

Sustainable Seas regional workshop agenda

Dunedin

Programme

9:00 am	Karakia
9:05 am	Introduction to the day (Julie Hall, Sustainable Seas)
9:15 am	Bringing it all together for a healthy ocean and prosperous blue economy (Chris Cornelisen, Cawthron)
9:35 am	Land-based impacts on estuaries: a local-to-national perspective; understanding local estuaries (Candida Savage, University of Otago)
10:05 am	Introduction to Tohorā, our AI-assisted search tool (Anne-Maree Schwarz, Sustainable Seas)
10:25 am	Morning tea
10:55 am	How Sustainable Seas' tools can be used to meet local aspirations for the estuary (Judi Hewitt, University of Auckland)
11:25 am	Ki uta ki tai and the New River estuary (Anne-Maree Schwarz, Sustainable Seas)
11:55 am	Introduction to break-out sessions (Julie Hall, Sustainable Seas)
12:00 pm	Break-out session 1
12:40 pm	Lunch
1:40 pm	Break-out session 2
2:20 pm	Break-out session 3
3:00 pm	Afternoon tea
3:30 pm	Break-out session 4
4:10 pm	Emerging futures (Sam Thomas, Otago Regional Council and Tom Brough, NIWA)
4:35 pm	Trailer to Sustainable Seas Docuseries <i>Turning the Tide</i>
4:45 pm	Karakia
5:00 pm	Recognition reception with workshop participants and researchers from the region

Break-out sessions

1. Managing cumulative effects

To successfully implement ecosystem-based management, we must manage for the cumulative effects of multiple stressors as they make ecosystems prone to tipping points from which recovery can be long. This break-out session will provide opportunities to engage with newly developed frameworks for cumulative effects management (eg in consenting and limits-setting processes) that are founded on established ecological theory and aimed at building resilience and promoting recovery of degraded habitats. The session will also cover the latest advancements in spatially resolved decision-support tools that have new methods for incorporating cumulative effects to improve marine spatial planning in an ecosystem-based management context.

2. Addressing risk and uncertainty

Successful integration of ecosystem-based management and blue economy principles for Aotearoa New Zealand requires understanding how, and why, we perceive risk, and methods to assess risks transparently despite uncertainty associated with data limitations. This break-out session will provide opportunities to engage with guidance on selecting appropriate risk assessment methods that can deal with diverse values, world views, and preferred outcomes. It will also cover how to incorporate numeric data with mātauranga, expert opinion, and local knowledge.

3. Implementing ecosystem-based management

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is a holistic approach to managing marine environments that can potentially reconcile cross-sectoral conflicts, scale mismatches, and fulfil sustainability objectives. This session will provide an opportunity to engage with guidance on why EBM offers an alternative to current ways of managing the marine environment, how EBM can support planning and policy practices to enhance improved social and environmental outcomes, what tools are available for implementing EBM, and what is needed to enable the adoption of an EBM approach.

4. Applying Indigenous-led approaches

We will showcase Māori-led research grounded in Māori knowledge and culture to help inform the development of a uniquely Aotearoa New Zealand approach towards EBM. The research prioritises Māori leadership, aiming to directly benefit iwi and hapū. The research projects involve creating models harmonising Māori knowledge and science, applying mātauranga Māori in governance, and fostering collaborative research with a te ao Māori approach. The overarching goal is to develop an approach to EBM that is informed by Māori wisdom and practices, while at the same time empowering Māori communities through culturally sensitive research.

5. Developing a blue economy

This session will outline findings from the blue economy (BE) research and use the BE principles as a basis for working through how the BE aspirations might be implemented by end-users. It will also outline building BE platforms for regional development and how the BE principles dovetail with EBM approaches and Māori BE aspirations at iwi and hapū scale and discuss how these may be picked up by decision-makers in business, management, and government (regional and central). The session will also highlight comparisons of different BE regional development approaches to focus attention on aligning regional economic development and EBM around the BE principles.