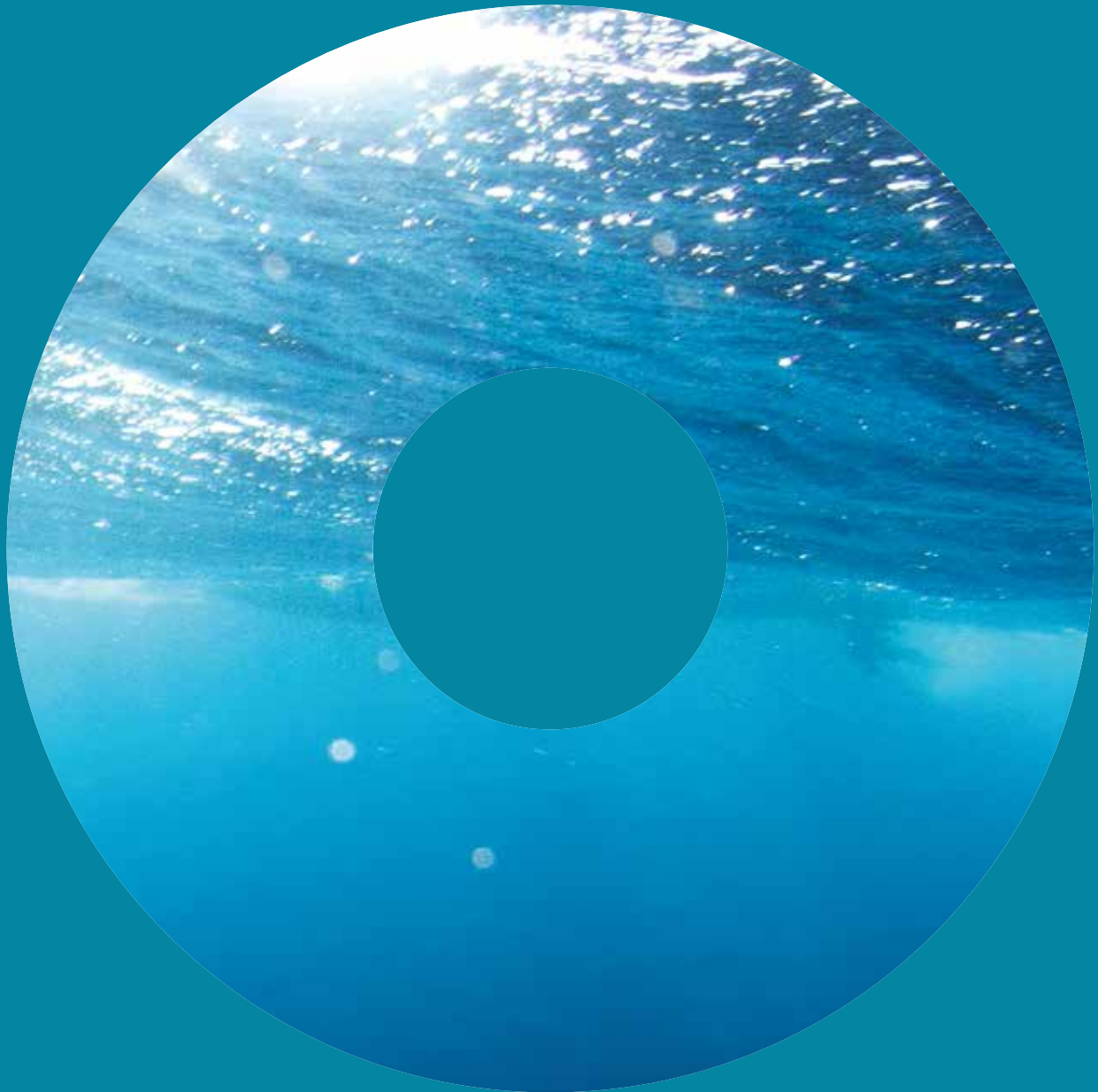




**The
Aotearoa
Circle**

**Mā te
Kaitiakitanga
ko te
Tōnuitanga**
Prosperity
Through
Guardianship

Marine



Marine

New Zealand controls the world's fourth largest coastal fishing zone. Our exclusive Economic Zone of 4.1 million square kilometres supports a mid variety of marine species and our clean coastal waters are well suited to aquaculture and fishing

Current State

Cumulative human pressures are negatively impacting New Zealand's oceans, coastal marine habitats, and wildlife. As a country, we have insufficient data in many of these areas.



Current Trend

There is increasing awareness about the state of decline of our marine environment, with both public and private sector players acting to reduce impact. Ocean acidification, marine plastics, overfishing and by-catch, beach closures due to poor water quality, areas where it is no longer safe to gather mahinga kai and public demand for more sustainable seafood and tourism is driving more sustainable practices and greater transparency. The linkages between what happens on land and the implications for the marine environment are being investigated further so we can better understand human impacts.



A Future Vision

New Zealand has an effective ecosystem-based approach to integrated marine management, including strong connections with land-based activities' impact on the marine environment. New Zealand builds on its well-developed research and innovation industry to shift to higher-value exports, demonstrating an exemplary value chain of transparency, which strengthens our brand as the global leaders of sustainable seafood. We have a marine management system that is resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change. Our marine seabird and mammal species are no longer threatened with extinction.

What's happening already?

- Government and industry are working together to improve the sustainable management of marine resources in projects like Precision Seafood Harvesting and the SPATNZ mussel spat hatchery
- Companies like Sanford and Moana are demonstrating greater transparency and balance by using Integrated Reporting (IR) frameworks or international best practice verifications and accreditations such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification
- Sea Change (Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan), Marlborough Marine Futures and the Guardians of Fiordland are all key examples of different ways local authorities are working together with communities
- Sustainable Coastlines and Sea Cleaners are also bringing communities together to address marine litter and can access government funds such as the Waste Minimisation Fund
- Improved data is set to play an increasing role in decision making. Government is increasing its focus on getting good data and updating strategies and legislation, to incentivise sustainable practices through initiatives like the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge, CARIM project, the Fisheries Research Programme and Emerging Contaminates programme
- Ecosystem-based management is being trialled in areas like the Marlborough Sounds and Golden Bay
- Government has introduced regulations banning plastic microbeads and have started the process phase out single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand. Earlier this year local and international businesses made a joint declaration to use 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025 or earlier.

Key data

90%

of native seabirds and shorebirds are threatened with extinction.

28%

Of the 29 marine mammal species and subspecies that breed in New Zealand are classified as threatened with extinction

Source: Our marine environment 2016

Marine

Why act now?

- A range of national scale issues are emerging that impact on our marine environment:

Ocean acidification and impacts of climate change may significantly affect marine ecosystems

Excess sedimentation, which accumulates over decades and can directly affect shellfish and finfish species and destroy important habitats

Seabed trawling and dredging for fish and shellfish can cause widespread harm to seabed habitats

Marine pests can lead to loss of biodiversity and threaten marine industries

Excess nutrients entering our oceans can reduce oxygen in seawater and degrade estuaries

Opportunities for collective action

- Business and government leaders have identified the following opportunities that will be explored over the next three to six months:

Educating and engaging communities

Addressing marine plastics

Exploring how our land based activities affects our marine environment

Improving ecosystem resilience

Key data

2/3

Accumulation of plastic in the environment is a concern for two out of three New Zealanders



Accumulation of plastics in the environment is now amongst Kiwi's top five concerns along with issues like the protection of New Zealand children

Source: Colmar Brunton 2018

These snapshots are designed to be living documents. They will be updated regularly to incorporate activities and insights that highlight progress towards the desired future state.

If you have feedback please email: info@aotearoacircle.nz

Version 1.0 — 19 October 2018