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Review and Monitoring



17.1 Introduction

The Act requires the Otago Regional Council to gather information and to undertake or commission such research as is necessary to carry out effectively their functions under the Act (Section 35(1)). Section 35(2) of the Act also requires that the Otago Regional Council monitor:

- (a) The state of the regional environment to the extent that is appropriate to enable the Council to effectively carry out its functions (baseline monitoring or environmental monitoring); and
- (b) The suitability and effectiveness of any policy statement or plan, or proposed policy statement or plan for the region, and the exercise of any functions, powers or duties delegated or transferred by it (process monitoring); and
- (c) Compliance with resource consents (compliance monitoring).

This monitoring will be undertaken in terms of the framework set out in the Otago Regional Policy Statement.

Section 67(1)(i) of the Act also requires that the Otago Regional Council include within this Regional Coastal Plan, the procedures to be used to review the matters contained within it, and to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies.

17.2 Elements to be monitored

Subject to the requirements of the Regional Policy Statement and the provisions of its Annual Plan, the Otago Regional Council will monitor the elements of the coastal marine area necessary to assess the suitability and effectiveness of the objectives and policies within this Regional Coastal Plan. In considering the elements requiring monitoring, the Otago Regional Council will have particular regard to the anticipated environmental results as stated within this Regional Coastal Plan and will in particular consider the monitoring of the following:

1. The extent to which the views of Otago's communities are reflected in the management of Otago's coastal marine area.
2. The extent to which public access is maintained and enhanced to and along the coastal marine area.
3. The number, size and extent of structures and their impact on the character of Otago's coastal marine area.
4. The extent to which the foreshore and seabed of Otago's coastal marine area is altered by activities and the effects on the coastal environment of that alteration.
5. The extent to which coastal water quality is maintained and enhanced, in particular in areas where there is:
 - (a) A high public interest in, or use of the water; or
 - (b) A particular Kai Tahu interest in the water; or
 - (c) A particular value to be maintained or enhanced; or
 - (d) A direct discharge containing human sewage; or

- (e) A direct discharge of wastes from commercial, industrial or production activities.
- 6. Water quality within Otago's coastal marine area with a view to establishing water quality classes.
- 7. The extent to which any coastal water is taken, dammed or diverted within any coastal protection area, river mouth or harbour, and the effects of that taking, damming or diversion.
- 8. The extent to which noise is generated or emitted within the coastal marine area to unreasonable levels.
- 9. The nature, extent and effect of the introduction of introduced or exotic plants into the coastal marine area.
- 10. The location and extent to which any activity or area within or adjacent to the coastal marine area is adversely affected by any natural hazard, and the effect any activity or structure has on existing natural hazards or the development of new natural hazards.

17.3 Monitoring techniques

In monitoring elements of the coastal marine area necessary to determine the suitability and effectiveness of the objectives and policies within this Regional Coastal Plan, the following techniques may be used:

- 1. Analysis of feed back, and compliments and complaints received.
- 2. Water quality surveys.
- 3. Requiring self monitoring of consents, where necessary, and the provision of the collected information to the Otago Regional Council.
- 4. Compliance audit monitoring to ensure the conditions on resource consents are being adhered to.
- 5. Maintaining a database of coastal permits issued.
- 6. Commission research, as necessary to provide additional information on the coastal environment.
- 7. Where appropriate, develop and implement joint initiatives with other local authorities, government departments and other agencies to monitor key aspects of Otago's coastal environment.
- 8. Make available data held by the Otago Regional Council and seek the transfer between agencies and local authorities of information on Otago's coastal marine area.
- 9. Surveys of aquatic organisms.

17.4 Review

This Regional Coastal Plan, once approved, will be in force for a period of 10 years, unless reviewed earlier. Any such review would be carried out in accordance with the First Schedule of the Act. In considering the need to review this Plan, the Otago Regional Council will have regard to the extent to which any of the following matters affect the framework established by, and contents of, the Plan:

1. Changes in legislation dealing with any aspect of the coastal marine area.
2. Improved knowledge and understanding of Otago's coastal marine area.
3. Issues identified by the monitoring of the suitability and effectiveness of the objectives and policies within this Regional Coastal Plan.
4. The development, implementation and review of the Regional Policy Statement and other regional plans by the Otago Regional Council.
5. The development, implementation and review of district plans by Otago's territorial local authorities.
6. Requests for a plan change or review made by any person in accordance with Part II of the First Schedule of the Act.