

Appendix 4

Monitoring the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

**Presentation to Plan effectiveness Monitoring Workshop
30 March 2001, Wellington Regional Council**

**Doris Johnston
Policy Analyst
Conservation Policy Division
Department of Conservation**

Up until now most of the efforts of the Department of Conservation have been put into assisting councils with the preparation of their proposed regional coastal plans.

Monitoring has focussed on consistency of regional policy statements and regional coastal plans with the policies of the NZCPS. Consistency with the NZCPS has also been considered in the assessment of Restricted Coastal Activities.

Assessment of whether other regional plans and districts plans are consistent with the NZCPS has been less of a focus for the Department.

Now that there are a few regional coastal plans in place and more likely to be approved in the near future, the Department intends to move into monitoring the effectiveness of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in achieving the purpose of the Act.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement gives some direction about monitoring to the Minister in Chapter 7. The Procedures and Methods to be Used to Review the Policies and Monitor their Effectiveness.

7.1 Monitoring the Effectiveness of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

Policy 7.1.1

The effectiveness of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement will be reviewed by a person or persons independent of the Minister no later than 9 years after its gazettal, and the Minister shall then consider the desirability of reviewing, changing or revoking the statement.

Policy 7.1.2

The Minister of Conservation shall monitor the effectiveness of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in achieving the purpose of the Act by:

- (a) assessing the effect of the statement on all subordinate regulatory planning instruments; and*
- (b) working with regional councils and with all other interested bodies willing to co-operate to establish a national state of the coastal environment monitoring programme.*

The Department is gearing up to prepare for the review of the NZCPS in 2003.

Monitoring Framework for the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The aim has been to develop a pragmatic and straightforward monitoring framework that links policy, science and stakeholders views, to develop a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of the NZCPS.

The elements of the framework are:

- Monitoring of plans and decisions on resource consents with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement;
- Identifying, prioritising and assessing the effectiveness of key or contentious policies;
- Identifying policy gaps and prioritising remedial work;
- Ensuring the coastal state of the environment indicators being prepared by MfE are appropriate for the longer term so that the state of the environment monitoring can help identify key policies or gaps for review in the future;
- Consultation with key stakeholders on effectiveness of policies and gaps.

Monitoring of Policy Statements and Plans

The Department has been involved in the development of regional policy statements, regional coastal plans and district plans through both informal and formal processes. The information gathered on the implementation of the NZCPS in policies and plans within conservancies will be collated to develop a national overview.

The conservancy experiences of resource consents in the coastal environment will also be collated.

Assessment of Topics and Identification of Gaps

Central to judging the effectiveness of the NZCPS is detail appraisal of the topics covered by the policy and identification of policy gaps and how these could be filled.

The initial topic analysis includes the following topics:

- Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, is it being adequately preserved, are the nationally important areas identified in Chapter One being adequately protected;
- Coastal Processes, including hazards;
- Water Quality;
- Public Access;
- Cumulative effects of structures in the coastal marine area.

Gaps in the NZCPS identified to date includes:

- Allocation/ occupation of space and charging issues;
- Declamations/canal housing, shoreline modification;
- Financial contributions;
- Artificial reefs and ship sinking.

Consultation with Key Stakeholders

The Department is proposing to consult with key stakeholders in the coastal environment to judge the effectiveness of the NZCPS and to identify gaps in the policies. This consultation has not yet commenced.

Consultation with local government will be undertaken via conservancies in the first instance.

At the national level the Department is considering developing a steering group for the monitoring of the NZCPS prior to the review. The steering group would include Department of Conservation, representatives from regional and unitary councils and districts councils in addition to tangata whenua.

The steering group would oversee the monitoring of the NZCPS and determine priorities for investigations prior to the review in 2003.

Discussion of the steering group model as a method for incorporating local government's views would be appreciated.