

Part 6

NCFLC – Natural character, features and landscapes in the coastal environment

APP16 – Areas of outstanding coastal natural character

1. Introduction

- a. The following sections set out the specific values and attributes of each Area of outstanding natural character.
- b. All the following areas are identified on the Nelson Plan Maps as Outstanding coastal natural character overlays.

APP16 – Table 1: Cape Soucis/Raetihi

Values	Attributes
Abiotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prominent distinctive and unmodified headland of Cape Soucis/Raetihi acts as the region's northerly point.2. Steep and high quality freshwater watercourses.3. Impressive rocky foreshore.4. Relatively unmodified marine environment.
Biotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Large extent of intact indigenous forest with distinctive biotic communities.2. Impressive sequence of vegetation communities extending from mountain ridge to sea floor.3. Small areas of indigenous coastal dunes at Oananga and Omokau Bays which are rare in the Nelson region.4. High numbers of threatened and at-risk plant species, especially along the narrow band of coastal habitat, including spinifex.5. Very limited modification.6. Reefs around Cape Soucis/Raetihi support cup corals and a range of uncommon species (e.g. ambush starfish, brachiopods).7. Highest unmodified biodiversity within Te Tai-o Aorere/Tasman Bay coastal marine environment.8. Important linkage of biological communities between Nelson and Marlborough regions.
Experiential	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Very high levels of perceived naturalness due to lack of modification and extent of indigenous vegetation.2. Limited access with low levels of recreational use.

	<p>3. Exposure to transitory nature of marine mammals.</p> <p>4. Wild, rugged and remote values with little in the way of human activity evident.</p>
Overall Rating	Outstanding

APP16 – Table 2: Whangamoa River Mouth, Estuary and Whangamoa Rocks to Māori Pa Beach

Values	Attributes
Abiotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limited modification to the abiotic attribute of this estuary is rare in Nelson. 2. Inflowing streams retain moderate – high levels of water quality. 3. Whangamoa Inlet provides important link for supplying nutrient rich waters for nourishing marine food web. 4. Kokorua sand spit. 5. Unmodified rocky beach extending from Whangamoa headland to Māori Pa Beach.
Biotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sand spit bordering the Inlet is gazetted as a scientific reserve and considered a significant ecological site. 2. Estuarine margins, saltmarshes and enclosing dune to north are relatively unmodified. 3. Small but very important valley-floor forest and wetland remnants. 4. Regenerating indigenous forest on coastal hill slopes. 5. The Kokorua sand spit contains remnant populations of a variety of regionally threatened plant species and is ecologically significant. 6. Provides excellent feeding grounds for threatened and at-risk waders, including banded rail, banded dotterel and rare variable oystercatcher. 7. The main body of the estuary is relatively unmodified and forms a significant ecological site that remains relatively undeveloped compared to other river mouth dune systems. 8. Central part of an unmodified rocky shore biological continuum from Marlborough through to eastern Te Tai-o-Aorere/Tasman Bay to the Horoirangi Marine Reserve.
Experiential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High remote values, notably from the estuary itself and from Hori Bay. 2. High perceived naturalness values due to unmodified nature of estuary and wild coastline from Whangamoa headland to Māori Pa Beach. 3. There are a number of popular surf breaks in the areas.
Overall Rating	Outstanding

APP16 – Table 3: Delaware Bay, Horoirangi Marine Reserve and Coastal Waters off Boulder Bank/Te Taero a Kereopa – Te Tāhuna a Tama-i-ea

Values	Attributes
Abiotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impressive series of coastal landforms, including a tombolo, sand spit and small peninsulas. 2. Extensive unmodified rocky areas dominate intertidal area, especially associated with Horoirangi Marine Reserve. 3. Complex subtidal reef system at Ataata Point. 4. A legible land system derived from material eroded from Mackay Bluff to form a slender natural spit of cobbles and boulders.
Biotic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ataata Point reef supports large patches of common anemone, sponges and many uncommon species (including brachiopods, ambush starfish, window oysters and sponge garden) and is an important roost site for approximately 2,000 shags. 2. Nationally important dune habitats. 3. Extensive unmodified mud and sand flats dominate intertidal area together with nationally important dune habitats. 4. Impressive remnant vegetation on Bishop Peninsula. 5. Protected offshore Horoirangi Marine Reserve. 6. Important feeding ground for threatened birds. 7. Complex sub-tidal reef system and important relationship with aquatic habitats protected in the Horoirangi Marine Reserve. 8. Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku is a haul-out site for fur seals and provides breeding and roosting sites for a range of birds (e.g. spotted shags, white-fronted tern, reef heron). 9. Pepin Island/Mahe-i-puku represents the western extension of the unmodified rocky shore continuum from Marlborough to Horoirangi Marine Reserve and enhances the productivity and is thus important for the restoration/recovery of biological communities. 10. The land-sea interface of Delaware Inlet and the Wakapuaka River plume provides a source of nourishment for the Horoirangi Marine Reserve and enhanced productivity and iwi kai moana values of the Delaware Bay taiāpure area.
Experiential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very high levels of perceived naturalness due to dominance of coastal processes and absence of buildings.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tidal and wave patterns, light conditions and presence of marine mammals.3. Limited modification along coastal waters amplify remote-like characteristics.4. There are a number of popular surf breaks in the area.
Overall Rating	Outstanding