

## Introduction

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1.1 Purpose of Plan

This Regional Plan is the Gisborne District Regional Coastal Environment Plan prepared by the Gisborne District Council in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act).

Section 64(1) of the Act states that there shall be at all times one or more regional coastal plans for the coastal marine area of a region. This plan is a Coastal Environment plan which incorporates the part of the coast that lays landward of the coastal marine area as well as the coastal marine area of the Gisborne District.

The purpose of this plan is to assist the Gisborne District Council to carry out any of its functions and, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, to achieve the purpose of the Act, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the Gisborne District Coastal Environment.

The overall purpose of the Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Sustainable management, as set out in Section 5(2) of the Act, means:

*'...managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while -*

- (a) *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) *Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) *Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

In preparing this Regional Coastal Environment Plan, the Gisborne District Council has applied the interpretation of sustainable management adopted by the Board of Inquiry into the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District. As detailed by the Board of Inquiry's memorandum to the Department of Conservation, dated 6 October 1993, sustainable management requires that management of natural and physical resources be carried out in a way that achieves the objectives (or is within the 'constraints') specified in (a), (b) and (c) of Section 5(2).

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Gisborne District contains the statutory coastal marine area, and Coastal Environment, resource management issues, objectives, policies and methods of implementation for the Gisborne District, based on the requirements of Section 67 of the Act. More particularly, the plan addresses:

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- ▶ Issues, objectives, policies (including explanations) and methods of implementation, including the principal reasons for adopting them; anticipated environmental results;
- ▶ Detailed regional rules and non-regulatory methods which will be used by the Council to give effect to stated policies; and
- ▶ The procedures by which certain administrative requirements of the Act shall be met, including the monitoring of the effectiveness of the plan and review procedures.

### 1.1.2 Area Covered by the Plan

This Plan covers the Coastal Environment, including the coastal marine area. The coastal marine area is:

“...the area of foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and the air space above the water –

- (a) Of which the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea:
- (b) *Of which the landward boundary is the line of mean high water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of -*
  - (i) *One kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or*
  - (ii) *The point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by 5.*

(Section 2 of the Act)

The Act requires the boundary of the coastal marine area at a river to be determined either by negotiation between the Department of Conservation and the Gisborne District Council or by a declaration of the Environment Court.

The boundaries of the coastal marine area across the rivers of the Gisborne District have been agreed between the Department of Conservation and the Gisborne District Council and the agreement and coastal marine area boundaries are attached as Appendix (4) to this Plan.

The Gisborne District's coastal marine area boundary extends from the line of Mean High Water Springs to the limits of the territorial sea at 12 nautical miles (22.2 kilometres) for the area shown in Appendix 1.

The Gisborne District Council is only required by statute to prepare a Regional Coastal Plan covering the coastal marine area. Such a plan would fail to recognise that the effects of many activities may cross the administrative boundary of the line of mean high water spring and that the elements which comprise the Coastal Environment are inextricably linked and should be treated as one system.

Natural values and processes of the Coastal Environment incorporate ecological, physical, spiritual and aesthetic qualities which straddle the line of Mean High Water Springs and the effects of natural processes in the coastal marine area frequently impact on the landward side of the coastal marine area.

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These facts lead to the need to ensure that integrated management across this administrative boundary is a feature of this Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

The Act provides a specific mechanism to achieve this in Section 64(2) where a regional coastal plan can form part of a regional plan in order to promote the integrated management of the Coastal Environment including the coastal marine area.

The Gisborne District Council has exercised this option in order to ensure that the objectives, policies and methods developed within this plan are consistent across the arbitrary management boundary of the line of Mean High Water Springs.

Neither the Act nor the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) define the area covered by the landward component of the Coastal Environment and it is expected that clarification of this area will be determined by case law through the courts. At present, and for the purpose of this plan, the Coastal Environment is considered to be that environment in which the coast is a significant part or element. The Coastal Environment will vary from place to place depending on the extent to which it affects or is (directly) affected by coastal processes and the management issue concerned.

This Plan will, however, identify on maps a line representing the Coastal Environment. This line has been drawn up, for the most part, in terms of landscape (or visual environment) elements using the dominant seaward ridge as the landward extent of the Coastal Environment. This may not represent the full extent of the Coastal Environment but will be used to determine the areas of the Coastal Environment where the Objectives and Policies of this plan apply.

### 1.1.3 Transitional Regional Coastal Plan

A number of instruments were in force within the Gisborne District's coastal marine area at the time of the commencement of the Act. These were deemed to form a Transitional Regional Coastal Plan. The Transitional Regional Coastal Plan for the Gisborne District will cease to be operative when this Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan becomes operative on the signature of the Minister of Conservation. A copy of the Transitional Regional Coastal Plan can be obtained from the office of the Gisborne District Council.

### 1.1.4 Process and Effect of the Plan

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Gisborne District has been publicly notified in accordance with the First Schedule of the Act. The First Schedule provides an opportunity for any person to make a submission on this Plan, for any person to make a submission on any submission received, and for any person who has made a submission to appear in person before a hearings committee considering submissions received.

Once hearings have been completed, the Gisborne District Council will make decisions on the Plan. Those decisions may be appealed to the Environment Court who may alter or overturn decisions made. The Gisborne District Council will amend the Plan and adopt it for reference to the Minister of Conservation.

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The Minister of Conservation may make further changes to the plan, as he or she thinks necessary, prior to approving it at which point it will become operative. The date it becomes operative will be publicly notified.

Before the Plan becomes operative, the Gisborne District Council is required to have regard to any relevant objectives, policies, rules or other provisions of this proposed Plan when considering resource consent applications for activities within the Gisborne District's Coastal Environment.

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan will include:

**Issues:** Existing or potential problems.

**Objectives:** What we are aiming at, to get where we want.

**Policies:** What we are going to do to achieve the objective.

**Methods:** Ways of implementing the policies. These may include:

**Rules:** Regulations that reduce or avoid adverse effects.

**Anticipated Environmental Results:** What we want for the future.

**Monitoring:** Things to be measured so that we can tell whether the desired result is being attained.

**Information Requirements:** Information needed to assess an application or classes of applications for resource consents.

### 1.1.5 Structure of the Plan

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan contains four chapters and an extensive appendix. Every Chapter, apart from Chapter 1 contains an introduction, issue statement, objectives, policies and methods. Chapter 4 contains, in addition to these features, rules which regulate activities within certain areas of the coastal marine area.

Chapter 1 sets out an introduction to the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and establishes the legal and policy framework within which the Plan has been prepared as well as a brief physical description of the Coastal Environment of the Gisborne Region.

Chapter 2 sets out objectives, policies and methods concerning the matters of national importance and matters concerning Maori given particular emphasis in Part II, sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Resource Management Act (1991). No rules have been made in respect of these chapters but the policies contained in them are extensively cross-referenced to the rules set out in Chapter 4.

Chapter 3 is concerned with particular activity classes that people may wish to undertake within the Coastal Environment, such as discharges and the construction of structures. The rules for these activities are found in Chapter 4. These rules are cross referenced to the policies in their parent chapters.

Chapter 4 is the primary chapter dealing with management processes.

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It establishes three management areas within the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment and sets out a distinctive policy regime for each management area under which the rules for specific activity classes are set. This chapter also establishes what financial contributions may be sought in respect of particular activities.

The appendices contain maps showing the extent of the three management areas established in Chapter 4 and, for the Protection Management Area, it will provide information on the values of those areas deemed to be significant or outstanding.

The appendices will also include the schedule of Restricted Coastal Activities as listed in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the Water Classifications for Poverty Bay and surrounding waters, and the Dredge Spoil Dump site in Poverty Bay.

### 1.1.6 Integrated Management

This Plan contains an important feature. It is a Regional Coastal Environment Plan and as well as the mandatory Regional Coastal Plan covering the area below the line of MHWS to the twelve nautical mile territorial limit, it covers an area inland of the line of MHWS where the coast is the dominant element. These two components of this Plan are considered necessary to ensure that there is integrated management across the artificial boundary of the line of MHWS.

It is not considered sensible to manage this area through two separate documents. However, the Regional Coastal Environment Plan does not establish rules for the landward area which it covers. These are more appropriately contained in the District Plan. The formulation of those rules will be made consistent with the policies that this plan establishes for those areas and in that way integration will be achieved.

It is important to note that other Regional Plans and the District Plan cannot be inconsistent with this plan.

### 1.1.7 Consultation

This plan has been prepared with the assistance of many people and organisations. In 1993 a series of Hui were held throughout the Region to canvas the issues that concerned Maori. In addition to these Hui, several public meetings were held to obtain the views of the community about how the coast should be managed. These views were all recorded and incorporated, where possible, into this Plan.

As each Chapter of the Plan was completed in draft form, workshops were held with a wide range of interest groups and organisations on the chapter and comments were received in writing and incorporated into a revision of the Chapter.

A round of consultations was held in 1996 with the landowners of properties on which areas were identified for inclusion into the Protection Management Area of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

The outcome sought through this consultation is a Plan that truly reflects the aspirations of the Gisborne Region's community within the constraints of the Resource Management Act (1991).

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### 1.2 LEGISLATIVE and POLICY FRAMEWORK

#### 1.2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a brief overview of the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, the hierarchy of Policy Statements and Plans promulgated under the Act, and other Acts of Parliament, that are relevant to the preparation and implementation of this Plan. Other agencies that have responsibilities within the coastal marine area and the legislation under which they operate are also discussed.

#### 1.2.2 Activities, Effects and the Environment

There is a link between *activities*, their *effects* and the *environment*. Under Section 2 of the Act, *environment* includes:

- ▶ All natural and physical resources
- ▶ People, communities and 'ecosystems' in general
- ▶ Amenity values - being the natural and physical qualities and characteristics through which we appreciate the pleasantness and other attributes of an area, and
- ▶ The social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions affecting or affected by these aspects of the environment.

*Effects* are defined in the Act to include positive, adverse, temporary, permanent, past, present, future, cumulative or potential effects. Effects may be of any scale, intensity, duration or frequency.

While not defined in the Act, *activities* has a broad meaning.

It includes but is not limited to the development or reshaping of the coastline; modifying, removing or enhancing the habitats of plants or animals; port activities; marine farming; wharves and other structures; taking sand from beaches; recreational activities; and also the actions of individuals related to any of these activities.

The Resource Management Act places emphasis on managing the effects of activities on the environment rather than on the control and direction of activities.

In promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources within the Coastal Environment it is necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on that environment. In doing so, it is also necessary to consider effects which arise over time, or which in combination with other effects would produce an adverse (cumulative) effect. Change occurs incrementally, and while an individual activity may not have a significant impact, that same activity repeated over time or in a 'sensitive' locality may well have adverse consequences. Examples where the cumulative effects of activities could be adverse include 'ribbon' development on a visually prominent length of coastline.

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan will manage the adverse effects of activities in the Coastal Environment.

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The Plan will make provision for activities which have no more than minor adverse effects, or positive effects, and will utilise a range of regulatory and non-regulatory methods to manage activities in circumstances where their effects could be adverse for a locality or a resource.

### 1.2.3 Part II of the Act

The Resource Management Act is the principle statute under which the management of natural and physical resources are managed.

Section 104 of the Act gives primacy to Part II of the Act when any consent authority is considering an application for a resource consent.

#### 1.2.3.1 Purpose

Section 5 of the Act has been directly quoted in chapter 1, section 1.1 of this Plan and establishes the purpose of the Act.

#### 1.2.3.2 Matters of National Importance

Section 6 of the Act lists the following matters of national importance which the Gisborne District Council must, when exercising any of its powers, functions or duties under the Act, recognise and provide for in promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources within the Coastal Environment:

- (a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and its protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development<sup>2</sup>,
- (b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development,
- (c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna,
- (d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers, and
- (e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

#### 1.2.3.3 Other Matters

In addition to the matters of national importance, in promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources within the Coastal Environment, Section 7 of the Act requires the Gisborne District Council to have particular regard to:

- (a) Kaitiakitanga
  - (aa) The ethic of stewardship<sup>3</sup>
- (b) The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources

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<sup>2</sup> Port Gisborne Consent Order 742/00

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- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values
- (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems,
- (e) Recognition and protection of the heritage value of sites, buildings, or areas,
- (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.
- (g) Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources; *and*
- (h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

These matters provide further guidance and direction in achieving sustainable management of the Coastal Environment.

### 1.2.3.4 Treaty of Waitangi

Section 8 of the Act provides that:

*'In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).'*

### 1.2.4 Restrictions Under the Act

The statutory framework for managing the effects of activities in the coastal marine area is defined in Part III of the Act and in particular, Sections 12, 14, 15 and 16 of the Act.

Section 12<sup>4</sup> states that:

- (1) No person may, in the coastal marine area, -
  - (a) Reclaim or drain any foreshore or seabed; or
  - (b) Erect, reconstruct, place, alter, extend, remove, or demolish any structure or any part of a structure that is fixed in, on, under, or over any foreshore or seabed; or
  - (c) Disturb any foreshore or seabed (including by excavating, drilling, or tunnelling) in a manner that has or is likely to have an adverse effect on the foreshore or seabed (other than for the purpose of lawfully harvesting any plant or animal); or
  - (d) Deposit in, on, or under any foreshore or seabed any substance in a manner that has or is likely to have an adverse effect on the foreshore or seabed; or
  - (e) Destroy, damage, or disturb any foreshore or seabed (other than for the purpose of lawfully harvesting any plant or animal) in a manner that has or is likely to have an adverse effect on plants or animals or their habitat; or

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<sup>3</sup> **NB:** S7(1) was inserted by the Resource Management Amendment Act 1997, to extend Kaitiakitanga to any person or body exercising the ethic of stewardship. The Council supports the fact that Kaitiakitanga does not imply exclusion but is about guardianship, which is about looking after a resource for all people past, present and future.

<sup>4</sup> **NB:** The Resource Management Amendment Bill (No. 3) may amend provisions of the Resource Management Act (1991), Section 12.

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(f) *Introduce or plant any exotic or introduced plant, on, or under the foreshore or seabed -*

*unless expressly allowed by a rule in a regional coastal plan and in any relevant proposed regional coastal plan or a resource consent.*

(2) *No person may, in relation to land of the Crown in the coastal marine area, or land in the coastal marine area vested in the regional council, -*

(a) *Occupy any part of the coastal marine area; or*

(b) *Remove any sand, shingle, shell, or other natural material from the land, -*

*unless expressly allowed to do so by a rule in a regional coastal plan and in any relevant proposed regional coastal plan or a resource consent.*

(3) *Without limiting subsection (1), no person may carry out any activity –*

(a) *In, on, under, or over any coastal marine area; or*

(b) *In relation to any natural and physical resources contained within any coastal marine area, -*

*in a manner that contravenes a rule in a regional coastal plan or a proposed regional coastal plan unless the activity is expressly allowed by a resource consent or allowed by section 20 (certain existing lawful activities allowed).*

(4) *In this Act...., -*

(a) *“Occupy” means the activity of occupying any part of the coastal marine area –*

(i) *Where that occupation is reasonably necessary for another activity; and*

(ii) *Where it is to the exclusion of all or any class of persons who are not expressly allowed to occupy that part of the coastal marine area by a rule in a regional coastal plan and in any relevant proposed regional coastal plan or by a resource consent; and*

(iii) *For a period of time and in a way that, but for a rule in the regional coastal plan and in any relevant proposed regional coastal plan or the holding of a resource consent under this Act, a lease or licence to occupy that part of the coastal marine area would be necessary to give effect to the exclusion of other persons, whether in a physical or legal sense; -*

*and “occupation” has a corresponding meaning:*

(b) *Remove any sand, shingle, [shell] or other natural material means to take any of that material in such quantities or in such circumstances that, but for the rule in the regional coastal plan or the holding of a resource consent, a licence or profit a prendre to do so would be necessary.*

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- (5) *The application of this section to overflying by aircraft shall be limited to any noise emission controls that may be prescribed by a regional council in relation to the use of airports within the coastal marine area.*
- (6) *This section shall not apply to anything to which section 15A or 15B applies.*

Section 14 states (in part) that:

- (1) *No person may take, use, dam, or divert any-*
- (a) *Water (other than open coastal water); or*
  - (b) *Heat or energy from water (other than open coastal water) unless the taking, use, damming, or diversion is allowed by subsection (3).*
- (2) *No person may-*
- (a) *Take, use, dam, or divert any open coastal water; or*
  - (b) *Take or use any heat or energy from any open coastal water- in a manner that contravenes a rule in a regional plan or a proposed regional plan unless expressly allowed by a resource consent or allowed by Section 20 (certain existing lawful activities allowed).*
- (3) *A person is not prohibited by subsection (1) from taking, using, damming, or diverting any water, heat, or energy if-*
- (a) *The taking, use, damming or diversion is expressly allowed by a rule in a regional plan and in any relevant proposed regional plan or a resource consent; or*
  - (d) *In the case of coastal water (other than open coastal water), the water, heat, or energy is required for an individual's reasonable domestic or recreational needs and the taking, use, or diversion does not, or is not likely to, have an adverse effect on the environment; or*
  - (e) *The water is required to be taken or used for fire-fighting purposes.*

Section 15<sup>5</sup> states (in part) that:

- (1) *No person may discharge any -*
- (a) *Contaminant or water into water; or*
  - (b) *Contaminant onto or into land in circumstances which may result in that contaminant (or any other contaminant emanating as a result of natural processes from that contaminant) entering water;*
- unless the discharge is expressly allowed by a rule in a regional plan and in any relevant proposed regional plan, a resource consent, or regulations.*

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<sup>5</sup> **NB:** Section 15 of the Resource Management Act (1991) was amended by Section 13 of the RMA 1993 inserting Sections 15A, 15B and 15C.

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Section 16 states that:

- (1) *Every occupier of land (including any premises and any coastal marine area), and every person carrying out an activity in, on, or under a water body or... the coastal marine area, shall adopt the best practicable option to ensure that the emission of noise from that land or water does not exceed a reasonable level.*
- (2) *Subsection (1) does not limit the right of any local authority or consent authority to prescribe noise emission standards in plans made, or resource consents granted, for the purposes of any of sections 9, 12, 13, 14, or 15.*

### 1.2.5 Relationship to Other Resource Management Documents

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan forms part of the resource management planning framework prescribed by the Act. Section 67 of the Act specifies that the Regional Coastal Environment Plan may not be inconsistent with any national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement), any Discharge Regulations formulated by the Ministry for the Environment, any water conservation order, the Regional Policy Statement or any other regional plan for the Gisborne District.

#### 1.2.5.1 The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is a national policy statement prepared by the Department of Conservation. It is the only mandatory national policy statement required under the Act and Section 56 of the Act states that the purpose of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is:

*'to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of this Act in relation to the Coastal Environment of New Zealand.'* (Section 56.)

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement was gazetted on 5 May 1994. It contains policies about:

- ▶ National priorities for preserving the natural character of the Coastal Environment;
- ▶ Protection of characteristics of the Coastal Environment of special value to Tangata Whenua;
- ▶ Activities involving subdivision, use and development;
- ▶ The Crown's interest in the Coastal Environment;
- ▶ Matters concerning restricted coastal activities; *and*
- ▶ The implementation of international obligations

(Section 58 RMA)

The Gisborne District Council's regional plans, including the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and Regional Policy Statement, must not be inconsistent with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

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It is suggested that the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement be read in conjunction with this plan. There are currently no other national policy statements gazetted or being prepared.

Copies of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement can be obtained from the Department of Conservation or any office of the Gisborne District Council.

### 1.2.5.2 Regional Policy Statement

The Gisborne District Council notified a Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District on March 5, 1994. Hearings on Submissions were held during 1995 and Council made public its decisions on those submissions in late 1995.

At present, three referrals to the Environment Court have been lodged in respect of the Regional Policy Statement. Regional Policy Statements are required to:

*'achieve the purpose of the Act by providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region.'*

(Section 59 RMA)

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District includes all of the Coastal Environment, including the coastal marine area covered by this plan. Section 67 of the Act requires that regional plans and the regional coastal plan are not inconsistent with the Regional Policy Statement. While the coastal section of the RPS is directly relevant to this Plan, it is important to recognise that other sections of the Regional Policy Statement are significant in the context of this plan. It is suggested that the Regional Policy Statement be read in conjunction with this plan. The Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District can be obtained at any office of the Gisborne District Council and viewed at the H.B. Williams Memorial Library.

### 1.2.5.3 Other Regional Plans

The Gisborne District Council has prepared several Regional Plans including a Proposed Regional Air Quality Plan, a Proposed Regional Waste Management Plan and a Proposed Combined Regional & District Plan. Section 65 of the Act states:

*'A regional authority may have, in addition to its regional coastal plan, one or more regional plans prepared in the manner set out in the First Schedule (to the Act).'*

These plans may be prepared on anything relevant to the Gisborne District Council's functions and may apply to all or any part of the region, including the coastal marine area. The Council may prepare regional plans for particular issues or for geographic areas, for instance a specific river catchment. Many of these plans will reflect the inter-relationships existing between issues landward of the



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coastal marine area and those within the coastal marine area, allowed for in this plan.

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It is important to note that where any other regional plan covers the coastal marine area then that part of the regional plan becomes a regional coastal plan which requires the approval of the Department of Conservation prior to becoming operative. It is suggested that other relevant regional plans be read in association with this plan.

It is important to note that this plan contains an area of coast surrounding Port Gisborne which will be treated as a particular Management Area in the Proposed Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan as well as the Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Gisborne Region.

At the next review of this Plan, the Council should seriously consider the desirability of combining all its regional and district plans into a single document. In the document the Council should seriously consider the desirability of combining all provisions relevant to ports in a single chapter.

### 1.2.5.4 District Plans

The coastal marine area part of this Regional Coastal Environment Plan has, as its landward boundary the line of mean high water springs. Inland of this line, the Regional Coastal Environment Plan may only establish objectives and policies and methods but not rules.

The Gisborne District Council, as a territorial authority, can control the use of land and control the effects of activities by preparing and administering district plans and these plans, which cannot be inconsistent with Regional Plans, Policy Statements or National Policy Statements, will implement the objectives and policies identified in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Coastal Environment.

The District Plan for the Gisborne District is currently being prepared. In the interim, the four schemes (Waiapu, Cook, Gisborne City, and Waikohu) established under the Town and Country Planning Act continues in force as the transitional District Plan for the Gisborne District. It is suggested that the relevant district plan be viewed alongside this plan.

### 1.2.5.5 Management Plans and Strategies prepared under other Acts

Section 66 of the Act requires that the Gisborne District council, in preparing this plan, *shall have regard to* any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts.

The principle strategy prepared under another Act that has a direct impact on the preparation of this plan is the Conservation Management Strategy being prepared by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987.

### 1.2.5.6 Iwi Management Plans

Section 66 of the Act requires that the Gisborne District Council, in preparing this plan, *shall have regard to* any relevant planning document recognised by an Iwi authority affected by this plan.

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As of the date of public notification of this plan, there were no relevant operative lwi management plans.

### 1.2.5.7 **Coastal Strategies Prepared by the Gisborne District Council Assessment of the Landscape Character of the Coastal Environment of Gisborne District**

In 1994 Boffa Miskell were commissioned to prepare an assessment of the Landscape Character of the Coastal Environment of the Gisborne District.

This assessment forms the basis for the formulation of objectives and policies at section 2.2 of this Plan that relate to the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate activities.

The Study also has wider application in that it provides an assessment of physical and natural attributes for a range of Landscape Units of the Gisborne District Coastline, which serves as a baseline for consideration of applications for resource consent for activities within the Coastal Environment.

#### **The Wainui Beach Management Strategy**

This Strategy was adopted by the Gisborne District Council on 14 August 2003 and is the result of a partnership between the Gisborne District Council, the Wainui Beach Community, the Department of Conservation and tangata whenua to develop an integrated approach to the management of the Wainui Beach coastal resource. In particular, the Strategy deals with issues such as beach foredune erosion and property protection, matters relating to increased beach and foredune use and increasing development pressures associated with residential development. The Vision Statement of the Strategy is:

*“The protection and enhancement of Wainui Beach and adjoining reserves for the use and enjoyment of future generations.”*

The Strategy considers the entire 4.2 kilometre beach / foredune area on a holistic basis, but it also divides the area into discrete sections, with a series of management strategies tailored to address their particular characteristics. Specific guidance is provided in terms of the assessment of resource consent applications submitted to implement the recommended Management Strategies.

The Council will consider the need to make amendments to this Plan as the Strategy is further developed and refined.

#### **Gisborne Urban Coastal Strategy**

This Strategy adopted by the Gisborne District Council in September 2005 covers the coastline from the Waipaoa River Mouth northeast to the Makorori Headland with a focus on the coastal frontages of Gisborne City and Wainui / Okitu.

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The Strategy has five general Objectives:

- ▶ Encouraging controlled residential development in areas attractive to potential new residents;
- ▶ Maintaining a soft transition between the sea and the land;
- ▶ Safeguarding cultural, heritage and recreational values associated with coastal areas;
- ▶ Using coastal locations to improve environmental and economic conditions;  
*and*
- ▶ Improving the natural environment of coastal areas.

### 1.2.6 Status of Activities

The Rules within this Plan determine the status of any particular activity and determine whether a consent is required before the activity can be carried out. A resource consent is required for any activity which this Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan specifies as being a controlled activity, a discretionary activity, or an activity that does not comply with the provisions of this Plan (a non-complying activity). The Plan also specifies permitted activities and prohibited activities. Some activities are identified in the Plan as restricted coastal activities which can only be activities that are discretionary or non-complying.

#### 1.2.6.1 Controlled Activity

A controlled activity is an activity which the Gisborne District Council must grant a resource consent for. That consent may include conditions relating to the matters which the Council has stated that it will exercise its control over.

#### 1.2.6.2 Discretionary Activity

A discretionary (or restricted discretionary) activity is an activity over which the Gisborne District Council has retained its discretion as to whether it will grant the resource consent or not. The Council will, in considering any application for a discretionary activity, be guided by the objectives and policies contained within the Plan, the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District, any requirements for the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the requirements of the Resource Management Act. Conditions may be imposed on any resource consent granted. The Council may also limit the matters over which it will exercise its discretion.

#### 1.2.6.3 Non-Complying Activity

A resource consent is also required for any activity that would otherwise not comply with this Proposed Plan and the Council may either grant or decline such an application in accordance with the test set out in Section 105 of the Resource Management Act (1991).

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### 1.2.6.4 Permitted Activity

Activities which are specified as permitted activities can occur, without the need to obtain a resource consent, provided they are able to comply with standards stated within the rule.

### 1.2.6.5 Prohibited Activity

Activities specified in the Plan as prohibited activities can not occur within the Gisborne District's coastal marine area and are activities for which no resource consent can be applied for or issued.

### 1.2.6.6 Restricted Coastal Activities

A restricted coastal activity is either a discretionary activity or a non-complying activity for which the Department of Conservation is the consent authority. The Minister is able to either grant or decline the application. Where an activity is specified as being a restricted coastal activity, an application is still made to the Gisborne District Council and that application is considered by a hearings committee which has a Ministerial appointment to it. That committee makes a recommendation to the Department of Conservation who makes the final decision. However, the Hearings Committee's recommendation can be referred to the Environment Court for consideration. The Environment Court then reports to the Department of Conservation.

## 1.2.7 Information Requirements

Applications for consents must comply with the requirements of Section 88 of the Act. Additional information may be required by the Council in order to be able to assess the effects of any application. These requirements, without limiting Section 88 or the Fourth Schedule of the Act, are contained in Chapter 4.7 of this Plan.

## 1.2.8 Notification of Consents

The Act makes provision for the public notification of resource consent applications. There are some circumstances where the consent authority can decide that an application need not be notified. In making an assessment of the need to notify individual consent applications, the Gisborne District Council will act in accordance with Section 94 of the Act. Restricted coastal activities must always be publicly notified and no discretion rests with the consent authority in respect of Section 94 for those activities.

It should be noted that the Department of Conservation, on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, administers land of the Crown in the coastal marine area, and while the Department of Conservation may not be considered an adversely affected party under section 94 for all coastal consent applications, it is good practice to initiate early consultation with the Department of Conservation when seeking such consents.

## 1.2.9 Section 32 Requirements

Section 32 of the Act requires councils to be objective in preparing regional plans, and in particular in determining objectives, policies and methods, having regard to alternatives



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that may be available and the reasons for and against options, including costs and benefits.

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The Gisborne District Council has considered these matters in preparing this Plan and is satisfied that the selected objectives, policies and methods are necessary in achieving the purpose of the Act and represent the most appropriate means having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness.

The principle reasons for adopting the objectives, policies, rules and other methods explain why those objectives, policies, rules and other methods have been included in this plan.

### 1.2.10 Other Legislation

Section 32 of the Act requires those developing objectives, policies, rules and other methods under it to have regard to alternative methods available under other Acts that may be used to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Resource Management Act is just one of the many pieces of legislation with effect upon resource management in the coastal marine area. Other Acts affecting coastal management include:

- ▶ Local Government Act 1974: The Local Government Act 1974 was amended in 1999 to enable Regional Councils to prepare Navigation Bylaws for the waters of the region. This was previously provided for in the Harbours Act 1950, which has now been repealed. The Local Government Amendment Act (No. 2) 1999 retained the Water Recreation Regulations 1979 and Harbour Board Bylaws for Gazetted Harbours until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2003. The Harbour Board Bylaws can be revoked and replaced with Navigation Bylaws by the Regional Council.
- ▶ Building Act 1991: This Act and the Building Regulations 1992 provide a performance based building control system which applies to the construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of most structures within the coastal marine area. As the Gisborne District Council is a Unitary Authority, having the powers and functions of both a Territorial Authority and a Regional Authority, these functions exist without the need to transfer them from a Regional Authority, as has been necessary for the Hawkes Bay Regional Council.
- ▶ Fisheries Act 1996 (and relevant provisions of the Fisheries Act 1983): Along with the Resource Management Act, this Act has the greatest effect on the natural and physical resources in the coastal marine area. The Fisheries Act establishes the framework for the harvest of marine life from the territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone which includes a combination of economic instruments (the quota management system for commercial fisheries management) and direct regulation (maximum catch numbers, gear restrictions etc. for commercial and recreational fisheries). The Fisheries Act is the mechanism by which Taiapure<sup>6</sup> may be established, and by which fishing restrictions are established in marine parks. The provisions of the

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<sup>6</sup> **NB:** Taiapure are established under Part IIIA of the Fisheries Act, to provide for the recognition of rangatiratanga for areas of New Zealand fisheries waters that have customarily been of special significance to any Iwi or hapu as a source of food, or for spiritual or cultural reasons.

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Marine Farming Act 1971, which controls marine farming and aquaculture generally within New Zealand, should be read together with the Fisheries Act.

- ▶ Historic Places Act 1993: This provides for the Historic Places Trust and the registration of historic places and the archaeological authority process for damage, modification or destruction of archaeological sites.
- ▶ Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978: This Act provides protection for all marine mammals (whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions) within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone. It is an offence under the Act to kill, capture or harass marine mammals. The Act also provides for the establishment of marine mammal sanctuaries. The Act is administered by the Department of Conservation.
- ▶ Marine Reserves Act 1971: This Act was originally enacted to allow reserves to be set aside in the sea for the purpose of scientific study. The purpose of the Act has not been changed but the recreational benefits of Marine reserves are now increasingly being recognised. The Act preserves areas of the foreshore, seabed and water and protects all marine life within the area for the purpose of scientific study and ecological benefits. It is an offence under the Act to remove, or to interfere with, anything in a marine reserve. The Public are allowed free access to and through the marine reserve, and recreational activity is allowed provided it does not interfere with the marine reserve. There are no marine reserves established in the Gisborne District yet.
- ▶ Crown Minerals Act 1991. This Act establishes the framework by which rights to Crown owned minerals may be established. The Act sets out procedures for the establishment of minerals programmes and the granting of minerals permits in respect of Crown Minerals. The purpose of the Act is to establish an efficient allocation of rights to minerals and to provide a fair financial return to the Crown. While this Act establishes property rights to minerals, it does not control the environmental effects of mining activity. The actual and potential effects of mining activity fall within the provisions of the Resource Management Act.
- ▶ Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1966: This Act provides for anchoring and fishing restriction zones to be established around underwater cables and pipelines.
- ▶ The Maritime Transport Act 1994: This Act substantially changes jurisdiction for pollution control in territorial waters. The Marine Pollution Act is repealed. Of relevance to the Gisborne District Council, the Act:
  - Requires marine oil spill plans to be prepared for the entire coastal marine area.
  - Amends the Resource Management Act to allow the control of discharges from all vessels and the enforcement of that control.
- ▶ The Wildlife Act 1953: This Act is administered by the Department of Conservation and provides for the protection and control of wild animals and birds, including animals and birds in the Coastal Environment.

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- ▶ The Foreshore and Seabed Endowment Revesting Act 1991: This Act provides for the Department of Conservation to be responsible for the administration of the foreshore and seabed which is to be held as land of the Crown.

Environmental and maritime legislation in New Zealand is currently undergoing major reformation and the list of Acts set out here is not exhaustive and subject to change through legislation either consequentially amending it or repealing and replacing it. This list is given to demonstrate that the Resource Management Act (1991) is one of a raft of legislative ordinances which govern New Zealand's Coastal Environment.

### 1.3 THE GISBORNE REGION'S COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 1.3.1 An Introduction to the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment

The Gisborne Region comprises all the land and sea east of a line running from Potaka, west of Lottin Point, in the North, running southwest along the ridge of the Raukumara Ranges but excluding Te Urewera National Park, turning south east at the headwaters of the Ruakituri River and generally following the line of the Ruakituri river and the Wharerata Ranges, finally meeting its southern limit just north of Mahia Peninsula. The Region's boundaries extend out to the 12 Nautical Mile (NM) Territorial sea boundary from the point where the land boundary intersects the coast. The 12 NM territorial boundary represents the eastern boundary of the Gisborne Region within which the Resource Management Act 1991 applies and this Plan covers. It adjoins two other Regions; The Bay of Plenty region and the Hawkes Bay region. See Appendix 1 to the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

**Population** ▶ The major urban centre within the Gisborne Region is the City of Gisborne with a population of 33,300 (as at year ending 30 June 1996). By contrast, the population of the entire Region is 44,600 people (as at year ending 30 June 1996). The majority of the population outside of Gisborne is gathered in small townships including Te Araroa, Ruatoria, Tokomaru Bay, Tolaga Bay and the inland settlement of Te Karaka.

The Gisborne, inland and eastern coast communities have historically lived in splendid isolation from the rest of New Zealand due to the Region's geographical remoteness from adjoining regions. The Gisborne Region is also distinctive due to the fact that the Maori population of the Region is very high at about 40%. In rural parts of the District the Maori population increases to approximately 90% in some locations. The life style of these communities has been heavily influenced by beach and marine activities.

**Physical characteristics** ▶ The Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment forms a transitional zone between New Zealand's northern and central marine biogeographic regions. This is a transitional boundary between warm and cooler water marine flora and fauna. On the land component of the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment, there are four distinct Ecological Districts; Pukeamaru, Waiapu, Turanga and Tiniroto. The Region is fortunate in that the Department of Conservation has published full Protected Natural Areas Programme Surveys for all the Ecological Districts in the region.

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The coastline of the Gisborne Region has a distinct topographic pattern of open bays alternating with steep faced and cliffed coasts and prominent headlands. These are formed of generally soft, weak rocks, mainly Tertiary mudstones and sandstones. The topography reflects that of the inland hill country and river valleys, modified by forces of marine erosion and sand movement, and tectonic uplift of the land through successive earthquakes. Poverty Bay and Tolaga Bay are broad bays where wide river valleys (Waipaoa and Uawa) meet the sea. Coastal dunes and beach ridges are backed by tidal estuaries and extensive fertile alluvial surfaces further inland. The mouth of the other main river, Waiapu, is more abrupt onto an open coast. Hicks Bay and Te Araroa also feature extensive coastal flatlands where successive beach ridges have advanced seawards.

Tokomaru Bay and Waipiro Bay, where small stream valleys have created only limited areas of moderate-gently sloping land near the coast are more typical of the Gisborne Region. Earthquakes over the last few thousand years have raised a narrow coastal plain from these at the foot of the coastal faces at these bays and elsewhere. Wainui Beach, Whangara, Anaura and Hautai, east of Te Araroa are examples of this.

A longer history of tectonic uplift is shown by higher marine terraces, 80,000 - 120,000 years old, near Te Araroa and at Parikonohi between the Pouawa and Waiomoko rivermouths. Those that rise to a height of 300m just east of Te Araroa are the highest surviving marine terraces of this age in New Zealand. In general though, marine terraces are not characteristic of the Gisborne Region because the rocks are too weak to stand against the forces of erosion for that long. Instead the hill country terminates abruptly against the sea with steep slopes and crumbling or slumping cliffs.

One of the notable effects of this type of coast is that direct marine erosion, and inland erosion, of this soft rock coast and hinterland contributes to rather persistent water turbidity. This has led to a distinctive ecology because of low light conditions for the greater part of the year and studies have also revealed a very significant problem of inundation by silts of important marine habitats.

In stark contrast, the coast, from Matakaoa Point to Potaka, just west of Lottin Point, consists of ancient, weathered basalts formed in the Matakaoa Orogeny from the ocean floor. These now form steep but stable hills lying very close to the rocky coast separated by narrow discontinuous marine terraces. No rivers cut through these hills, so the sea is notable for its water clarity. This area of the coast is the second closest land point to the continental shelf edge of New Zealand. Consequently, oceanic water washes the shore from time to time. Lottin Point has been described as, ecologically and physically, having all the characteristics of a deep water offshore volcanic island that just happens to be attached to the mainland. Certainly many marine species present in this area are not commonly found on mainland New Zealand and at least one species has not been recorded elsewhere on the mainland of New Zealand at all but is found here.

There are about 12 small, steep-sided islands along the coast, most notably Tuamotu in Poverty Bay, Te Ana-a-Paikea at Whangara, Pourewa and several nearby south of Tolaga Bay, Moturoi in Anaura Bay and Whangaokeno (East Island) off the East Cape.

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With the exception of a few places such as Poverty Bay, where the supply of sand allows the coast to prograde seaward, and Lottin Point area, where the coast is hard volcanic basalt, the coast is generally in long-term retreat and has been so for many thousands of years. Eroding cliffs and edges of the narrow “recently” uplifted coastal plains are characteristic. Wide intertidal rock platforms and offshore reefs are also a notable feature, diversifying the coastal marine area which is otherwise dominated by a silty sediment-covered seafloor.

The Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment is very exposed to occasional storms from easterly and southerly quarters. The climate is otherwise moderate, with mild winters and very warm summers. Annual rainfall is at a minimum of 1000mm in Poverty Bay, increasing both to the north and the south. However, there is a high degree of unreliability of rainfall, and droughts are common.

**Land uses** ▶ Land uses in the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment are mainly an extension of the inland uses. Most of the land has been cleared for pastoral farming, though some has since reverted to secondary forest and scrub. Remnants of original vegetation are extremely limited. There are only minor areas of exotic forestry on coastal faces adjoining inland areas with the exception of forestry plantings in the Lottin Point area.

Pre-European gardening of fertile alluvial pockets along the coast was significant but most of the flatter lands are exposed and have poor sandy soils. Then as now conditions were more suitable slightly inland. Today there is little intensive horticultural use of land in the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment.

Coastal settlements within the Coastal Environment have a servicing function relating to their hinterlands, as well as being marine focused and traditional settlement sites. Recreation and tourism based mainly on the attractions of the coast and coastal marine area are popular uses of the Coastal Environment and are steadily becoming a more significant component of the region's economy. Gisborne itself represents a sizeable area of residential, tourist, industrial and Port developments on the land, and a variety of marine uses including disposal of effluent and dredgings as well as recreational uses.

**History** ▶ The region has been heavily settled over time, by both Maori and European. Cook recorded in 1769 that the coastline at Anaura Bay was thick with settlements, and there was evidence of many more slightly further inland. At this time the Maori had an economy based on fishing and the cultivation of kumara, yams and taro. Muriwai (southern Poverty Bay) is also said to have been densely populated; studded with fortified settlements. Archaeological sites are recorded throughout the region (including pa and midden), although there are probably many more that have not been surveyed or recorded along the coast and river mouths.

Cook first landed in New Zealand at Gisborne in 1769. The landfall site is commemorated now in a National Historic Reserve in Gisborne City. A significant trading centre was established on the Turanganui River at Gisborne in the early 1830's but it was not until the late 1860's that the nucleus of the town was purchased by the Crown.

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There was a rapid increase in population during the early 1870's as settlement of the interior gained momentum.

Coastal trading stations were established along the coast from the 1830's and soon ships were exporting food crops to early Auckland. While pastoral farming developed inland of the Coastal Environment, freezing works developed at Gisborne, Hicks Bay and Tokomaru Bay, along with wharves at Tokomaru, Tolaga and Hicks Bay.

Armed conflict has also featured in the history of the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment beginning with early tribal conflicts, moving on to the musket wars involving northern iwi in the early 19th Century, and later the New Zealand Wars between the Crown and tangata whenua (notably between the Crown and Te Kooti).

**Indigenous Flora and Fauna** ▶ Very little of the original vegetation or habitat has survived on the land within the Coastal Environment and marine habitats have been strongly modified as well though it is less clear to what extent.

Remaining coastal forests feature combinations of pohutukawa, karaka, tawa, puriri, kohekohe and tawapou, with the natural southern limits of pohutukawa and tawapou near Tolaga Bay. Only minor remnants are left, most notably at Hicks Bay, east of Te Araroa, East Cape, Port Awanui, Waimahuru Bay Scenic Reserve (east of Te Puia), Anaura Bay Scenic Reserve, and Wharekakaho Stream, south of Young Nicks Head. Others are very small and scattered, including treelands.

Secondary forest and scrub (Kanuka-Manuka dominated) is locally extensive in the north and south of the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment and these may be especially significant where they are buffering areas of primary forest and treelands. In general though, the Coastal Environment of the Gisborne Region has a strikingly "bare" look in comparison with the Coastal Environments of adjacent Regions.

Unstable coastal slopes and cliffs have notable scrub and herbfield communities which, in places, include the threatened species *Rorippa divaricata*, *Plantago spathulata* subsp. *Picta*, or the shrub daisy raukumara (*Brachyglottis perdicioides*), the latter two species being endemic to this Region's Coastal Environment. Kowhai ngutukaka/kakabeak has recently been rediscovered on coastal slopes at Te Araroa

Dunelands have never been very extensive in the Coastal Environment of the Gisborne Region. Modified indigenous dune vegetation survives, however, with significant examples at Hicks Bay, Hautai, Whangara and the Waiomoko and Pouawa rivermouths. The uncommon species *Austrofestuca littoralis* and local pingao are present. Dune systems and the foreshore are important habitats for lizards and invertebrate fauna.

Several species of endemic skinks are found in the sand dunes of Whangara and Wainui Beach and are likely to be present in other dunelands. The indigenous katipo spider is also found throughout the Gisborne Region. Driftwood and interstitial organisms on beaches are common but little understood and virtually no research has been undertaken to describe or characterise these organisms.

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Estuaries are generally small, including that of the Wharekahika, Karakatuwhero and Waiapu Rivers. Estuaries in the Coastal Environment of the Gisborne Region often take on the distinctive form of ribbon estuaries coinciding with low lying and subsequently low flowing river systems.

Examples of these types of estuaries include the confluence of the mouths of the Turanganui and Waimata Rivers. The larger Hauiti estuary at Tolaga Bay and Wherowhero lagoon in Poverty Bay are the most significant estuarine habitats for wading and other water birds. They are also important as habitat for soft sediment shellfish such as cockles. Awapuni Lagoon - a tidal estuary associated with the Waipaoa River mouth - was destroyed by drainage and farm development as recently as the late 1950's - 1960's.

Narrow freshwater wetlands lie between lines of beach ridges at Hicks Bay and Te Araroa, and smaller examples are found elsewhere. The river mouths and their tidal reaches are key sites in the life cycles of most freshwater fish, in their passage to and from the sea and in some cases (whitebait) for spawning. Estuarine fish include mullet, flounder, kahawai and parore.

Forest bird habitat has been severely limited. Notable surviving bird species are generally of wetland-estuary-scrub margin habitat or they are shore birds - the threatened North Island weka, fernbird, banded rail, spotless crane, bittern, white and reef herons, New Zealand banded dotterel, variable oyster catcher, caspian tern and royal spoonbill. Seabirds breeding in the area include gannet, blue penguin, and various shearwater and petrel species including the black-wing petrel.

The sub-tidal area of the Gisborne Region's Coastal Environment is an area where little research has been undertaken and the description of organisms and habitats within this area is limited. The diversity and richness of marine algae are striking feature of the Gisborne Region. Several other features are able to be identified as well.

Marine mammals migrate through the waters of the Gisborne Region. The common Dolphin, Sperm Whales, Orca and the New Zealand Fur Seal are the most frequently sighted marine mammals. Sightings of rarer marine mammals have occurred including the Humpback Whale, the Southern Right Whale, the Minke Whale and other unidentified baleen whales and several species of beaked whale have either been sighted or have stranded in the region. Similarly, sightings of Leopard seals have occurred throughout the Region. Sightings of the New Zealand Fur Seal in recent years have most frequently been of juveniles but such sightings have been rapidly increasing over the past few years and more adult New Zealand Fur Seals have been sighted with one anecdotal record of up to six seals sunning themselves on rocks north of Anaura Bay and it is expected that, within the next ten years, haul out colonies of the New Zealand Fur Seal are likely to be come established at isolated points of the Coastal Environment.

Several species of marine flora and fauna find their southern and northern limits on the East Coast of New Zealand at the Lottin Point area. Black Angel fish are thought to reach their southern limit in this area though rare sightings of them have been made further south.



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Bull Kelp, *Durvillea antarctica*, reaches its northern limit on the east coast of New Zealand at Cape Runaway, just to the West of Lottin Point.

Crayfish, *Jasus edwardsii*, is commercially harvested within the Gisborne Region and the highest rate of recruitment of juvenile crayfish in New Zealand has been recorded in the vicinity of the Port of Gisborne. Kina, *Evechinus chloroticus*, is also commercially harvested within the Gisborne Region. Several species of wetfish are also commercially harvested within the Gisborne Region.