interaction between land and water is not understood very well at present. There are some studies currently occurring on a small scale that are seeking to illustrate the working processes between the land, water quality and the coast, namely Environment Southland's living streams project. However, this project is currently being undertaken on a relatively small scale. Given its potential scope for the rest of Southland this may need to be ramped up in the future to gain a better understanding of the effect land based activities of the region have on the coastal marine area.
- 4.6 There are some studies being conducted on catchments to determine their influence on coastal waters. This work needs to continue and its importance for the management of the coastal environment needs to be recognised and increased. The quality of coastal water along Southland's coast is good for the most part but there are areas surrounding the river estuaries that at times become highly polluted. Work needs to be done to ensure the water quality coming from rivers at all times does not negatively impact on the health of ecosystems. Continued work on establishing data showing how estuarine systems operate and their importance as both habitat and as important links between the land and the coast is needed.
- 4.7 The Southland coast has a long history of both early Maori and early European activity. For Southlanders and New Zealanders any remaining physical evidence of this history is an important link to the environment we live in and all that has gone before us. Over the years as development occurs and natural processes change the landscape some of these historical places are put at risk of damage or complete loss. Natural processes like coastal erosion cannot be stopped, but they can be planned for and processes put in place to deal with any historical matters that might arise. Any future development along the coast needs to have special regard to historical values that it may be impacting on. Furthermore, through the development process affected historical sites need to be preserved or effects on them mitigated to ensure that this history is not lost.
- 4.8 The special relationship that Maori have with the coastal environment has been formally recognised by the government through legislative changes. 'Te Tangi a Taurira: The Cry of the People' acknowledges the special relationship of Maori to the Coastal environment and this document must now be properly used and implemented.
- 4.9 Preserving natural character is a huge ongoing concern as populations increase and coastal development becomes desirable. Natural character does not have a single description or definition so it can become a gray area when trying to form a decision about the potential effects of a development. Some landscape studies have been conducted around the region to date and they can act as a guide for decision makers.
- 4.10 As outlined previously in this paper the Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006 identified a number of coastal areas within the Southland district that are worthy of consideration as Outstanding Natural Landscapes or as Outstanding Natural Features.

- 4.11 It has further identified coastal areas where some development would be appropriate as well as areas of high landscape value where development would not be appropriate. One option available for the second generation Southland District Plan is the definition and mapping of the areas of outstanding natural landscapes and features. The 2006 study could be used as a guide in this process and an additional examination of these areas undertaken as required. Formal recognition of these areas would aid the formulation of appropriate objectives, policies and rules that would seek to protect these landscapes from inappropriate use, development and subdivision.
- 4.12 However, it should be noted that landscape only makes up part of the natural character of the environment so more work is needed in this area. To make informed decisions and enable a more strategic approach to coastal development further baseline studies and specific area studies are needed.
- 4.13 The existing District Plan contains rules that relate to and control the erection of buildings and structures and subdivision in the Coastal Resource Area. This approach could be built on by including specific rules relating to outstanding landscape areas being developed. This would enable the Council to meet its obligations towards landscape issues within its coastal area as required under sections 6a, 6b, 6f, 7c and 7f of the RMA. It would also ensure that coastal areas recognised as Outstanding Natural Landscapes or Outstanding Natural Features are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- 4.14 Part of this approach could involve the setting of criteria and policies that define the level of development that is acceptable in these areas. Buildings and structures of a certain scale and nature may be deemed appropriate and performance standards could be developed to this effect. The new Plan could then look to focus coastal subdivision in the areas that are capable of absorbing landscape change. The concentration of coastal subdivision activity in areas capable of absorbing landscape change could prevent the spread of isolated developments that can detract from the rural and remote character of the coastline.
- 4.15 Another option that could be utilised in the second generation District Plan to manage coastal growth is the development of policies seeking to restrict coastal development to existing urban areas located within the Coastal Resource Area. The Plan could look to prevent and discourage the spread of isolated developments along the district's coast. Existing urban areas within the Coastal Resource Area have the capacity for further residential development and an increase in residential density within these areas could be encouraged. This could help preserve the rural and often remote character of other parts of the coastline.
- 4.16 Essentially this approach would involve the use of zoning techniques to restrict future coastal development to a greater degree than occurs at present. Currently, new coastal subdivisions are a discretionary activity across the district, but a more prescriptive approach could be implemented. This could encourage future coastal development within or close to existing coastal settlements such as Riverton and Orepuki and to make it more difficult to undertake future coastal developments in more remote locations.
- 4.17 In addition, one of the key findings of the Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006 was that the landscape character of the Coastal Resource Area could be preserved by maintaining existing patterns of agriculture in coastal areas of the district. Retaining a viable farming community was viewed as essential in the findings of this study. Viable

rural activity in the Coastal Resource Area lessens the likelihood of coastal areas being developed for other uses such as residential housing. The second generation District Plan could recognise the importance of rural landuse activity in terms of its influence on the coastal landscape and look to ensure its ongoing viability. Regulatory control relating to farm buildings in the Coastal Resource Area is included in the existing Plan. This will be required in the future given the potential effect large or inappropriately positioned farm buildings could have of the coastal landscape.

- 4.18 With the knowledge that the world's climate is changing, and the implications of sea level rise on our coastlines we need to put some policy in place that ensures we are prepared for possible changes to the coastal environment and associated hazards. Sea level will change and this will change the areas that are potentially affected by inundation and other coastal hazards. For example, areas of coastal erosion have the potential to significantly change with a rise in sea level. We have to look at some methods to protect ourselves from the predicted hazards over and above the policy guidelines that are put forward by central government and make these policies work with our local conditions in Southland. We need policy that guides us in adapting and adjusting to predicted climate change effects.
- 4.19 Aquaculture/Marine farming with the limited amount of space made available to it has become a significant contributor to Stewart Island and a good exporter for the region. The question remains as to whether or not additional space should be made available for these operations to expand and for new businesses to come into the region. In terms of available space and suitability of Southland's environment to these operations there are areas still suitable areas available for expansion of operations. However, it is a question of whether or not that expansion is desirable to Southlanders.
- 4.20 Non-regulatory approaches can be a useful tool that when utilised in conjunction with regulatory methods of managing coastal issues. The development of coastal design guidelines is one example of an information resource which the Councils could develop to address coastal growth issues. Guidelines covering issues such as building location and placement, design and landscaping could be developed.
- 4.21 The District Council through studies and reports such as the 'Southland Coastal Landscape Study 2006' has been active in studying and gathering information about emerging coastal issues. This document will provide useful guidance and background information and guidance on approaches that can be taken in the development of the second generation Southland District Plan.
- 4.22 Further analysis of the Region's/District's coast and coastal issues in conjunction with other councils and key stakeholders may be required in the development of the new plans and during review processes to build on the findings of earlier studies conducted.
- 4.23 The implementation, administration and evolution of the current regional and local plans will ensure that Southland's coastal environment is managed correctly going into the future.

5. Questions for Discussion

- 5.1 The Regional Policy Statement sets the tone for resource management across the region which a District Plan must give effect to. The review processes enable the community to reflect on how the coastal environment is addressed and whether the current

provisions reflect the issues facing Southland. The following are a series of questions on which feedback is being sought:

5.2 **Regional Policy Statement**

- Do you think we have identified the right coastal issues? Are there other issues and aspects of coastal management that we should be recognising for the region?
- How effective do you feel coastal management practice has been since the original Regional Policy Statement? What have been the main factors that have influenced performance?
- Where do you think the priority action areas in our coastal environment are? What are your concerns with respect to coastal development versus loss of natural character? Should the RPS look to identify coastal areas that are appropriate for development? If so, how should the RPS provide adequate guidance to local territorial authorities about appropriate coastal areas for development?

5.3 **Southland District Plan**

- Should the District Plan take a more restrictive approach than is currently in place towards development along the district's Coast?
- Are there areas of the district's coast where development is not appropriate? If so, should these areas be prioritised for protection?
- Should those areas of the Southland District's coastline that have been recognised as containing outstanding natural landscapes and/or outstanding natural features be protected from inappropriate use, development and subdivision? If so, what are the best options available for use in the second generation District Plan to achieve this?
- Should the SDC look to consolidate coastal development within existing urban areas already located in the Coastal Resource Area?

Appendix 1 - Analysis Of Existing Regional Policy Statement Issues

1.1 The following are considered to be the resource management issues within Southland relating to the coastal environment -

1.2 Issue 1

1.2.1 *Adverse effects arise because the interaction between activities on land and on water is not given adequate recognition.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.5, 13.9, 18.1; Policies 13.10, 13.18, 13.23, 13.26; Methods 13.1 - 13.8, 13.10 - 13.16)

1.2.2 This is a very relevant matter. Currently, with the exception of estuaries and some frequent bathing areas, there is very little science that links the effects, real and perceived, of land based activities on the marine environment. Given that the coastline is a very important environment to us, there is surprisingly little information available on the coastal marine interface and how different land/coast management activities affect one another.

1.3 *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*

1.3.1 This remains an important objective to the above issue of adverse effects arising from the interaction between land based activities and the coastal environment.

1.4 *Objective 13.9 – To ensure that only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine area are situated there.*

1.4.1 This is a relevant objective to the above issue as this objective deals with potential adverse effects between the coastal environment and the land from the coastal perspective.

1.5 *Objective 18.1 – To establish and maintain effective processes to deal with cross-boundary issues.*

1.5.1 This is a relevant objective to the above issue of adverse effects arising from the interaction between land based activities and the coastal environment and between different councils/authorities.

1.6 *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and the takata whenua.*

1.6.1 The integrated management of the coastal environment is a relevant policy to the above issue of adverse effects arising from the interaction between land based activities and the coastal environment.

1.7 *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*

1.7.1 This is a very relevant policy, given the current subdivision pressure on Southlands coastlines and the potential effects of these subdivisions on the coastal margin interface.

1.8a *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*

1.8b *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*

1.8.1 The above policies remain relevant to the above issue of adverse effects arising from the interaction between land based activities and the coastal environment.

1.9 Issue 2

1.9.1 *The quality of coastal water is such that it is not always suitable for contact recreation and the consumption of shellfish and fish. In particular, the quality of waters in the New River and Riverton Estuaries is low and needs to be enhanced to re-establish the recreational values and ecosystems they once offered.*

(Refer to Objectives 5.2, 13.8; Policies 5.3, 13.5, 13.6, 13.13, 13.16, 13.25; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)

1.9.2 This issue is still a very relevant issue. On the whole, the quality of coastal waters surrounding Southland is very good. However there are small localised areas, especially in and around some of the larger estuaries that have very poor water quality that has the ability to make some forms of recreation unsafe. There also continues to be specific locations from which the consumption of shellfish and fish needs to be monitored for health risks. Work is still needed to re-establish areas to their natural state.

1.10a *Objective 5.2 – To ensure that in the use and development of water and land resources, and the discharge of contaminants, water quality is maintained and wherever practicable enhanced.*

1.10b *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*

1.10c *Policy 5.3 – Prepare Regional Plan(s) for the management of water quality considering both point and non-point source discharges.*

1.10d *Policy 13.5 – Provide for contact recreation, the human consumption of shellfish and the health and vitality of aquatic organisms within the coastal waters of the Region.*

1.10.1 The above objectives and policies are relevant to the above issue of the quality of coastal water not always being suitable for contact recreation and consumption of shellfish in some locations. Objective 5.2 is very important as it links strongly to the current Council Living Streams work programme. Policy 5.3 could perhaps be expanded to include non-regulatory means of managing resources.

1.11 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*

1.11.1 This policy is no longer applicable, due to the Regional Coastal Plan now being operative.

1.12a *Policy 13.13 – Promote the adoption of systems for the discharge of wastes and contaminants which have the least adverse effects.*

1.12b *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkerage and other material within the waters of the Region.*

- 1.12c *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.12.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of the quality of coastal water not always being suitable for contact recreation and consumption of shellfish in some locations.
- 1.13 Issue 3**
- 1.13.1 *Industrial, refuse disposal site, stormwater and sewage discharges and agricultural runoff adversely impact upon water quality, ecosystems, amenity and estuarine values, limit opportunities for recreational activities and adversely affect the suitability of shellfish for human consumption.*
(Refer to Objective 5.2, 8.2, 13.2, 13.5, 13.8, 16.1; Policies 5.3, 8.1, 13.5, 13.6, 13.10, 13.13, 13.16, 13.23, 16.2; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.13.2 As above in issue 2, this issue is still a very relevant issue. There are small localised areas, especially in and around some of the larger estuaries that have very poor water quality that has the ability to make some forms of recreation unsafe. There also continues to be specific locations from which the consumption of shellfish and fish needs to be monitored for health risks. Continued work is needed to monitor discharges of all forms and in an effort to keep or re-establish areas to their natural state.
- 1.14a *Objective 5.2 – To ensure that in the use and development of water and land resources, and the discharge of contaminants, water quality is maintained and wherever practicable enhanced.*
- 1.14.b *Objective 8.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, adverse effects arising from sedimentation and nutrient runoff from land into water bodies.*
- 1.14c *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.14d *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.14e *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for-*
(a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.
- 1.14f *Objective 16.1 – To minimise adverse social, cultural, economic and environmental effects of solid waste disposal.*
- 1.14.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of discharges and runoff adversely impacting upon water quality and all the subsequent effects of this water degradation.
- 1.15 *Policy 5.3 – Prepare Regional Plan(s) for the management of water quality considering both point and non-point source discharges.*
- 1.15.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue of discharges and runoff adversely impacting upon water quality and all the subsequent effects of this water degradation. However, the policy could be expanded to include non-regulatory methods of resource management to reflect the direction Environment Southland is taking with its Living streams work programme.

- 1.16 *Policy 8.1 – Maintain and enhance Southland’s soil resource by avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of activities.*
- 1.16.1 This policy is not relevant to the above issue as it focuses on soil rather than water. The two issues can be related, but in this instance the policy wording above is not relevant.
- 1.17 *Policy 13.5 – Provide for contact recreation, the human consumption of shellfish and the health and vitality of aquatic organisms within the coastal waters of the Region.*
- 1.17.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue of discharges and runoff adversely impacting upon water quality and all the subsequent effects of this water degradation.
- 1.18 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*
- 1.18.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.19a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.19b *Policy 13.13 – Promote the adoption of systems for the discharge of wastes and contaminants which have the least adverse effects.*
- 1.19c *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkering and other material within the waters of the Region.*
- 1.19d *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.19.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of discharges and runoff adversely impacting upon water quality and all the subsequent effects of this water degradation.
- 1.20 *Policy 16.2 – Establish by 1 October 1995, and maintain, an effective monitoring system which – (a) tracks material within the waste stream; (b) assesses the impacts associated with the production, use, reuse, recycling and disposal of waste materials; and (c) provides for any information collected to be assessed and incorporated into a public regional information database.*
- 1.20.1 This policy is perhaps no longer needed, given the changes in waste management and the fact that it is perhaps not specific to the coast. But it could be rewritten/updated to reflect current Council monitoring work.
- 1.21 Issue 4**
- 1.21.1 *The dumping or placing of organic and inorganic rubbish, including dead animals and plastics on the foreshore, and in coastal waters, can affect water quality, degrade amenity values or impact upon ecosystems.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.2, 13.5, 13.7, 13.8, 16.1; Policies 13.9, 13.10, 13.15, 13.25, 16.2; Methods 13.1 - 13.9)
- 1.21.2 This remains an ongoing issue that needs continued management going forward.
- 1.22a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

- 1.22b *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.22c *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.22d *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.22e *Objective 16.1 – To minimise adverse social, cultural, economic and environmental effects of solid waste disposal.*
- 1.22.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of dumping of organic and inorganic rubbish on the foreshore affecting water quality and affecting ecosystems.
- 1.23 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*
- 1.23.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.24a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.24b *Policy 13.15 – Actively use statutory provisions and other methods to facilitate compliance with resource management documents.*
- 1.24c *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with significance of the value.*
- 1.24d *Policy 16.2 – Establish by 1 October 1995, and maintain, an effective monitoring system which – (a) tracks material within the waste stream; (b) assesses the impacts associated with the production, use, reuse, recycling and disposal of waste materials; and (c) provides for any information collected to be assessed and incorporated into a public regional information database.*
- 1.24.1 The above policies are all still relevant to the above issue of organic and inorganic rubbish on the foreshore affecting water quality and affecting ecosystems.
- 1.25 Issue 5**
- 1.25.1 *Some of the activities that take place within the coastal marine area can generate excessive noise levels. (Refer to Objectives 13.2, 13.5; Policies 13.2, 13.7, 13.10, 13.11, 13.23, 13.25 Methods 13.1, 13.4, 13.5, 13.7, 13.8, 13.10)*
- 1.25.2 This remains a relevant issue for the coastal environment. Noise levels are often generated by genuine coastal marine users that may cause offence or problems to the surrounding coastal marine area, for example, ships at port. Noise requirements should always be taken into account when making decisions about the management of the coastal area as there is a real need to protect legitimate activities. However, the above issue may be reworded to take into account both those activities that generate noise and those activities that may be sensitive to certain types or excessive noise.

1.25.3 Possible wording could be:

“Some activities that take place within the coastal marine area can generate noise levels, some neighbouring/nearby area or developments area are sensitive to excessive noise.”

1.26a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

1.26b *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*

1.26.1 The above objectives are both relevant to the above issue of excessive noise being generated within the coastal environment.

1.27a *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*

1.27b *Policy 13.7 – Ensure that reasonable noise levels are not exceeded within the coastal environment.*

1.27.1 The above two policies are very relevant to the above issue of excessive noise being generated within the coastal environment.

1.28a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*

1.28b *Policy 13.11 – Transfer power to, delegate functions to, or consult with and use the knowledge and experience of, existing organisations where it leads to more efficient management.*

1.28c *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*

1.28d *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with significance of the value.*

1.28.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of excessive noise being generated within the coastal environment.

1.29 Issue 6

1.29.1 *The transportation of nuclear fuels, nuclear weapons, nuclear waste or other radioactive material through the Region’s coastal waters poses a potential risk to the environment.*
(Refer to Objective 13.2, 13.7, 14.2, 17.1; Policies 13.4, 17.5; Methods 13.1 - 13.5)

1.29.2 Anything that is considered nuclear is still considered an issue as it has a high potential to have devastating consequences on the environment. However, New Zealand as a nation has decided to ban all things nuclear so do we actually need this issue within the Regional Policy Statement? In Southland we have huge areas of coastline that are considered pristine and if New Zealand as a whole was to change its legislation to allow nuclear activities within our borders then we as Southlanders would need to consider if

we would want to take the risk of letting nuclear activities take place anywhere near those parts of our pristine coast.

1.30a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

1.30b *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*

1.30c *Objective 14.2 – To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of mineral and energy resource development, production, use or transportation in the Region.*

1.30d *Objective 17.1 – To safeguard the environment from the adverse effects from the existing and past storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.30.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of the transportation of nuclear resources being a potential risk to the environment.

1.31a *Policy 13.4 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects of the manufacture, storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.31.b *Policy 17.5 – Minimize the adverse effects on the environment from the storage, use, discharge, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances.*

1.31.1 The above policies are both relevant to the above issue of the transportation of nuclear resources being a potential risk to the environment.

1.32 Issue 7

1.32.1 *The storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances poses a potential risk to plant animal and human life.*
(Refer to Objective 13.2, 13.7, 17.1; Policies 13.4, 17.3, 17.5; Methods 13.1 - 13.8)

1.32.2 This remains an important issue.

1.33a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

1.33b *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*

1.33c *Objective 17.1 – To safeguard the environment from the adverse effects from the existing and past storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.33.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the issue of hazardous substances posing a potential risk to plant, animal and human life.

1.34a *Policy 13.4 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects of the manufacture, storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.34b *Policy 17.3 – Preparation and implementation of a hazardous substances manifest system for the Southland Region.*

1.34c *Policy 17.5 – Minimize the adverse effects on the environment from the storage, use, discharge, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances.*

1.34.1 The above policies are all relevant to the issue of hazardous substances posing a potential risk to plant, animal and human life.

1.35 Issue 8

1.35.1 *Ballast water, bunkering and other discharges from ships, for example, bauxite and fertiliser spilt on transfer, can adversely affect water quality and ecosystems, particularly where new organisms are introduced.*

(Refer to Objective 13.7, 17.1; Policies 13.4, 13.6, 13.13, 13.16; Methods 13.1 - 13.8)

1.35.2 This is still a relevant issue.

1.36a *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*

1.36a *Objective 17.1 – To safeguard the environment from the adverse effects from the existing and past storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.36.1 The above objectives are relevant to the above issue of discharges from ships having the potential to adversely affect water quality and ecosystems.

1.37 *Policy 13.4 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects of the manufacture, storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances.*

1.37.1 This is still a relevant policy to the above issue of discharges from ships having the potential to adversely affect water quality and ecosystems.

1.38 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*

1.38.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative. However, the policy wording could be changed to consider water classification in the Regional Coastal Plan.

1.39a *Policy 13.13 – Promote the adoption of systems for the discharge of wastes and contaminants which have the least adverse effects.*

1.39b *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkering and other material within the waters of the Region.*

1.39.1 The above two policies are both relevant to the issue of discharges from ships having the potential to adversely affect water quality and ecosystems.

1.40 Issue 9

1.40.1 *Estuarine systems need to be recognised and protected from inappropriate use and development to prevent degradation of their recreational and Maori values, and damage to ecosystems.*

(Refer to Objectives 1.2, 1.3, 5.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.4, 13.7, 13.8; Policies 1.2, 13.1 - 13.3, 13.5, 13.10, 13.25; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)

1.40.2 This remains a relevant issue. Estuarine systems are very important for many reasons and all these reasons need to be recognised and protected.

1.41a *Objective 1.2 – To recognise the importance of wahi tapu, wahitaoka, mahika kai and the customary use of water to Kai Tapu.*

- 1.41b *Objective 1.3 – To incorporate Maori cultural and traditional spiritual values where appropriate into resource management decision making processes.*
- 1.41.1 The above two objectives are relevant to the above issue of estuarine systems needing to be recognised and protected for their values. The above objectives are well serviced by the document Te Tangi a Taurira that can assist Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku to effectively participate in natural resource and environmental policy and planning.
- 1.42a *Objective 5.1 – To sustain the quality of the Region’s water resources so as to: (a) meet the needs of a range of uses, including the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; (b) safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water and related ecosystems.*
- 1.42b *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.42c *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.42d *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*
- 1.42e *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.42f *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.42.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of estuarine systems needing to be recognised and protected for their values. The above objectives cover all of the values we place on the estuaries.
- 1.43 *Policy 1.2 – Recognise “Te Whakatau Kaupapa O Murihiku” as a Kai Tahu resource management reference planning document of the Region.*
- 1.43.1 The above policy is still relevant, but it now needs to be reworded to include Te Tangi a Taurira as the resource management reference planning document for the region.
- 1.44a *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.44b *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.44c *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*

- 1.44d *Policy 13.5 – Provide for contact recreation, the human consumption of shellfish and the health and vitality of aquatic organisms within the coastal waters of the Region.*
- 1.44.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue of estuarine systems needing to be recognised and protected for their values.
- 1.45 *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.45.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue, however there needs to be an addition of community groups as part of the integrated management of the coastal environment.
- 1.46 *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with significance of the value.*
- 1.46.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue of estuarine systems needing to be recognised and protected for their values.
- 1.47 Issue 10**
- 1.47.1 *While the maintenance and enhancement of public access to the coast is a matter of national importance, different means of access can have different impacts. Consideration is required as to the appropriate type of access for particular areas, for example, vehicular, boat, pedestrian or by air, and the degree to which livestock, domestic animals and humans should be denied access to protect ecosystems and amenity values, and reduction of the sea/land buffer.*
(Refer to Objective 10.5, 11.1, 13.3; Policies 11.4, 11.8, 11.9, 13.3; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.47.2 This is still a very relevant issue. Regulating authorities need to have special regard to the potential impacts on the coastal marine area from different land management practices of which access is a major component of this.
- 1.48a *Objective 10.5 – To minimise the adverse effects of the built environment on natural and physical resources.*
- 1.48b *Objective 11.1 – To minimise the adverse effects of transportation modes and infrastructure on natural and physical resources, so that these resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.48c *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.48.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of the appropriate degree of access for particular areas and whether there should be any access at all to protect the differing values of the coastal marine environment.
- 1.49a *Policy 11.4 – Require district and regional plans to include provisions that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of transportation and transportation infrastructure on natural and physical resources, so that these resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.49b *Policy 11.8 – Minimise the adverse effects of waste discharges on water quality from vehicles carrying stock or passengers, campervans and vehicle washing facilities on water quality.*
- 1.49c *Policy 11.9 – Minimise the effects of the movement of livestock on public roads.*

1.49d *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*

1.49.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of the appropriate degree of access for particular areas and whether there should be any access at all to protect the differing values of the coastal marine environment.

1.50 Issue 11

1.50.1 *Some recreational activities are incompatible with each other where they compete for space, for example, water skiing, rowing, sailing and swimming.*
(Refer to Objective 13.3; Policies 13.2, 13.3, 13.10, 13.29; Methods 13.4, 13.5, 13.7 - 13.9, 13.10, 13.13)

1.50.2 This remains an ongoing issue that needs continuing management of the coastal environment. With the pressure on space in some instances increasing due to new recreation practices or an increase in uptake of existing ones.

1.51 *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*

1.51.1 The above objective is relevant to the above issue of recreational activities sometimes being incompatible with each other and often competing for the same space.

1.52 *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*

1.52.1 This policy is relevant to the above issue of recreational activities sometimes being incompatible with each other and often competing for the same space.

1.53 *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*

1.53.1 This policy is not very relevant to the above issue. As this policy focuses on the protection of the marine environment rather than above issue of recreational activities sometimes competing for the same space and being incompatible with each other.

1.54a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*

- 1.54b *Policy 13.29 – Give priority to compatible multiple use rather than setting aside area for specific purposes.*
- 1.54.1 The above two policies are relevant to the above issue of recreational activities sometimes being incompatible with each other and often competing for the same space.
- 1.55 Issue 12**
- 1.55.1 *The location and design of infrastructure, for example, outfalls, roading, pipelines and power and telephone lines, within the coastal area and its margins can give rise to the following adverse effects:*
- *Detraction from the natural character;*
 - *Impacts upon existing and potential activities, for example, recreation;*
 - *Impeding of access to the coast and harbour areas; and*
 - *Physical damage caused by altering or interfering with coastal processes.*
- (Refer to Objective 10.5, 11.1, 13.1 - 13.3, 13.5, 13.7, 13.8; Policies 10.1 - 10.3, 11.4, 11.7, 13.2, 13.8, 13.18, 13.23, 13.26, 14.5; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.55.2 This remains an important issue as there is ongoing interest wherever any infrastructure is proposed for the coastal margins. The potential adverse effects listed above all need to be given consideration when making decisions about infrastructure within the coastal margins.
- 1.53a *Objective 10.5 – To minimise the adverse effects of the built environment on natural and physical resources.*
- 1.53b *Objectives 11.1 – To minimize the adverse effects of transportation modes and infrastructure on natural and physical resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.53c *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.53d *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.53e *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.53f *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.53g *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.53h *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.53.1 All of the above objectives are relevant to the above issue of location and design of infrastructure giving rise to numerous potential adverse effects within the coastal margins.
- 1.54a *Policy 10.1 – Encourage development and use of the built environment that provides for the efficient use of existing facilities and infrastructure while simultaneously avoiding the development of unnecessary additional infrastructure.*

- 1.54b *Policy 10.2 – Require that network utilities associated with the built environment be undertaken in such a manner as to avoid wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate effects on the quality of natural and physical resources.*
- 1.54c *Policy 10.3 – Encourage the use of corridors for network utilities where practicable, where this will result in mitigation of environmental effects.*
- 1.54d *Policy 11.4 – Require district and regional plans to include provisions that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of transportation and transportation infrastructure on natural and physical resources, so that these resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.55e *Policy 11.7 – Minimise the adverse impacts upon natural resources, in particular water quality, by road and railway maintenance activities including: (1) managing the use of oil as a dust suppressant on unsealed roads; (2) managing drainage ditch construction and maintenance; and (3) managing spraying of verge vegetation.*
- 1.55f *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.55g *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.55h *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.55i *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.55j *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, development and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.55k *Policy 14.5 – Avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate the adverse effect of energy production, use, transmission and distribution.*
- 1.55.1 All of the above policies are relevant to the above issue of location and design of infrastructure giving rise to numerous potential adverse effects within the coastal margins.

1.56 Issue 13

- 1.56.1 *The location, size and design of physical structures, for example, groynes, wharves, moorings, anchorages, jetties, boat ramps, whitebait stands and maimais, etc, and in some cases their associated buildings, can give rise to a number of adverse effects on the natural character (visual and landscape values), coastal processes, matters of significance to Maori, ecosystems and recreational and amenity values of an area.*
 (Refer to Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 9.1, 9.2, 13.1 - 13.10; Policies 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.4, 9.1, 13.1 - 13.3, 13.8 - 13.11, 13.18, 13.22, 13.23, 13.25 - 13.29; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)

- 1.56.2 This remains a relevant issue. The potential adverse effects listed above all need to be given consideration when making decisions about the location and design of physical structures within the coastal margins. This issue has very similar effects to Issue 12 and it is possible that these two issues could be combined.
- 1.57a *Objective 1.1 – To protect wahi tapu from the adverse effects of resource use activities.*
- 1.57b *Objective 1.2 – To recognise the importance of wahi tapu, wahi taoka, mahika kai and the customary use of water to Kai Tahu.*
- 1.57c *Objective 2.1 – To protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna within Southland where this will maintain or enhance biodiversity of indigenous ecosystems.*
- 1.57d *Objective 9.1 – To protect outstanding natural features and landscapes of the Region.*
- 1.57e *Objective 9.2 – To avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects on ecosystems which contribute to the diversity of landscapes in the Region.*
- 1.57f *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.57g *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.57h *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.57i *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*
- 1.57j *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.57k *Objective 13.6 – To recognise and have regard to heritage values of sites buildings, places or areas within the coastal environment.*
- 1.57l *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.57m *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.57n *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.57o *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.57.1 All of the above objectives are relevant to the above issue of location and design of physical structures giving rise to numerous potential adverse effects within the coastal margins.
- 1.58a *Policy 1.1 – Prepare and implement an Accord between the local authorities and takata whenua o Murihiku which sets out a process for consultation.*

- 1.58b *Policy 1.2 – Recognise “Te Whakatau Kaupapa O Muribiku” as a Kai Tabu resource management reference planning document for the Region.*
- 1.58.1 The above two policies are still relevant to the above issue of location and design of physical structures giving rise to numerous potential adverse effects within the coastal margins. However, they need to be changed to include Te Tangi a Tauira as the resource management reference planning document for the region.
- 1.59a *Policy 2.1 – Identify and encourage the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna which maintain or enhance the biodiversity of indigenous ecosystems within Southland.*
- 1.59b *Policy 2.4 – Avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity and the natural processes of ecosystems.*
- 1.59c *Policy 9.1 – Identify and encourage the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes within Southland.*
- 1.59c *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.59d *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.59e *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*
- 1.59f *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.59g *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.59h *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.59i *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.59j *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, development and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.59k *Policy 13.27 – Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities, where their effects are as yet unknown or little understood, or where the effects of coastal processes on those activities are as yet unknown or little understood.*

- 1.59l *Policy 13.28 – Recognise that some activities will require exclusive or preferential occupation, notwithstanding the fact that the public have a right to use the coastal marine area.*
- 1.59m *Policy 13.29 – Give priority to compatible multiple use rather than setting aside areas for specific purposes.*
- 1.59.1 All of the above policies are relevant to the above issue of location and design of infrastructure giving rise to numerous potential adverse effects within the coastal margins.
- 1.60 Issue 14**
- 1.60.1 *Reclamations and impoundments can have major effects on coastal and ecological processes, for example, harbour flushing, fish habitat and nursery areas, public access and enjoyment, and natural character. (Refer to Objectives 13.1 - 13.10; Policies 13.1, 13.8 - 13.10, 13.12, 13.18; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)*
- 1.60.2 This remains a relevant issue as there have been no new developments in reclamation earthworks processes that reduce the potential impact on the marine environment.
- 1.61a *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.61b *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.61c *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.61d *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*
- 1.61e *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.61f *Objective 13.6 – To recognise and have regard to heritage values of sites buildings, places or areas within the coastal environment.*
- 1.61g *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.61h *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.61i *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.61j *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.61.1 The above objectives are all relevant to the above issue of reclamations and impoundments potentially having significant effects on coastal marine areas.
- 1.62a *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*

- 1.62b *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.62.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of reclamations and impoundments potentially having significant effects on coastal marine areas.
- 1.63 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*
- 1.63.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.64a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.64b *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development with the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.64c *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.64.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of reclamations and impoundments potentially having significant effects on coastal marine areas.
- 1.65 Issue 15**
- 1.65.1 *The extent to which provision should be made for utilities, infrastructure (including ports), structures, reclamations and impoundments within the coastal marine area, given that they contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of the Region.*
(Refer to Objectives 10.5, 11.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.5, 13.9, 13.10; Policies 10.1 - 10.3, 11.4, 11.7, 13.1, 13.2, 13.8 - 13.10, 13.12, 13.18, 13.22, 13.23, 13.26, 14.5; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.65.2 This is a relevant issue as it builds on the ideas raised in issues 12 and 13 above. Continued recognition of the contribution of some structures located in the coastal marine area to the economic and social wellbeing of the region is very important.
- 1.66a *Objective 10.5 – To minimise the adverse effects of the built environment on natural and physical resources.*
- 1.66b *Objectives 11.1 – To minimize the adverse effects of transportation modes and infrastructure on natural and physical resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.66c *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.66d *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

- 1.66e *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.66f *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.66g *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.66.1 All of the above objectives are relevant to the above issue of the extent to which provision for structures should be made in the coastal marine area given the contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the region.
- 1.67a *Policy 10.1 – Encourage development and use of the built environment that provides for the efficient use of existing facilities and infrastructure while simultaneously avoiding the development of unnecessary additional infrastructure.*
- 1.67b *Policy 10.2 – Require that network utilities associated with the built environment be undertaken in such a manner as to avoid wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate effects on the quality of natural and physical resources.*
- 1.67c *Policy 10.3 – Encourage the use of corridors for network utilities where practicable, where this will result in mitigation of environmental effects.*
- 1.67d *Policy 11.4 – Require district and regional plans to include provisions that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of transportation and transportation infrastructure on natural and physical resources, so that these resources can be managed in such a way that they are able to meet the needs of future generations.*
- 1.67e *Policy 11.7 – Minimise the adverse impacts upon natural resources, in particular water quality, by road and railway maintenance activities including: (1) managing the use of oil as a dust suppressant on unsealed roads; (2) managing drainage ditch construction and maintenance; and (3) managing spraying of verge vegetation.*
- 1.67f *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.67g *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.68g *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.68.1 The above policies are all relevant to the issue of the extent to which provision for structures should be made in the coastal marine area given the contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the region.
- 1.69 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*

- 1.69.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.70a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.70b *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development with the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.70c *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.70d *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.70e *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.70f *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.70g *Policy 14.5 – Avoid wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of energy production, use, transmission and distribution.*
- 1.70.1 The above policies are all relevant to the issue of the extent to which provision for structures should be made in the coastal marine area given the contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the region.

1.71 Issue 16

- 1.71.1 *The best means of preserving the “natural character” of the coastal environment while providing for appropriate use and development.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.1 - 13.10; Policies 9.1, 13.1 - 13.29; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.71.2 This has become a very important issue due to increasing pressure to develop coastal margins, of which there has been no clear resolution as to how this issue should be dealt with. There has been a large amount of coastal development proposal in recent past and these are ongoing. The current process for defining and protecting natural character while allowing for appropriate use and development is often very confusing.
- 1.72a *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.72b *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.72c *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.72d *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*

- 1.72e *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.72f *Objective 13.6 – To recognise and have regard to heritage values of sites buildings, places or areas within the coastal environment.*
- 1.72g *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.72h *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.72i *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.72j *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.72.1 All of the above objectives are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.
- 1.73a *Policy 9.1 – Identify and encourage the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes within Southland.*
- 1.73b *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.73c *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.73d *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*
- 1.73e *Policy 13.4 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects of the manufacture, storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances.*
- 1.73.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.
- 1.74 *Policy 13.5 – Provide for contact recreation, the human consumption of shellfish and the health and vitality of aquatic organisms within the coastal waters of the Region.*
- 1.74.1 This policy is not really relevant to the above issue.

- 1.75 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*
- 1.75.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative. This policy either needs to be reworded to include the Regional Coastal Plan or this policy needs to be removed.
- 1.76.a *Policy 13.7 – Ensure that reasonable noise levels are not exceeded within the coastal environment.*
- 1.76.b *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.76.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.
- 1.77 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*
- 1.77.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Plan is now operative.
- 1.78.a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.78.b *Policy 13.11 – Transfer power to, delegate functions to, or consult with and use the knowledge and experience of, existing organisations where it leads to more efficient management.*
- 1.78.c *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development within the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.78.d *Policy 13.13 – Promote the adoption of systems for the discharge of wastes and contaminants which have the least adverse effects.*
- 1.78.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.
- 1.79 *Policy 13.14 – Plan for a sea level rise of 35cm by the year 2050, until such time as there evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.79.1 This is still a relevant policy for the above issue. However, an amendment to the level of the sea level rise is recommended by the Ministry for the Environment. A base value sea-level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average should be used, along with an assessment of the potential consequences from a range of possible higher sea-level rises (particularly where impacts are likely to have high consequences or where additional future adaptation options are limited). At the very least all assessment should consider the consequences of a mean sea-level rise of at least 0.8m relative to the 1980-1999 average.

- 1.80a *Policy 13.15 – Actively use statutory provisions and other methods to facilitate compliance with resource management documents.*
- 1.80b *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkering and other material within the waters of the Region.*
- 1.80c *Policy 13.17 – Restrict the allocation of space for whitebait stands to those stands lawfully occupied as of 1 October 1993.*
- 1.80d *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.80.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.
- 1.81a *Policy 13.19 – Provide for aquaculture in the Regional Coastal Plan.*
- 1.81b *Policy 13.20 – Remove the moratorium imposed by the Minister of Fisheries, which prohibits marine farming in the waters of Stewart Island except for Big Glory Bay.*
- 1.81c *Policy 13.21 – Provide for the establishment of refuge areas – (a) in the Regional Coastal Plan, to serve the Big Glory Bay marine farms; and (b) in any approvals given for marine farms where resource consents are sought outside of Big Glory Bay: when it is necessary to enable the temporary relocation of marine farms when the quality of water is such that the licensed area cannot be utilised.*
- 1.81.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin. Policy 13.20 is only relevant as long as it takes for the Regional Coastal Statement to be finalised through the courts.
- 1.82a *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.82b *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.82c *Policy 13.24 – Ensure that sites used for safe harbouring and anchorage of boats are available for use when needed.*
- 1.82d *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.82e *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.82f *Policy 13.27 – Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities, where their effects are as yet unknown or little understood, or where the effects of coastal processes on those activities are as yet unknown or little understood.*
- 1.82g *Policy 13.28 – Recognise that some activities will require exclusive or preferential occupation, notwithstanding the fact that the public have a right to use the coastal marine area.*

1.82h *Policy 13.29 – Give priority to compatible multiple use rather than setting aside areas for specific purposes.*

1.82.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of finding a balance between preserving natural character and providing for appropriate use and development within the coastal margin.

1.83 Issue 17

1.83.1 *Pest plants, for example, Spartina Townsendii and related species, are spreading in harbours and estuaries, resulting in siltation and adverse affects on recreation and ecosystems.*
(Refer to Objective 13.1, Policy 2.5, 8.7, 13.10, 13.25; Methods 13.7, 13.10, 13.12)

1.83.2 This is still a relevant issue as pest plants will always remain a cause for concern and there is huge potential for them to negatively impact on existing coastal marine environments.

1.84 *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*

1.84.1 This is a relevant issue to the above issue of pest plants negatively impacting on existing recreation and ecosystems.

1.85a *Policy 2.5 – Reduce the adverse effects of pest plants and pest animals on: (a) biodiversity; (b) areas of significant indigenous vegetation; and (c) significant habitats of indigenous fauna.*

1.85b *Policy 8.7 – Reduce the adverse effects of pest plants and pest animals on the soil resource.*

1.85c *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*

1.85d *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*

1.85.1 The above policies are all relevant to the above issue of pest plants negatively impacting on existing recreation and ecosystems.

1.86 Issue 18

1.86.1 *Excavation, dredging, drainage, river works and shell, sand, shingle and mineral extraction within the coastal marine area can adversely affect coastal processes, ecosystems, wahi tapu, wahi taoka, amenity values, public access and marine farming.*
(Refer to Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 13.1 - 13.10, 14.4; Policies 1.1, 1.2, 6.12, 13.1, 13.6 - 13.11, 13.15, 13.18, 13.22, 13.23, 13.25 - 13.27; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)

1.86.2 This is still an issue. However, any development work or change to the marine area has the potential to create adverse effects so it may be necessary to expand this issue out to include any activities that result in a physical change to the marine environment.

1.87a *Objective 1.1 – To protect wahi tapu from the adverse effects of resource use activities.*

1.87b *Objective 1.2 – To recognise the importance of wahi tapu, wahi taoka, mahika kai and the customary use of water to Kai Tabu.*

- 1.87b *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.87c *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.87d *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.87e *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*
- 1.87f *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.87g *Objective 13.6 – To recognise and have regard to heritage values of sites, buildings, places or areas within the coastal environment.*
- 1.87h *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.87i *Objective 13.8 – To maintain or enhance the quality of coastal water to a level which is suitable for- (a) contact recreation; (b) the growth of shellfish, the human consumption of which is not limited by pathogenic or chemical contamination; (c) the health and vitality of aquatic organisms.*
- 1.87j *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.87k *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.87l *Objective 14.4 – To provide for the use, development and protection of mineral and energy resources.*
- 1.87.1 All of the above objectives are relevant to the issue of physical works potentially adversely affecting the coastal area.
- 1.88a *Policy 1.1 – Prepare and implement an Accord between the local authorities and takata whenua o Muribiku which sets out a process for consultation.*
- 1.88b *Policy 1.2 – Recognise “Te Whakatau Kaupapa O Muribiku” as a Kai Tahu resource management reference planning document for the Region.*
- 1.89.1 The above two policies are still relevant to the above issue of physical works potentially adversely affecting the coastal area. However, they need to be changed to include Te Tangi a Tauria as the resource management reference planning document for the region.
- 1.90a *Policy 6.12 – Manage the Region’s fluvial gravel resources in such a way as to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of gravel extraction.*
- 1.90b *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.90.1 The above two policies are relevant to the issue of physical works potentially adversely affecting the coastal area.
- 1.91 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*

- 1.91.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.92a *Policy 13.7 – Ensure that reasonable noise levels are not exceeded within the coastal environment.*
- 1.92b *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.92.1 The above two policies are both relevant to the issue of physical works potentially adversely affecting the coastal area.
- 1.93 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*
- 1.93.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.94a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.94b *Policy 13.11 – Transfer power to, delegate functions to, or consult with and use the knowledge and experience of, existing organisations where it leads to more efficient management.*
- 1.94c *Policy 13.15 – Actively use statutory provisions and other methods to facilitate compliance with resource management documents.*
- 1.94d *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.94e *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.94f *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.94g *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.94h *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.94.i *Policy 13.27 – Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities, where their effects are as yet unknown or little understood, or where the effects of coastal processes on those activities are as yet unknown or little understood.*
- 1.94.1 All of the above policies are relevant to the issue of physical works potentially adversely affecting the coastal area.
- 1.95 Issue 19**
- 1.95.1 *The modification of sand dunes and beach ridges can affect their role as a buffer against coastal erosion and as a habitat for native fauna and flora, for example, pingao.*

- (Refer to Objective 13.1, 13.2, 13.5; Policies 13.8, 13.10, 13.12, 13.14, 13.18; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.95.2 This is still a relevant issue. Recent coastal development pressure has highlighted the issue of the danger that modification of natural sand dune systems can potentially have by causing erosion and displacement of habitats for native flora and fauna.
- 1.96a *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.96b *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.96c *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.96.1 All of the objectives are relevant to the above issue of modification of natural sand dune systems potentially causing coastal erosion and displacement of native fauna and flora.
- 1.97a *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.97b *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.97c *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development with the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.97.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of modification of natural sand dune systems potentially causing coastal erosion and displacement of native fauna and flora.
- 1.98 *Policy 13.14 – Plan for sea level rise of 35 cm by the year 2050, until such time as there is evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.98.1 This is still a relevant policy for the above issue. However, an amendment to the level of the sea level rise is recommended by the Ministry for the Environment. A base value sea-level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average should be used, along with an assessment of the potential consequences from a range of possible higher sea-level rises (particularly where impacts are likely to have high consequences or where additional future adaptation options are limited). At the very least, all assessment should consider the consequences of a mean sea-level rise of at least 0.8m relative to the 1980-1999 average.
- 1.99 *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.99.1 The above policy is relevant to the issue of modification of natural sand dune systems potentially causing coastal erosion and displacement of native fauna and flora.

1.100 Issue 20

- 1.100.1 *Rising sea level as a result of climate change may adversely impact upon the coastal environment through effects of inundation, drainage and erosion.*
(Refer to Objective 13.5; Policy 13.14, 15.2, 15.6, 15.14; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.100.2 This has become an increasingly important issue as further evidence of the effects of climate change may have a large influence on the coastal environment. Natural processes combined with sea level rise having the potential to have large effects on the coastal environment. Potential effects include inundation, drainage and erosion issues. Given the low lying nature of Southland these effects could be widespread. This issue may need to be reworded.
- 1.101 *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.101.1 This objective is relevant to the above issue of rising sea level as a result of climate change adversely impacting on the coastal margin.
- 1.102 *Policy 13.14 – Plan for sea level rise of 35cm by the year 2050, until such time as there is evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.102.1 This is still a relevant policy for the above issue. However, an amendment to the level of the sea level rise is recommended by the Ministry for the Environment. A base value sea-level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average should be used, along with an assessment of the potential consequences from a range of possible higher sea-level rises (particularly where impacts are likely to have high consequences or where additional future adaptation options are limited). At the very least, all assessment should consider the consequences of a mean sea-level rise of at least 0.8m relative to the 1980-1999 average.
- 1.103 *Policy 15.2 – Prepare and update hazard registers for inclusion in District Plans and the Regional Coastal Plan to show – (a) land subject to actual or potential inundation. (b) areas of land stability. (c) areas prone to the effects of actual or potential coastal erosion. (d) areas prone to the actual or potential effects of sea level rise. (e) information that identifies area most vulnerable to the effects of earthquakes. (f) areas prone to other identifiable actual or potential hazards considered to be significant, for example, wind, snow and tsunami, and prepare information to explain the hazard registers.*
- 1.103.1 The contents of this policy are relevant to the above issue of rising sea level as a result of climate change adversely impacting on the coastal margin. Hazard maps are used and hazards have been included within the District and the Regional Coastal Plans under the Resource Management Act.
- 1.104 *Policy 15.6 – Mitigate the adverse environmental effects that could arise from the construction of defences against inundation and erosion from the sea or rivers.*
- 1.104.1 This policy is still relevant to the above issue of rising sea level as a result of climate change adversely impacting on the coastal margin.
- 1.105 *Policy 14.14 – Plan for a sea level rise of 35cm by the year 2050, until such time that there is evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.105.1 This is still a relevant issue to the above issue. Further comments are the same as in Policy 13.14 above.

1.106 Issue 21

- 1.06.1 *The heritage values of coastal areas can be diminished by significant physical changes within those areas. (Refer to Objectives 13.1, 13.6, 13.9; Policies 13.2, 13.18, 13.22, 13.25; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)*
- 1.06.2 This remains a very relevant issue. Heritage values often get overlooked, but it is very important to protect and preserve some sites so that we keep records and some examples of the past. Development pressures along the coastal margin have highlighted the conflict that often can occur when there are proposed new developments located on land that it is known to have or may contain sites of historical importance.
- 1.107 *Objective 13.1 – To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.107.1 It could be argued both ways as to whether this objective is relevant to the above issue of heritage values of coastal areas potentially being diminished by significant changes within the coastal margin. Natural values may or may not include heritage values depending from which view point you are looking from. The heritage values of the coastal area are made up of both the natural and built environment. It could be argued that the historical built environment does not fit into the definition of natural character of any environment.
- 1.108a *Objective 13.6 – To recognise and have regard to heritage values of sites, buildings, places or areas within the coastal environment.*
- 1.108b *Objective 13.9 – To ensure that only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine area are situated there.*
- 1.108.1 The above two objectives are relevant to the above issue of heritage values of coastal areas potentially being diminished by significant changes with the coastal margin.
- 1.109a *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*
- 1.109b *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.109c *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.109d *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.109.1 All of the above policies are relevant to the above issue of heritage values of coastal areas potentially being diminished by significant changes with the coastal margin.

1.110 Issue 22

- 1.110.1 *The numbers and diversity of fish populations can be affected by habitat modification. Modification of spawning areas and the ability to pass through, and from, one place to another within the coastal marine area is a particular problem.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.2, 13.5; Policies 13.8, 13.15, 13.18, 13.23, 13.25 - 13.27; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.110.2 This remains a relevant issue that needs continued management. There are ongoing fisheries management issues and due consideration needs to be given to these issues when looking at any activities or development that potentially affect the coastal areas.
- 1.111a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.111b *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.111.1 These objectives are relevant to the above issue of fish populations being potentially affected by any change to the marine environment.
- 1.112a *Policy 13.8 – In cases where an activity results in the physical disturbance of the seabed and/or foreshore, including mining or reclamation, impose appropriate management regimes to avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate any adverse effects.*
- 1.112b *Policy 13.15 – Actively use statutory provisions and other methods to facilitate compliance with resource management documents.*
- 1.112c *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.112d *Policy 13.23 – Develop a protocol for the addressing of cross-boundary issues where consent is required from more than one body for one activity or structure adjacent to or within the coastal environment.*
- 1.112e *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.112f *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*
- 1.112g *Policy 13.27 – Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities, where their effects are as yet unknown or little understood, or where the effects of coastal processes on those activities are as yet unknown or little understood.*
- 1.112.1 All of the above policies are relevant to the above issue of fish populations being potentially affected by any change to the marine environment.

1.113 Issue 23

- 1.113.1 *The special spiritual, historical, cultural and customary relationship that Maori have with the coastal environment has not been understood or recognised, thereby impinging upon their rights of rangatiratanga.*

(Refer to Objectives 1.1 - 1.4, 13.4; Policies 1.1, 1.2, 13.1, 13.3, 13.5, 13.10, 13.20, 13.22, 13.25; Methods 13.1 - 13.8, 13.10 13.13)

- 1.113.2 The background issue of the special relationship that the Maori have with the coastal environment is now recognised through current plans and Statutory Acknowledgements. The issue of the special relationship that Maori have with the coastal environment has now changed to one of ensuring this relationship is consulted upon when there is some change to the coastal environment proposed.
- 1.113.3 A possible rewording of the issue could be as follows:
- 1.113.4 The customary relationship between Maori and the coastal environment is recognised through a number of documents and statutory processes, but when there are any changes proposed to the coastal environment or any further issues that have arisen, appropriate consultation needs to occur to ensure the established process is followed.
- 1.114a *Objective 1.1 – To protect wahi tapu from the adverse effects of resource use activities.*
- 1.114b *Objective 1.2 – To recognise the importance of wahi tapu, wahi taoka, mahika kai and the customary use of water to Kai Tabu.*
- 1.114c *Objective 1.3 – To incorporate Maori cultural and traditional spiritual values where appropriate into resource management decision making processes.*
- 1.114d *Objective 1.4 – To have particular regard to the concept of kaitiakitanga in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.*
- 1.114e *Objective 13.4 – To recognise and provide for cultural, ancestral and traditional values of Maori in the management of the coastal marine area.*
- 1.114.1 All of the listed objectives are relevant to the above issue of recognition of the special relationship Maori have with the coastal environment.
- 1.115a *Policy 1.1 – Prepare and implement an Accord between the local authorities and takata whenua o Murihiku which sets out a process for consultation.*
- 1.115b *Policy 1.2 – recognise “Te Whakatau Kaupapa O Murihiku” as a Kai Tabu resource management reference planning document for the Region.*
- 1.115.1 The above two policies are still relevant to the above issue of recognition of the special relationship Maori have with the coastal environment, but they need to be changed to include Te Tangi a Tauira as the resource management reference planning document for the region.
- 1.116a *Policy 13.1 – Recognise sites and resources of cultural, natural and spiritual significance to Maori and consult the takata whenua when making statutory decisions on issues impacting upon such matters.*
- 1.116b *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*

- 1.116c *Policy 13.5 – Provide for contact recreation, the human consumption of shellfish and the health and vitality of aquatic organisms within the coastal waters of the Region.*
- 1.116d *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.116e *Policy 13.20 – Remove the moratorium imposed by the Minister of Fisheries, which prohibits marine farming in the waters of Stewart Island except for Big Glory Bay.*
- 1.116f *Policy 13.22 – Recognise and have regard to heritage values when considering potential activities within the coastal environment.*
- 1.116g *Policy 13.25 – Identify the values of the coastal marine area which require protection: the degree of protection of each value to be commensurate with the significance of the value.*
- 1.116.1 All of the listed policies are relevant to the above issue of recognition of the special relationship Maori have with the coastal environment.

1.117 Issue 24

- 1.117.1 *Marine farming can potentially give rise to adverse effects upon the environment, including cumulative effects. These could include impacts on water quality, recreation, visual amenity, benthic communities and navigation.*
(Refer to Objectives 5.1, 13.2; Policies 5.5, 13.19 - 13.21; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.117.2 This is still a relevant issue. There has been no technological or scientific advancements that have changed the impact of marine farming on the environment, but there have been some legislative changes.
- 1.118a *Objective 5.1 – To sustain the quality of the Region’s water resources so as to: (a) meet the needs of a range of uses, including the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations (b) safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water and related ecosystems.*
- 1.118b *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.118.1 The listed objectives are relevant to the above issue of Marine farming potentially having adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.119 *Policy 5.5 – In preparing, implementing and administering Regional and District Plans and in considering resource consents, local authorities shall assess the effects of land use and development on ground water and surface water quality, including both point and non-point source discharges, and provide for any adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*
- 1.119.1 This policy is not relevant to the above issue as the above issue deals with marine farms not the potential effects to marine farming activities.
- 1.120 *Policy 13.9 – Until such time as the Regional Coastal Plan takes effect, retain all existing resource management bylaws that were promulgated under the provisions of the Harbours Act 1950.*
- 1.120.1 This policy is no longer relevant as the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.

- 1.121a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.121b *Policy 13.11 – Transfer power to, delegate functions to, or consult with and use the knowledge and experience of, existing organisations where it leads to more efficient management.*
- 1.121c *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development within the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.121.1 The above policies are relevant to the above issue of Marine farming potentially having adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.122 *Policy 13.13 – Promote the adoption of systems for the discharge of wastes and contaminants which have the least adverse effects.*
- 1.122.1 This policy is not really relevant to the above objective. While Marine farming does have associated discharges it does not have systems to control the method of discharge.
- 1.123 *Policy 13.14 – Plan for a sea level rise of 35cm by the year 2050, until such time as there evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.123.1 This policy is not relevant to the stated issue above.
- 1.124 *Policy 13.15 – Actively use statutory provisions and other methods to facilitate compliance with resource management documents.*
- 1.124.1 This policy is relevant to the issue of Marine farming potentially having adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.125a *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkering and other material within the waters of the Region.*
- 1.125b *Policy 13.17 – Restrict the allocation of space for whitebait stands to those stands lawfully occupied as of 1 October 1993.*
- 1.125c *Policy 13.18 – Manage subdivision, use and development of land within the coastal environment to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes and to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.*
- 1.125.1 These policies are not relevant to the stated issue above.
- 1.126 *Policy 13.19 – Provide for aquaculture in the Regional Coastal Plan.*
- 1.126.1 This policy is relevant to the issue of Marine farming potentially having adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.127 *Policy 13.20 – Remove the moratorium imposed by the Minister of Fisheries, which prohibits marine farming in the waters of Stewart Island except for Big Glory Bay.*

1.127.1 This policy is relevant to the stated issue above. (At the time of writing this Review of the Regional Policy Statement the part of the Regional Coastal Plan that deals with marine farming was about to become fully operative so this issue will not be relevant for much longer)

1.128 *Policy 13.21 – Provide for the establishment of refuge areas – (a) in the Regional Coastal Plan, to serve the Big Glory Bay marine farms; and (b) in any approvals given for marine farms where resource consents are sought outside of Big Glory Bay: when it is necessary to enable the temporary relocation of marine farms when the quality of water is such that the licensed area cannot be utilised.*

1.128.1 This policy is not relevant to the above issue of Marine farming potentially having adverse effects on the environment. This is because the establishment of refuge areas will not protect the environment as they are only designed to protect the marine farms themselves.

1.129 Issue 25

1.129.1 *Some types of marine farms need refuge areas to which they can temporarily relocate when the quality of water is such that the licensed areas cannot be utilised.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.2; Policies 13.19 - 13.21; Methods 13.1 - 13.15)

1.129.2 This is still an issue, but the Regional Coastal Plan has gone some way to dealing with this issue with the provisions for a refuge area outside of Big Glory Bay. The quality of water is the most important factor in marine farming and it is also the biggest limitation. When there are times of poor water quality in the consented marine farm areas to protect against major losses within the farms it is imperative for refuge areas (areas these farms can move to for short periods of time outside of their consented areas) to be set aside. There may be a need for future marine farming refuge areas in other parts of the region.

1.130 *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*

1.130.1 This objective is relevant to the above issue of some types of marine farming needing refuge areas in times of dangerous water quality.

1.131a *Policy 13.19 – Provide for aquaculture in the Regional Coastal Plan.*

1.131b *Policy 13.20 – Remove the moratorium imposed by the Minister of Fisheries, which prohibits marine farming in the waters of Stewart Island except for Big Glory Bay.*

1.131c *Policy 13.21 – Provide for the establishment of refuge areas – (a) in the Regional Coastal Plan, to serve the Big Glory Bay marine farms; and (b) in any approvals given for marine farms where resource consents are sought outside of Big Glory Bay: when it is necessary to enable the temporary relocation of marine farms when the quality of water is such that the licensed area cannot be utilised.*

1.131.1 These policies are relevant to the above issue of some types of marine farming needing refuge areas in times of dangerous water quality. However, Policy 13.20 is likely to become obsolete in the very near future as at the time of writing of this review the marine farming provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan are about to become fully operative.

1.132 Issue 26

- 1.132.1 *The granting of exclusive rights for use of structures within the coastal marine area can adversely affect public access.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.2, 13.3, 13.10; Policies 13.3, 13.28; Methods 13.1 - 13.16)
- 1.132.2 This remains an important issue. There are some activities that require the exclusive use of particular coastal marine areas. However, this has the potential to cause conflict with other parties who might also seek to use the same areas. Careful consideration is needed when making decisions regarding the exclusive rights of structures within the coastal environment.
- 1.133a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.133b *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*
- 1.133c *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*
- 1.133.1 The listed objectives are all relevant to the above issue of exclusive rights for structures within the coastal environment potentially adversely affecting public access.
- 1.134a *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*
- 1.134b *Policy 13.28 – Recognise that some activities will require exclusive or preferential occupation, notwithstanding the fact that the public have a right to use the coastal marine area.*
- 1.134.1 The listed policies are relevant to the above issue of exclusive rights for structures within the coastal environment potentially adversely affecting public access.

1.135 Issue 27

- 1.135.1 *The exclusive or preferential occupation of areas used for safe harbouring and anchorage by boats could compromise the safety of vessels at sea.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.10; Policies 13.24; Methods 13.4, 13.5, 13.7, 13.9, 13.10)
- 1.135.2 The exclusive or preferential occupation for safe harbouring is an ongoing issue. However, it could be argued that this is not a regionally significant issue and that this issue is better provided for within another forum. However, the overall issue of safety of vessels at sea does need to be included within the Regional Policy Statement. This issue could be amended to reflect this.
- 1.136 *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*

1.136.1 This is a relevant objective to the above issue of exclusive or preferential occupation of areas compromising safety of vessels at sea.

1.137 *Policy 13.24 – Ensure that sites used for safe harbouring and anchorage of boats are available for use when needed.*

1.137.1 This is a relevant policy to the above issue of exclusive or preferential occupation of areas compromising safety of vessels at sea.

1.138 Issue 28

1.138.1 *People and communities have an expectation that lands of the Crown in the coastal marine area shall generally be available for free public use and enjoyment.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.3; Policies 13.2, 13.3, 13.28, 13.29; Methods 13.1, 13.7, 13.8)

1.138.2 This remains a relevant issue. This expectation that lands of the Crown in the coastal marine area shall be available for free public use and enjoyment has not changed.

1.139 *Objective 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to, and along, the coastal marine area.*

1.139.1 This objective is relevant to the above issue of an expectation that Crown lands in the coastal marine area should be freely available for use and enjoyment.

1.140a *Policy 13.2 – Provide for the continuance, maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and infrastructure in the coastal marine area that- (a) enable the public use and enjoyment of the coastal environment; (b) facilitate or contribute to the social and economic values of the Region; (c) facilities or contribute to safe use of the coastal area while avoiding wherever practicable, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*

1.140b *Policy 13.3 – To maintain and enhance public access to and along the coast unless a restriction on access is absolutely necessary to – (a) protect areas of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; (b) protect Maori cultural values; (c) protect public health or safety; (d) ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; (e) protect any other exceptional value within the coastal marine area; (f) protect national security or the use of an area for defence purposes: except where this could threaten personal safety and health, important natural values, or the integrity of sites important to takata whenua.*

1.140c *Policy 13.28 – Recognise that some activities will require exclusive or preferential occupation, notwithstanding the fact that the public have a right to use the coastal marine area.*

1.140d *Policy 13.29 – Give priority to compatible multiple use rather than setting aside areas for specific purposes.*

1.140.1 The listed policies are all relevant to the above issue of the Crown lands in the coastal marine area shall be available for free public use and enjoyment has not changed.

1.141 Issue 29

1.141.1 *There is a lack of knowledge and understanding of the full effects of undertaking activities and development within the coastal marine area.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.2, 13.5, 13.7, 13.9; Policies 13.6, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.14, 13.16, 13.27; Methods 13.1, 13.4, 13.6, 13.7, 13.16)

- 1.141.2 This issue is a very large issue and perhaps if anything has become more prominent given the development pressure along the coastline. The coastal marine area is highly dynamic and a lack of knowledge and understanding of the interaction between these natural processes combined with the introduction of built structures will often result in some unpredictable environmental impacts.
- 1.142a *Objective 13.2 – To avoid, wherever practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the use and development of the natural and physical resources within the coastal environment.*
- 1.142b *Objective 13.5 – To facilitate integrated management of the land and coastal marine area interface.*
- 1.142c *Objective 13.7 – To identify and protect significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.*
- 1.142d *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*
- 1.142.1 The listed objectives are relevant to the above issue of a lack of knowledge and understanding of activities and development within the coastal marine area.
- 1.143 *Policy 13.6 – Have regard to the existing water classifications for coastal waters until the Regional Coastal Plan is released.*
- 1.143.1 This policy is no longer relevant the Regional Coastal Plan is now operative.
- 1.144a *Policy 13.10 – Facilitate integrated management of the coastal environment with the Minister of Conservation, Minister of Fisheries, territorial authorities and takata whenua.*
- 1.144b *Policy 13.11 – Transfer power to, delegate functions to, or consult with and use the knowledge and experience of, existing organisations where it leads to more efficient management.*
- 1.144c *Policy 13.12 – Avoid wherever practicable, or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal environment caused by the interaction of coastal processes and development or activities, by – (a) managing the use of land; (b) managing subdivision and the actual and potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land; (c) managing the actual or potential activities in relation to the surface of coastal waters; (d) taking into account the effect of coastal processes on use and development within the coastal marine area; (e) managing use and development within the coastal marine area to avoid unintentional interference with coastal processes.*
- 1.144.1 These policies are relevant to the above issue of a lack of knowledge and understanding of activities and development within the coastal marine area.
- 1.145 *Policy 13.14 – Plan for a sea level rise of 35cm by the year 2050, until such time as there evidence that the rate of rise is higher or lower.*
- 1.145.1 This is still a relevant policy for the above issue. However, an amendment to the level of the sea level rise is recommended by the Ministry for the Environment. A base value sea-level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average should be used, along with an assessment of the potential consequences from a range of possible higher sea-level rises (particularly where impacts are likely to have high consequences or where additional future adaptation options are limited). At the very least, all assessment should consider the consequences of a mean sea-level rise of at least 0.8m relative to the 1980-1999 average.

1.146 *Policy 13.16 – Advocate Government to take action to avoid adverse effects from ships discharging ballast, bunkering and other material within the waters of the Region.*

1.146.1 This policy is not relevant to the above issue.

1.147 *Policy 13.27 – Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities, where their effects are as yet unknown or little understood, or where the effects of coastal processes on those activities are as yet unknown or little understood.*

1.147.1 This is a very relevant policy for the above issue of a lack of knowledge and understanding of activities and development within the coastal marine area.

1.148 Issue 30

1.148.1 *Exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area, particularly for those activities and developments that do not require a location in that area, may preclude activities that can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area from taking place there.*
(Refer to Objectives 13.9, 13.10; Policies 13.26, 13.28, 13.29; Methods 13.5, 13.7, 13.16)

1.148.2 This is a relevant issue and one that needs ongoing management. When making decisions about whether a particular proposal should be allowed occupation of the coastal marine area there are numerous factors that need to be taken into consideration including structure size, use, scale activities, benefits and negatives.

1.149a *Objective 13.9 – To ensure only those activities and developments that require a location in the coastal marine are situated there.*

1.149b *Objective 13.10 – To ensure that any exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area is necessary and fully justified.*

1.149.1 The listed objectives are relevant to the above issue of exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area.

1.150a *Policy 13.26 – Require that activities, uses, developments and structures in the coastal marine area justify the functional necessity for that location.*

1.150b *Policy 13.28 – Recognise that some activities will require exclusive or preferential occupation, notwithstanding the fact that the public have a right to use the coastal marine area.*

1.150c *Policy 13.29 – Give priority to compatible multiple use rather than setting aside areas for specific purposes.*

1.150.1 The listed policies are relevant to the above issue of exclusive or preferential occupation of the coastal marine area.

1.151 Methods

1.152 *Method 13.1 – Information, education and public awareness.*

1.152.1 This is a very important method as the coastal environment covers a huge area that is highly diverse and dynamic. Information, education and public awareness are the key tools in facilitating the management of the coastal environment.

- 1.153 *Method 13.2 – Promotion.*
- 1.153.1 This is a useful tool that can be used to highlight a particular issue associated with the coastal environment or to promote other methods that might be beneficial in the management of the coastal environment.
- 1.154 *Method 13.3 – Advocating.*
- 1.154.1 This is a relevant tool that can be used when trying to implement management techniques to deal with coastal issues or when trying to advise individuals, communities, other councils and other agencies on the negatives/benefits of different actions.
- 1.155 *Method 13.4 – Consultation.*
- 1.155.1 This is an important method that allows/ensures many different perspectives have the potential to be heard and weighed up. It is also useful to explain new plans that get released.
- 1.156 *Method 13.5 – Protocols and Accords.*
- 1.156.1 This is a very relevant tool to create agreements with resource users, often providing consistency throughout land management practices.
- 1.157 *Method 13.6 – Investigations and Research.*
- 1.157.1 A very important tool used to understand the complex dynamics of the Coastal environment, to gain new information on interest areas and to look at areas of concern.
- 1.158 *Method 13.7 – Prepare, implement and administer a Regional Coastal Plan.*
- 1.158.1 This is a highly relevant method as the Regional Coastal Plan is now the key management document of the region.
- 1.159 *Method 13.8 – Prepare, implement and administer District Plans.*
- 1.159.1 This is also a highly relevant method as the District Plan is also a key method in administering the Coastal Environment due to boundaries and influence of the coastal area.
- 1.160 *Method 13.9 – Bylaws.*
- 1.160.1 This is a very effective method for Coastal management that can be utilised to effectively implement localised rules or regulations.
- 1.161 *Method 13.10 – Resource Consents.*
- 1.161.1 This is a very relevant method as it is used to regulate activities within the Coastal environment with use of consent conditions.
- 1.162 *Method 13.11 – Economic Instruments.*
- 1.162.1 This is still a relevant method as economics is and will remain a big driver of coastal development and management practices.

- 1.163 *Method 13.12 – Works and Services.*
- 1.163.1 This is still a relevant method that is used to carry out necessary works within the coastal environment.
- 1.164 *Method 13.13 – Delegations and Transfer of Powers.*
- 1.164.1 This is a relevant method that can be used to share workload around appropriate organisations or groups to help with effective management of the coastal environment.
- 1.165 *Method 13.14 – Ownership.*
- 1.165.1 This is a relevant method of managing the Coastal environment, as it allows a greater degree of flexibility in the management practices used for an area.
- 1.166 *Method 13.15 – Classification of Water.*
- 1.166.1 This is a relevant method that helps with the management of water bodies and has been incorporated into the provisions of the Regional Coastal Plan.
- 1.167 *Method 13.16 – Plans other documents and action under other Acts*
- 1.167.1 This is a very relevant method that allows for the management of the coastal environment using rules and regulation not available under the Resource Management Act 1991. Within the coastal environment there is a myriad of documents that control the management of the environments, for example, the Aquaculture Reform Act 2004 and the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.