

Project title	Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan Review
Indicative Phase II Budget:	
Theme / Programme	Innovation and Opportunities/Theme 4
Problem definition	The Waikato Regional Council (WRC) is currently reviewing its Regional Coastal Plan (the Plan) as part of the review process under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to update provisions, as necessary, and take into account legislative changes. The Plan, made operative in 2005, is now out of date in some parts, does not fully give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and does not fully align with the Council's recently revised strategic direction. Developments in freshwater (e.g. NPSFM and Te Mana o Te Wai) and processes to which the WRC has played a key role (Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora, Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari) also highlight the potential for changes to enhance iwi engagement to bring to life Te Ao Māori in planning contexts. The aim of this project is to support WRC in meeting its duties and obligations by applying research from the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge (Sustainable Seas) and the principles of ecosystem-based management (EBM) within a policy setting. To achieve this, Sustainable Seas' researchers will work alongside WRC to support the inclusion of EBM principles in its revised coastal plan.
Research question(s)	The research questions for this project are specific to the revision of the Plan by the WRC. The questions are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can EBM learnings from Sustainable Seas be applied to policy development in a meaningful way? 2. Does an EBM approach enhance opportunities for councils to better support iwi engagement and bring to life Te Ao Māori in a policy development context?
Project activities: Stage 1	The project activities will be staged, with an evaluation of next steps conducted at the end of each stage by Sustainable Seas and WRC. Stage 1 activities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops with WRC to develop a common understanding of EBM principles and to determine how these can be best incorporated into the revision of the Plan. • Mapping Sustainable Seas research to the Plan themes to identify opportunities and synergies. • Outline how Sustainable Seas' research can be used to support WRC in the revision of the Plan. • Evaluate outcomes of Stage 1 to determine next steps.
Project approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A co-leadership model (WRC and Sustainable Seas) will be adopted to enable identification of science and policy needs as the project develops, and to deploy resources (including Sustainable Seas' researchers) in a manner that is timely and relevant. • Regular communication and interaction between WRC and Sustainable Seas is essential to ensure agility in identifying and deploying skills, expertise and resources as needed throughout the project.
Potential location(s)	Hamilton/Waikato Region coastal extent (both East and West Coasts)
Potential co—developers, collaborators & partners	Waikato Regional Council
Links to and dependencies with other Themes / Tangaroa	All themes but greatest focus on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2 <i>Tools for incorporating ecological responses to cumulative effects into management actions</i> 2 Blue Economy Theme 4.2 <i>Options for policy and legislative change to enable EBM</i> 4.3 <i>EBM and kaitiakitanga</i> Synthesis: Ecosystem-based management and blue economy in action

Timing	2020-2021 (18 months)
Building on which Phase I research	<p><i>CP1.1 EBM within NZ's existing legal framework</i></p> <p><i>1.3.2 Enabling inter-agency collaboration on cumulative effects</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 Tipping points in ecosystem structure and function and services</i></p> <p><i>3.1.2 He Pou Tokomanawa: Kaitiakitanga in practice in our marine environment</i></p> <p><i>3.1.1 Hui-te-ana-nui: Understanding kaitiakitanga in our marine environment</i></p> <p><i>CP What could ecosystem-based management look like in Tasman and Golden Bays</i></p>
Outputs links to Theory of Change	<p>(c) Effective partnership models for an EBM approach to decision-making and management developed, evaluated, and demonstrated.</p> <p>(g) Governance and policy practices that support EBM identified, evaluated and packaged for targeted decision-makers.</p>
Outcomes links to Theory of Change	<p>(3) Knowledge from the Challenge (science and mātauranga) is used in decision making to improve ecological health and influences Aotearoa New Zealand's marine management practice and policy</p> <p>(4) The complementarity of local expressions of Kaitiakitanga and EBM are well understood and enabled</p> <p>(6) EBM practices are understood and accepted as a viable approach by decision makers, stakeholders and iwi</p> <p>(7) Māori rights, interests and values are supported through the application of EBM</p> <p>(8) Researchers and iwi and stakeholders involved during the life of the Challenge continue to actively promote, research in, and use knowledge from the Challenge</p>