

# Marine Protected Areas Policy Statement and Implementation Plan



## MPA Policy

- Addresses the NZ Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3.6 - *to effectively conserve marine biodiversity using a range of mechanisms*
- 10% of marine environment protected by 2010, towards the 2020 objective of a comprehensive and representative network of MPAs
- MPA Policy Objective is to:



*“Protect marine biodiversity by establishing a network of MPAs that is comprehensive and representative of New Zealand’s marine habitats and ecosystems”*

## Marine Protected Areas

MPA: *“an area of the marine environment especially dedicated to, or achieving, through adequate protection, the maintenance and/or recovery of biological diversity at the habitat and ecosystem level in a healthy functioning state”*

### Management Tools for MPAs may include:

Marine reserves

Fisheries Act tools including

- Fishing area and gear restrictions
- Customary management tools

RMA tools

Marine parks

Cable protection zones, etc.



## Main Components of MPA Policy

- A consistent approach to classification of marine habitats and ecosystems
- Mechanisms to co-ordinate a range of management tools – protection standard and planning process for nearshore and offshore
- Inventory to identify areas where MPAs is required
- A nationally consistent basis for planning and establishing new MPAs



## MPA Principles



- Network Design Principles:

provide guidance on how to form a complete, viable network that protects the **full range of habitats and ecosystems**

- Planning Principles:

provide guidance on the way in which **MPA sites** and **protection tools** will be chosen

## Important Policy Elements

- Biodiversity protection
- Habitat and ecosystem level protection, not species
- Can include vertically stratified MPAs
- Can include tools allowing use of resources (PS)
- Network - viable, secure, monitored and enforceable
- Each habitat or ecosystem type in a marine reserve
- Treaty obligations for effective participation
- Minimise adverse impacts on users
- Best available information – precautionary approach



## MPA Implementation Plan

### Stage One

- Task One - Classification Approach
- Task Two - Refine Protection Standard
- Task Three – Map existing tools

### Stage Two

- Task Four – MPA Inventory
- Task Five – Network Gaps Analysis
- Task Six – Prioritise habitats for New MPAs

### Stage Three

- Task Seven - Nearshore implementation
- Task Eight – Offshore implementation
- Task Nine – Designate new MPAs

### Stage Four

- Task Ten - Monitoring and Evaluation

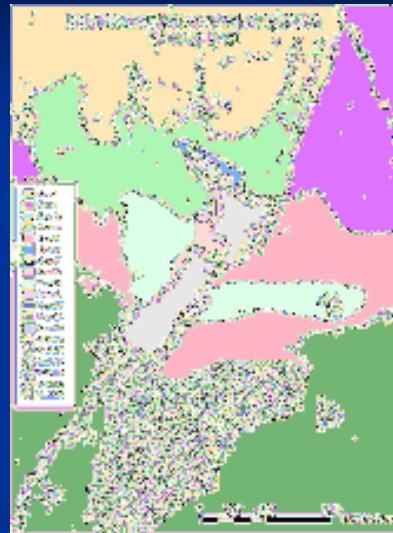


## Task One – Classification Approach

### Offshore

Based on MEC - measurable, objective physical variables (e.g. depth, water temperature, salinity, latitude, turbidity)

Revise classification as information and understanding increases



## Nearshore

Biogeographic  
Regions – revised  
by December 2005  
Classification  
Workshop

Habitats – depth,  
energy, substrate  
are principal  
physical surrogates  
for next level of  
classification



## Protection Standard - Planning Principle 2

All MPA network tools must meet a defined protection standard to adequately protect marine biodiversity

The management regime must provide for the maintenance or recovery of:

- **Physical features** and biogenic structures that support biodiversity
- **Ecological systems**, natural species composition (including all life-history stages), and trophic linkages
- Potential for the biodiversity to **adapt and recover** in response to perturbation



## Stage One Process

- The classification system and protection standard are in development
- MFish and DoC will finalise prior to public consultation
- MFish and DoC will advise Ministers

## Task Seven – Nearshore Implementation

- National governance – Inter-agency Steering and Implementation groups
- Regional Forum Approach:
  - Chair
  - Stakeholders participate
  - Agencies support and facilitate
  - Identify MPAs - review marine environment information
  - Selection - capture unrepresented habitats
  - Ministerial decisions



Then agencies implement through statutory processes

## Advanced Planning Projects

- Hauraki Gulf Forum
- West Coast, South Island
- Sub Antarctic Islands

