

**Activity Title:**

# RMA and coastal management legislation

## Focusing questions

What key legislation determines how our coasts are managed?

How does current legislation determine how our coasts are managed?

## Resources required

- Student internet access (optional)
- Fact sheet – RMA and Coastal Management (NOTE: Suitable for level 4 and above. For lower level learners use the fact sheet as a teacher information source) – “Fact sheet” on page 231
- Whiteboard and pens
- A3 sheets of paper and pens
- Copying: photocopy the fact sheet RMA and coastal management or use digitally projected image.

## Prior learning

1a Tahatai – different coastal environments

3a Changing New Zealand beach use

5a The past – how have people affected beaches?

## Method

- 1 The objective of this activity is to investigate what and how legislation affects how we manage our coasts.
- 2 As a class or in small groups, study the fact sheet RMA and coastal management and/or conduct an internet research exercise (using the Bay of Plenty Regional Council website) to find answers to the following questions:
  - What is the overall purpose of the RMA?
  - What legislation, policy and planning documents are relevant to managing our beaches and coastlines in the Bay of Plenty?
  - Where is the coastal marine area?
  - What human activities in the coastal marine area are managed under the RMA?
  - What is a coastal permit?
- 3 As a class review answers to these questions and create a mind map of new learning.

## Possible next steps

- 6d Decision making – who does what on the coast? – an activity that builds on information gained in this activity and looks in more detail at which agency has what responsibility on the coast.

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**Environmental Education Aspect:**

About the environment

**Environmental Education Concept:**

- Personal and social responsibility for action
- Sustainability
- Interdependence

**Curriculum Links:**

- Social Science

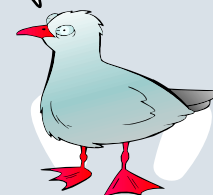
**Suggested****Curriculum Level:**

Any secondary

**SUSTAINABILITY TIP!**

Laminate the labels for future re-use.

Project a digital image of the fact sheet for everyone to read independently and save paper.



# RMA and coastal management

## The Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act (RMA) is set out in section 5 of the Act which states: “The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.”

In the RMA, ‘sustainable management’ 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;
- 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.

## The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The purpose of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is set out in Section 56 of the Resource Management Act which states: “The purpose of a New Zealand coastal policy statement is to state policies in order to achieve the purposes of this Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand.” It provides a framework that will promote sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the coastal environment.

The first New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) was created in May 1994. The current version was created in 2010. The NZCPS is a national policy statement that the Minister of Conservation is required to prepare and monitor under the Resource Management Act.

Individual policies within the NZCPS address:

- Protection of the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and its ecosystems.

- Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and its outstanding natural features and landscapes.
- Recognition of the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment.
- Maintenance and enhancement of public open space and recreation opportunities in the coastal environment.
- Management of coastal hazard risks.
- The tension between enabling subdivision, use, and development in the coastal environment and managing potential adverse effects.
- The implementation of New Zealand’s international obligations affecting the coastal environment.

All regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans will give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

## Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has a Regional Coastal Environment Plan which sets out the rules for what can and can’t be done on the coast.

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan includes the entire coastal environment. The coastal environment includes the coastal marine area (that area between mean high water spring tides and the ‘12 mile limit’ of the territorial seas) and the land backdrop.

The plan contains rules, which regulate some activities in the coastal marine area. This includes building of structures, disturbance of the foreshore or seabed, reclaiming the sea, discharging of contaminants and other activities. These activities generally require a coastal permit from Bay of Plenty Regional Council before they can be undertaken.

The plan also contains policies about important environmental issues on land adjacent to the sea. This includes issues relating to the natural character and landscape of the coast, public access and coastal hazards. These policies

do not regulate people's activities directly but provide guidance in the preparation of district plans and consideration of resource consents.

The policies contained in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan must be consistent with those that are set out by the Minister of Conservation in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

### What is a coastal permit?

A coastal permit is a resource consent allowing activities in the coastal marine area. The coastal marine area is the zone between the landward boundary of the coastal marine area and has been determined by following a formula in the RMA. This only applies to rivers that enter the sea. Elsewhere the landward boundary is mean high water springs.

You will need to seek advice from Bay of Plenty Regional Council if the proposed activity is located in a river mouth or an estuary.

### Which activities require a coastal permit?

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires that coastal permits be obtained for activities such as:

- reclamations
- structures
- disturbance of the foreshore or seabed
- removal of sand and gravel
- deposition of substances
- introduction of plants
- discharges
- removal of seawater

Some activities are permitted because regional plans contain rules which allow them. For example, some stormwater discharges (within certain limits). Advice on which activities are authorised can be obtained from Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

### Resource consents

The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and this philosophy is carried through into the granting of resource consents.

A resource consent allows a person or organisation to carry out an activity which could have an effect on the environment.

Under the RMA all resource consents are grouped under five headings:

- Land use
- Subdivision
- Water use
- Discharges to water, land, air
- Activity in the coastal marine area

Some activities may not require a resource consent. Some activities are allowed directly by the RMA. Others are permitted by rules in regional plans.

#### NOTE:

**The latest version of acts are available on [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)**

