New Zealand's marine environment at a glance

Our marine environment 2016

The number of seabirds, sea lions, and fur seals caught in fishing gear is decreasing. The risk of bycatch remains high for some rare species.

Decreased bycatch is likely due in part to mitigation measures, eg bird-scaring and sea lion exclusion devices.

2003 9,000 birds

2014 5,000 birds

The marine economy was worth $4 billion (1.9% of GDP) in 2013, almost half from offshore minerals (mainly oil and gas).

It sustained 102,400 jobs, mostly in shipping, fishing and aquaculture.

2013 $896m

2007 $716m

Fisheries and aquaculture

2007 $771m

2013 $1,954m

Offshore minerals

Global net greenhouse gas emissions

1999 33 kilotonnes (millions)

2011 44 kilotonnes (millions)

Climate change – driven by CO_2 and other greenhouse gas emissions – is a long-term threat to our marine environment by warming the water, and causing sea-level rise.

Globally, New Zealanders are the fifth-highest emitters per person of greenhouse gases.

Our coasts are under pressure from excess sediments, nutrients and other pollution running off the land.

Degraded coastlines compromise Māori values, recreation, and wildlife habitats.

Shipping

2007 $981m

2013 $980m

The number of new marine species arriving in coastal waters is growing.

These species can compete with and prey on native plants and animals, alter environments, and affect marine industries.

2010 318 non-native species

2015 351 non-native species

Sea level 1899 (Auckland)

Sea level 2013 (Auckland)

+ 22cm

90% of native seabirds and shorebirds are threatened with or at risk of extinction.

At sea, seabirds are threatened by marine pollution and fishing bycatch.

On land, seabirds and shorebirds are vulnerable to introduced predators, storms, coastal development, and other human impacts.

Climate change is causing sea levels to rise around New Zealand's coastline.

Rising sea level is a cause of coastal erosion, which harms the habitats of shorebirds and other coastal dwellers, including people.

1909

2009 + 0.7 °C

New Zealand's ocean temperatures are rising due to climate change.

Warmer waters change the marine environment, eg driving fish to swim to cooler waters.

More than a quarter of our native marine mammals are threatened with extinction.

The greatest risks they face are from fishing impacts, marine pollution, and changes to food sources and habitats.

1998 8.103 pH

2014 8.062 pH 8% more acidic

The ocean absorbs CO_2 from the atmosphere, making sea water more acidic.

Increased acidity can make it harder for shellfish to form shells, and reduce vital plankton populations.

More information at **www.mfe.govt.nz** or **www.stats.govt.nz**

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