

## 3 Objectives

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### 3.1 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea

#### Objective O1



Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; **ki uta ki tai** – mountains to the sea.

#### Objective O2



The importance and contribution of air, land and water to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the community are recognised in the management and, where applicable, allocation of those resources.

#### Objective O3



**Mauri** is sustained and enhanced, particularly the **mauri** of fresh and coastal waters is sustained and, where it has been depleted, natural resources and processes are enhanced to replenish mauri.

#### Objective O4



The intrinsic values of aquatic fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of water is are recognised safeguarded.

#### Objective O5



Fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area, as a minimum, are managed to:

- ~~(a) safeguard aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, and~~
- ~~(b) provide for contact recreation and Māori customary use, and~~
- ~~(c) in the case of fresh water, provide for the health needs of people.~~

### 3.2 Beneficial use and development

#### Objective O6

Sufficient fresh water of a suitable quality is available, for:

- (a) the health needs of people, and
- (b) the reasonable needs of livestock.

#### ~~Objective O7~~

~~Fresh water is available in quantities and is of a suitable quality for the reasonable needs of livestock.~~

#### ~~Objective O8~~

~~The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of taking and using water are recognised and provided for within the Plan's allocation framework.~~

#### Objective O9



The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** are maintained and enhanced.

#### Objective O10



Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced.

#### ~~Objective O11~~



~~Opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and natural wetlands for cultural purposes are recognised, maintained and improved.~~

#### Objective O12



The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of **regionally significant infrastructure, and renewable energy generation activities and the utilisation of mineral resources** are recognised.

#### Objective O13



The Significant mineral resources use and the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of **regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities** in the coastal marine area and beds of rivers and lakes are protected from ~~new~~ incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.

### 3.3 Māori relationships

#### Objective O14



~~The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including: Māori relationships with air, land and water are recognised, maintained and improved.~~

- (a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and
- (b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and
- (c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and
- (d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.

#### Objective O15



Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.

#### ~~Objective O16~~



~~The relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa is recognised and provided for.~~

### 3.4 Natural character, form and function

#### Objective O17



The **natural character** of the coastal marine area, natural wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins ~~and natural wetlands~~ is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.

#### ~~Objective O19~~



~~The interference from use and development on natural processes is minimised.~~

#### 3.4b Natural hazards

#### Objective O20



The hazard risk, and residual hazard risk, ~~and adverse effects~~ from natural hazards and adverse effects of climate change, on people, the community and infrastructure are acceptable.

#### Objective O21



Inappropriate use and development in **high hazard risk areas** is avoided.

#### Objective O22



~~Hard engineering mitigation and protection methods are only used as a last practicable option.~~

### 3.5 Water quality

#### Objective O23



The quality of groundwater, water in the region's rivers, lakes, natural wetlands surface water bodies, groundwater and the coastal marine area is maintained or improved.

#### Objective O24



Rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, including by:

- (a) maintaining water quality, or
- (b) improving water quality in:
  - (i) **significant contact recreation fresh water bodies and sites with significant mana whenua values and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and
  - (ii) coastal water and sites with significant mana whenua values and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and
  - (iii) all other rivers and lakes and **natural wetlands** to meet, as a minimum, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.

## Contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives

Table 3.1 Primary contact recreation <u>and Māori customary use objectives in freshwater bodies<sup>1</sup></u> <del>in significant contact recreation freshwater bodies</del>								
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile <sup>2</sup>	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use	Toxicants and irritants	<u>Water clarity</u>	<u>Sediment cover</u>	<u>Heterotrophic growths</u>
		Planktonic <sup>3</sup>	Benthic					
Rivers	≤ 540 at all flows below 3x median flow, September to April inclusive		Low risk of health effects from exposure	Fresh water is safe <del>for primary contact</del> and supports <b>Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua.</b>	Concentrations of toxicants or irritants do not pose a threat to water users	<u>1.6m</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>No bacterial or fungal slime growths visible to the naked eye as plumose growths or mats</u>
Lakes	≤ 540 September to April inclusive	< 1.8mm <sup>3</sup> /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR < 10mm <sup>3</sup> /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria						

<sup>1</sup> For guidance on the *E.coli*, cyanobacteria and toxicants and irritants objectives in Table 3.1 refer to Table 3.3 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>2</sup> Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years

<sup>3</sup> 80<sup>th</sup> percentile derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of three years data

Table 3.2 Secondary contact <b>and Māori customary use recreation objectives with water</b> in freshwater bodies <sup>4</sup>				
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL median <sup>5</sup>	Cyanobacteria		<b>Māori customary use</b>
		Planktonic <sup>2</sup>	Benthic	
Rivers	≤ 1,000		Low risk of health effects from exposure	<b>Fresh water supports Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua.</b>
Lakes		< 1.8mm <sup>3</sup> /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR < 10mm <sup>3</sup> /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria		
<b>Natural wetlands</b>	<b>≤ 1,000</b>			

Table 3.3 Contact recreation <b>and Māori customary use objectives in coastal water</b> <sup>6</sup>			
Coastal water type	Pathogens Indicator bacteria/100mL 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile <sup>7</sup>	Māori customary use	Shellfish quality
Estuaries <sup>8</sup>	≤ 540 <i>E. coli</i>	Coastal water <b>is safe for primary contact and supports Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua</b>	Concentrations of contaminants, including pathogens, are sufficiently low for shellfish to be safe to collect and consume where appropriate
Open coast and harbours <sup>9</sup>	≤ 500 enterococci		

<sup>4</sup> For guidance on the *E. coli*, cyanobacteria and toxicants and irritants objectives in Table 3.2 refer to Table 3.3 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015. GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>5</sup> Based on a minimum of 12 data points collected over three years

<sup>6</sup> For guidance on the pathogens and shellfish quality objectives in Table 3.3 refer to Table 3.6 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015. GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>7</sup> Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years

<sup>8</sup> Excludes Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and includes Lake Onoke. Estuaries, including river mouth estuaries, should be treated as an estuary when they are dominated by saline water, in which case Table 3.3 applies, and as rivers when they are dominated by fresh water, in which case Table 3.1 or 3.2 applies.

<sup>9</sup> Includes Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Excludes the Lambton Harbour Area within the Commercial Port Area delineated in Maps 32, 33 and 34. For guidance on the pathogens and shellfish quality objectives in Table 3.3 refer to Table 3.6 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015. GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>10</sup> Includes Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Excludes the Lambton Harbour Area within the Commercial Port Area delineated in Maps 32, 33 and 34.

### 3.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Objective O25



~~To safeguard Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai~~ in fresh water bodies and ~~the~~ coastal marine area ~~are safeguarded such that:~~

- (a) water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain ~~biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai~~, and
- (b) ~~restoration of aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai is encouraged, and~~
- (c) ~~where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is improved over time to meet that objective.~~

*Note*

~~Where the relevant **whaitua** sections of the Plan contain an objective on the same subject matter as Objective O25 (water quality, biological and habitat outcomes), the more specific **whaitua** objective will take precedence.~~

## Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives

River class <sup>11</sup>		Macrophytes	Periphyton biomass <sup>12</sup> mg/m <sup>2</sup> chlorophyll <i>a</i>		Periphyton cover <i>Only applies when there is no periphyton biomass data</i>		Invertebrates <sup>13</sup> Macroinvertebrate Community Index		Fish	Mahinga kai species
			All rivers	Significant rivers <sup>14</sup>	All rivers	Significant rivers <sup>15</sup>	All rivers	Significant rivers <sup>16</sup>		
1	Steep, hard sedimentary	Indigenous macrophyte communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	≤ 50	≤ 50	<40%	<20%	≥ 120	≥ 130	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area <sup>17</sup> <u>Huanga of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.</u>
2	Mid-gradient, coastal and hard sedimentary		≤ 120	≤ 50	<20%	<20%	≥ 105	≥ 130		
3	Mid-gradient, soft sedimentary		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 105	≥ 130		
4	Lowland, large, draining ranges		≤ 120	≤ 50	<40%	<20%	≥ 110	≥ 130		
5	Lowland, large, draining plains and eastern Wairarapa		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 100	≥ 120		
6	Lowland, small		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 100	≥ 120		

<sup>10</sup>For guidance on the macrophytes, periphyton biomass, invertebrates and fish objectives in Table 3.4 refer to Table 2.4 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>11</sup> Shown on Maps 21a to 21e.

<sup>12</sup> The periphyton biomass objectives for River classes 3,5 and 6 marked with an asterisk (\*) shall not be exceeded by more than 17% of samples in 'productive' rivers and; for all other River classes, to be exceeded and by no more than 8% of samples in all other rivers, based on a minimum of three years of monthly sampling. Rivers are categorised as productive according to types in the River Environment Classification (REC). Productive rivers are those that fall within the REC "Dry" Climate categories (i.e. Warm-Dry (WD) and Cool-Dry (CD)) and the REC Geology categories that have naturally high levels of nutrient enrichment due to their catchment geology (i.e. Soft-Sedimentary (SS), Volcanic Acidic (VA) and Volcanic Basic (VB)). Therefore, productive rivers are those that belong to the following REC defined types: WD/SS, WD/VB, WD/VA, CD/SS, CD/VB, CD/VA.

<sup>13</sup> Rolling median based on a minimum of three years of annual samples collected during summer or autumn.

<sup>14, 11</sup> Rivers or streams with high macroinvertebrate community health, identified in column 2 of Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes).

<sup>15</sup>Rivers or streams with high macroinvertebrate community health, identified in column 2 of Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes).

<sup>17</sup> Appropriate for the area refers to those species expected present based on natural distribution and habitat.



Table 3.5 Lakes <sup>18</sup>					
Lake type	Macrophytes	Phytoplankton	Fish	Mahinga kai species	Nutrients
All lakes <sup>19</sup>	Submerged and emergent macrophyte communities are resilient and occupy at least one third of the lake bed that is naturally available for macrophytes, and are dominated by native species	Phytoplankton communities are balanced and there is a low frequency of nuisance blooms	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including <b>taonga species</b> , are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area <sup>20</sup> <u>Huanga of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.</u>	Total nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations do not cause an imbalance in aquatic plant, invertebrate or fish communities

Table 3.6 Groundwater <sup>21</sup>			
Groundwater type	Nitrate	Quantity	Saltwater intrusion
Directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on groundwater-dependent ecosystems or on aquatic plants, invertebrate or fish communities in connected surface water bodies	The quantity of water is maintained to safeguard healthy groundwater-dependent ecosystems	The boundary between salt and fresh groundwater does not migrate between fresh water and salt water aquifers

<sup>18</sup> For guidance on the macrophytes, phytoplankton, fish and nutrients objectives in Table 3.5 refer to Table 2.7 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>19</sup> Except for intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Onoke. These should be treated as a lake when they are in a closed state. When open to the coast, they should be managed as an estuary, in which case Table 3.8 applies.

<sup>20</sup> Appropriate for the area refers to those species expected present based on natural distribution and habitat.

<sup>21</sup> For guidance on the nitrate, quantity and saltwater intrusion objectives in Table 3.6 refer to Table 2.10 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

Table 3.6 Groundwater <sup>21</sup>			
Groundwater type	Nitrate	Quantity	Saltwater intrusion
Not directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on stygofauna communities or other groundwater ecosystems		

Table 3.7 Natural wetlands <sup>22</sup>					
Wetland type	Plants Flora	Fish Fauna	Mahinga kai species	Nutrient status	Hydrology
Bog	Indigenous plant communities are appropriate <sup>23</sup> to wetland type, are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are <del>balanced</del> within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	Indigenous fish faunal communities (including those of birds, fish, lizards and invertebrates) are appropriate <sup>16</sup> to wetland type are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are <del>balanced</del> within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in, or are migrating through, the wetland and are in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate to the area <sup>24</sup> Huangā of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.	Low or very low	Water table depth and hydrologic regime is appropriate to the wetland type
Fen				Low to moderate	
Seepage				Low to high	
Saltmarsh <sup>25</sup>				Moderate to high	
Swamp				Moderate to high	
Marsh				Moderate to high	

<sup>22</sup> For guidance on the flora, fauna, nutrient status and hydrology objectives in Table 3.7 refer to Table 2.13 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>23</sup> Appropriate refers to communities naturally found in the different wetland types, and indigenous species that are native to the area (i.e. species expected present based on natural distribution and habitat

<sup>24</sup> Appropriate for the area refers to those species expected present based on natural distribution and habitat

<sup>25</sup> Refers to terrestrial component of saltmarshes, coastal saltmarsh is provided for by Table 3.8

Table 3.8 Coastal waters <sup>26</sup>							
Coastal water type	Macroalgae	Seagrass and saltmarsh	Invertebrates	Mahinga kai species	Fish	Sedimentation rate	Mud content
Open coast	The algae community is balanced with a low frequency of nuisance blooms	NA	Invertebrate communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, sizes and of a quality that is appropriate for the area <sup>27</sup> Huangā of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.	NA	The sedimentation rate is within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	NA
Estuaries and harbours <sup>28</sup>		Seagrass, saltmarsh and brackish water submerged macrophytes are resilient and diverse and their cover is sufficient to support invertebrate and fish communities			The mud content and areal extent of soft mud habitats is within a range of that found under natural conditions		

<sup>26</sup> For guidance on the flora, fauna, nutrient status and hydrology objectives in Table 3.8 refer to Table 2.16 of the Technical guidance document: Aquatic ecosystem health and contact recreation outcomes in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, Wellington Regional Council, 2015, GW/ESCI-T-15/45.

<sup>27</sup> Appropriate for the area refers to those species expected present based on natural distribution and habitat

<sup>28</sup> Intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Onoke, should be treated as an estuary when they are in an open state. When closed to the coast, they should be managed as a lake, in which case Table 3.2 applies.

#### Objective O18



The ecological, recreational, **mana whenua**, and amenity values of estuaries are protected, including their sensitivity as **low energy receiving environments** ~~are is~~ recognised, and their health and function is restored ~~over time to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.8 Coastal waters.~~

#### Objective O26



~~The availability of **mahinga kai** species to support Māori customary harvest is increased, in quantity, quality and diversity.~~

#### Objective O27



Vegetated riparian margins are established, ~~and maintained, or restored to~~ enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area.

#### Objective O28



The extent and significant values of **natural wetlands** ~~is maintained or increased, are protected,~~ and their condition is restored. Where the significant values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.7.

#### Objective O29



~~Use and development provides for the~~ The passage of fish and kōura is maintained, and the passage of indigenous fish and kōura is restored.

#### Objective O30

The habitat of trout identified in Schedule I (trout habitat) is maintained ~~and or~~ improved.

### 3.7 Sites with significant values

#### Objective O31



Outstanding water bodies and their significant values are protected: and restored. Where the significant values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

#### Objective O32



Outstanding natural features and landscapes and their values are protected from inappropriate use and development.

#### Objective O33





~~Sites with significant **mana whenua** values are protected and restored.~~

#### Objective O34



Significant historic heritage values are protected from inappropriate modification, use and development.


Objective O35   
Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected, and where appropriate restored to a healthy functioning state as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.


Objective O36   
Significant geological features in the coastal marine area are protected from inappropriate use and development.


~~Objective O37   
Significant surf breaks are protected from inappropriate use and development.~~

~~Objective O38   
Identified special amenity landscape values are maintained or enhanced.~~


### 3.8 Air quality

Objective O39   
**Ambient air** quality is maintained or improved to the acceptable category or better in Schedule L1 (**ambient air**).


Objective O40   
Human health, **property**, and the environment are protected from the adverse effects of **point source discharges** of air pollutants.

Objective O41   
The adverse effects of odour, smoke and dust on amenity values and people's well-being are ~~reduced~~ minimised.

### 3.9 Soil


Objective O42   
Soils are healthy, and ~~productive, retain a range of uses,~~ and accelerated soil erosion is reduced.


### 3.10 Land use

Objective O44   
The adverse effects on soil and water from land use activities are minimised.

~~Objective O45   
The adverse effects of **livestock** access on **surface water bodies** are reduced.~~

### 3.11 Discharges to land and water

Objective O46   
~~Discharges to land are managed to reduce~~ †The runoff or leaching of contaminants to water from discharges to land is minimised.

Objective O47   
The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is ~~reduced~~ minimised.

#### Objective O48



~~Stormwater networks and urban land uses are managed so that t~~The adverse quality and quantity effects of stormwater discharges from ~~the~~ stormwater networks and urban land uses are improved over time.

#### Objective O49



Discharges of **wastewater** to land are promoted over discharges to fresh water and coastal water.

#### Objective O50

Discharges of **wastewater** to fresh water are progressively reduced.

#### Objective O51



The environment is protected from the adverse effects of discharges of hazardous substances and the creation of contaminated land is avoided is managed to protect human health, property and the environment.

#### Objective O43



~~Contaminated land is managed to protect human health and the~~ The environment is protected from more than minor adverse effects of discharges from contaminated land.

### 3.12 Water allocation

#### Objective O52

The efficiency of allocation and use of water is improved and maximised through time., ~~including by means of:~~

- (a) ~~efficient infrastructure, and~~
- (b) ~~good management practice, including irrigation, domestic municipal and industry practices, and~~
- (c) ~~maximising reuse, recovery and recycling of water and contaminants, and~~
- (d) ~~enabling water to be transferred between users, and~~
- (e) ~~enabling water storage outside river beds.~~

#### Objective O52A

Any further over-allocation of fresh water is avoided and existing over-allocation is phased out.

### 3.13 Coastal management

#### Objective O53



Use and development shall not be located in the coastal marine area ~~has~~ except where it has a **functional need** or **operational requirement** to be located there., ~~unless the use and development is in the Lambton Harbour Area.~~

Objective O54



Use and development makes efficient use of any occupied space in the coastal marine area.

Objective O55



The need for public open space in the coastal marine area is recognised.

Objective O56



New development in the coastal marine area is of a scale, density and design that is compatible with its function and its location in the coastal environment.

Objective O57



Use and development is appropriate in the **Lambton Harbour Area** when it is compatible with its surroundings and the Central Area of Wellington City.

Objective O58



Noise, including underwater noise, from activities in the coastal marine area is managed to maintain the health and well-being of marine fauna, and the health and amenity value of users of the coastal marine area.

Objective O59



The efficient and safe passage of vessels and aircraft that support the movement of people, goods and services is provided for in the coastal marine area.