

# Northland's Coast and Us



## Our coastal threats

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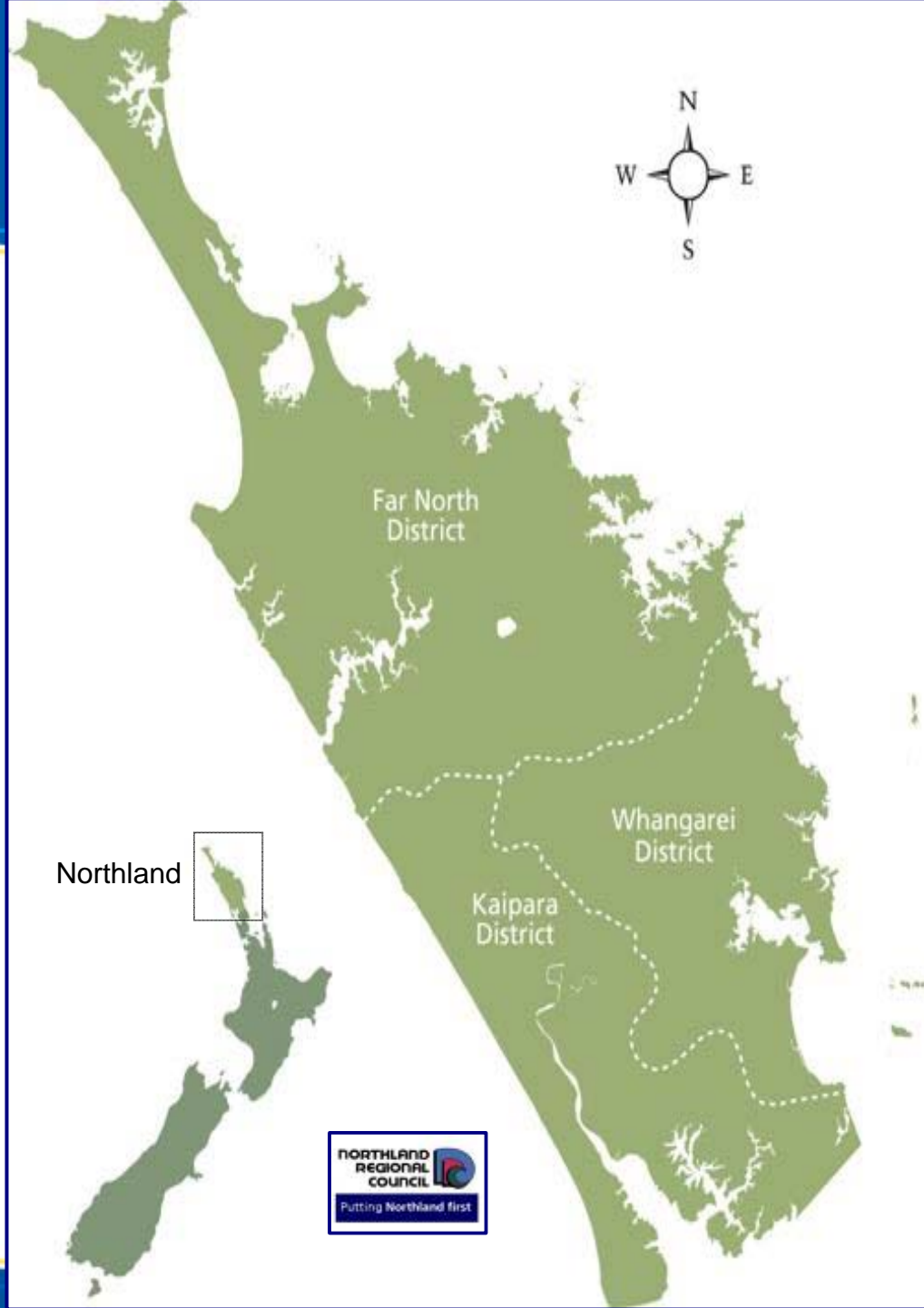


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# What is Northland's Coast?

Northland's coast is a 3200 kilometre zipper joining the land and the sea. It is one of our most treasured natural resources.

List the reasons you treasure Northland's coast.



# What is a 'threat' to Northland's coast?

A threat is anything that stops our coast working naturally.

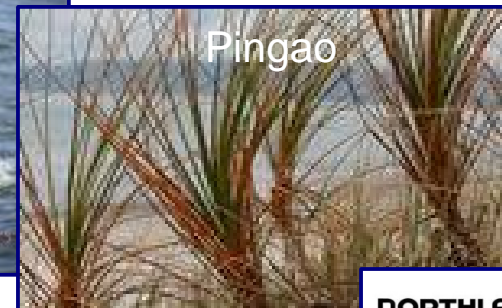
Walk along your part of Northland's coast. Identify any threats to its natural function.



# Why do we value our coast?

Northland's coastline is home to a large variety of creatures and plants. Some of them are found in few other places in the world.

What bird, plant, insect or marine creatures are found only on Northland's coast?



# Why do we value our coast?

Discover and describe the coastal environment near you.



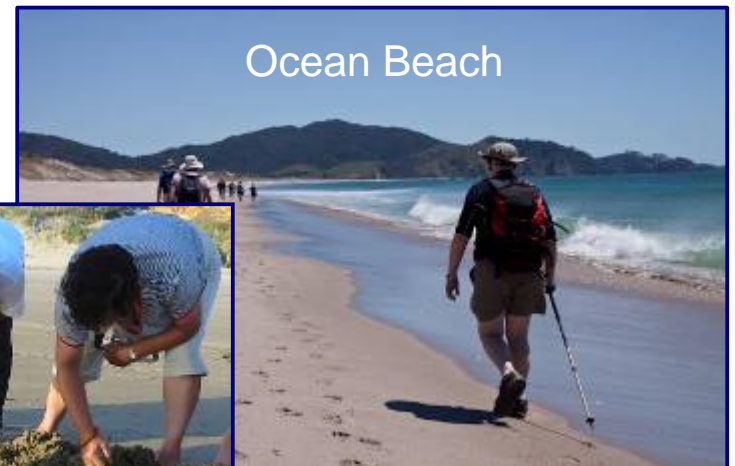
Northland also has a unique mix of coastal environments – from vast dunes, to estuaries, golden sand beaches and steep cliffs. It also has 17 harbours and two marine reserves.



# Why do we value our coast?

Northland's coast provides us with a place to gather food, have fun, find peace and pleasure, and transport ourselves and our goods.

What do you enjoy doing on Northland's coast?



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# What happens when coastal environments are out of balance?

Balance is important for coastal ecosystems to work. The environment starts to die when it is out of balance.

Deterioration in one ecosystem impacts on others that depend on it.



Create a flow chart showing the interdependence of coastal ecosystems on your part of the coast.

# What threatens the environmental balance of our coast?

Humans impact in positive and negative ways on our coast. Some negative impacts include

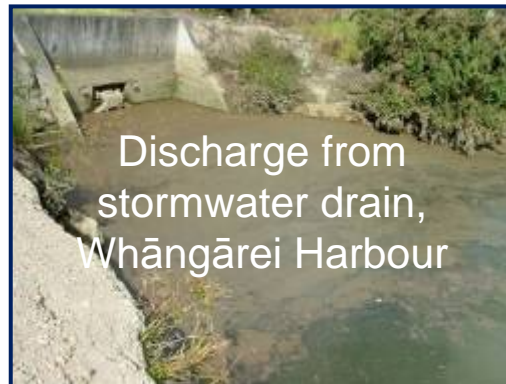
- overuse of the coast
- introduced pest plants and animals
- inappropriate coastal development
- marine pests
- erosion
- pollution

Check out the negative human impacts on a part of the coast.

Rabbit damage to pingao, Poutō



Discharge from stormwater drain, Whāngārei Harbour



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# What plant pests threaten Northland's coasts?

Walk along the coast to identify which plants are natives and which are introduced species.

Native coastal plants have developed to perform special jobs that help keep coastal ecosystems healthy. Introduced species such as exotic ice plant, daisies, kikuyu grass can overwhelm native coastal plants.



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# What animal pests threaten our coasts?

Introduced animal pests have a negative impact on the native animals that perform special jobs to keep our coastal ecosystems healthy. These pests include:

- . cats
- . dogs
- . rats
- . mustelids (weasels, stoats, ferrets)
- . possums
- . rabbits

Ask an expert how each of these pests threatens coastal native animals.



# Who helps control coastal plant and animal pests?

## The Northland Regional Council (NRC)

- gives free pest control advice to landowners
- develops Regional Pest Management Strategies
- educates the public
- supports Community Pest Control Areas
- funds research on biological control
- offers Environment Fund funding for pest control
- offers poison for plants and traps for animal pest control

Go to:  
[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz) for  
more information  
about pest control  
activities in your  
area.



# Who helps control coastal plant and animal pests?

The NRC's CoastCare programme helps Northland community groups to:

- take care of their part of the coast
- manage pest plants on dunes
- carry out animal pest control
- replant sand dunes with native sand-binding plants

Find out what  
CoastCare is  
doing in your  
area at

[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)



CoastCare sign,  
Waipapakauri



# Who helps control coastal plant and animal pests?

The Department of Conservation (DOC) also helps to get rid of animal and plant pests in Northland.

Paul McDonald from DOC,  
Whāngārei, with Tiny a stoat  
sniffing dog.

Photo: Department of Conservation



Investigate  
DOC's pest  
control activities  
in your area at  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

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# Who helps control coastal plant and animal pests?

Volunteer groups such as CoastCare and LandCare, Weedbusters and trust groups help address problems specific to their areas.



Bream Head Trust  
planting day



Taipā Area School  
CoastCare Kids group



Tāpeka Ratepayers  
Group constructs a  
dune fence

Check out what you can do to help a local volunteer group care for our coast.

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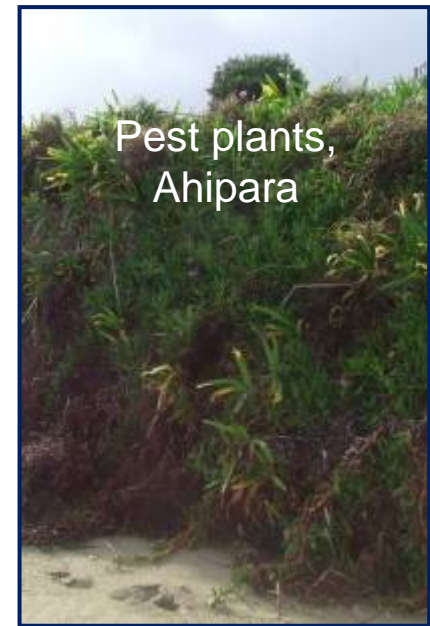


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# How can we help protect our coasts from threats?

- join a CoastCare group at [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)
- trap animal pests on your property
- eradicate pest plants when you see them
- don't walk, ride or drive over plants or their habitats
- keep stock in fenced paddocks
- keep weeds and garden waste off the dunes and beach
- plant your garden with native plants if you live near the coast

How can you get these messages to your community?



# What marine pests threaten our coast?

Ships bring the danger of marine pests.

Some marine pests are already in our waters. Others have been identified as potential threats.

Check out these pests and potential pests at:  
[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)



Styela, or sea squirt



# What marine pests threaten Northland's coast?

The most feared pests are:

- Mediterranean fanworm
- European shore (or green) crab
- Northern Pacific sea star
- Chinese mitten crab
- Asian clams
- Aquarium weed  
(*Caulerpa taxifolia*)

How can you help keep your part of the coast free of these marine pests?

Northern Pacific sea star



Chinese mitten crab

# How can we help protect Northland's coasts from marine pests?

- Keep boat hulls clean
- Empty seawater from your boat where it was collected
- If you have visited an area infested with marine pests, wash your boat, fishing and dive gear thoroughly with high pressure fresh water in that area

How can you get these messages to your community, and those who visit Northland's coast?



# How does inappropriate coastal development threaten Northland's coasts?

Our coast has been degraded since humans arrived through inappropriate building of houses, roads, jetties and marinas. These can

- destroy habitats plus nesting and feeding grounds
- erode dunes and banks
- compromise coastal plants
- interrupt coastal ecosystems

Locate local areas where inappropriate development has threatened the coastline.



# What is being done to manage harmful coastal development?

The Northland Regional Council prepares plans and policy statements for the coast to help make sure it is sustainably developed and protected. These documents give rules and guidelines for anyone wanting to carry out development projects.



How do these rules and guidelines affect the people and places on your part of the coast? Find out at:

[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)

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# How does erosion threaten Northland's coasts?

Erosion can prevent ecosystems working properly. Erosion is a process that can be sped up by human activity.

Sand binding plants cannot do their job well when the shore is modified, repeatedly trodden on or driven over.

Loss of sand leads to loss of the foredunes and foreshore – the growing resting, nesting and feeding grounds for many coastal species.

What is causing erosion on Northland's coast?  
How can you help prevent coastal species being impacted by that erosion?



# How does the Northland Regional Council help protect Northland's coast?

The Northland Regional Council (NRC) helps prevent coastal threats.

How does the council look after our coast? Go to [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz) to find out.



# How can we stop Northland's coasts from abnormal erosion?

- keep cars and bikes off dunes
- use beach accessways provided
- keep out of fenced-off areas
- if you must drive or ride on the beach, do so on hard sand only
- drive with care near shellfish beds
- avoid walking, driving or riding over archeological sites

Find out more about vehicles on beaches at  
[www.nrc.govt.nz/safebeachdriving](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/safebeachdriving)



How can you get this message to those who live at or visit Northland's coast?

# How can we stop Northland's coasts from abnormal erosion?

How can you spread these messages in your coastal community?

- keep 4WDs and bikes off the dunes
- keep to the tracks and paths
- keep horses and dogs off dunes
- keep stock in paddocks
- get rid of pests and weeds
- leave sand and pebbles on the beach
- join a CoastCare group





# What kind of pollution threatens Northland's coasts?

- leached nutrients from farm fertiliser
- pesticides
- oils and dispersants
- urban and rural runoff
- ship anti-fouling paints
- heavy metals from dumps and roads
- oil and bilge spills at boat ramps or refuelling depots
- sewage leaks, sewer floods or faulty sewerage systems



What can you do to help stop pollution being a problem along Northland's coast?



# How can we avoid polluting Northland's coast?



- keep rubbish out of the gutter – don't litter
- fix vehicle oil leaks so oil doesn't discharge onto roads
- use a commercial car wash, or wash your car on the grass
- dispose of unwanted chemicals, fats and oils responsibly
- use biodegradable cleaning products
- avoid overuse of chemical fertilisers
- compost garden waste and lawn clippings
- pick up rubbish and dispose of it properly
- bury or compost fish remains

How can you get these messages to coastal communities?

**Remember: small actions by many people bring big results!**

# How can we avoid polluting Northland's coast?

## Take care in boats:

- use a sewage holding tank
- dispose of wastes properly using onshore pump-out facilities
- regularly clean out bilges and sumps - on land if possible
- launch and retrieve your boat at designated launching ramps
- store rubbish in a strong reusable bag or covered bin
- remove plastic packaging before materials are taken on board



Do your bit  
with your  
boat! Keep  
Northland's  
coast clean

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# How can we look after Northland's marine mammals?

Avoid injuries to dolphins, whales and seals:

- slow down when they are sighted
- approach no closer than 100 metres away from the mammals
- leave them alone if they show signs of agitation
- avoid sudden turns

What marine mammals are found along Northland's coasts?



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## Our coastal threats

**have you clicked on yet?**  
**[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)**