New Zealand's Blue Economy

New Zealand's marine environment is a taonga. Our waters are rich in biodiversity and unique ecosystems. The marine environment supports recreational and economic activities and is of significant spiritual and cultural value to our people.

A sustainable blue economy contributes to economic growth, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. Marine geospatial data helps us understand our marine environment, supporting decision-making to ensure our oceans are protected for future generations. Land Information New Zealand is collaborating with stakeholders across the marine sector to improve access and re-use of marine geospatial data, and support a sustainable blue economy.

Conservation

The health of marine ecosystems requires effective monitoring and management strategies. Bathymetry and its derivatives (slope, rugosity, aspect) as well as seabed and water column backscatter can be used to identify and understand marine habitats to support adaptive conservation and sustainable management of marine species.

Marine Transportation and Infrastructure

Marine transport and infrastructure for trade and tourism is critical to the economy. Safe passage of shipping in and out of New Zealand is maintained by accurately charting the depths around our coasts. Knowledge of marine infrastructure supports effective decision-making.

Climate Change and Resilience

Warming waters and rising sea-levels are threatening natural marine environments, and man-made coastal infrastructure. Bathymetry, sea-level data, temperature and salinity models can be used to monitor change, and better prepare and respond to natural events.