

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, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.

Objective O3



Mauri 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 fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded.

3.2 Beneficial use and development

Objective O5

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

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

Objective O6



The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of taking and using water are recognised, when managing water.

Objective O7



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

Objective O8



Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced, other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case alternative access is provided where practicable.

Objective O9



The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities** and the utilisation of **mineral** resources are recognised.

Objective O10



Regionally Significant Infrastructure and **renewable energy generation activities** that meets the needs of present and future generations are enabled in appropriate places and ways.

Objective O11



Significant mineral resources and the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** are protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.

3.3 Māori relationships

Objective O12



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:

- (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**, including by maintaining or improving **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** so that the **huanga** identified in Schedule B are provided for, 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 O13



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.

3.4 Natural character, form and function

Objective O14



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

3.5 Natural hazards

Objective O15



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

Objective O16



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

3.6 Water quality

Objective O17



The quality of groundwater, water in **surface water bodies**, and the coastal marine area is maintained or improved.

Objective O18



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 identified in Schedule C and **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and
 - (ii) coastal water and sites with significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C and **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and
 - (iii) all other rivers and lakes and **natural wetlands** to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.

Note

For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the *NPS-FM 2020*, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.

Contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives

Table 3.1 Primary contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives in freshwater bodies										
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i>	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use ¹	Toxicants and irritants ²	Water clarity	Sediment cover ³	Heterotrophic growths	Only applies to primary contact recreation freshwater water bodies identified in Schedule H1	
		Planktonic	Benthic						Periphyton % weighted composite cover (PeriWCC)	Nuisance macrophytes % cover of channel water surface
Statistic ⁴	95th percentile	80th percentile	N/A	N/A	N/A	50th percentile	N/A	N/A	Annual maximum	Maximum
Units	cfu/100mL	mm ³ /L	N/A	N/A	N/A	m	%	N/A	%	%
Rivers	≤ 540 at all flows below 3x median flow, September to April inclusive		Low risk of health effects from exposure	Fresh water is safe and supports Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua .	Concentrations of toxicants or irritants do not pose a threat to water users	≥1.6m	<25	No bacterial or fungal slime growths visible to the naked eye as plumose growths or mats	<30	≤50
Lakes	≤ 540 September to April inclusive	< 1.8mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR < 10mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria								

¹ E.coli is a factor for some **Māori** customary use so E.coli levels may be important to meet this objective outside of the September to April period specified for E.coli

² For guidance refer to the default guideline values (recreation and aesthetics) of the *Australia and New Zealand guidelines for fresh and marine water quality (2018)*

³ Only applies to naturally hard bottomed rivers and streams

⁴ Percentile derived using the Hazen method, all statistics to be assessed from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years.

Table 3.2 Secondary contact and Māori customary use recreation objectives in freshwater bodies ⁵				
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL median ⁶	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use
		Planktonic ¹¹	Benthic	
Rivers	≤ 1,000		Low risk of health effects from exposure	Fresh water supports Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua .
Lakes		< 1.8 mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR < 10 mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria		
Natural wetlands	≤ 1,000			

Table 3.3 Contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives in coastal water ⁷			
Coastal water type	Pathogens Indicator bacteria/100mL 95 th percentile ⁸	Māori customary use	Shellfish quality
Estuaries ⁹	≤ 540 <i>E. coli</i>	Coastal water supports Māori customary use by the achievement of the huanga identified by mana whenua	Concentrations of contaminants, including pathogens, are sufficiently low for shellfish to be safe to collect and consume where appropriate
Open coast and harbours ¹⁰	≤ 500 enterococci		

⁵ 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.

⁶ Based on a minimum of 12 data points collected over three years

⁷ 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.

⁸ Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Includes Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Excludes the Commercial Port Area delineated in Maps 51, 52 and 53.

3.7 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Objective O19



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) 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 meaningfully improved so that the objective is met within a reasonable timeframe, and
- (c) **restoration** of **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** is encouraged.

Note

For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the *NPS-FM 2020*, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.

Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives

Table 3.4 Rivers and streams ¹¹															
Attribute		Nuisance macrophytes	Periphyton biomass ¹²		Periphyton cover		Invertebrates				Fish		Mahinga kai species	Toxicants ¹³	
Statistic ¹⁴		%Maximum	See footnote 15		Annual Maximum		Median ¹⁵				Score on latest data		N/A	N/A	N/A
Unit		%	mg/m ² chlorophyll a		Periphyton % weighted composite cover (PeriWCC)		Macroinvertebrate Community Index		Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index		Index of Biotic Integrity				
River class ^{16,17}			All rivers	Significant rivers	All rivers	Significant rivers	All rivers	Significant rivers	All rivers	Significant rivers	All rivers	Significant rivers			
1	Steep, hard sedimentary	≤50% channel cross sectional area or volume	≤ 50	≤ 50	<20%	<20%	≥ 120	≥ 130	≥6	≥6.5	≥48	≥48	Fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area and reflective of a healthy functioning ecosystem ¹⁸ Huangā of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.	River Class 1 and rivers listed with high macroinvertebrate community health – 99% species protection All other rivers – 95% species protection
2	Mid-gradient, coastal and hard sedimentary		≤ 120	≤ 50	<40%	<20%	≥ 105	≥ 130	≥5.5	≥6.5	≥38	≥48			
3	Mid-gradient, soft sedimentary		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 105	≥ 130	≥5.5	≥6.5	≥38	≥48			
4	Lowland, large, draining ranges		≤ 120	≤ 50	<40%	<20%	≥ 110	≥ 130	≥5.5	≥6.5	≥38	≥48			
5	Lowland, large, draining plains and eastern Wairarapa		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 100	≥ 120	≥5	≥6	≥38	≥48			
6	Lowland, small		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	<40%	<20%	≥ 100	≥ 120	≥5	≥6	≥38	≥48			

¹¹ 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.

¹² The periphyton biomass objective shall not be exceeded by more than 17% of samples in 'productive' rivers and 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.

¹³ Nitrate and ammonia to be assessed against the NPS-FM (2020) attribute states; all other Toxicants to be assessed against the ANZG (2018) Default Guideline Values unless site/catchment specific thresholds are available for use (see Step 4 of the ANZG (2018) Water Quality Management Framework).

¹⁴ Unless otherwise stated, based on 5 years of data.

¹⁵ In naturally soft-bottomed rivers and streams assessment against the objectives shall be based on the soft bottom versions of the indices.

¹⁶ Shown on Maps 29 to 33.

¹⁷ Significant rivers are rivers or streams with high macroinvertebrate community health, identified in column 2 of Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes)

¹⁸ Appropriate for the area means consistent with what would be expected when the ecosystem is in a natural healthy condition.

Table 3.5 Lakes													
Lake type	Macroalgae	Macrophytes (invasive score) Lake Submerged Plant: Invasive Impact Index - % of maximum potential score	Macrophytes (native score) Lake Submerged Plant Indicators: Native Condition Index - % of maximum potential score	Phytoplankton Annual median mg chl- <i>a</i> / m ³	Phytoplankton Annual maximum mg chl- <i>a</i> / m ³	Total Nitrogen Annual median mg/ m ³		Total Phosphorus Annual median mg/ m ³	Lake Bottom Dissolved Oxygen Annual minimum g/m ³	Mid-Hypolimnion Dissolved oxygen ¹⁹ Annual minimum g/m ³	Sediment	Fish	Mahinga kai species
						Seasonally stratified and brackish	Polymictic						
Significant lakes ²⁰		0	≥75	≤2	≤10	≤160	≤300	≤10	≥7.5	≥7.5			Mahinga kai species, including taonga species , are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area and reflective of a healthy functioning ecosystem ²¹
All other lakes ²²	The algae community is reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health with a low frequency of nuisance blooms ²³	≤25	≥50	≤5	≤25	≤350		≤20	≥2.0	≥5.0	Anthropogenic sediment loads, suspended sediment concentrations, and sedimentation on the lake bed are such that aquatic ecosystem health is reflective of a good state.	Fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health	Huanga of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.

¹⁹ Mid-hypolimnion dissolved oxygen objective only applies to seasonally stratified lakes.

²⁰ Parangarahu Lakes and Lake Pounui are significant lakes

²¹ Appropriate for the area means consistent with what would be expected when the ecosystem is in a natural healthy condition.

²² Monitoring data should be analysed separately for closed periods and open periods for intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Ōnoke

²³ The macroalgae objective only applies to Lake Ōnoke

Table 3.6 Groundwater ²⁴	
Water quality and quantity	Saltwater intrusion
Water quality and quantity achieves a good state of health (including no toxic effects) in groundwater and connected surface water ecosystems. This includes ecosystem processes, aquatic life (including microbial and stygofaunal community composition in groundwater) and physical habitat.	The boundary between salt and fresh groundwater does not migrate between fresh water and salt water aquifers

Table 3.7 Natural wetlands ²⁵					
Wetland type	Flora	Fauna	Mahinga kai species	Nutrient status	Hydrology
Bog	Indigenous plant communities are appropriate ²⁶ to wetland type, are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	Indigenous faunal communities (including those of birds, fish, lizards and invertebrates) are appropriate ³⁵ to wetland type, are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are 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 ²⁷ and reflective of a healthy functioning ecosystem Huanga 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	
Saltmarsh²⁸				Moderate to high	
Swamp				Moderate to high	
Marsh				Moderate to high	

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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

²⁷ Appropriate for the area means consistent with what would be expected when the ecosystem is in a natural healthy condition.

²⁸ Refers to terrestrial component of saltmarshes, coastal saltmarsh is provided for by Table 3.8

Table 3.8 Coastal waters ²⁹							
Coastal water type	Macroalgae	Seagrass and saltmarsh	Invertebrates	Mahinga kai species	Fish	Sedimentation rate	Mud content
Open coast		NA				NA	
Estuaries and harbours ³¹	The algae community is reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health with a low frequency of nuisance blooms	Seagrass, saltmarsh and brackish water submerged macrophytes are resilient and diverse and their cover is sufficient to support invertebrate and fish communities	Invertebrate communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species , are present in quantities, sizes and of a quality that is appropriate for the area and reflective of a healthy functioning ecosystem ³⁰ Huanga of mahinga kai as identified by mana whenua are achieved.	Fish communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are reflective of a good state of aquatic ecosystem health	The sedimentation rate is within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	The mud content and areal extent of soft mud habitats is within a range of that found under natural conditions

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Appropriate for the area means consistent with what would be expected when the ecosystem is in a natural healthy condition.

³¹ Monitoring data should be analysed separately for closed periods and open periods for intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLS), such as Lake Ōnoke.

Objective O20



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

Objective O21



Vegetated riparian margins are established, 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 O22



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

Objective O23



The passage of fish and kōura is maintained, or is improved, by instream structures, except where it is desirable to prevent the passage of some fish species in order to protect desired fish species, their life stages or their habitats.

Objective O24

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

3.8 Sites with significant values

Objective O25



Outstanding water bodies identified in Schedule A (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 including as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

Objective O26



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

Objective O27



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

Objective O28



Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected from the adverse effects of use and development, and where

appropriate restored to a healthy functioning state including as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

Objective O29



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

3.9 Air quality

Objective O30



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

Objective O31



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

Objective O32



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

3.10 Soil

Objective O33



Soils are healthy, and productive to support a range of uses, life supporting capacity is safeguarded and accelerated soil erosion is **minimised**.

3.11 Land use

Objective O34



The adverse effects on soil and water from land use activities are **minimised**, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Objective O35



The adverse effects of **livestock** access on **surface water bodies** are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

3.12 Discharges to land and water

Objective O36



The runoff or leaching of contaminants to water from discharges to land is **minimised**, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Objective O37



The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is **minimised**, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Objective O38



The adverse quality and quantity effects of **stormwater** discharges from **stormwater networks** and urban land uses are reduced over time.

Objective O39



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

Objective O40

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

Objective O41



The environment is protected from the adverse effects of discharges of **hazardous substances** and the creation of contaminated land is avoided.

Objective O42



Contaminated land is identified and the discharges of contaminants are managed to protect the environment.

3.13 Water allocation

Objective O43

The **efficient allocation** and efficient use of water is improved and **maximised** through time including through **water harvesting**.

Objective O44

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

3.14 Coastal management

Objective O45



Use and development shall generally not be located in the coastal marine area unless it has a **functional need** or **operational requirement** to be located there.

Objective O46



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

Objective O47



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

Objective O48



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 O49



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 O50



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 O51



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.