



Otago
Regional
Council

Otago Coast Engagement Report

Summary of feedback on Issues and
Opportunities for the Otago Coast

July–August 2026



October 2026

Acknowledgements

Otago Regional Council acknowledges all the community members and stakeholders who took part in the Otago Coast Issues and Opportunities engagement process.

ORC is grateful for all the feedback received through the survey, drop-in sessions, emails and discussions. It will inform a refreshed approach to coastal management in Otago across all of ORC's functions.



Executive summary

In July and August 2026, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) undertook a programme of public and stakeholder engagement to better understand the issues, opportunities and values associated with Otago's coastal environment. Engagement included an online survey, public drop-in sessions, an online webinar, and stakeholder workshops. The purpose of the engagement was to test and expand upon the issues and opportunities identified in ORC's discussion document and to improve understanding of what Otago's communities care about in the coastal environment.

The engagement demonstrated a strong connection between Otago communities and their coast. Participants described the coast as important for wellbeing, community identity, and regional character. The coast was valued for natural scenery, wildlife, recreation, food gathering and cultural significance, with broad recognition of the need to accommodate access, infrastructure and other activities.

Prominent topics across the engagement included public access, biodiversity, natural character, natural hazards and climate change, infrastructure, and water quality. These were discussed across multiple engagement methods, locations and participant groups. Participants expressed strong appreciation for Otago's wildlife, habitats and coastal ecosystems. There was broad recognition that climate change will increasingly influence how the coast is managed.

More specialised themes, such as marine aquaculture, historic heritage, biosecurity and surf breaks, generated detailed feedback from people with particular interests, expertise or connections to specific places.

Participants tended to view coastal issues as interconnected. Rather than discussing issues as separate topics, participants frequently linked access, biodiversity, infrastructure, natural hazards, water quality and coastal processes, recognising that actions in one area can influence outcomes elsewhere.

Several themes emerged from the feedback that were not clearly captured within the discussion document. These included governance and coordination between organisations, education and stewardship, scientific research and monitoring, community knowledge, public participation and integrated catchment-to-coast management. These themes suggest that many participants view successful coastal management as depending not only on environmental management, but also on collaboration, knowledge-sharing and community involvement.

Overall, the engagement showed a desire among participants for the ORC to maintain a healthy, accessible and resilient coast that supports biodiversity, community wellbeing, recreation and economic activity, while ensuring that future management decisions are informed by good information, effective collaboration and a long-term perspective.

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	i
Executive summary.....	ii
Contents.....	iii
Introduction	1
Purpose	1
Context	1
Process	1
Kāi Tahu values and relationship with the coast.....	2
Methodology	2
Survey and discussion paper.....	2
Discussion paper development.....	3
Survey development.....	3
Drop-in sessions.....	4
Stakeholder feedback.....	5
Other feedback.....	5
Synthesis	5
Out of Scope Feedback.....	6
Limitations	6
Summary of feedback – discussion topics	6
Public access	6
Survey results.....	6
Community drop-in and online sessions.....	8
Stakeholder feedback	9
Occupying space	10
Survey results.....	10
Community drop-in and online sessions	11
Stakeholder feedback	12
Extraction and deposition of natural material	12
Survey results.....	12
Community drop-in and online sessions.....	14
Stakeholder feedback	15
Coastal infrastructure including ports	16
Survey results.....	16

Community drop-in and online sessions	17
Stakeholder feedback	17
Marine aquaculture	18
Survey results.....	18
Community drop-in and online sessions	19
Stakeholder feedback	20
Biodiversity	21
Survey results.....	21
Community drop-in and online sessions	22
Stakeholder feedback	23
Coastal natural hazards and climate change	24
Survey results.....	24
Community drop-in and online sessions	25
Stakeholder feedback	25
Water quality	26
Survey results.....	26
Community drop-in and online sessions	27
Stakeholder feedback	28
Historic heritage.....	28
Survey results.....	28
Community drop-in and online sessions	29
Stakeholder feedback	29
Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes	30
Survey results.....	30
Community drop-in and online sessions	30
Stakeholder feedback	31
Surf breaks	32
Survey results.....	32
Community drop-in and online sessions	33
Stakeholder feedback	33
Biosecurity	34
Survey results.....	34
Community drop-in and online sessions	34
Stakeholder feedback	35

Common values and important characteristics of Otago's coast	36
Getting to and around the coast	36
Experiencing coastal wildlife and ecology.....	37
Experiencing the coast's scenic beauty and peacefulness	37
Coastal recreation and enjoyment of the coast	37
Food gathering and fishing traditions	38
Recurring themes in coastal management	38
Learning, stewardship and community involvement	38
Protecting coastal communities and places	39
Community wellbeing and identity	39
Economic value.....	39
Governance, coordination, and decision-making	40
Knowledge, research and monitoring	40
Integrated and catchment-to-coast management	40
Additional themes, issues and opportunities	41
Land use, development and planning	41
Other matters raised.....	42
Conclusion.....	42
Appendix 1. Discussion document	
Appendix 2. Coast survey questions	
Appendix 3. List of key stakeholders	

Introduction

Purpose

1. This document summarises feedback from ORC's public engagement on coastal issues and opportunities in Otago undertaken between July and August 2026.

Context

2. The operative Regional Plan: Coast was notified in 1994 and is increasingly outdated in the context of current legislation, national direction and contemporary coastal management practice. A review of the Coast Plan is identified as key work in ORC's Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP), where the aim was to notify a new Regional Coast Plan by June 2028.
3. Since the LTP was adopted, the planning landscape has changed significantly. The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 brought in changes that resulted in councils pausing their work on Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) plans. Furthermore, the recent enactment of the Planning Act and Natural Environment Act has introduced a new resource management system that will require the development of a regional combined plan that brings together spatial planning, land-use plans and natural environment plans into one document.
4. While there remains considerable uncertainty about the legislative context and national policy direction that will shape the future regional framework for managing the coast, some matters are clear: a future management approach for the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) will need to be integrated with management of other resources and operate holistically.¹ ORC can use this period of transition to gather knowledge and build its understanding of the wider coastal environment, how people use it, and their aspirations for the future.² This information will help inform both future planning and policy development and broader non-regulatory actions that support the protection of important coastal values while enabling communities to continue using and enjoying the coast. Doing so will help ensure ORC is well prepared for the new planning system and future coastal management opportunities.

Process

5. ORC reviewed existing information on coastal matters and developed a discussion document summarising issues and opportunities within Otago's coastal environment. This document informed a series of engagement events undertaken during July and August 2026:

¹ Otago's CMA extends from the line of mean high-water springs (the highest line that regular high tides reach) to the outer limits of the territorial sea at 12 nautical miles (22.2 kilometres), from the Waitaki River in the north to Wallace Beach in the south. It includes the sea, the airspace above it, the seabed, and those parts of the foreshore covered and uncovered by the tide.

² The coastal environment includes the CMA, islands within the CMA and the area landward of the line of mean high-water springs. The landward extent of the coastal environment is determined by the natural and physical elements, features and processes set out in Policy 1(2) of the NZCPS.

- a. An online survey,
 - b. Public drop-in sessions in Dunedin, Ōamaru, Balclutha and Karitāne,
 - c. An online webinar, and
 - d. Stakeholder workshops.
6. These events sought to gather community members' views on issues and opportunities and test the ideas presented in the discussion document to ensure ORC's understanding is aligned with what Otago people value. The feedback will inform a more comprehensive Issues and Opportunities report that, alongside a review of the management approach in the existing Regional Plan: Coast, will help prepare ORC to develop a new approach to coastal management under the new legislative framework.

Kāi Tahu values and relationship with the coast

7. Kāi Tahu are mana whenua³ in Otago. The coastal environment is particularly significant for Kāi Tahu in the southern South Island. Most of the permanent settlements were established on the coast, which had a bounty of kaimoana (seafood) resources. The coastal waters and processes were integral to the way of life tūpuna (ancestors) enjoyed, and the coastal environment continues to support significant mahika kai⁴ resources.
8. Recognising the interconnection of the land and sea environments is consistent with the ki uta ki tai (mountains to the sea) philosophy.
9. Kāi Tahu are being engaged directly on how their values, interests and aspirations should be reflected in future coastal management. This engagement is occurring through a separate process and is therefore not reflected in this report.

Methodology

Survey and discussion paper

10. The discussion document and the survey formed the core of the engagement process. The discussion document set out ORC's understanding about coastal issues and opportunities in Otago, and the survey, framed around the topics outlined in the discussion document, sought feedback on those topics and tested whether ORC's understanding was accurate. The discussion document and survey also provided the basis for conversations and workshop activities at public drop-in sessions and stakeholder workshops.

³ The authority exercised by an iwi or hapū in an identified area, and the people who hold that authority.

⁴ Gathering of food and natural materials by Kāi Tahu whānui in accordance with tikaka, the places where those resources are gathered, and the work, methods and cultural activities involved in obtaining them.

Discussion paper development

11. The discussion paper summarised the breadth of information ORC held about coastal issues prior to engagement, including monitoring data, scientific research, and specialist knowledge and experience from subject matter experts within ORC. It was integrated with the survey questions, discussed below, and made publicly available on ORC's website and in hard copy at in-person engagement events. The final discussion document is included at Appendix 1.

Survey development

12. The survey was designed to provide flexibility in how people participated, recognising that respondents had different levels of experience, knowledge, and interest in Otago's coastal environment. The full text is included at Appendix 2.
13. The survey was implemented online on ORC's website, providing a streamlined user experience, and automating raw data collection. It was also available in hard copy on request and at in-person engagement events.
14. Participants were not required to answer every question, allowing them to focus on the topics they found most relevant. This approach helped reduce survey fatigue while enabling meaningful input on specialist topics such as biodiversity, aquaculture, biosecurity, natural hazards, historic heritage, and recreation. A combination of multiple-choice, rating scale, and open-ended questions was used to capture both broad community perspectives and more detailed local knowledge.
15. As a result, response numbers vary across the survey. Some questions recorded more responses than the total number of participants because respondents could select multiple answers, reflecting the range of values, concerns, and experiences associated with the coast. Other topic areas received fewer responses because participants could skip sections that were not relevant to their interests or expertise. Although response numbers provide an indication of the relative importance that respondents placed on different issues and values, they should be interpreted with caution. The approach was intended to capture both broad community views and more detailed feedback from people with specific knowledge or connections to coastal places and issues.
16. The survey ran from 13 July to 10 August 2026. A total of 163 unique responses were received, including 161 completed online and 2 completed in hard copy.
17. Most respondents lived in Dunedin (67%), with smaller proportions from North Otago (15%), Clutha (4%), Taieri (4%), and Central Otago (4%). The remaining respondents (7%) were primarily from other parts of Otago or represented national organisations.
18. Respondents were predominantly older adults. The largest age group was 50-64 years (35%), followed by 35-49 years (28%) and 65 years and over (23%). Younger respondents were less represented, with those aged 18-34 accounting for 12% of responses and those aged 0-17 accounting for 1%.

Drop-in sessions

19. Community engagement was undertaken through six public sessions across Otago during July and August 2026. In-person drop-in sessions were held in:
 - a. Balclutha at Te Pō o Mata-Au, on Tuesday 21 July from 3.00pm to 6.00pm
 - b. Dunedin at Aonui on Thursday 23 July from 3.00pm to 6.00pm
 - c. Dunedin at South Coast Board Riders Association rooms in St. Clair on Saturday 25 July from 10.00am to 1.00pm
 - d. Karitāne at Puketeraki Marae on Tuesday 28 July from 3.00pm to 6.00pm
 - e. Ōamaru at the Forrester Gallery on Wednesday 5 August from 4.00pm to 7.00pm
20. Alongside these in-person sessions, an online webinar and Q&A session was held on 3 August from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.
21. A total of 59 people attended the engagement sessions. Attendance ranged from 3 people at the online session to 14 people at the St Clair session. Mean attendance across all in-person sessions was 10.5 people. Attendance at evening sessions was highest during the first hour, while attendance at the St. Clair session was spread relatively evenly throughout the event.
22. The in-person engagement was designed to identify coastal management issues, opportunities, values, and priorities perceived by the broader community. A drop-in format was chosen to provide flexibility, allowing participants to attend at their convenience and contribute at a level that suited their interests. Sessions used facilitated discussion as the key feedback mechanism, supported by a community noticeboard and surveys. Feedback could be provided verbally, in writing, or electronically via tablets and QR codes, and all participants were encouraged to complete the survey.
23. A consistent approach was used across all in-person sessions to ensure feedback was collected in a comparable manner. Staff were briefed on the project's purpose, key discussion topics, and methods for recording information. Technical specialists, planning staff, and councillors attended sessions to answer questions, facilitate discussions, and support participants, while a dedicated host role welcomed newcomers, explained the purpose of the engagement, and directed participants to staff leading the facilitated discussions. This helped ensure feedback reflected community perspectives while maintaining consistency across locations.
24. Feedback was captured through survey responses, conversation notes, written comments, and mapped spatial information.
25. The online session adopted a more structured format, with a presentation delivered by staff explaining the purpose of the engagement and describing the issues and opportunities identified in the discussion document, followed by time for questions and discussion. Low attendance allowed for a more free-flowing discussion with participants than originally planned.

Stakeholder feedback

26. ORC also undertook a targeted stakeholder engagement process to identify and refine key issues and opportunities relating to the management of the Otago coast. Two stakeholder workshops were held:
 - a. 16 July 2026 with environmental and community organisations,
 - b. 20 July 2026 with industry, infrastructure, and economic interest groups.
27. Stakeholders were invited based on their involvement in, knowledge of, or interest in coastal management matters. Both in-person and online participation options were provided. A list of organisations that were invited and participated in the workshops is included in Appendix 3. ORC invited 90 stakeholders to participate, of which 16 took part.
28. Facilitated breakout discussions were structured into two parts:
 - a. reflections on the current management framework, and
 - b. broader forward-looking discussion around the themes identified in the discussion document.
29. Participants were encouraged to identify current and emerging challenges, potential management responses, and opportunities to improve outcomes for the coast.
30. Feedback from the first breakout discussion is not included in this report, as it does not relate directly to issues and opportunities for the coast. Instead, this feedback will inform the Efficiency and Effectiveness review of the existing Coast Plan, which is currently underway.
31. Feedback from the workshops was captured by facilitators and collated to identify recurring themes, stakeholder concerns, areas of consensus, and opportunities for future action.

Other feedback

32. ORC also received written feedback from three stakeholders. This has been incorporated into the stakeholder feedback sections of this report.

Synthesis

33. Feedback from surveys, drop-in sessions, stakeholder workshops and written submissions was reviewed and analysed thematically. Responses were grouped according to the discussion document topics, and recurring themes, issues, opportunities and areas of concern were identified within each topic. The analysis considered both the frequency with which issues were raised and the depth of discussion they generated, recognising that specialist topics may attract fewer responses than issues of more general interest. Additional themes that did not fit within the discussion document structure were also identified and analysed separately.
34. Note that percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number in this document. This means that reported results may not always add to 100%.

Out of Scope Feedback

35. Participants also raised matters that were outside the scope of this engagement. These include concerns about specific consents or compliance matters, as well as issues that fall within the responsibilities of other agencies, such as territorial authorities.
36. These matters are not addressed further in this report, but where appropriate, they will be passed on to relevant ORC staff or other agencies responsible.

Limitations

37. This data should not be treated as representative of the Otago community as a whole, because:
 - a. The number of participants was low compared to Otago's population (even if only coastal areas are considered),
 - b. participants self-selected,
 - c. there was not a representative level of diversity across participants, especially in terms of age, and
 - d. A lot of survey respondents were from Dunedin so issues affecting Dunedin's harbour and urban coastlines may be more heavily represented in the data than issues affecting some other parts of the Otago coast.
38. What the data does provide is an indication of what was top of mind for those that participated. It gives us access to the expertise and experience of members of the public who were willing to give their time and expands our knowledge gathering beyond ORC-based sources. More broadly, the process has contributed to relationship and profile building for the ORC.

Summary of feedback – discussion topics

Public access

Survey results

39. Public access to the coast was considered very important for 91% of respondents. Just over half reported experiencing restrictions on coastal access. The most commonly identified barrier was private development, followed by erosion and wildlife-related restrictions.

Access restrictions caused by structures, other users (including wildlife tourism operators), and steep dunes were mentioned less often.⁵

“Access to nature, including our beaches, inlets and harbour [is] so important to people's sense of place, health and wellbeing and re-creation.”

Survey respondent

40. Respondents identified a range of opportunities to improve coastal access. Common suggestions included expanding access opportunities, improving connections between destinations, maintaining existing access routes, and achieving an appropriate balance between access and environmental protection. There was strong support for improved walking and cycling access, including the establishment of shared coastal pathways and trail connections, such as the Coastal Connection between Waikouaiti and Port Chalmers, and the proposed Dunedin-to-Ōamaru trail.
41. Improved access was sought around the Otago Peninsula, Otago Harbour, and parts of North Otago, including beaches, estuaries, and river mouths that are currently difficult to reach. Respondents also highlighted opportunities to improve pedestrian access around Otago Harbour, strengthen connections between the city and waterfront, provide additional public spaces, and increase recreation opportunities. Some suggested a pedestrian bridge linking the city and waterfront.
42. Many respondents emphasised the importance of keeping coastal areas publicly accessible and affordable for everyone. Access to the coast was seen as important for health and wellbeing, recreation, social connection, equity and sense of place. Maintaining existing access was also considered important, particularly where erosion is affecting roads, tracks, and access points.
43. A recurring theme was the need to balance public access and environmental protection. Respondents highlighted the importance of protecting hoiho and other sensitive wildlife, improving dog control, and carefully managing access in vulnerable areas. Support was expressed for restricting vehicle, motorbike, and dog access in some locations to reduce impacts on biodiversity and allow coastal habitats to recover. Other suggestions included additional picnic areas, public toilets, parking and boating facilities, viewing areas, and the repair or upgrade of existing infrastructure, roads and coastal amenities.

⁵ Access issues were raised across several locations, particularly on the Otago Peninsula, in North Otago, around Otago Harbour, and in the Catlins. Erosion-related access constraints were identified along parts of the Dunedin coast, including Brighton, St Clair, Tunnel Beach, and Boulder Beach (Otago Peninsula). Wildlife-related restrictions were most commonly associated with sea lions and access management at locations such as Boulder Beach (Otago Peninsula) and Tavora Reserve (near Palmerston). Access constraints associated with private land were also raised in parts of North Otago, the Otago Peninsula, Otago Harbour, and Chrystall's Beach (just north of Toko Mouth). Additional access comments referenced specific sites including Cargill's Castle, the Roman Baths quarry (Blackhead), and Kuri Bush (North of Taieri Mouth). Other issues raised included dog access restrictions, closed tracks, overcrowding at popular sites, wheelchair access ramps that are not fit for purpose, and temporary disruption from road works.

44. Views on vehicle use along the coast were mixed. Forty-six percent of respondents considered vehicle use to be a problem, while 33% did not and 21% were unsure. Concerns were raised across much of the coastline, particularly in North Otago, coastal Dunedin, and the Catlins and South Otago. Many respondents considered vehicle access unnecessary in some areas.
45. The main concerns about vehicle use related to impacts on wildlife, including penguins and other seabirds, seals, and sea lions, as well as damage to beaches, dunes, and other coastal environments. Safety, noise, and conflicts with other users were also commonly raised. Additional concerns included speeding on beaches, freedom camping, damage to planting and erosion-control works, parking pressures, limited enforcement of existing restrictions, and dogs that were accompanying vehicles then disturbing wildlife.

Community drop-in and online sessions

46. Public access was one of the most consistently discussed themes across the engagement. Participants viewed access to the coast as a fundamental value that should be protected and enhanced. Access was described as not only the ability to physically reach the coast, but also the ability to experience, enjoy and connect with coastal environments. Participants frequently linked access to recreation, wellbeing, food gathering, tourism and appreciation of the natural environment.

*“St Clair Beach gets used so much for just people parking to just look at the scene [...].
Just to be able to see the sea counts for a lot.”*

Online session participant

47. Participants identified a wide range of features, facilities and opportunities that support access to the coast, including tracks, cycleways, roads, parking, public facilities and safe entry points to the water, such as boat ramps.
48. Concerns were raised about the loss of access over time through coastal erosion, inundation and, in the case of harbour users, sedimentation affecting navigation and mooring sites.
49. Access around Otago Harbour generated considerable discussion, with participants identifying barriers created by transport corridors, embankments, infrastructure and occupied coastal space. Accessibility for people with disabilities was also raised, including suggestions for beach-access wheelchairs, improved facilities and more mobility-friendly access points.
50. Vehicle access emerged as a recurring issue. Participants recognised that vehicles could support activities such as boat launching, hazard and emergency management, and, in some cases, access for people with limited mobility. However, many also expressed concern about the effects of vehicles on wildlife, dunes, estuaries and the experience of other beach

users.⁶ Overall, participants sought a balance between practical access needs and environmental protection, public safety and enjoyment of the coast.

51. More broadly, access was consistently framed as supporting both community wellbeing and people's connection to the coast. Participants frequently linked access with understanding, appreciation and stewardship of coastal places and values.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

52. Many participants supported public access to coastal areas, identifying it as a key enabler of recreational activities, wellbeing, tourism, and people's connection to the natural environment.⁷ Coastal access trails were seen as particularly valuable, providing opportunities to enjoy and connect with the coastal environment, while also supporting community connections and a sense of place.

“[It is important to recognise] the importance of maintaining public access [...] while ensuring that future development and activities are managed in a way that protects the natural character and wild qualities that make Otago’s coastline such a special place [...] Maintaining this balance will help ensure that people can continue to experience and enjoy the coastline while protecting the very qualities that make these places worth visiting.”

Workshop participant

53. Participants recognised that access needs to be actively managed to balance public use with environmental protection. Key concerns included access restrictions associated with hard infrastructure, protected areas and reserves, and the impacts of vehicle access, including damage to dunes, vegetation, and wildlife. Suggested management measures included controlling vehicle access, applying temporary restrictions in sensitive areas, using permit systems where appropriate, and implementing rules and bylaws to protect threatened species. Education was also identified as an important tool to help people understand where access is appropriate and how recreational activities can occur while minimising environmental impacts.
54. Participants also noted that development or other changes to the coastal environment should not compromise coastal access values or diminish people's experience of accessing and enjoying the coastline. Well-designed and safe shared off-road trails along the coast were supported as a means of enabling active transport, strengthening connections between communities and the environment, and providing opportunities to support pest control and native habitat restoration initiatives.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

⁶ Locations including Toko Mouth, Kakanui Estuary, Pūrākaunui and parts of the Catlins were identified as places where vehicle use was affecting wildlife, habitat or coastal amenity.

⁷ New access opportunities for boating and rowing activities were identified on the Taiari/Taieri River (at Henley).

55. Participants considered public access to the coast important but acknowledged that restrictions may sometimes be necessary where justified. Some considered that public access across private farmland should not be forced but negotiated. Others noted that infrastructure can both constrain and improve access, with facilities such as ports requiring safety restrictions, while other features like tracks can enhance public access.
56. Participants emphasised the need for greater certainty for investors and providers of access infrastructure through better planning, including clear zoning, guidance relating to commercial access to the CMA, and reliable access arrangements where appropriate. Vehicle access was identified as an issue best managed through planning rules. Some participants noted that access for vehicles and machinery should be retained, where no practicable alternative exists, including for farming operations, infrastructure maintenance, flood protection, and erosion control.
57. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of individual behaviour in influencing outcomes for coastal values, underscoring the importance of education about coastal access rights and responsibilities. Collaboration between coastal farmers, regulators, and the public was seen as important to address these issues.

Occupying space

Survey results

58. Survey respondents held mixed views about structures and activities occupying space in the coastal environment, including buildings, marinas, jetties, and ports. Many considered these structures were important to support how people use and enjoy the coast, although opinions often varied depending on the type of development. Respondents commonly highlighted their role in enabling boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking, rowing, and hunting.
59. Structures that support coastal recreation and access, including boat ramps, slipways, moorings, jetties, boatsheds, and wharves, were generally viewed positively. These were seen as improving access, enhancing safety, and supporting the launching and servicing of boats. Some respondents called for better management of moorings, while others raised concerns about a lack of marina facilities and long waiting lists for moorings in Otago Harbour. Coastal infrastructure was also recognised for its economic benefits, and some respondents noted that heritage structures contribute positively to the character of coastal areas. A small number further observed that certain structures can provide habitat for marine life. However, many emphasised that structures should be well maintained and should not restrict public access.
60. Respondents frequently commented on the effect of structures on coastal character and visual amenity. Historic boatsheds and heritage structures were generally viewed favourably, whereas marinas, seawalls, and industrial developments were often considered less appealing. Many expressed a preference for a more natural coastal environment, and some questioned the need for large marina developments.

“Infrastructure like marinas commonly occupy sheltered locations exclusively and access other than on a commercial basis becomes impossible.”

Survey respondent

61. Environmental impacts were a recurring theme in the feedback. Respondents frequently raised concerns about habitat loss, wildlife disturbance, and pollution, particularly in relation to marinas, dredging, and major coastal works. Many also highlighted the importance of protecting native wildlife and natural habitats.
62. Some respondents felt there were too many structures in parts of the Otago Harbour, particularly where they restricted public access. Private structures and marinas were seen by some as limiting access to sheltered coastal areas, while others noted that certain structures appeared underutilised. Additional concerns related to, harbour management decisions, and the need for accurate records of mooring and boat ownership.
63. Overall, respondents were generally supportive of small-scale public access infrastructure, such as boat ramps, slipways, jetties, moorings, and wharves, while viewing marinas, large-scale industrial developments, and dredging activities less favourably. Many stressed that the economic benefits of structures, particularly ports and related infrastructure, should be carefully weighed against their environmental impacts. Additional comments included support for limiting the number of new structures, the importance of engagement with mana whenua, support for harbour development and hospitality activities, and feedback on specific development and redevelopment projects.

Community drop-in and online sessions

64. Feedback on the occupation of coastal space centred on balancing the benefits of structures and exclusive uses with maintaining public access, recreation opportunities and the character of coastal environments.
65. Participants generally recognised that some activities require the exclusive occupation of coastal space. Ports, wharves, marinas, moorings, boatsheds, navigation infrastructure and boating facilities were seen as important assets that support the region's economy, recreation opportunities and cultural identity.
66. Participants involved in boating and harbour activities raised concerns about the way coastal space is allocated within Otago Harbour and Ōamaru Harbour. These discussions focused on conflicts between commercial and recreational uses, perceptions that some occupied areas limit public access, and concerns that harbour management needs to be more active in some areas to support access and use rights. One respondent expressed concern that responsibilities for harbour management were not clear.
67. Participants noted that the exclusive occupation of coastal space can affect public access to waterfront areas and harbour margins. Concerns focused on locations where port operations, transport infrastructure or other occupied areas were perceived to limit people's ability to reach or use parts of the coast. Several participants expressed a desire to see waterfront areas made more accessible to the public where operational requirements allow.

68. Fairness in the allocation of coastal space among different users was raised in relation to both Otago and Ōamaru Harbours. Participants questioned whether current arrangements adequately balance recreational, commercial and public interests. There was a perception that future conflicts could arise if demand for harbour space increases.
69. Some participants also highlighted examples where the occupation of coastal space supports valued community outcomes. Boatsheds were cited as structures that enable access to the water and contribute positively to local character. Likewise, wharves, jetties and boating facilities were often described as important community assets, provided they remain accessible and do not unnecessarily exclude other users.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

70. Participants emphasised the importance of ensuring appropriate monitoring and enforcement of coastal structures and activities. They also raised questions about the management of exclusive occupation of coastal space, including whether activities such as aquaculture and establishment of private coastal structures should contribute financially for their use of public coastal resources. Overall, feedback highlighted the need to balance community access and benefits with the allocation and management of limited coastal space.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

71. Like other participants, several attendees of the industry stakeholder and infrastructure provider workshop stressed the importance of appropriate monitoring and enforcement, noting that poor compliance can undermine confidence in the regulatory system and disadvantage operators who follow the rules. They also discussed broader approaches to managing coastal space, including the potential use of charges, credits, or offsetting mechanisms, and emphasised the need to consider cumulative effects and the wider public interest rather than focusing on individual activities. Some participants considered that existing lawful structures should retain ongoing occupation rights, with efforts focused on addressing abandoned and derelict structures. Overall, stakeholders supported a balanced approach that promotes investment and enterprise while maintaining healthy ecosystems and public access.

Extraction and deposition of natural material

Survey results

72. Responses on the extraction and deposition of natural material focused primarily on environmental impacts, although some respondents also identified opportunities to achieve environmental, community, or economic benefits where activities are carefully managed.
73. Respondents expressed concern about impacts on biodiversity, marine and seafloor habitats, fish and shellfish populations, native species, dunes, and natural sediment

processes. Activities such as sand mining, quarrying, dredging, material extraction, and sediment disposal were seen as potentially damaging these values.⁸

74. Concerns about the implications of extraction for coastal erosion and management were also raised frequently. Some respondents considered that extraction activities, combined with poor coastal development decisions, could worsen erosion, increasing the vulnerability of certain coastal areas, reducing natural coastal protection and exposing coastal rubbish dumps.⁹ Concerns were raised that dredging activities, channel modifications, and erosion control structures may be influencing erosion patterns in some areas.¹⁰ Others called for greater use of sand traps and stronger council accountability and oversight.
75. Extraction activities were also seen as affecting valued coastal features and character. Respondents noted that quarrying, material extraction, and sediment disposal can alter significant landscapes, coastal landforms, wild spaces, and surf breaks.¹¹ Broader concerns about pressure on coastal resources were also common, including overharvesting of shellfish, overfishing, pollution, and biodiversity loss.¹² Some respondents supported stronger restrictions on trawling and commercial fishing, along with improved compliance and enforcement.
76. While environmental concerns were common, respondents also identified opportunities associated with carefully managed extraction. Some supported the sustainable extraction of sand, shingle, seaweed, and kelp where environmental impacts can be minimised and community or economic benefits achieved. Interest was expressed in the beneficial use of harbour sediments and seaweed, particularly at Ōamaru Harbour, where naturally accumulated materials were seen as having potential for productive use, while also helping to manage harbour conditions. Kelp was highlighted as an underutilised resource with potential applications in food production, animal feed, bioplastics, alginate, and other industries. Some respondents acknowledged that dredging may be necessary and identified opportunities to improve how material is relocated, reused, and managed to achieve better environmental and community outcomes.¹³

⁸ These issues were raised in relation to Tomahawk Beach, Blackhead, Taiaroa Head, Ōamaru Harbour, the Warrington coast, and East Otago.

⁹ These issues were raised in relation to the Otago coastline generally, as well as Tomahawk Beach, Waikouaiti/Post Office Creek.

¹⁰ Concerns were raised about erosion at Te Rauone Beach (Otago Peninsula), with some respondents linking dredging, channel widening, and the construction of groynes to changes in erosion patterns.

¹¹ Respondents identified various locations where quarrying, material extraction, and sediment disposal altered the coastal environment, including Blackhead (affecting the Roman Bath rock features), Taiaroa Head, and East Otago.

¹² Specific concerns related to shellfish removal at Holmes Wharf (Ōamaru) and Kakanui.

¹³ Examples of locations where dredging and dredge spoil management were seen to be able to support the achievement of better environmental and community outcomes include Otago Harbour, Warrington, St Clair, and around the Aramoana Mole.

77. Similar themes emerged in relation to the deposition of material. Respondents most frequently raised concerns about impacts on marine ecosystems, native biodiversity, fish, birdlife, reefs, and seabed habitats arising from sediment deposition and relocation.¹⁴

“This [extraction of material from the Otago coast] can be done sustainably if managed properly. If not managed properly environmental damage can occur.”

Survey respondent

78. Many respondents were also concerned that relocating or depositing material can alter sand movement, erosion patterns, drainage, and other natural coastal processes.¹⁵ A small number also noted that inland activities, such as the damming of rivers, can influence coastal processes, reduce sediment supply to the coast and cause potential impacts on surf breaks, reef systems, and valued coastal environments.¹⁶
79. Planning and management emerged as another prominent theme. Respondents called for improved planning, monitoring, community engagement, and consultation with tangata whenua. Concerns were also expressed about the deposition of waste near the coast, particularly at Kaka Point, and the use of concrete rubble in the marine environment at Campbell Point (between Kaka point and Nugget point). Some respondents opposed the deposition of materials and other forms of artificial intervention more broadly, viewing them as costly, ineffective, or interfering with natural coastal processes.
80. Despite these concerns, respondents identified several potential opportunities associated with deposition activities. These included using deposited material to support erosion management, beach maintenance, and creation of bike trails. Some also considered that deposition of material provides opportunities to create or enhance habitat for fish and marine life, or support improved environmental or recreational outcomes.¹⁷ Respondents further recognised that some dredging and sediment management is necessary and highlighted opportunities to improve the planning and delivery of these activities, particularly in Otago Harbour.

Community drop-in and online sessions

81. Feedback on the extraction and deposition of natural materials focused on how these activities influence coastal processes, beach condition, navigation and ecological health. Participants discussed dredging, sediment disposal, river and catchment management, beach nourishment and erosion protection works, often linking these activities to long-term changes observed along the coast.

¹⁴ These concerns were identified in relation to Tomahawk Lagoons, Te Rauone Beach (Otago Peninsula), Otago Harbour, and the North Coast.

¹⁵ These concerns were raised in relation to several locations, including Kaka Point, the Clutha River, and the North Coast.

¹⁶ Campbell Point (between Kaka Point and Nugget Point) on the northern edge of the Catlins and parts of the North Otago coast were identified as locations where inland river damming was perceived to be influencing coastal conditions.

¹⁷ Deposition was seen as providing opportunities to improve marine habitat conditions at Aramoana Spit, while also supporting environmental and recreational outcomes at Macandrew Bay and Harington Point (Otago Peninsula).

82. Dredging and the disposal of dredge spoil were mostly discussed in relation to harbour maintenance and navigation. While participants generally recognised the importance of dredging for maintaining ports and boating access, some questioned whether dredging and spoil disposal adequately account for broader effects on coastal processes, recreation and surf breaks. Concerns were also raised about historical reclamation activities and their ongoing influence on harbour conditions, including the reclamation at Back Beach (Port Chalmers), and continued accumulation of silt around nearby moorings.
83. Participants generally accepted the need for erosion protection works, such as rock armouring, seawalls and beach nourishment to help protect infrastructure, property and public access. However, views differed on the appropriate use of these measures, with some emphasising the need to understand potential downstream effects and ensure interventions work with natural coastal processes. Overall, feedback supported carefully considered intervention where there is a clear public benefit, while recognising the importance of maintaining the long-term health and functioning of coastal systems.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

84. Some raised concerns that the extraction and deposition of natural material can adversely affect coastal ecosystems, particularly in and around river mouths and estuaries, through the loss of productive habitats and impacts on benthic environments, coastal wetlands, lagoons, and swamps.¹⁸
85. The extraction and deposition of natural material was also seen by some to offer opportunities to enhance habitat, renourish beaches, and restore coastal environments. Some supported the rehabilitation of reclaimed land into coastal swamps and lagoons, improving biodiversity and ecosystem function. Others noted that these activities can also support public access and provide an alternative to hard coastal protection structures where appropriate.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

86. Participants highlighted that the extraction and deposition of material are necessary to support maritime activities and maintain essential coastal infrastructure, such as the Otago Harbour's navigation channels, noting that these activities are generally undertaken through consented processes. Concerns were raised about unconsented coastal protection works and their potential effects on coastal processes. Gravel and sediment management at river mouths was identified as important for land drainage and flood protection on coastal farmland. Support was expressed for beach replenishment and the deposition of material

¹⁸ Hoopers Inlet on the Otago Peninsula was highlighted as an example where habitat values, including those supporting fish and shellfish populations, may be affected by this.

for erosion protection, and some suggested that the relatively low number of consents for sand removal may reflect barriers within the consent process rather than low demand.

Coastal infrastructure including ports

Survey results

87. Respondents identified roads, cycleways, public facilities, and seawalls as the most important infrastructure supporting use of the Otago coast. Navigation infrastructure and rail were considered less important. Other commonly mentioned infrastructure included car parks, toilets, taps and showers, walkways, and stairs, which were often associated with public facilities and access to the coast.
88. Respondents also raised a range of location-specific infrastructure issues and opportunities. Some identified opportunities to improve public access to and connectivity with Dunedin's harbourside area, including additional walkways and public spaces and stronger links between the harbour and city centre.¹⁹ Several respondents noted that successful harbourfront redevelopment projects elsewhere could provide useful examples. A lack of marina facilities was also identified as an issue. In relation to Ōamaru Harbour, feedback focused primarily on governance and management issues. Participants suggested that ORC assume a greater management role, raised concerns about the treatment of berth holders and mooring owners, called for improved management of moorings and vessel ownership records, and supported the provision of alternative resting areas for seabirds, including dedicated pontoons.

"Trails make the coast more accessible for [the] people of Otago and tourism often by New Zealanders."

Survey respondent

89. Respondents expressed concern about a range of ways in which infrastructure can affect the coastal environment. Effects on wildlife and habitats, landscapes and seascapes, access to the coast, and coastal processes were commonly identified as concerns. Very few respondents indicated they had no concerns.
90. Additional concerns included the need for accessible trails, the view that a changing coastline may require less infrastructure in some areas, drainage infrastructure becoming blocked by sand, noise and unworkable regulatory requirements.
91. Respondents also supported maintaining and upgrading coastal amenities.²⁰ Some called for improved boating infrastructure but raised concerns that regulatory costs could make boatsheds unaffordable. Other comments related to the need to relocate existing sewage

¹⁹ Respondents identified a pedestrian bridge connecting the waterfront and central city as an example of infrastructure that could improve access to and connectivity with Dunedin's harbourfront.

²⁰ A small number of respondents raised concerns about the condition of the St Clair Hot Saltwater Pool, suggesting that maintenance could be improved and proposing measures such as seasonal repainting, year-round operation, and additional wellness facilities.

treatment and disposal systems that are currently located near the coast although some respondents suggested that existing systems could be expanded rather than relocated.

92. Several responses emphasised the importance of designing infrastructure to work with, rather than against, natural coastal systems.

“Infrastructure needs to be designed around natural coastal systems rather than fighting them. In areas like South Dunedin, stormwater, groundwater, tidal influence, and harbour processes are interconnected. Poorly planned infrastructure can increase flood risk and environmental impacts, so solutions need to consider long-term resilience, including controlled drainage, tidal influences, and protection of natural systems.”

Survey respondent

Community drop-in and online sessions

93. Infrastructure was a dominant theme across drop-in session feedback. Participants highlighted the importance of infrastructure such as roads, seawalls, ports, wharves, cycleways, navigation infrastructure, harbour facilities, public toilets and boat ramps, recognising the role these assets play in enabling people to access and enjoy the coast, and sustain economic and recreational activities.
94. Participants generally valued existing facilities, particularly coastal cycleways, but noted that visitor numbers are increasing in some areas and that public facilities have not always kept pace with demand. Concerns were raised about ageing infrastructure assets, unclear maintenance responsibilities, harbour siltation affecting boating, and inadequate public facilities in popular locations. Participants were also concerned that existing infrastructure, particularly ageing stormwater and wastewater systems and coastal transport networks, is increasingly vulnerable to coastal erosion, flooding, sea-level rise, extreme weather events and other changing environmental conditions.
95. Several participants highlighted the need for future infrastructure planning to consider climate change, coastal hazards and water quality together, rather than treating them as separate issues. Overall, feedback suggested strong support for maintaining and upgrading infrastructure while ensuring it remains resilient, environmentally responsible, and able to meet the needs of future communities.
96. Support for harbour revitalisation, improved boating infrastructure, better public amenities and coastal resilience planning was widespread.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

97. Participants stressed the importance of infrastructure and facilities that support recreation and public access, including boat ramps, wharves, filleting stations, washdown and discharge facilities, beach landing areas, search and rescue facilities, rubbish bins, and signage. Such infrastructure was seen as important for enabling public enjoyment of the coast and supporting commercial activities, such as fishing.

98. Some participants recognised growing pressures on coastal infrastructure arising from population growth across the region and land use change, and emphasised the need for proactive, long-term planning rather than reactive responses to emerging issues. The role of coastal infrastructure in erosion management was also recognised, and various participants emphasised the importance of enabling easy and timely maintenance and upgrades, noting that repair and replacement can be costly.
99. Opportunities were identified in emerging industries and technologies, including seaweed farming and offshore wind energy, which may require new types of coastal infrastructure. However, stakeholders also noted that these developments can create competing demands for coastal space and may generate conflicts between different users and values. Improved consenting processes were identified as a key opportunity to support effective infrastructure management.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

100. Participants noted that new activities within the CMA may create demand for new infrastructure and supporting facilities, some of which are land-based and have potential implications for landowners. They also supported the recognition and protection of significant infrastructure in the coastal environment, including infrastructure on land.
101. A key issue raised was the need to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of planning and regulatory frameworks that enable timely repairs, maintenance, and upgrades, particularly where coastal processes or protected areas, such as marine reserves, may affect infrastructure management. Some participants also expressed concern that planning frameworks do not always adequately recognise the importance of local infrastructure, with greater emphasis often placed on nationally or regionally significant infrastructure.

Marine aquaculture

Survey results

102. Respondents identified a range of opportunities for aquaculture in Otago. Many saw aquaculture as a growing industry that could create jobs, support local businesses, and contribute to the regional economy. Several respondents referred to existing aquaculture activities, Aquaculture Settlement Areas, and proposed marine farms when discussing future development opportunities.²¹ Sustainable seafood production was seen as an opportunity to increase exports and attract investment.

“Aquaculture is a huge opportunity along the Otago coast. It needs to be further investigated”

Survey respondent

²¹ An aquaculture settlement area is a space in the CMA officially declared under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 (Settlement Act) for the purpose of aquaculture activities and aimed at facilitating Māori participation in aquaculture. These areas are part of the Crown’s obligations to provide iwi with settlement assets.

103. Seaweed and kelp farming were frequently mentioned as having potential, with respondents noting possible benefits for employment, economic growth, climate change mitigation, and coastal erosion management.
104. There was particular support for offshore and lower-impact forms of aquaculture, including mussel and shellfish farming. Respondents also saw opportunities for aquaculture to support recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, local food production, and community wellbeing. Other opportunities included iwi-led aquaculture, research and education initiatives, innovation, and the development of new marine industries.²².
105. At the same time, respondents identified several challenges. Common concerns related to potential impacts on fisheries and marine habitats and biodiversity, including shellfish, seabirds, dolphins, whales, and sea lions. Concerns were also raised about waste, seabed pollution, nutrient build-up, parasites, antibiotic use, and the increased risk of pest and disease spread.
106. Salmon farming attracted particular concern, especially in relation to environmental impacts and feed requirements. Respondents also noted that aquaculture could affect recreation, public access, surf breaks, and other coastal values.

“[Marine aquaculture] could be good, but environmental aspects and impacts need to be considered.”

Survey respondent

107. Several practical challenges were identified, including rough sea conditions, large swells, equipment damage, water quality issues, and constraints related to suitable sites and supporting infrastructure. Respondents also highlighted challenges associated with consenting and planning processes, balancing competing coastal uses, and community opposition. Some emphasised the importance of recognising aquaculture as a legitimate use of the CMA and providing greater certainty for the industry.
108. Overall, respondents were generally supportive of aquaculture where it delivers economic and community benefits but stressed that development should only occur where environmental effects are well understood, appropriately managed, and carefully monitored.

Community drop-in and online sessions

109. Most comments focused on how aquaculture should occur, rather than whether it should occur.
110. Feedback on marine aquaculture was generally supportive, provided environmental effects are appropriately managed and development occurs in suitable locations. Participants

²² Some respondents also noted the role of the Kaitangata salmon hatchery in producing juvenile salmon

recognised the potential economic benefits of aquaculture, with several highlighting opportunities for innovation, and marine science research.

111. Participants emphasised that aquaculture development should not compromise the Otago Coast's distinctive environmental values. Concerns focused on nutrient enrichment, waste accumulation, disease transfer, biosecurity risks and impacts on marine ecosystems, and the potential for marine farms to alter the behaviour of marine mammals, fish and predators. Some participants expressed a preference for offshore aquaculture rather than development within enclosed harbours or bays, viewing this as a way to minimise impacts.
112. Overall, the feedback suggested a cautious but generally positive attitude towards aquaculture. The dominant message was that aquaculture could provide economic and community benefits for Otago, provided development is informed by science, carefully located, environmentally responsible and integrated with the broader values of the coastal environment.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

113. Environmental and community stakeholders identified a range of opportunities for marine aquaculture in Otago, including seaweed, shellfish, finfish and land-based aquaculture developments, and noted the potential for aquaculture to create jobs, support economic growth, and contribute to the restoration or enhancement of some fish species.
114. However, many also identified several challenges. These included potential effects on wild fish populations, disease and biosecurity risks, bycatch, and conflicts with recreational and commercial fishing activities. Concerns were about the infrastructure required to support aquaculture, the feasibility of offshore structures in the Southern Ocean, and potential effects on natural character and other coastal values. The need to allocate marine space appropriately was also highlighted, with spatial planning identified as an important opportunity to help manage competing demands and balance environmental, social, and economic interests. Concerns were also raised about the resilience of aquaculture infrastructure to increasingly frequent and severe storm events.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

115. Many noted that Otago's cooler waters may provide a competitive advantage as ocean temperatures rise elsewhere and recognised the potential for marine farming to support economic growth, generate employment, and create opportunities for related industries such as marine science, research, and hatchery development. They also identified the potential for aquaculture to support the restoration and enhancement of taonga species and wild fisheries.
116. Several challenges were identified, including mixed public views on aquaculture and uncertainty around consenting pathways and broader regulatory environment. Other constraints included technological and infrastructure requirements, such as the need for supporting land-based processing facilities.

117. Participants noted the importance of addressing visual effects (e.g. by locating infrastructure away from the shoreline), particularly in highly valued landscapes. Concerns were also raised about the risk of competition for coastal space with other activities, such as oil/gas exploration and offshore windfarms. The importance of providing a clear consenting pathway and spatially identifying appropriate areas in consultation with impacted landowners was emphasised. Overall, stakeholders highlighted the need to reduce regulatory barriers while ensuring marine aquaculture is developed in an environmentally sustainable way and maintains social license.

Biodiversity

Survey results

118. Respondents valued a wide range of coastal biodiversity attributes. Native wildlife, healthy ecosystems, marine habitats, native vegetation, estuaries, and dune habitats were all seen as important. Some also highlighted the value of non-native wildlife and recognised Otago as an area of high ecological importance.
119. Areas where biodiversity was perceived to be thriving were often associated to predator control, native planting, habitat restoration and management, restricted access, ecological monitoring, and long-term conservation efforts. Respondents frequently emphasised the need to balance public access and recreation with the protection of wildlife and natural habitats.

“[It is] important to educate people not to disturb wildlife and always keep dogs on a leash”

Survey respondent

120. In contrast, areas considered to be under threat were commonly associated with human disturbance, habitat loss, development, pollution, invasive species, erosion, and pressures from fishing and shellfish harvesting. Dogs, vehicles, dredging, bottom trawling, sediment runoff, and the loss of native vegetation were also identified as significant threats. Many respondents felt these pressures were contributing to widespread ecological decline across the coast. Various respondents called for stronger environmental protections, including marine reserves and restrictions on dogs, vehicles, and other activities in sensitive areas.
121. Biodiversity-related observations were raised across the coast, with the Otago Peninsula frequently identified as a biodiversity stronghold. Respondents also highlighted biodiversity

values and concerns around Ōamaru and other parts of North Otago, Otago Harbour and Aramoana, Dunedin's beaches and throughout the Catlins and South Otago.²³

122. While many respondents supported continued habitat restoration and enhancement projects, including native planting, wetland and dune restoration, and artificial reef construction to support seaweed growth and marine life, respondents also emphasised the importance of safeguarding remaining native biodiversity, coastal habitats, and kelp forests, noting that damaged ecosystems can be difficult to restore.
123. Among species of concern, hoiho were by far the most frequently identified as declining or under threat. Respondents also raised concerns about shellfish populations, fish stocks, marine invertebrates, and the loss of native coastal vegetation. Some called for stronger compliance and enforcement of shellfish gathering rules, while others supported greater restrictions on trawling and commercial fishing.
124. Species most commonly identified as doing well included sea lions, fur seals, blue penguins, seabirds, dolphins, orca, whales, and birds such as kākā, bellbirds, and fantails that have benefited from habitat restoration initiatives. Respondents also supported improved protection and ongoing habitat management for native species, including the provision of safe resting areas for seabirds.
125. Overall, respondents raised a broad range of matters relating to coastal biodiversity. While many highlighted successful conservation and restoration efforts, there was a strong view that ongoing management is needed to address habitat loss, human disturbance, declining species, and cumulative environmental pressures. Many emphasised the importance of integrated management across land, freshwater, and marine environments to protect coastal biodiversity for future generations.

Community drop-in and online sessions

126. Biodiversity was also a popular topic among drop-in session participants. Many spoke positively about local wildlife such as sea lions, whales, and spoonbills, while also discussing conflicts between wildlife habitat needs and other coastal uses and values,

²³ The Otago Peninsula, particularly Taiaroa Head, Hoopers Inlet, Harwood, and Sandymount, was commonly identified as an area of high biodiversity value. Respondents reported healthy populations of seabirds, albatross, seals, sea lions, and penguins in these areas, often attributing these outcomes to restoration efforts, predator control, and managed access. However, hoiho, particularly around Sandfly Bay, were often identified as being under threat from human disturbance, dogs, habitat loss, invasive species, and fishing impacts.

In Ōamaru and North Otago, respondents noted positive outcomes for seabirds, seals, blue penguins, and coastal vegetation around Ōamaru Harbour and parts of the Kakanui coast, while also raising concerns about disturbance of bird nesting areas, invasive species, and pressures on shellfish and rock pool ecosystems.

Within Otago Harbour and Aramoana, healthy populations of shags, spoonbills, herons, seals, sea lions, dolphins, and orca were noted, alongside concerns regarding development, port activities, pollution, habitat degradation, declining fish abundance, and clam dredging.

Similar themes were raised elsewhere along the coast, including on Dunedin's ocean beaches and throughout the Catlins and South Otago, where respondents identified positive outcomes from restoration projects at locations such as Pūrākaunui, Long Beach, and Toko Creek, while also expressing concerns about invasive plants, plantation forestry, habitat loss, and declines in native coastal vegetation.

including infrastructure or public access. Encounters with native species were frequently described as one of the most important aspects of coastal experiences.

127. However, people also voiced concerns about invasive species in the coastal environment and the decline of species and habitats in some areas. Concerns identified by participants included reduced abundance of fish and shellfish, reductions in kelp forests, fewer penguins in some locations and loss of seabird foraging and nesting areas. These declines were attributed to a combination of overfishing, habitat loss, sedimentation, climate change, the spread of pests, disturbance by vehicles and dogs and broader ecosystem pressures.
128. Sea lions featured prominently in discussions. While increasing numbers were generally viewed positively, several participants noted increasing interactions between wildlife and people. Concerns included disturbances from dogs and vehicles, and visitors being unaware of how much distance should be maintained.
129. A strong message from participants was that education is critical. Many considered that increased understanding of marine ecosystems would result in greater support biodiversity protection.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

130. Participants valued Otago's coast for its diversity of native species but recognised that biodiversity management should focus on maintaining resilient and functioning ecosystems, as achieving a completely pristine state may not be realistic.
131. Views on biodiversity trends were mixed. Some noted positive signs, including increasing sea lion and crayfish populations, thriving estuaries, and the persistence of seagrass and seaweed in some locations.²⁴ Others, however, described biodiversity to be in decline, or even in crisis. Declining populations of seabirds and migratory fish, blue and red cod and flounder, loss of native dune habitat and degradation of many coastal wetlands were highlighted as key issues.
132. Participants noted that biodiversity initiatives may not always be able to reverse biodiversity loss (e.g. marine reserve can cause fishing to move elsewhere) and that changing species distributions and environmental change can also influence biodiversity outcomes.
133. Stakeholders highlighted that significant knowledge gaps, particularly the lack of baseline data for benthic communities and ecosystem functioning, make it difficult to understand long-term trends. They stressed the need for better monitoring, cumulative effects assessments, and spatial planning to protect important habitats.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

²⁴ Participants identified Tautuku, Waipati (near Cathedral Caves) and Blueskin Bay as healthy estuaries.

134. Biodiversity was seen as an indicator of environmental health with participants noting that Otago's coastal ecosystems support unique endemic and iconic species that contribute to the coast's biodiversity and create tourism opportunities. They identified some positive trends, including thriving marine ecosystems along parts of the coast and the persistence of seagrass in certain disturbed environments. Participants also stressed the importance of removing unnecessarily prescriptive consent requirements to better enable biodiversity enhancement and restoration activities. It was noted that work by farmers on the coast and in upstream catchments was making an important contribution to the biodiversity through dune restoration, waterway fencing, riparian planting, wetland creation, and pest control, which was seen as benefitting fish, shellfish and birds.
135. Areas of concern included declining biodiversity near some river mouths, with overfishing and harvesting identified as potential contributing factors. Monitoring and information gathering were considered essential to better understand biodiversity trends and support effective management.

Coastal natural hazards and climate change

Survey results

136. Respondents were most concerned about sea level rise, erosion, and flooding. Other commonly identified concerns included ocean warming, storms, ocean acidification, and the exposure of contaminated sites, while tsunamis were generally seen as a lower priority.
137. Concerns about erosion were concentrated along the Dunedin coast, although additional concerns were also raised in North Otago and elsewhere along the coast.²⁵ Respondents highlighted dune erosion, sediment movement, and the risk of tips and contaminated sites becoming exposed. Many also supported better monitoring, early intervention, improved management, and greater use of sand traps in erosion-prone areas.
138. Coastal hazards such as flooding, sea level rise and tsunamis were most often associated with low-lying coastal areas. Respondents called for proactive measures to reduce flood risk, and many considered sea level rise to be a long-term issue affecting much of the Otago coastline.²⁶
139. Respondents generally viewed storm impacts as a concern across the entire coast, especially in low-lying and exposed areas. While concerns were widespread, the North Otago coast was mentioned particularly often.

"Everywhere along the coast is vulnerable to storms"

Survey respondent

²⁵ Most concerns about erosion along the Dunedin coast were concentrated around St Clair and St Kilda.

²⁶ Coastal settlements across North Otago, the Otago Peninsula, and parts of the Dunedin, such as South Dunedin and Ocean View, were frequently identified as being at risk of sea-level rise and flooding. Concerns about tsunami risk were typically associated with Dunedin's south coast, northern coastal settlements, the Ōamaru area, and other low-lying coastal locations.

140. Unlike other hazards, ocean warming and ocean acidification were generally viewed as coast-wide issues rather than problems being confined to specific locations.
141. The potential exposure of contaminated sites was another key concern. Respondents frequently referred to the historic landfills, dumps, and contaminated industrial sites that could be exposed by erosion, flooding, or sea level rise.²⁷ Concerns were also raised about contaminated water entering the marine environment, particularly near settlements and agricultural areas.
142. Many respondents supported nature-based solutions, including wetland restoration, improved stormwater management, and infrastructure that works with natural coastal processes. Others emphasised the need for long-term planning, resilience, and stewardship to help communities adapt to future coastal change. Some also identified the Coastal Connection shared pathway as a project that could contribute to coastal resilience.

Community drop-in and online sessions

143. Hazard issues and erosion were a common topic of discussion and raised at most engagement locations.²⁸ Participants described seeing roads threatened by erosion, beaches narrowing, dunes disappearing and land being lost to the sea. Ongoing erosion was a particular issue in some areas, with perceived risks to coastal infrastructure and private property. Flooding was also a concern, with some participants considering that it was occurring more frequently.
144. Participants reported observing higher king tides, larger storm surges, and more frequent inundation than they remembered occurring in the past.
145. Opinions diverged on how adaptation should occur. Some participants advocated for hard protection structures, such as seawalls and rock armouring. Others urged councils to accept that some areas will need to adapt over time and supported more natural approaches to hazard management.
146. There was also strong interest in improving hazard information. Several participants questioned how sea-level rise projections should be interpreted, while others called for improved tsunami warning systems and clearer communication of coastal hazard risk.
147. Despite differing views on potential solutions, there was broad recognition that climate change will play an increasingly important role in shaping how the coast is managed.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

²⁷ Respondents frequently referred to the historic landfill beneath Kettle Park in St Clair/St Kilda,

²⁸ Locations identified as vulnerable to erosion and flooding included St Clair and St Kilda, South Dunedin, Beach Road south of Ōamaru, Shag Point, Nugget Point, Toko Mouth, Pounaweia, Hinahina, Rātānui, Kaka Point, and sections of the Clutha Delta.

148. Stakeholders identified the impacts of flooding and climate change on coastal communities and marine ecosystems as key concerns. They recognised the growing pressure of more frequent and intense weather events on water quality, highlighting the potential effects of increased runoff and sedimentation on coastal habitats and ecosystems (e.g. kelp beds). Climate change was also identified as a challenge for fisheries, affecting species distribution and ecosystem dynamics.
149. Some emphasised the need for a long-term approach to managing natural hazards and climate change, including the use of best available information and consideration of managed retreat where appropriate. Others expressed concern about urban development and rural land-use intensification in hazard-prone areas, such as floodplains.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

150. Stakeholders identified coastal erosion, severe storms, high rainfall events, and sea-level rise as key natural hazard concerns. They emphasised the risks these hazards pose to coastal infrastructure, structures and farmland and the need to repair or restore these when damaged or undermined. They also highlighted that climate change, particularly rising sea temperatures, may alter species distributions and increase the risk of pests, predators, and invasive species. Reliable flood protection, land drainage and timely river and lagoon mouth openings were valued. Some participants expressed support for better hazard information and workable consenting pathways to enable the protection of productive land, existing lawful works and maintenance of existing structures.

Water quality

Survey results

151. Most respondents considered coastal water quality to be average, although perceptions varied across different locations and conditions. Relatively few respondents described it as either very poor or excellent.²⁹
152. The most commonly identified causes of poor water quality were sewage and wastewater overflows, stormwater discharges, agricultural runoff, forestry-related sedimentation, landfill contamination, and industrial discharges. Wastewater overflows and stormwater discharges were of particular concern, especially during significant rainfall events.³⁰ Many respondents also called for stronger waste management practices to reduce pollution entering the marine environment.
153. Water quality issues were most often reported after storms and heavy rainfall and were commonly associated with river mouths, stormwater outlets, wastewater discharges, and

²⁹ Concerns about poor water quality were most frequently raised along the Dunedin coast, particularly around Tomahawk, St Clair, and St Kilda, where respondents referred to contamination events, stormwater discharges, algal blooms, and water quality issues in beaches and lagoons. Other commonly mentioned areas included Otago Harbour, Ōamaru Harbour, the Kakanui and Waianakarua Rivers, the Taiari/Taieri catchment, Kaikorai Estuary, and Blueskin Bay.

³⁰ Some respondents also raised concerns about proposed upgrades and relocation of sewage treatment and disposal systems at Waitati and Waikouaiti. Ongoing monitoring was considered important at Karitāne Bar and Doctors Point.

urban runoff rather than the open coast. Several participants considered ageing infrastructure to be increasingly vulnerable to flooding and climate change.

154. Water quality concerns were also linked to broader catchment management issues, with activities upstream affecting estuaries, beaches, shellfish gathering areas and aquatic ecosystems. Nutrient runoff, sedimentation, and the deposition of debris and litter transported from catchments were identified as factors affecting coastal water quality. Others noted that rural land holders and catchment groups in some catchments are actively taking steps to mitigate water quality risks associated with rural land uses.
155. Many respondents said poor water quality affects how they use the coast. Concerns included reduced opportunities for swimming, surfing, diving, and other recreational activities, particularly following heavy rainfall, sewage overflows, and contamination events. Water quality was also seen as affecting fishing, kaimoana gathering, and shellfish collection, with concerns about contamination and food safety.

“Wastewater entering the ocean affects my ability to collect kaimoana and shellfish”

Survey respondent

156. Broader environmental and health impacts were another common theme. Respondents were concerned about the effects of pollution on marine habitats, biodiversity, fish, birds, and marine mammals. Some also raised concerns about toilet waste in coastal areas used for freedom camping.³¹ Others highlighted the risk of illness from polluted water and contaminated seafood, as well as the impacts of beach closures following sewage contamination events.
157. While concerns about water quality were common, some respondents noted improvements in parts of Otago Harbour and St Clair compared with previous years.

Community drop-in and online sessions

158. Otago’s coastal water quality was generally viewed as good by participants attending the drop-in sessions, describing the region’s beaches and marine waters as relatively clean compared to other parts of New Zealand or the world.
159. However, participants distinguished between open coastal waters and more sheltered environments like estuaries, harbours, and river mouths where contaminants, sediment and nutrients tend to accumulate.³²
160. Participants also recognised opportunities for improvement. Catchment-based management, investment in stormwater and wastewater systems, increased monitoring, community education, and greater transparency around water quality information were suggested as ways to enhance public confidence and environmental outcomes.

³¹ Ocean View was mentioned as an example of a coastal area where concerns exist about toilet waste associated with freedom camping.

³² Otago Harbour, Blueskin Bay, Kaikorai Estuary, Waiholā, Catlins Lake and other sheltered coastal environments were identified as places where contaminants, sediment and nutrients may accumulate.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

161. Participants identified coastal water quality as an important issue, noting that poor water quality can affect ecosystem health, human health and recreational use of the coast, limiting activities such as surfing. Concerns were also raised about the effects of declining water quality in catchments on downstream coastal environments.
162. Stakeholders identified a range of pressures on water quality, including stormwater and wastewater discharges and run-off, sedimentation from forestry, urban development, land-use practices, dams, and nutrient inputs. Concerns were particularly evident following periods of heavy rainfall. Participants also highlighted the impacts of heavy metals, pesticides, drugs, hormones, and other emerging pollutants entering coastal water. Pest animals, including deer and possums, were also identified as contributing to water quality degradation.
163. While some noted improvements in water quality in some areas, such as the Otago Harbour, there was concern that more frequent and intense storm events are increasing pressures by generating larger pulses of stormwater, wastewater and sediment inflows. Stakeholders emphasised the need to better understand and manage the cumulative effects of these pressures on coastal water quality.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

164. Otago's coastal water quality was generally considered good, but some localised issues and pressures were identified. Specific concerns were raised about the water quality in parts of Otago Harbour, and the vulnerability of low-lying wastewater infrastructure and reliance on septic tank systems in some areas. Stormwater runoff, sedimentation, wastewater overflows, development pressures, biotoxins (including those used inland) and old landfills were identified as key factors affecting water quality.
165. Participants questioned whether enough information is available to fully understand coastal water quality trends, noting that monitoring is often focused on swimming sites and point-source discharges. Some stakeholders suggested that farming runoff was named as a prominent pressure without evidence-based attribution. Others considered that the Coast Plan framework should not manage freshwater inputs to the coast and that investment by catchment groups and farmers to reduce losses to water should be acknowledged. While poor water quality was not generally seen as limiting coastal use, stakeholders highlighted opportunities to improve water quality through investment in infrastructure and support for the adoption of new technologies.

Historic heritage

Survey results

166. Historic heritage was discussed less frequently than many other topics, with around 20 respondents providing feedback. However, those who did respond identified a wide range

of historic heritage values and identified several locations as having important historic and cultural values. Similar levels of support were given to places important to Māori, shipwrecks and maritime heritage, historic coastal areas, archaeological sites, and historic buildings and structures.³³

167. Views on the protection of historic coastal heritage were mixed. Around 65% of respondents felt historic heritage is not adequately protected, while 35% considered existing protections to be sufficient.

“[Historic heritage of the coast] has been allowed to deteriorate”

Survey respondent

168. Those who felt protection was inadequate commonly raised concerns about a lack of protection, monitoring, and enforcement. Some felt that heritage features are being allowed to deteriorate over time, while others were concerned that fast-track development processes could place historic heritage at risk. A small number of respondents took the opposite view, suggesting that some heritage sites are already over-protected.
169. Overall, respondents who commented on historic heritage generally valued its cultural, archaeological, and maritime significance, but many expressed concerns that important heritage places may not be receiving sufficient protection or management.

Community drop-in and online sessions

170. Historic heritage was not discussed extensively at drop-in sessions, although those participants who raised the topic often expressed strong attachment to both Māori and European heritage along the coast.
171. Feedback focused mainly on maritime heritage, including wharves, harbours, shipwrecks and coastal settlements.³⁴ Participants expressed concern about the impacts of coastal erosion and climate change on heritage assets and identified opportunities to improve interpretation, storytelling and public awareness of both Māori and European coastal heritage.
172. Several participants considered that existing heritage assets are not receiving sufficient protection or management at present.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

³³ Shag Point, Otakou, Mapoutahi (Pūrūkaunui Bay), Whareakake, and Karitāne were often recognised for their Māori and archaeological significance. Respondents also highlighted Taiari/Taieri Mouth, the Ōamaru Historic Town Centre and Port and the Matanaka farm buildings. Important shipwreck and maritime heritage areas were identified between Port Chalmers and Aramoana, including areas offshore near the mole.

³⁴ Locations and features identified included Sumpter Wharf and Holmes Wharf in Ōamaru Harbour, the Aramoana shipwrecks, and heritage structures within coastal settlements.

173. Representatives of the heritage sector emphasised the importance of protecting the Otago coastal environment's diverse heritage values, including archaeological sites, wāhi tapu³⁵, wāhi tūpuna³⁶, historic structures, cultural landscapes, industrial heritage, and shipwrecks, which contribute significantly to community identity and sense of place. They advocated for the recognition and protection of both recorded and unrecorded heritage sites, proactive management of climate change risks, and the integration of heritage considerations into coastal development and climate adaptation planning.

“These [heritage] resources contribute significantly to the identity, history, and sense of place of coastal communities.”

Workshop participant

Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes

Survey results

174. Otago's natural character, features, landscapes, and seascapes were highly valued by respondents. Eighty-two percent rated them as very important, while a further 16% rated them as important. No respondents considered these values unimportant.
175. Respondents strongly supported protecting and preserving Otago's coastal environment. Some called for the creation of a wildlife haven and the reduction of human pressures on ecosystems, while others supported the restoration of wetlands, dunes, and other natural habitats. Several respondents also emphasised the need for planning and decision-making that prioritises positive environmental outcomes.
176. Overall, respondents viewed pollution and contamination as the greatest threat, followed by development and resource extraction, with climate change and land reclamation also emerging as significant concerns. Infrastructure and tourism and recreation pressures were identified as lesser, but still important, risks. Some noted that tourism values could be affected if unique wildlife and natural features decline, while others supported improving tourism infrastructure in ways that protect environmental values.
177. Overall, respondents highlighted the importance of balancing environmental protection with recreation, tourism, infrastructure, community wellbeing, and economic development, while maintaining the natural character of the Otago coast for future generations.

Community drop-in and online sessions

178. The natural character of the coast was one of the strongest themes arising through the public sessions.

³⁵Sacred places with elevated mana and tapu due to their close association with atua (ancestors, gods, or supernatural beings with influence over a specific domain of the natural or spiritual world) and tūpuna (ancestors).

³⁶Landscapes and places that embody the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taoka.

179. Participants often described Otago's coast as rugged, wild, open, scenic, peaceful and natural. The sense of remoteness and opportunity to experience nature without large numbers of people were frequently mentioned as defining qualities of the region's coastline.
180. Participants particularly valued sea views, undeveloped beaches, wildlife encounters, and the contrast between urban and remote coastal environments.³⁷
181. Many participants expressed concern that these characteristics could be gradually eroded by inappropriate development, increasing visitor pressures, infrastructure expansion and the continued degradation of natural processes.
182. Changes to beaches were also commonly discussed. Participants noted apparent reductions in sand and increases in gravel along sections of the Clutha and Catlins coastline.³⁸ Some considered these changes evidence of broader shifts in sediment supply and coastal processes.
183. Others pointed to less obvious impacts on natural character. Lighting along parts of Otago Harbour, port infrastructure, quarry activities, and built structures were all identified as activities that can cumulatively alter how the coast looks and feels.
184. Overall, there was strong support for protecting highly natural coastal environments while maintaining opportunities for people to experience and enjoy them.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

185. Erosion was identified as a key risk to the coast's natural character. Participants expressed concerns that increased development, particularly hard infrastructure and structures, could further degrade natural character, natural features, landscapes, and seascapes. They also emphasised the importance of protecting these values from inappropriate development and environmental change, while highlighting opportunities for greater collaboration between government agencies to support more effective management of coastal natural character.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

186. Development and changing land use patterns were identified as key risks to the natural character of Otago's coast. While initiatives such as native planting were seen to provide opportunities to enhance natural character, stakeholders also acknowledged the potential for unintended consequences if these activities are not carefully managed.
187. Participants considered that Otago's coast offers potential for further tourism growth but raised concerns about the risk of increased pressure on sensitive habitats and greater human interaction with wildlife. Building sustainability into business practices and

³⁷ The Catlins area was often cited as embodying these qualities.

³⁸ Reductions in sand and increases in gravel were observed around Toko Mouth and Kaka Point.

promoting responsible tourism were seen as important opportunities to protect and enhance the coast's natural character.

188. Some considered that spatial planning provides an opportunity to better manage activities that affect the coast's natural character, while others emphasised the need for planning frameworks that appropriately balance economic development with environmental protection.
189. It was noted that any re-assessment or extension of natural character or outstanding natural feature or landscape scheduling in district plans should use a transparent, published assessment methodology, undertaken at property scale and supported by ground-truthing and early landowner engagement. Participants also recognised the value of pastoral landscapes and the role of farming activity in maintaining valued landscapes. They considered that rules should focus on managing the specific values being protected, rather than creating unnecessary restrictions on farming.

"[We need to] recognise farming families as part of the coastal community and as active stewards of the coastal margin, rather than solely as a pressure on it."

Survey respondent

Surf breaks

Survey results

190. Respondents valued surf breaks for the quality of their waves, natural setting, and accessibility, with each attribute considered equally important. Some respondents also highlighted surfing's affordability, the strong sense of community it fosters, and the importance of recognising surfing as a valued coastal activity.

"[I value the] affordability of surfing [and] social aspect of surfing with friends"

Survey respondent

191. The most commonly identified threats to surf breaks were coastal development, poor water quality, and dredging or dumping activities. Some respondents called for an inventory of regionally significant surf breaks and stronger protection for these areas. Concerns about access to surf breaks were also raised, although less frequently.
192. Other perceived threats included natural hazards, sea level rise, and the broader impacts of climate change. Respondents also raised concerns about quarrying, mining, and material extraction, as well as the potential effects of aquaculture in swell-exposed areas and oil exploration.³⁹
193. Specific concerns were raised about dredging at St Kilda and its potential effects on surf conditions, climate change impacts at St Clair Beach, and the Kaka Point Surf Life Saving

³⁹ Particular concerns about quarrying, mining, and material extraction were raised in relation to Blackhead.

Club redevelopment. A small number of respondents also identified increasing seal numbers as a safety concern.

“[Risks or threat to surf breaks include] developments that could impact on the waves. We need to protect important wave areas”

Survey respondent

Community drop-in and online sessions

- 194. Surf breaks were primarily discussed by participants in Dunedin and along the south coast.
- 195. Feedback indicated that surf breaks are valued not only as recreation sites but also as part of Otago's identity and culture. Participants noted that surfing contributes to lifestyle, tourism and community wellbeing. Several respondents considered Otago's surfing resources to be an under-recognised economic opportunity.
- 196. The main concerns centred on activities that might alter beach morphology and wave characteristics. Dredging, spoil disposal, seawalls, groynes and other hard structures were commonly identified as potential threats.
- 197. Participants generally supported stronger recognition and protection of surf breaks as part of broader coastal planning.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

- 198. Stakeholders highlighted the recreational, cultural, economic and social value of Otago's surf breaks. They emphasised that they attract visitors and new residents, contribute to tourism, and provide opportunities for young people to connect with the outdoors.
- 199. Many supported promoting public access to surf breaks, but some considered that access needs to be managed appropriately to avoid undue pressure on the environment and loss of the overall surfing experience. There was also interest in learning from overseas experience and approaches to surf break management to help protect these valued coastal resources.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

- 200. Participants recognised the unique characteristics of Otago's surf breaks, including their diversity, proximity to population centres, beautiful natural setting, reliable surf conditions and accessibility. They recognised that various activities could influence surf breaks, both positively and negatively. Some considered that the changes to sediment movement that impact the quality of surf breaks may not always be caused by human activities, citing St Clair as a potential example. Others noted that coastal structures, such as groynes, can improve surfing conditions in some areas. Concerns were raised about landowner restrictions affecting access to certain surf breaks. It was noted that protection measures should focus on managing swell corridors and sediment processes that support surf breaks, rather than applying restrictions over surrounding farmland.

Biosecurity

Survey results

201. Although relatively few respondents commented on biosecurity, those who did generally expressed significant concern.⁴⁰ Recurring themes identified in the feedback on this topic include invasive species, disease risks, biosecurity protection, predator and pest control, biosecurity management, and pollution risks.
202. Concerns about invasive species focused primarily on Undaria, the most mentioned organism. Respondents were concerned about this and other invasive species spreading through vessels and ballast water discharges, and about weeds threatening sensitive coastal environments.⁴¹
203. Respondents also raised concerns about avian influenza and other diseases, particularly their potential impacts on hoiho and other seabirds, seals, and sea lions. Some called for stronger planning and preventative measures to reduce these risks.

“[It is] very hard to remove exotic species like Undaria once [they become] established.”

Survey respondent

204. Concerns about predators affecting seabirds and penguins were also common, with calls for increased trapping and pest control, particularly along the Catlins coast.
205. Many respondents supported stronger biosecurity management. Suggestions included improved monitoring, greater collaboration between agencies, and increased funding to manage marine incursions and other biosecurity threats. Some respondents expressed concerns about vessel biosecurity practices being inadequate in some instances and identified opportunities to strengthen these.⁴² However, a small number of respondents also noted that some biosecurity requirements for boats could be costly or open to misuse.
206. Respondents also raised concerns about pollution risks, including oil spills, contamination from ships and cruise ships, and other forms of vessel-related pollution.
207. Overall, respondents considered biosecurity an important issue for protecting Otago's coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and generally supported stronger measures to prevent, monitor, and manage biosecurity threats.

Community drop-in and online sessions

208. Feedback on biosecurity focused on the risk of marine pests and diseases being introduced or spread through shipping, recreational boating and future aquaculture activities. Participants identified species such as Exotic Caulerpa and Undaria as emerging concerns and generally supported stronger monitoring, surveillance and biosecurity controls. Several

⁴⁰ Most respondents were very concerned about biosecurity, while no respondents indicated they were not concerned.

⁴¹ The Aramoana Salt Marsh was identified as one sensitive coastal environment threatened by invasive weeds.

⁴² Concerns about vessel biosecurity practices and invasive species were specifically raised in Ōamaru Harbour, while Port Otago was identified by one respondent as having strong biosecurity standards.

contributors also highlighted opportunities to involve recreational divers, coastal users and community networks in early detection and reporting of marine pests.

- 209. Although biosecurity was discussed less frequently than topics such as biodiversity, public access or natural hazards, those who raised the issue generally expressed concern about the potential consequences of marine pest incursions and disease outbreaks, including risks posed to native biodiversity, fisheries and recreational activities.
- 210. One participant noted that climate change and warming ocean temperatures may increase the likelihood of marine pests establishing in Otago's coastal environment, potentially placing additional pressure on already stressed ecosystems.
- 211. Participants highlighted opportunities to strengthen biosecurity through partnerships with recreational users and coastal communities. Local knowledge, citizen science and community-based reporting were seen as valuable tools for improving biosecurity surveillance and monitoring and supporting rapid responses to new incursions.
- 212. Biosecurity concerns were also closely linked to future development opportunities. Participants generally supported marine aquaculture and continued use of ports and harbours but emphasised the need for strong safeguards to manage biosecurity risks. Comments highlighted the importance of vessel hygiene, monitoring of aquaculture operations, and controls to reduce the spread of pests and diseases between regions.
- 213. Overall, feedback suggested a preference for a precautionary and proactive approach to biosecurity management, with participants supporting education, monitoring and other measures to prevent marine pests and diseases from becoming established and protect Otago's coastal ecosystems.

Stakeholder feedback

Environmental stakeholders and community groups

- 214. Many participants expressed concern about biosecurity risks in the coastal environment. Invasive species, particularly Undaria, were identified as a current issue, with concerns that climate change and ocean warming could increase the spread of invasive species and parasites.
- 215. Concerns were also raised about disease risks affecting coastal and marine species, including avian influenza, tuberculosis in seals and sea lions, and toxoplasmosis from cats affecting marine mammals. Increased naval traffic including, including cruise ships, tourism vessels, and international fishing boats, was identified as a potential pathway for introducing new pests and diseases. Aquaculture was also identified as a potential biosecurity risk.

Industry representatives and infrastructure providers

- 216. Biosecurity threats from invasive species, such as Mediterranean fanworm, and golden clam, were identified as significant concerns. Some participants also noted opportunities to manage certain species through harvesting, particularly Undaria. Biosecurity risks

associated with vessel movements, including biofouling and ballast water discharge, were also highlighted, with stakeholders emphasising the importance of boat cleaning facilities to help prevent the spread of pests.

- 217. Participants also raised concerns about disease outbreaks, including the potential impacts of avian influenza on seabirds. They noted that climate change may exacerbate biosecurity challenges by increasing the frequency of algal blooms and affecting marine species.
- 218. One participant highlighted the importance of effective and timely biosecurity management noting that agencies responsible for marine biosecurity surveillance or response activities should arrange access across private farmland with landowners through pre-agreed protocols.

Common values and important characteristics of Otago's coast

- 219. The above discussion addresses feedback on the topics identified in the discussion document. This part of the report explores the values that arose frequently across the survey, community engagement sessions, and stakeholder discussions, highlighting the characteristics of Otago's coast that people care about most.
- 220. Together, these values reflect the diverse ways people experience, use, and appreciate the coast, and help explain why its management is important to communities throughout the region.

Getting to and around the coast

- 221. Responses collated through all engagement methods indicate that people frequently engage with the coast for a wide variety of reasons. This is reflected in the survey responses which shows that many people visit the coast regularly, with 33% percent of respondents visiting daily and 76% visiting at least once a week.⁴³
- 222. Participants frequently emphasised the importance of being able to reach and experience the coast, valuing opportunities to enjoy the water, open spaces, fresh air, and recreational opportunities. People described walking, boating, fishing, diving, cycling, swimming or simply spending time near the water as important aspects of their connection with the coast. Access was valued not only for recreation and relaxation, but also for the opportunities it provides to connect with nature, spend time with friends and family. Many considered access to be fundamental to enjoying the coast and emphasised the importance of maintaining opportunities for present and future generations to experience it.

"I'd love to feel that the beaches are protected long-term as walking and being around some of the more isolated Otago Beaches is something very special."

Survey respondent

⁴³ A further 13% of respondents visited the coast monthly, 11% occasionally, and fewer than 1% visited rarely.

223. Participants viewed access broadly. It was not limited to physically reaching the shoreline, but also included access to coastal views, boat-launching facilities, coastal trails, safe parking, and other facilities. Several participants highlighted the importance of ensuring the coast remains accessible to people of all ages and abilities, including people with disabilities.

Experiencing coastal wildlife and ecology

224. The opportunity to see wildlife in its natural environment and experience healthy coastal ecosystems emerged repeatedly across the engagement. Participants frequently spoke about enjoying encounters with sea lions, seals, dolphins, birds and other marine life, and expressed appreciation for the biodiversity that makes the Otago coast distinctive.
225. Participants also demonstrated a strong attachment to coastal habitats, estuaries, kelp forests and shellfish beds.
226. Discussions about biodiversity were often framed around a desire to see ecosystems continue to thrive, with participants frequently describing the wildlife and natural systems they valued and wished to see protected.

“There is such wonderful biodiversity on Otago coastline, restricted access by motorbikes, vehicles and dogs is needed to help the coastline recover.”

- Survey respondent

Experiencing the coast’s scenic beauty and peacefulness

227. Participants consistently valued the Otago coast for its natural character, scenic qualities and sense of place. Beaches, headlands, estuaries and harbour environments were often described as beautiful, rugged, peaceful and unique. Many highlighted the enjoyment of expansive coastal views, natural landscapes and places that feel relatively undeveloped.
228. Participants highlighted qualities such as solitude, tranquillity and the ability to experience the coast away from large numbers of people. The coast was valued not only for the activities it supports, but also for the opportunity to spend time in a natural environment and appreciate its landscapes and seascapes.

Coastal recreation and enjoyment of the coast

229. Recreation was central to many people’s experiences of the coast. Walking was the activity most frequently mentioned, but participants also spoke about fishing, boating, sailing, diving, surfing, cycling, horse riding, swimming, dog walking, wildlife watching and photography. Coastal cycleways and walkways were commonly identified as reasons for visiting. Among water-based activities, fishing, swimming, and surfing were the most popular. Kayaking and diving were also commonly undertaken. Other activities included sailing, paddle boarding, boogie/body boarding, and picnicking.
230. Several participants described activities they had undertaken for years, and in some cases across generations, highlighting the importance of the coast in their daily lives and family

traditions. Recreation was often linked to broader values such as wellbeing, freedom, relaxation, community connection and appreciation of the natural environment.

Food gathering and fishing traditions

- 231. Participants often discussed fishing and gathering food. Recreational fishing, shellfish gathering, diving for pāua and gathering kaimoana were regularly mentioned throughout the discussions. For many, these activities were part of long-standing family traditions, local identity and a strong connection to place.
- 232. The ability to gather food from the coast was often valued both as a practical benefit and as an important cultural practice. Participants frequently linked the health of the coastal environment to their ability to continue these activities and pass them on to future generations.

Recurring themes in coastal management

- 233. Alongside feedback on specific coastal values and issues, several other themes emerged across different engagement topics.
- 234. Participants emphasised the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, community involvement, and recognising the connections between different parts of the coastal system. Collectively, these themes suggest that many participants view effective coastal management as depending not only on action, including implementing regulation, but also on governance, stewardship, learning, and integrated decision-making.

Learning, stewardship and community involvement

- 235. A notable value expressed across the engagement was the importance of understanding and caring for the coast. Participants repeatedly linked education, knowledge and direct experience with stewardship, often expressing the view that people are more likely to care for places they know and understand.

“[An important topic that is missing is] properly informing the public (especially tourists) of beach decency like not leaving rubbish and respecting wildlife.”

Survey respondent

- 236. Many participants valued opportunities for people, particularly young people, to learn about the coast, engage with nature and develop a sense of responsibility for coastal environments. Participants also highlighted the importance of improving public understanding of coastal environments, the values they support and the issues they face. Environmental education, public awareness and stewardship were commonly identified as important tools for protecting and enhancing the coast.
- 237. Participants noted that opportunities exist to strengthen community involvement, improve interpretation and information-sharing, and encourage greater participation in caring for

coastal environments. Farmers noted that they are part of the coastal community and positive stewards of the coastal margin, rather than solely a pressure on it.

Protecting coastal communities and places

238. Protection from hazards was discussed frequently, with participants expressing concern about coastal erosion, flooding, inundation and sea-level rise. The feedback illustrates the value people place on coastal communities, infrastructure, property and places. Participants discussed roads, settlements, wharves, recreational facilities and coastal access points that they considered worth protecting from coastal hazards. These discussions often reflected a desire to maintain the viability of coastal communities and retain the places and activities that people value.
239. Participants held differing views about how protection should occur, with some supporting interventions like seawalls and rock armouring and others emphasising adaptation and working with natural processes.

Community wellbeing and identity

240. Many participants described the coast as contributing significantly to their wellbeing. Walking, spending time outdoors, watching wildlife and enjoying coastal landscapes were all associated with relaxation, health and quality of life. Some participants spoke directly about the coast being restorative or healing, while others described the importance of having places where people can gather, exercise, spend time with family or simply enjoy being outside. Participants often discussed values together, reflecting a broader appreciation of the coast as a place that contributes to the identity, wellbeing and quality of life of Otago communities.
241. The coast was also valued as a shared community space that brings people together. Community events, recreation clubs, volunteer groups and informal social interactions all contribute to people's connection with coastal places.
242. Participants valued the way these places connect communities with their history and contribute to the character of coastal areas and identity of coastal communities. For some, coastal heritage values were linked to personal or family history, while others highlighted opportunities to share stories and increase awareness of the region's cultural and maritime past.

Economic value

243. The importance of economic values emerged in discussions across several engagement topics. Participants recognised the contribution of ports, boating facilities and other coastal infrastructure to the regional economy, while also identifying opportunities associated with tourism, hospitality, and improved public access to coastal destinations. Support for initiatives such as coastal trails, waterfront redevelopment, and harbour revitalisation was often linked to their potential to attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen communities. Some feedback also recognised the importance of rural activities, particularly

farming, near the coast and their contribution to the economic resilience and wellbeing of local communities.

244. Participants also identified opportunities associated with emerging and future industries. Marine aquaculture was frequently discussed as an opportunity to diversify the regional economy, create employment and attract investment, particularly through seaweed, shellfish and offshore aquaculture developments. Others highlighted the economic contribution of recreation and nature-based tourism, noting that Otago's wildlife, surf breaks, landscapes and coastal experiences contribute to the region's attractiveness as a place to live, visit and invest.
245. Collectively, the feedback suggests that many participants view a healthy and well-managed coast not only as an environmental and community asset, but also as an important contributor to Otago's economy.

Governance, coordination, and decision-making

246. Participants expressed uncertainty about the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies involved in coastal management and identified opportunities for improved coordination between councils, government agencies, corporate entities and community groups.
247. Feedback also highlighted the importance of fair consultation processes, transparent decision-making, clear communication and accessible information to support informed public participation. Participants emphasised the value of engagement processes that are accessible, understandable and connected to decision-making outcomes.
248. Concerns were raised about progressing coastal engagement and policy development work during a period of local government reorganisation and regulatory reform. The appropriateness of investing in these processes at this time was questioned, including a request that the process be paused.

Knowledge, research and monitoring

249. A recurring theme across both engagement streams was the importance of knowledge, research and monitoring in supporting effective coastal management. Survey respondents highlighted the value of scientific research, long-term ecological monitoring and improved understanding of coastal processes, habitats and ecosystems. Participants in the drop-in sessions emphasised the contribution that local knowledge, community observations and user experience can make to understanding coastal change, biodiversity and biosecurity issues. Together, these comments suggest strong support for coastal management informed by both scientific evidence and community knowledge.

Integrated and catchment-to-coast management

250. Participants frequently highlighted the need to recognise the connections between land, freshwater and coastal environments. Survey respondents emphasised the importance of a

catchment-to-coast approach, recognising that many coastal issues originate inland and that environmental outcomes are often shaped by activities occurring throughout the wider catchment.

“Catchment-to-coast management should also be recognised. Many pressures affecting the coastal marine environment originate well inland.”

Survey respondent

251. It was suggested that future coastal planning should not be limited to the CMA but should apply across the wider environment that either influences coastal health and coastal values or where coastal influences can be felt. Participants also highlighted the importance of considering cumulative effects, where multiple small impacts combine over time to affect ecosystem health. These comments reinforce the interconnected nature of the issues raised throughout the engagement and the importance of integrated management approaches.

Additional themes, issues and opportunities

252. Participants raised issues and opportunities that were not strongly represented elsewhere in the discussion document or did not fit neatly within the topics used in the engagement materials. While these matters were generally discussed less frequently than the core discussion topics, they provide additional insight into how people use, value, and wish to see the coast managed in the future.

Land use, development and planning

253. Participants often raised matters concern land use planning and development in relation to broader coastal management issues. Feedback highlighted the impact that development patterns can have on coastal hazards, water quality, biodiversity, natural character, infrastructure demand, public access, and community wellbeing. Participants recognised that decisions about where and how development occurs can have long-term implications for the resilience and health of coastal environments and their communities.
254. Participants highlighted the need for more integrated planning approaches that consider the interactions between coastal processes, infrastructure, environmental values, and future growth. Some expressed concern about development occurring in hazard-prone areas, while others identified opportunities to improve access to the coast, strengthen connections between communities and coastal areas, and support economic development through initiatives such as waterfront revitalisation, coastal trails, tourism infrastructure, aquaculture, and harbour development.
255. Participants also identified spatial planning as a potential tool for managing competing demands on the coast. References to spatial planning arose in discussions about aquaculture, infrastructure, biodiversity, natural character and coastal space allocation. These comments suggest support for approaches that proactively identify suitable locations for activities, manage conflicts between coastal uses and values, and provide greater

certainty for communities, infrastructure providers, and investors while protecting important environmental and cultural values.

256. Finally, many participants emphasised the need to establish planning frameworks that provide easy pathways for maintenance activities or repairs associated with established land uses (e.g. repairs to flood protection infrastructure) or routine activities associated with anticipated land uses (e.g. permitted pathways for routine farming activities).

Other matters raised

257. Additional issues or opportunities raised during the feedback include water safety, renewable energy opportunities, and marine carbon removal technologies. While these topics did not emerge as major themes, they may represent emerging issues, opportunities or areas of interest that warrant further consideration in future planning and management discussions.
258. Some participants also raised doubts about science relating to climate change and sea level rise. This value suggests that there may be value in providing more accessible scientific evidence regarding climate change and its effects on Otago's Coast.
259. These matters are not addressed further in this report, but where appropriate, they will be passed on to relevant ORC staff or other agencies responsible.

Conclusion

260. This engagement has provided valuable feedback on ORC's discussion document and wider issues and opportunities relating to coastal management in Otago. Participants brought a range of perspectives, interests and expertise, and several themes emerged consistently across the engagement.
261. The most prominent topics for comment were public access, biodiversity, natural hazards and climate change, natural character, features and landscapes, infrastructure, and water quality. More specialised themes were discussed in greater depth by smaller numbers of participants, including occupying space, marine aquaculture, historic heritage, biosecurity and surf breaks.
262. This should not be interpreted as a measure of the importance of individual issues, or the need for management intervention. Rather, it reflects the prominence of themes within the engagement process, based on the frequency, breadth and depth of discussion across participants and locations. Some topics may have been discussed by fewer participants because they are relevant to a narrower range of places, people, or situations, rather than because they are less significant.
263. Participants expressed a strong desire to protect the environmental qualities that make the Otago coast distinctive. At the same time, people recognised the importance of maintaining access, supporting community wellbeing, enabling recreation and sustaining the infrastructure and economic activities that many coastal communities rely upon. Across many topics, participants sought a balance between protection and use, expressing a desire

for management approaches that allow people to continue enjoying the coast while safeguarding the natural systems that support it.

264. Participants tended to view coastal issues as interconnected. Access, biodiversity, infrastructure, natural hazards, water quality and coastal processes were frequently discussed together, rather than as separate management issues. Participants often recognised that decisions in one area can influence outcomes elsewhere, and many highlighted the importance of integrated approaches that consider the wider coastal system, including its connections with freshwater and land environments.
265. The engagement also highlighted the importance of governance, stewardship, education, research and community involvement. People asked for meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making and stronger collaboration between organisations and communities. Several saw successful coastal management as depending not only on environmental management, but also on effective communication, knowledge-sharing and long-term stewardship.
266. The feedback provides a strong foundation for understanding the values, issues and opportunities for Otago's coastal environment. More broadly, it demonstrates a shared commitment to ensuring that the Otago coast remains healthy, accessible, resilient and valued by future generations. This is a promising foundation for ORC or its successor entity to develop an effective management framework for the Coastal environment under the new resource management regime.

Appendix 1. Discussion document



Otago
Regional
Council

**Have your
say!**

Otago's coast

Issues and opportunities

Discussion Document 2026



Have your say!

Attend a drop-in session
(find session details
on page 24)
or go online at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Survey closes 10 August 2026

Got questions?

Email policy@orc.govt.nz

Phone **0800 474 082**

Contents

Introduction	3
Otago's coast	4
Kāi Tahu values and relationship with the coast	6
Initial questions	7
Topics covered	8
Land use and urban development	9
Public access	10
Occupying space	11
Taking and depositing natural material	12
Infrastructure, including ports	13
Marine aquaculture	14
Biodiversity	15
Natural hazards and climate change ...	16
Water quality	17
Historic heritage	18
Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes	19
Surf breaks	20
Biosecurity	21
Summary questions	22
Next steps	23
Timeline	23
Drop-in sessions	24



Introduction

Otago Regional Council (ORC) is responsible for managing how natural resources are used, protected, and improved in Otago's coastal marine area (CMA), as well as activities and resources outside this area that may affect coastal values and the wellbeing of coastal communities.

We are currently considering how the CMA should be managed in the future. We're keen to learn how people connect with the coast, and what they enjoy, value and are concerned about.

Your insights into the coastal places and issues that matter to you will help guide future decisions about how these areas are cared for.

By sharing your views, you'll help shape plans that protect and enhance the coast. The Otago coast is a special place, valued for its natural

beauty, wildlife, cultural and historic sites, and the many ways people use and enjoy it.

From beaches and cliffs to harbours and wetlands, it supports local communities, recreation, tourism, fishing and important infrastructure like ports and transport networks.

Together, these features all play a big role in shaping Otago's identity and contribute to the wellbeing of residents and visitors.



Erosion, Ōamaru



Port Chalmers



Shellfish, Te Hākapupu / Pleasant River



Tautuku Bay from Florence Hill Lookout, The Catlins

Otago's coast

Otago's coastal marine area extends from the line of mean high water springs (the highest line that regular high tides reach) to the outer limits of the territorial sea at 12 nautical miles (22.2 kilometres), from the Waitaki River in the north to Wallace Beach in the south. It includes the sea, the airspace above it, the seabed and those parts of the foreshore covered and uncovered by the tide.

Coastal marine area

Otago Regional Council's coastal area of responsibility



Who is responsible for coastal management?

Looking after the coast involves many different laws, plans and organisations, which can make it complex.

Regional councils manage the use and protection of natural resources in the coastal marine area, including coastal water quality, natural hazards, structures and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems.

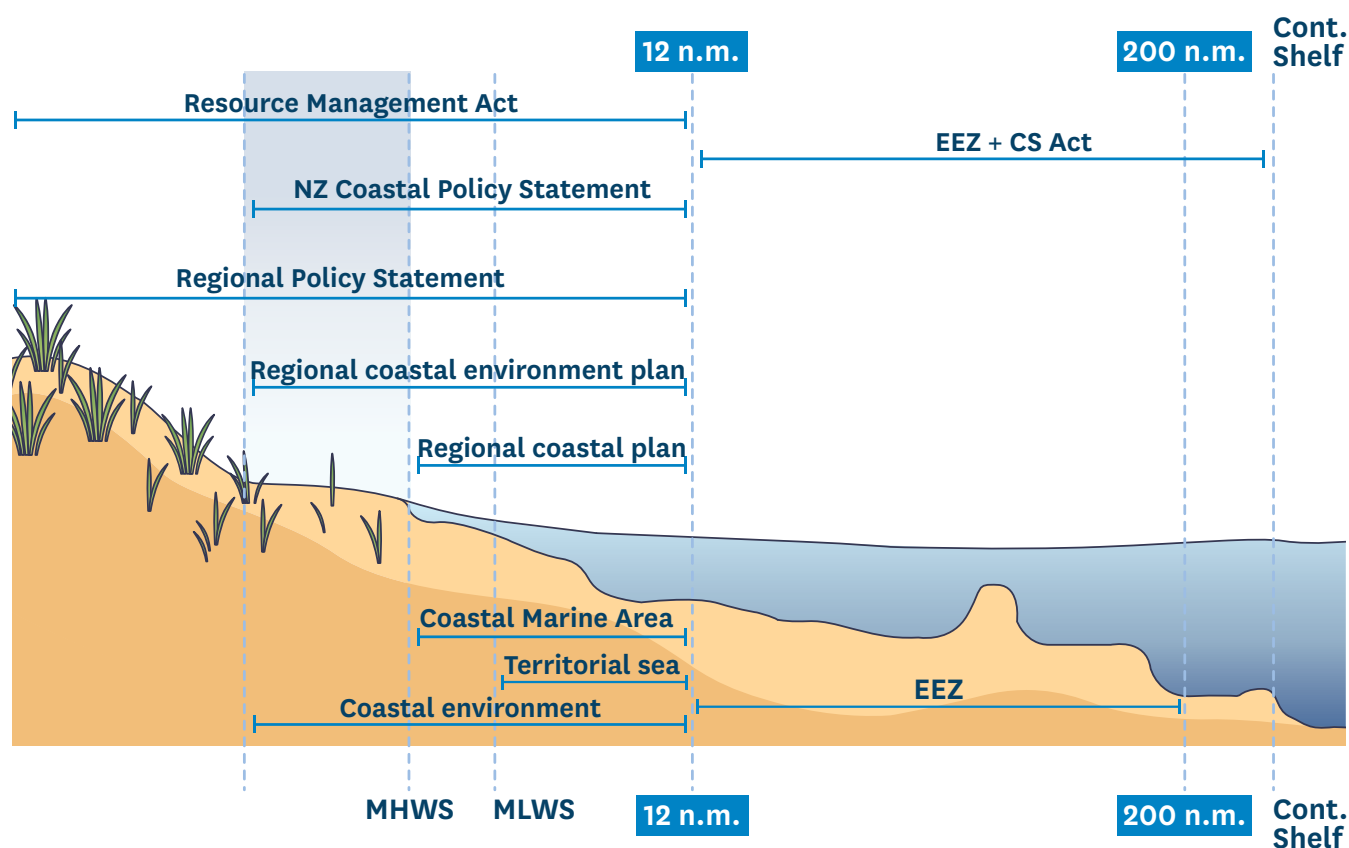
They also manage freshwater and

some land-use activities, recognising that what happens on land can affect the coast.

District and city councils manage how nearby land is used and developed. Central government agencies also have roles, such as protecting conservation areas, managing fisheries, ensuring maritime safety and safeguarding heritage.

Regional councils can manage the effects of fisheries, but fishing resources are controlled by the Fisheries Act 1996.

RMA coastal management jurisdictions



Key

MHWS = Mean High Water Springs
MLWS = Mean Low Water Springs
EEZ = Exclusive Economic Zone
Cont. Shelf = Continental Shelf

EEZ + CS Act = Exclusive Economic Zone + Continental Shelf (Economic Effects) Act 2012
n.m. = nautical miles

Source: Department of Conservation

Kāi Tahu values and relationship with the coast

Kāi Tahu have a close, enduring connection to the Otago coast.

This connection comes from whakapapa (ancestral links), mātauraka (knowledge and understanding) and pūrākau (traditional stories), and continues today through activities like mahika kai (food gathering) and kaitiakitaka (guardianship).

Kāi Tahu are traditionally coastal people, with settlements along the shore and inland areas used seasonally for gathering food.

Over time, especially after land sales in the 1800s, access to inland areas declined, making coastal resources even more important for sustaining communities and cultural practices.

The mana whenua authority that hapū and whānau hold in relation to coastal land is accompanied by mana moana authority in the adjoining coastal waters.

These responsibilities include caring for the environment, helping guide decisions about

how coastal areas are used and ensuring there are enough healthy resources to support manaakitaka (hospitality and care for others).

While some areas are formally recognised for customary fishing, this does not always ensure abundant resources, especially when pollution, habitat damage or poor management affect the coast.

In addition, barriers such as complex regulations and climate risks can make it harder for Kāi Tahu to live on and use ancestral lands.

Supporting Kāi Tahu leadership, recognising their knowledge and authority, and protecting coastal ecosystems will help restore and strengthen these important relationships for current and future generations.

What is the consultation about?

We have identified a number of issues and opportunities based on our current knowledge of the coast.

This discussion paper outlines the main issues and opportunities for the Otago coast we have identified so far. We are now seeking feedback to ensure they reflect what matters most to the people in Otago, and if we've missed anything.

Please comment on any issues and/or opportunities you consider relevant and

let us know if you think we've missed something.

Your feedback will help shape future coastal management, ensuring the Otago coast is safeguarded and resilient for current and future generations.

If you would like more information, go to orc.govt.nz/otagocoast

In this discussion document, we have included the questions we are asking so you can give them some thought as you read through each topic. You can answer these questions at **orc.govt.nz/otagocoast**

Initial questions

?

Question 1: What do you value most about the coast and marine area?

- Nature and scenery
- Open spaces and fresh air
- Recreation activities
- Access to the water
- Local culture
- Historic heritage
- Jobs
- Tourism
- Protection from natural hazards
- Food gathering
- Unsure/don't know
- Other

Question 3: How often do you visit Otago's coastal areas (e.g. beaches, estuaries)?

- Never
- Rarely (once or twice a year)
- Occasionally (less than once a month)
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily

Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Question 2: Why do you visit the coast?

- Work
- Water-based recreation
- Horse riding
- Social activities
- Beach walks / running
- Cycle / walkways
- Peace and relaxation
- Customary practices
- Other



Carey's Bay

Topics covered

ORC has identified the following topics to represent the range of values, issues and opportunities present in Otago's coastal areas.

We would like to understand what is important to you and whether we have missed anything.

Land use and urban development



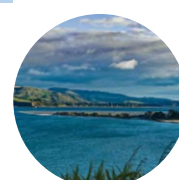
Natural hazards and climate change



Public access



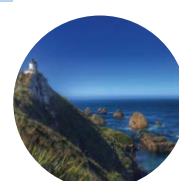
Water quality



Occupying space



Historic heritage



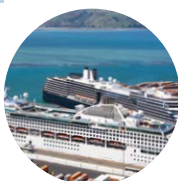
Taking and depositing natural material



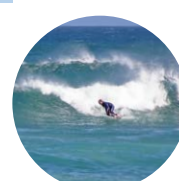
Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes



Infrastructure, including ports



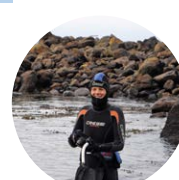
Surf breaks



Marine aquaculture



Biosecurity



Biodiversity



Land use and urban development

Otago's coastal settlements and urban areas provide opportunities to support thriving communities, such as transport routes, harbours, employment and recreation, while maintaining the environmental, cultural and landscape values that make the coast distinctive.

Managing future growth and development in a coordinated way can help strengthen community wellbeing, improve resilience, support economic development, and enhance connections between people and the coast.

Coastal settlements support a wide range of opportunities through economic activities and connections people have to the coast and its values.

Economically, the coast supports activities such as ports, tourism, recreation, hospitality, marine industries, fisheries and aquaculture-related services.

Appropriate urban development can help provide the infrastructure, services and workforce needed to support these activities while ensuring that growth occurs in a way that recognises environmental and cultural values.

Our coastal towns and communities each have distinct histories, landscapes, cultural values and relationships with the sea.

New development and redevelopment create opportunities to reinforce these characteristics, celebrate local identity, and maintain the qualities that make individual coastal places unique. This can contribute

to a stronger sense of place for residents and visitors and help retain the diversity of Otago's coastal communities.

Thoughtfully planned development can improve public access to coastal environments, create new recreational opportunities, support active transport networks, and enhance community wellbeing. Coastal settlements can be designed to celebrate local character and strengthen people's connection to the coast.

Urban development can be used to create attractive, compact and connected coastal communities that make efficient use of land and infrastructure while protecting important coastal values.

Good urban design can enhance public access, improve amenity, strengthen community identity and support vibrant coastal towns.



Public access

Public access to the coast is highly valued and plays an important role in supporting quality of life and community wellbeing.

Not all the coast is able to be accessed at all times by the public. Access to coastal open space can be constrained by structures, natural barriers or occupation by other users. In some locations, restrictions on access may be necessary to protect coastal values or address health and safety concerns.

Careful management is required to ensure that access to the coast is provided, especially in locations that have increasing visitor numbers or in places where access could disturb sensitive wildlife.

Vehicle access to the coast is sometimes required for boat launching, access to public facilities or for the operation of existing commercial activities. However, vehicle use can harm wildlife, destroy dunes, weaken natural coastal defences, and reduce safety and enjoyment for others.

There may be areas and times where it is appropriate for recreational vehicle use on beaches, as long as the likelihood of damage or harm is avoided, or can be suitably managed.

In Dunedin city, driving or parking on beaches is prohibited except for launching or retrieving boats or in emergencies.

In Clutha District, driving on beaches is restricted except in emergencies. Waitaki has a bylaw making it an offence to cause damage to a public place, which includes parks, reserves and beaches.

Question 4: On a scale of 1–5, how important is access to the coast for you?

Question 5: Have you ever experienced restrictions to access to the coast?

- Yes
- No

If yes to the above question: What prevented you from accessing the coast? Where?

- Erosion
- Structures
- Steep dunes
- Wildlife
- Private development
- Other users
- Other

Question 6: If there are any areas along the coast where public access could be improved, please tell us where.

Question 7: Do you consider vehicle use to be a problem along the Otago coast? If so, where?

- No
- Yes
- Unsure / don't know

If yes to the above question: What concerns do you have about vehicle use on beaches and in coastal areas?

- Disturbing wildlife
- Damage to dunes
- Safety of other users
- Enjoyment of other users
- No concerns
- Other
- Unsure / don't know



**Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast**

Occupying space

The ability to use coastal space is important to Otago communities.

Many activities in the coastal marine area (CMA) are temporary, and have no or only minor effects, but others, such as ports, marinas, aquaculture and certain recreational or cultural activities, need to occupy coastal space to function.

These activities can support local jobs, provide recreation opportunities and help communities connect with the coast. Structures such as boatsheds, boat ramps, marinas and port facilities can play an important role in recreation and regional development.

At the same time, exclusive or long-term occupation of the CMA can affect the natural character of the coast, limit public access and change how people experience coastal areas.

Structures and activities can disturb seabed habitats, alter natural coastal processes and reduce water quality through shading, sediment disturbance or contaminants.

As the CMA is public space, exclusive occupation needs to be managed to provide a balance between private use and public access and enjoyment.

Conflicts can occur when recreational, cultural, commercial and industrial activities compete for the same coastal space, affecting safety, enjoyment or economic value for different users.

Question 8: What are your views on the impacts of structures and activities that require exclusive occupation in the coastal environment (e.g. buildings, marinas, jetties, ports)?

- No particular views
- They support how people use and enjoy the coast
- They fit well within the coastal environment
- They help with access or safety
- They change the look of the coast
- They affect how I use or enjoy the coast
- They affect the natural environment
- There are too many in some places
- They can limit access to the coast
- It depends on what the structure is
- Other
- Unsure / don't know

**Answer this question at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast**



Taking and depositing natural material

Taking (extraction) and deposition of material in the coastal environment can bring both benefits and environmental pressures.

Removing sand, shingle, shell or other natural material from the seabed or foreshore can support construction, coastal protection works, and harbour operations, which contribute to local economies and community infrastructure.

For example, dredging improves navigation and port efficiency which supports economic growth and development. It can also help control coastal erosion through beach nourishment and reduce flood risk.

In addition, some of these materials are finite, and their removal can disturb coastal ecosystems, reduce water quality and change natural sediment movement. This may affect shoreline stability, marine habitats and species that rely on the seabed for feeding or breeding.

Extraction can also disturb cultural or archaeological sites and alter the seabed in ways that affect navigation.

Depositing material, such as sand or gravel, can also have positive and negative effects. It is often used to replenish eroded beaches, support erosion protection or provide a controlled way to dispose of dredged material.

Reclamation creates new land along the coast for things such as ports, roads and marinas. It can improve public access and support local economies by providing more usable coastal land.

At the same time, deposition of material can smother seabed habitats, create sediment plumes that reduce water clarity, and affect fish and shellfish. It can also change natural sediment patterns and, if the material contains contaminants, reduce water quality.

Question 9: What do you see as the issues and/or opportunities regarding the extraction of material from the Otago coast?

Question 10: What do you see as the issues and/or opportunities regarding the deposition of material within the Otago coast?

Answer these questions at orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Blackhead Beach

Infrastructure, including ports

Some infrastructure needs to be located within the coastal environment, and this provides benefits to the people, communities and the regional economy of Otago.

This includes public assets such as walkways, roads and recreation facilities, as well as commercial infrastructure such as ports, marinas and tourism spaces.

Port Otago and its associated transport networks play a key role in regional and national trade, supporting economic growth and connectivity.

However, infrastructure and port activities can also create challenges for the coastal environment. Structures such as seawalls, bridges and wharves can alter natural coastal processes — for example, sediment movement, tidal flows and wave patterns — sometimes leading to habitat loss and reduced water quality.

They can also interfere with the safe and efficient operation of important infrastructure. This can increase maintenance costs and the risk of damage or failure.

Infrastructure can also limit public access to coastal areas and contribute to risks such as the establishment of marine pests and contaminated runoff.

Careful planning is therefore needed to balance the benefits of coastal infrastructure with the need to protect environmental, cultural and community values.



Question 11: What infrastructure helps you when using Otago's coast?

- Roads
- Rail
- Ports
- Navigation infrastructure
- Seawalls
- Walkways and cycleways
- Public facilities
- Other
- Unsure / don't know

Question 12: What concerns, if any, do you have about how infrastructure affects the coastal environment?

- No concerns
- Changes to coastal processes
- Impacts on landscapes and seascapes
- Impacts on wildlife and habitats
- Access to the coast
- Other
- Unsure / don't know

**Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast**



Marine aquaculture

Marine aquaculture involves farming fish, shellfish and seaweed. It occurs either inshore, in coastal waters influenced by tides, or offshore in the open ocean.

Inshore aquaculture is well established in Aotearoa New Zealand, while offshore aquaculture is still developing. Recent proposals for offshore salmon farming in Otago highlight a potential opportunity for our regional economy.

Aquaculture brings jobs and economic benefits, and it also creates challenges. It can affect water quality, disturb the seabed and impact marine life, for example, animals getting tangled in equipment.

Waste from marine farms can add nutrients to the water, which the environment may not always be able to handle. Marine farms also take up coastal space, which can limit other users' access to the coast. While farms can attract fish, they can also increase the risk of diseases or parasites spreading to wild fish.

The potential impacts of marine farming can be addressed by managing the location, type and scale of farms, the species and methods used, and the stage of production, and by understanding the sensitivity of the surrounding environment.



Question 13: What are your views on the opportunities that aquaculture in Otago can bring?

Question 14: What are your views on the challenges that aquaculture in Otago can bring?

Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Biodiversity

Coastal biodiversity includes the plants, animals and habitats found in the sea and along the coast, such as saltmarshes, sand dunes and the land next to the shore.

It includes species such as tuna/eels that migrate between freshwater and coastal waters, and penguins and marine mammals that depend on both the sea and coastal land margins.

Otago's coast has a remarkable diversity of habitats and species, making its coastal systems unique.

However, coastal habitats and wildlife are under pressure. Structures and activities such as reclamation, drainage and removing sand can damage or destroy habitats, limit food availability to wildlife and disrupt animals' movement.

Pollution from land and vessels can wash into the sea, bringing contaminants, chemicals and nutrients that harm water quality and smother habitats. Rubbish and plastics can also harm wildlife.

Measures to protect biodiversity from structures and activities can lead to an increase of social, cultural, economic, recreational and ecological values.



Question 15: What do you value about Otago's coastal biodiversity?

- Healthy ecosystems
- Dune habitats
- Estuary habitats
- Marine habitats
- Native wildlife
- Native vegetation
- Other

Question 16: Based on your observations, where on the coast are plants and animals thriving or doing well, and why?

Question 17: Based on your observations, where on the coast are plants and animals under threat or declining, and why?

Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Natural hazards and climate change

The natural dynamic coastal processes that support coastal values are also responsible for processes such as erosion and flooding that pose hazards to wellbeing.

These natural hazards will likely worsen due to climate change. The impacts of these risks could have serious consequences for water quality, biodiversity, human health and cultural values, while insufficient or inappropriate mitigation options can themselves disrupt coastal processes.

In addition, existing coastal structures and human activities, such as seawalls, transport infrastructure, sediment extraction and river damming, can exacerbate natural hazards by altering sediment movement and coastal dynamics.

Reliance on hard protection structures can further compound the problem by limiting the coast's ability to adapt naturally, often creating unintended environmental impacts and long-term management challenges.

We have the opportunity as a community to continue working to better understand these changes and risks so that information can inform effective planning responses for our use of the coast.

This in turn will identify and support adaptation to meet future challenges and let us continue to enjoy the many experiences our coastal areas offer.

Question 18: What coastal hazards are you concerned about in Otago? Where?

- Erosion
- Flooding
- Sea level rise
- Storms
- Tsunami
- Ocean warming
- Ocean becoming more acidic
- Exposing contaminated sites
- Other
- Unsure / don't know

Answer this question at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Water quality

Good coastal water quality keeps the estuaries and seas around our coast healthy, makes it safe for people to swim and play, supports jobs and tourism, provides ecosystem services, and protects food sources such as shellfish.

However, many activities can affect water quality. Runoff from farms, forests and towns can carry nutrients, bacteria, sediment, plastics and other contaminants into the sea.

Activities in the sea, such as shipping, aquaculture and dredging, can also add pollution or stir up contaminated sediment. These pressures can cause problems such as algae blooms, low oxygen, cloudy water and damaged habitats, which can harm marine life.

Most of Otago's open coast has good water quality because waves and currents keep the water moving, but sheltered places, such as estuaries, harbour edges, and river mouths, are more at risk, as contaminants can build up there.

With better awareness of how human activity is impacting our coast, and efforts to reduce these impacts, we can protect and enhance human health, recreation, fisheries and cultural practices.

Question 19: On a scale of 1–5, rate the water quality along the coast.

Question 20: How does water quality impact on your use of the coast?

Question 21: Where on the coast have you noticed water quality to be poor?

Answer these questions at orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Historic heritage

Historic heritage helps people understand and appreciate Aotearoa New Zealand's history and cultures.

The Otago coastal marine area and wider coastal environment contain a large concentration of historic heritage. This reflects the coast's long-standing Māori occupation, early European settlement, and the economic and strategic importance of coastal settlements.

Historic heritage sites are often visited by tourists and locals for their cultural and heritage values and can also be a focal point for recreational activities, such as diving at shipwreck sites.

There are many coastal settlements in Otago that have historic waterfront areas: for example, Ōamaru has Aotearoa New Zealand's only surviving authentic Victorian/Edwardian deepwater port.

This port enhances the experience in the Ōamaru historic precinct and provides opportunities for the local economy in the form of tourism and recreation.

Coastal development, earthworks, dredging and other activities can damage or destroy heritage sites, reduce their historical value or disturb previously unknown archaeological sites.

Coastal erosion and climate change-related hazards also pose risks, particularly to archaeological sites. In some cases, protecting coastal heritage may require public access to be restricted.

Question 22: What historic places along the coast are important to you?

- Archaeological sites
- Historic buildings or structures
- Shipwrecks or old boats
- Places important to Māori
- Historic coastal areas
- I am not aware of any
- Other

Question 23: Do you think that the historic heritage of the coast is adequately protected?

- Yes
- No

If no to the above question: Why do you think the historic heritage of the coast is not adequately protected?

Answer these questions at orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Kākā Point Lighthouse

Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes

Natural character refers to how natural a place looks and feels.

Natural features, landscapes and seascapes are the visible elements, such as landforms and scenic views. The Otago coast has a diverse range of high scenic values which contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors and tourism.

The natural character of these locations is sought after for residential and urban development. Carefully planned development will ensure that impacts such as increased development on landscapes and seascapes with high value are protected.

Natural character can be impacted by climate change, storms and erosion. Places valued for their scenic or cultural importance need to be managed carefully, as more people visit and new facilities are built. Over time, these pressures can reduce the quality, naturalness, and cultural and visual values of Otago's coastal environments.

Coastal natural character includes the land and sea and the natural processes that shape them, such as the rise and fall of tides, sediment movement, and the formation and functioning of estuaries, lagoons, beaches, dune systems, sand bars, sand spits and surf breaks.

The natural character of the coast can be affected by the modification of natural systems by structures, reclamation, or the infilling and drainage of low-lying coastal areas, including estuaries.

Many industries rely on areas with high natural character, as coastal areas that are less modified support more resilient habitats that support resource use.

Question 24: On a scale of 1–5, how important to you are Otago's natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes.

Question 25: What do you consider to be the greatest risks or threat to Otago's natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes?

- Infrastructure
- Tourism and recreation pressure
- More development or structures along the coast
- Resource use
- Pollution or contamination
- Climate change
- Infill or reclamation of land
- Other
- Unsure / don't know



Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Moeraki Boulders

Surf breaks

Surf breaks are an important component of coastal natural character and a valued recreational resource for New Zealanders and attracting international visitors.

They are also culturally important, as Otago's iwi have a strong knowledge of and connection to all processes within coastal environments and the values they support.

Otago has four surf breaks of national importance: the Spit, Karitāne, Whareakeake and Papatowai.

Their integrity, accessibility and enjoyment are vulnerable to adverse effects from activities and development on land and within the coastal marine area. Structures such as seawalls, groynes and offshore installations can interfere with waves by blocking or changing swell patterns and sediment movement.

Activities such as dredging and sand extraction can alter the shape of the seabed, which is critical for good surf. Land-based development can also reduce water quality through runoff and pollution, making access to surf breaks more difficult and potentially damaging their reputation.

Together, these pressures can diminish the recreational, cultural and economic value of these important coastal features.

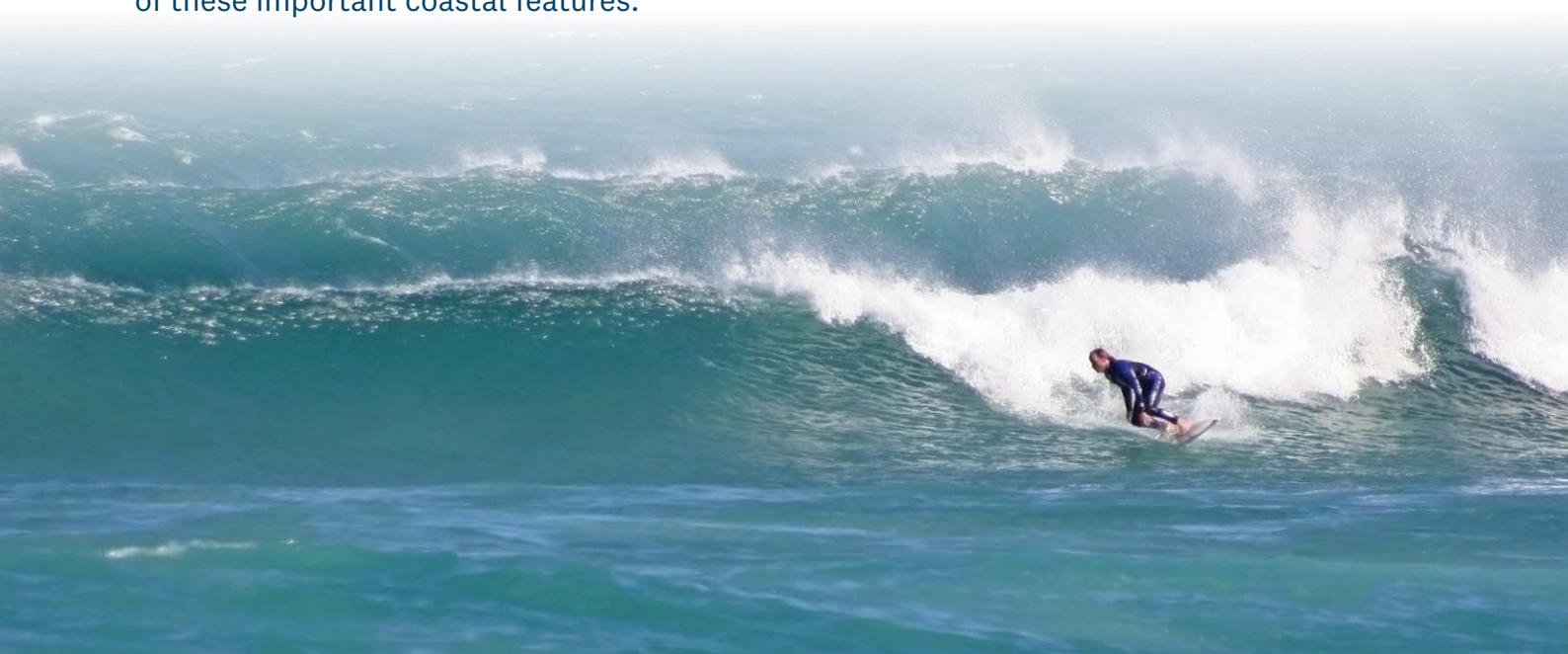
Question 26: What do you value about surf breaks in Otago?

- Quality of waves
- Natural setting
- Accessibility
- Other

Question 27: What do you consider to be a risk or threat to surf breaks, if any?

- Coastal development, such as structures and infrastructure
- Natural hazards
- Sea level rise
- Access
- Water quality
- Dredging/dumping of spoil
- Other
- Unsure / don't know

Answer these questions at orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Biosecurity

Otago's coastal environment is vulnerable to biosecurity risks from invasive pests and diseases.

Activities such as shipping, boating, fishing, dredging and aquaculture can carry and spread unwanted species.

Coastal structures, such as marinas and seawalls, can also help these pests establish and spread, while climate change and already stressed environments make it easier for them to take hold and outcompete native species.

Effective biosecurity management helps to protect the coast's biodiversity and ecosystems and the customary, recreational and commercial activities in this environment.

However, once introduced, marine pests can be difficult or impossible to remove. Therefore, timely prevention and early management of biosecurity risks is often critical in the management of marine pests.

While the current coastal planning framework for Otago does not provide a quick pathway for implementing biosecurity measures in response to marine pest incursions, a future planning system provides an opportunity to enable more effective biosecurity management in Otago's coast.

However, care needs to be taken to ensure a more agile response framework does not create unanticipated adverse impacts on the health of our coast.

Discharges associated with biosecurity measures, such as the application of herbicide or pesticide to control invasive marine pests, can have unintended adverse impacts on marine life and surrounding ecosystems. For example, these herbicides or pesticides can harm non-target species, reduce water quality through the decay of treated organisms, and affect sensitive habitats or species through toxicity or disturbance.

Question 28: On a scale of 1–5, how concerned are you about biosecurity in the coastal area?

Answer this question at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Summary questions

?

Question 29: Are all the topics listed on page 9 relevant?

- Yes, they all feel relevant
- No, some are not relevant
- Some important issues are missing
- Not sure / don't know

Question 30: Is there anything else you would like to share about the issues and opportunities for the Otago coast?

Answer these questions at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Tokatā / Nugget Point

Next steps

What are we going to do with this information?

Once we have all the feedback collated, it will give us a better understanding of those matters relevant to spatial planning and management of the Otago coast.

The feedback will be incorporated into an Issues and Opportunities Report and will inform further consideration on the management of coastal issues in Otago.

This report and a summary of the feedback received will be made available on the ORC website before the end of this year.

The current Regional Plan: Coast was prepared under the Resource

Management Act 1991 and remains the operative planning framework for managing activities in the coastal marine area (CMA).

However, this work is taking place during a period of significant national resource management reform. As a result, the process is not expected to simply lead to a like-for-like replacement 'Coast Plan'.

Instead, the coastal issues, values and management responses identified through this process will help inform how coastal management is carried forward into the new resource management system.

Timeline



Report on feedback will be available on our website following Council approval:

orc.govt.nz/otagocoast

Drop-in sessions

Drop by at any time during an in-person session or tune in for a presentation and Q&A online and let us know what you think about Otago's coast. **Survey closes 10 August 2026.**

Drop-in locations	Date	Time
Balclutha: Te Pou Ō Mata-Au Clutha District War Memorial & Community Centre, 6 Clyde St	Tues, 21 July	3-6pm
Dunedin: ORC Aonui Foyer, 180 High St	Thurs, 23 July	3-6pm
Dunedin: South Coast Boardriders Association, 1 Esplanade, St Clair	Sat, 25 July	10am-1pm
Karitāne: Puketeraki Marae, 520 Apes Rd	Tues, 28 July	3-6pm
Ōamaru: Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St	Wed, 5 August	4-7pm
Online: orc.govt.nz/coastonline	Mon, 3 August	7-8.30pm

Have your say!

Attend a drop-in session or go online at
orc.govt.nz/otagocoast



Survey closes 10 August 2026

.....

Got questions? Email policy@orc.govt.nz
or phone **0800 474 082**

Appendix 2. Coast survey questions

Otago's coast

Issues and opportunities



Otago
Regional
Council

Feedback form 2026

You do not have to answer all the questions — you can choose to only give feedback on the topics you are interested in.

Need more space for writing? Find extra lines on **page 12** or attach lined paper

Initial questions

1. What do you value most about the coast and marine area? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Nature and scenery (e.g. views, beaches, wildlife)
- ☐ Open spaces and fresh air
- ☐ Recreation activities
- ☐ Access to the water
- ☐ Local culture
- ☐ Historic heritage
- ☐ Jobs
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Protection from natural hazards
- ☐ Food gathering
- ☐ Unsure / don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Initial questions cont . . .

2. Why do you visit the coast? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Work (e.g. tourism / commercial fishing)
- ☐ Water-based recreation e.g. fishing, boating, swimming, surfing — please specify what water-based recreational activities you do on the coast _____

- ☐ Horse riding
- ☐ Social activities (e.g. meeting others, picnicking, relaxing)
- ☐ Beach walks / running
- ☐ Cycle / walkways
- ☐ Peace and relaxation
- ☐ Customary practices
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. How often do you visit Otago's coastal areas (e.g. beaches, estuaries)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely (once or twice a year)
- ☐ Occasionally (less than once a month)
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Daily

Public access — If not applicable, go to question 8

4. On a scale of 1–5, how important is access to the coast for you — 1 being 'Not important' and 5 being 'Very important'?

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
- Not important Very important

Continued on next page

Public access cont . . .

5. Have you ever experienced restrictions to access to the coast?

☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES, what prevented you from accessing the coast? *(Select all that apply and tell us where)*

- ☐ Erosion _____
- ☐ Structures _____
- ☐ Steep dunes _____
- ☐ Wildlife _____
- ☐ Private development _____
- ☐ Other users _____
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Need more space? Go to page 12

6. If there are any areas along the coast where public access could be improved, please tell us where.

7. Do you consider vehicle use to be a problem along the Otago coast? If so, where?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure / don't know

IF YES, please say where _____

IF YES, what concerns do you have about vehicle use on beaches and in coastal areas? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Disturbing wildlife
- ☐ Damage to dunes
- ☐ Safety of other users
- ☐ Enjoyment of other users
- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Unsure / don't know

Occupying space — If not applicable, go to question 9

8. What are your views on the impacts of structures and activities that require exclusive occupation in the coastal environment (e.g. buildings, marinas, jetties, ports)? *(Select all that apply and tell us why you think that)*

- ☐ No particular views
- ☐ They support how people use and enjoy the coast _____

- ☐ They fit well within the coastal environment _____

- ☐ They help with access or safety _____

- ☐ They change the look of the coast _____

- ☐ They affect how I use or enjoy the coast _____

- ☐ They affect the natural environment _____

- ☐ There are too many in some places _____

- ☐ They can limit access to the coast _____

- ☐ It depends on what the structure is _____

- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

- ☐ Unsure / don't know

Need more space? Go to page 12

Taking and depositing natural material

— If not applicable, go to question 11

9. What do you see as the issues and/or opportunities regarding the extraction of material from the Otago coast?

10. What do you see as the issues and/or opportunities regarding the deposition of material within the Otago coast?

Infrastructure, including ports

— If not applicable, go to question 13

11. What infrastructure helps you when using Otago's coast? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Roads
- ☐ Rail
- ☐ Ports
- ☐ Navigation infrastructure
- ☐ Seawalls
- ☐ Walkways and cycleways
- ☐ Public facilities (e.g. marinas and waterfront event spaces)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Unsure / don't know

Infrastructure, including ports cont . . .

12. What concerns, if any, do you have about how infrastructure affects the coastal environment? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Changes to coastal processes
- ☐ Impacts on landscapes and seascapes
- ☐ Impacts on wildlife and habitats
- ☐ Access to the coast
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Unsure / don't know

Marine aquaculture — If not applicable, go to question 15

13. What are your views on the opportunities that aquaculture in Otago can bring?

14. What are your views on the challenges that aquaculture in Otago can bring?

Biodiversity — If not applicable, go to question 18

15. What do you value about Otago's coastal biodiversity? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Healthy ecosystems
- ☐ Dune habitats
- ☐ Estuary habitats
- ☐ Marine habitats (e.g. rock pools, seagrass, kelp forests, etc.)
- ☐ Native wildlife
- ☐ Native vegetation
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

16. Based on your observations, where on the coast are plants and animals thriving or doing well, and why? *(Please name specific places and species if you can)*

17. Based on your observations, where on the coast are plants and animals under threat or declining, and why? *(Please name specific places and species if you can)*

Natural hazards and climate change

— If not applicable, go to question 19

18. What coastal hazards are you concerned about in Otago?

(Select all that apply and state where on the coast this is a concern)

- ☐ Erosion _____
- ☐ Flooding _____
- ☐ Sea level rise _____
- ☐ Storms _____
- ☐ Tsunami _____
- ☐ Ocean warming _____
- ☐ Ocean becoming more acidic _____
- ☐ Exposing contaminated sites _____
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Unsure / don't know

Need more space? Go to page 12

Water quality — If not applicable, go to question 22

19. On a scale of 1-5, rate the water quality along the coast — 1 being 'Poor' and 5 being 'Excellent'.

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
- Poor** **Excellent**

20. How does water quality impact on your use of the coast?

21. Where on the coast have you noticed water quality to be poor?

(Please name specific places)

Need more space? Go to page 12

Historic heritage — If not applicable, go to question 24

22. What historic places along the coast are important to you?

(Select all that apply and if possible, name them and their location)

- ☐ Archaeological sites (e.g. middens, early settlements) _____
- _____
- ☐ Historic buildings or structures (e.g. historic wharves, boat sheds and jetties)
- _____
- ☐ Shipwrecks or old boats _____
- _____
- ☐ Places important to Māori (e.g. wāhi tapu) _____
- _____
- ☐ Historic coastal areas (e.g. old harbours or settlements) _____
- _____
- ☐ I am not aware of any
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- _____

Need more space? Go to page 12

23. Do you think that the historic heritage of the coast is adequately protected?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (please explain) _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Need more space? Go to page 12

Natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes

— If not applicable, go to question 26

24. On a scale of 1–5, how important to you are Otago’s natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes — 1 being ‘Not important’ and 5 being ‘Very important’?

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

Not important

Very important

25. What do you consider to be the greatest risks or threats to Otago’s natural character, features, landscapes and seascapes? *(Select all that apply)*

☐ Infrastructure (e.g. bridges, jetties, reclamations, flood protection works)

☐ Tourism and recreation pressure

☐ More development or structures along the coast

☐ Resource use (e.g. sand or gravel extraction)

☐ Pollution or contamination

☐ Climate change

☐ Infill or reclamation of land

☐ Other (please specify) _____

☐ Unsure / don’t know

Surf breaks — If not applicable, go to question 28

26. What do you value about surf breaks in Otago? *(Select all that apply)*

☐ Quality of waves

☐ Natural setting

☐ Accessibility

☐ Other (please specify) _____

27. What do you consider to be a risk or threat to surf breaks, if any?

(Select all that apply)

☐ Coastal development such as structures and infrastructure

☐ Natural hazards

☐ Sea level rise

☐ Access

☐ Water quality

☐ Dredging/dumping of spoil

☐ Other (please specify) _____

☐ Unsure / don’t know

Biosecurity — If not applicable, go to question 29

28. On a scale of 1-5, how concerned are you about biosecurity in the coastal area — 1 being 'Not concerned' and 5 being 'Very concerned'?

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

Not concerned

Very concerned

.....

Please explain your level of concern:

Summary questions

29. Are all the topics listed relevant?

☐ Yes, they all feel relevant

☐ No, some are not relevant (please specify what topics and why)

☐ Some important topics are missing (please specify what topics are missing and why they are important)

☐ Not sure / don't know

Need more space? Go to page 12

30. Is there anything else you would like to share about the issues and opportunities for the Otago coast? If so, please tell us below.

About you

Why we are asking these questions. We want to understand if we have captured feedback from a wide range of people at different stages in their life. People's experiences with the coast vary over time. So please feel free to add this to your answers. The more information we have about what is happening on our coast and how people use it, the better informed we will be when moving into the next phase.

31. In what part of Otago do you live?

- ☐ Central Otago
- ☐ Dunedin
- ☐ North Otago
- ☐ Taiari/Taieri
- ☐ Clutha
- ☐ Other _____

32. What age bracket do you belong to?

- ☐ 0-17
- ☐ 18-34
- ☐ 35-49
- ☐ 50-64
- ☐ 65+

Need more space? — Please use the question number as a reference

More space over the page

[illegible]

Thank you for your feedback

Please return this completed feedback form before 10 August:
by post: Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054
email: policy@orc.govt.nz

or drop it to one of our offices:

Dunedin — Aonui, 180 High St

Queenstown — Ground Floor, Alta House, Terrace Junction,
1092 Frankton Rd, Frankton

For more information, go to orc.govt.nz/otagocoast

Got questions? Email policy@orc.govt.nz
or phone **0800 474 082**

Appendix 3. List of key stakeholders

Stakeholders contacted and attending workshops

- 90 separate stakeholders were invited to attend workshops.
- 16 separate stakeholders attended workshops.
- 2 stakeholders attended both workshops.
- Several stakeholders sent more than 1 representative.

Sector	Stakeholders invited	Attended workshop
Community and environmental interest groups	Aroha Kaikorai Valley	
	Catlins CAP Delivery Group	16th July
	Coastal Otago Catchments	
	Coastguard Dunedin	
	Dunedin and Coast CAP chairs	
	East Otago Catchment Group	
	Environmental Defence Society	
	Forest and Bird , Dunedin Branch	
	Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board	
	Mosgiel Taieri Community Board	
	New Zealand Sea Lion Trust	
	NOSLaM - North Otago Sustainable Land Management	
	Ōamaru Penguins	
	Otago Catchments	16th July
	Otago Peninsula Community Board	
	Otago Peninsula Trust	
	Saddle Hill Community Board	
	Taiari/Taieri Integrated Catchment Group	
	Waihemo Community Board	
	Waikouaiti Community Board	
	West Harbour Community Board	
	West Otago Community Board	
	Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust	
Customary resources	East Otago Taiāpure Committee	
Economic interest groups and industries	Business South	
	Federated Farmers	20th July
	Fishing industry	
	Harbour Fish	
	Nash and Ross	
	Otago Rock Lobster Association	
	Paua Industry Council	
	Port Otago	20th July
	Seafood New Zealand	20th July
	Southern Clams	20th July
	Southern Wood Council	20th July
Government agencies	Department of Conservation	16th July

Sector	Stakeholders invited	Attended workshop
	Environmental Protection Agency	
	Land Information New Zealand	
	Maritime NZ	
	Ministry for Primary Industries	16th July, 20th July
	Ministry for the Environment	
	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment	
	NZ Defence Force	
	Pouhere Taonga Heritage New Zealand, Otago Southland Area	16th July
Infrastructure providers	Aurora	20th July
	Contact Energy	
	Kiwi rail	
	Network Waitaki	
	Powernet	
	Transpower	
	Waka Kotahi	
Local authorities	Clutha District Council	
	Dunedin City Council	
	Environment Canterbury	
	Environment Southland	
	Waitaki District Council	
Recreational users	Brighton Surf Life Saving Club	
	Broad Bay Boating Club	16th July
	Dive Otago	
	Esplanade Surf School	
	Fire in Ice Outrigger Canoe Club	
	Fish Mainland & Tautuku Fishing Club	16th July
	Herenga a Nuku Aotearoa, Outdoor Access Commission	
	Kaka Point Surf Life Saving Club	
	Macandrew Bay Boating Club	
	Otago Rowing Association (ORA)	16th July
	Otago Rowing Club	
	Otago Student Spearfishing & Hunting Club	
	Otago University Rowing Club (OURC)	
	Otago Yacht Club	
	Otago Yachting Association	
	Ōtepoti Dragons Dragon boating club	
	Port Chalmers Yacht Club	
	Ravensbourne Boating Club	
	South Coast Board Riders Association	
	South Island Surfing Association (SISA)	
	St Clair Surf Life Saving Club	
	St Kilda Surf Life Saving Club	
	Warrington Surf Life Saving Club	

Sector	Stakeholders invited	Attended workshop
Science and Research	MBIE-funded Centre of Research Excellence Coastal People Southern Skies	
	NIWA (climate change)	
	University of Otago: Marine Science	
Tourism	Clearwater wildlife tours	
	Karitane Māori Tours	
	Moeraki Boulders	
	Monarch Cruises	
	OPERA – Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance	20th July
	Port 2 port water taxi	
	Royal Albatross Colony	16th July, 20th July
	Tourism Dunedin/Enterprise Dunedin	