

WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI*  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
Annual Report 2015/2016





# West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Annual Report 2015-2016

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
pursuant to Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987

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Front Cover Photo: Members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board at Coal  
Town, Westport 03.12.15 – M Thorpe

Left to Right: P Birchfield, V Baldwin, D Moloney, R Coakley, R Roney, C White, M Legge,  
J Taylor, T Scott. Absent: D Carruthers

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West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

c/- Department of Conservation

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## 1. Message from the Chair, Mike Legge

The past year has provided several challenges for the Board including the review and changes within the Department of Conservation. The Board has had, and continues to have excellent working relationships with the Department during the two restructuring processes.

In July The Board welcomed a new member Rauhine Coakley who was a Ngai Tahu appointment replacing Kori Hutana who was not seeking re-appointment and Dan Moloney was re-appointed. During the year our long serving Board Support Officer, Mary-Anne Thorpe, was promoted within the Hokitika office and continued to help with Board matters while a replacement Board Support Officer was appointed. Mary-Anne's hard work, professionalism and ability to keep the Board members informed will be greatly missed.

Overall this has been a busy year for the Board with an interesting and varied programme. The Paparoa National Park Management Plan Review was a dominant focus of the Board's work and briefings on the *Tai Poutini* Westland National Park Review continued during the year. Other significant work included discussion on the re-location of the cobbled skinks threatened by coastal erosion at Granity, updates on the winblown timber work, extension of the time of the *Powelliphanta augusta* facility, and discussions relating to the DoC Story, Our Nature and Stretch Goals. Over the year the Board embarked on an education programme relating to the use of 1080 with a number of presentations including views from the community and an update from Dr Elaine Murphy on the development of alternative pest management technologies. Continuing on from this the Board monitors the scientific literature relating to pest management and scientific articles are circulated regularly.

In December the Board had a briefing from Garry Howard, Mayor, Westport, on a proposal to develop the Wangapeka Road link and the Board continued to monitor any developments relating to the Haast – Hollyford road concept.

The Board meeting at Haast in February 2016 achieved a new milestone with flooding at the hotel and a power failure resulting in a candle-lit public meeting. This was offset by the following two days at the Bruce Bay Marae where the Board received exceptional hospitality and a very informative meeting finishing at 8-30pm. West Coast Boards have stamina!

Looking ahead the Board anticipates another busy year with both the Paparoa National Park Plan Review, the development of the Paparoa Walk and the *Tai Poutini* Westland National Park Review getting under way. Progression of Stewardship land re-classification, involvement in the West Coast Growth Study, the increasing issues with tourism and conservation and the continued interest in preservation of Historic Places will bring considerable variety to the Board's business.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the pleasure of working with Department of Conservation staff and the work of the members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board for their resilience during the year. As Chair, I am fortunate to have an enthusiastic group with a wide range of skills and knowledge brought to the work of the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mike Legge

July 2016

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## 2. Introduction

This is the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board had 10 members for the 2015-2016 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There was one new appointment to the Board - Rauhine Coakley, a Ngāi Tahu appointment and one re-appointment - Dan Moloney. Dr Mike Legge was elected as Chairperson and Veronica Baldwin as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of a West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- The recommendation of National Park Management Plans to the NZCA for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board submits this annual report.



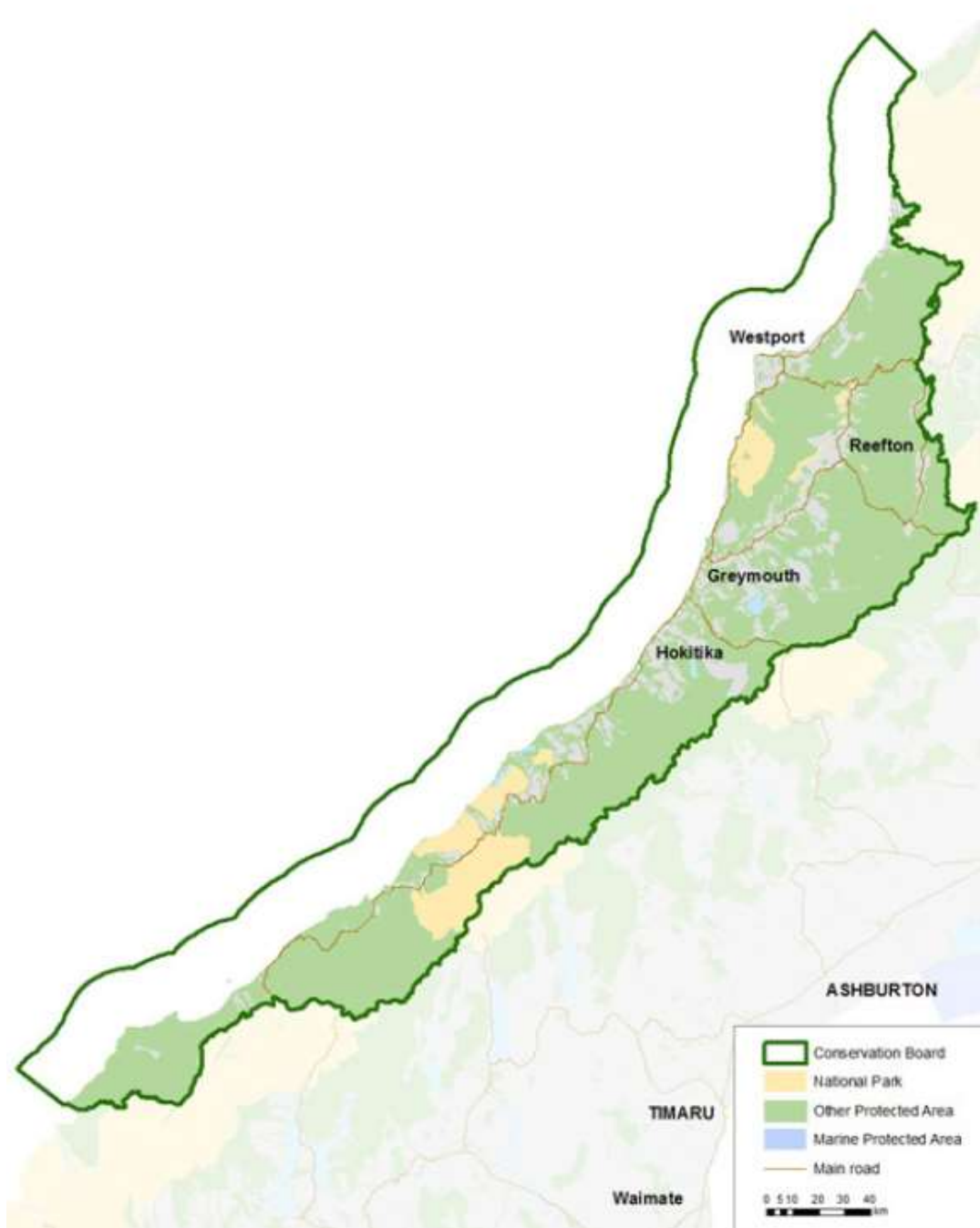


### 3. Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

### 4. West Coast *Tai Poutini* Region

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the West Coast from north of Karamea south to Big Bay. The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to marine mammal issues.



Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park and Pararoa National Park lie within the Boards' jurisdiction.

Approximately 25% of all public conservation land in New Zealand lie within the West Coast Region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as mistletoe, Wetland petrel/*taiko*, white heron/*kotuku*, blue duck/*whio*, rowi, Haast *tokoeke*, great spotted kiwi/*roa*, mohua and Powelliphanta species
- Management of recreational facilities
- Management of historic sites
- Concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, baches, filming, gravel extraction
- Mining and access arrangements
- Marine protection

The total area of the West Coast Region comprises of 1,913,000 ha. Of this total, approximately 84% (1,610,000 ha) is contained within the boundary of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

Features of the Area:

- Paparoa National Park – 39023 ha
- Westland *Tai Poutini* Nation Park – 131330 ha
- Victoria Conservation Park – 204675 ha
- 114 Scenic Reserves – 79405 ha
- 19 Historic Reserves – 12644 ha
- 92 Recreation Reserves – 402 ha
- 45 Ecological Areas – 216506 ha
- 21 Amenity Areas – 17098 ha
- 390 Stewardship Areas – 845383 ha
- 3 Wilderness Areas – 111602 ha
- Adjoins Kahurangi, Arthur's Pass, Aoraki/Mt Cook, Mt Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks

## 5. Board Membership

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

One member whose terms of office expired on 30 June 2015 was reappointed for a further 3-year term and there was one new appointment.

Mike Legge was elected Chairperson and Veronica Baldwin was elected Deputy Chairperson.

### 5.1 Members Profiles

Dr Mike Legge (Chairperson) was an Associate Professor (Biochemistry and Pathology) at the University of Otago until 2011, and now holds an honorary role. He has extensive experience in research, environmental management and policy development, and sound understanding of public processes and public participation in decision-making. He is a life sciences consultant a QEII covenant holder and elected Director for the QEII National Trust. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping, track work, hut warden, revegetation, photography, bird census, and marine conservation.

Veronica Baldwin (Deputy Chair) is a Senior Business Analyst at the Tai Poutini Polytechnic. She has expertise in resource and environmental management, policy development analysis, and planning, and a good understanding of compliance and public, governmental and parliamentary processes. She is a former conservation board member and former private secretary to the Minister for the Environment. Her outdoor recreation interests are walking, visiting and experiencing national parks and their features. She is of Ngāi Tahu iwi.

Paulette Birchfield is Engineering Officer at the West Coast Regional Council. She has qualifications and practical knowledge and experience in environmental engineering, resource management skills, and knowledge of environmental principles, problems and management. She is a keen advocate for use of the conservation estate for recreational use. Her outdoor recreation interests are trail and mountain running, multisport, and mountain-biking.

Rauhine Coakley is nominated by Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae. She is currently employed as a care support worker, and has worked in the health section for the past 5 years. She has also worked in the tourism and hospitality sections for several years. She has a passion for conservation and has a desire to learn more about conservation, and the *Tai Poutini* and conservation issues that affect the people and environment.

Dan Moloney has recently retired as a school principal. He is familiar with planning and analysis of data, and has good communication skills and cultural awareness. He is a keen trumper, and West Coast historian and photographer. He is involved in community organisations, and understands the proposed marine reserves and conservation issues on the West Coast. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping, West Coast history, photography, and reading.

Rob Roney is Head of the Science Department at Greymouth High School, and a Fish and Game West Coast Councillor. He has expertise in communication, dealing with groups, planning and analysis, and health and safety. He has sound governance skills, and sound understanding of public processes, strategic planning, legislation and meeting procedure. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping, climbing, back country hunting, fly fishing, and rafting.

Terry Scott is a nominee of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu. He is retired and had a total of 44 years Fire Service experience, involving Fire Command and Control at a senior level (QSJM), and a member of the Fire Services Commission of which he was Deputy Chair for seven years. He is a former Dunedin City Councillor, and been a member of many committees in the local area. He is knowledgeable of local government and Department of Conservation processes and procedures. His outdoor recreation interests are fishing and tramping. He is of Ngāi Tahu iwi.

John Taylor owns Western Ventures, and is a strong advocate for conservation of industrial heritage. He is a past member of the community development board, and has governance, advocacy and relationship management skills. He is also a tutor in conservation-related legislation and health and safety. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping, mountaineering and exploring the New Zealand mining heritage sites (both on the surface and underground).

Coraleen White is a farmer, former Buller District Councillor and former Westport Issues Assistant to West Coast Tasman MP Chris Auchinvole. She has experience in governance roles, and in working with DOC staff to resolve constituent concerns. She helped prepare the Council's inaugural district plan, and participated in public hearings. She holds a QSM. Her outdoor recreation interests are walking and boating; especially in Westland *Tai Poutini* and Kahurangi National Parks.

David Carruthers has practiced as a lawyer on the West Coast for 40 years and has a long standing and intimate knowledge of the West Coast and its people. He has served as a Tenancy Adjudicator for the Justice Department, was a member of the Development West Coast for 3 years and is a past president of the Westland District Law Society. His outdoor recreation interests include walking and painting.

## 6. Meetings

### 6.1. Board Meetings

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board held five meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Date	Area
31 July 2015	Hokitika
18 September 2015	Hokitika
3 December 2015	Westport
18 February 2016	Bruce Bay Marae, South Westland
29 April 2016	Hokitika

### 6.2. Attendance

The table below shows the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year.

Member	Home	Attended
Mike Legge (Chair)	Charleston	5/5
David Carruthers	Hokitika	3/5
Rauhine Coakley	Hokitika	5/5
Terry Scott	Oxford	5/5
Dan Moloney	Westport	5/5
Veronica Baldwin (Deputy)	Greymouth	3/5
Rob Roney	Greymouth	5/5
John Taylor	Reefton	5/5
Paulette Birchfield	Greymouth	4/5
Coraleen White	Westport	5/5

### 6.3. Field Trips

#### Westport – Coal Town – December 2015

The December meeting was held in Westport so the Board took the opportunity to visit the Coal Town Museum. The museum had various displays which focus on the formation of coal, maritime history, unionism, the communities, transport and the men underground. There is also a simulated underground mine which will give you an insight into the working conditions of the miners.

## South Westland – February 2016

The Board headed down to visit the Copland Valley car park, south of Fox Glacier, to view the shelter and discuss visitor numbers and the history of the area with DOC staff. From there they travelled to Franz Josef where DOC's Operations Manager gave the Board a tour of the new visitor centre.

The public meeting was held at the Te Tauraka Waka a Māui Marae, Mahitahi (Bruce Bay) which allowed the Board to strengthen the relationship with Makaawhio.



## 6.4. Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

The Board welcomes presentations from members of the public and Department staff at the meetings. During 2015-2016 we had formal presentations from:

- D Havill and B Smith on the Haast Hollyford Road Proposal
- V Tumai gave a presentation on section 4 of the Conservation Act
- J Hania the Department of Conservation Story
- Shane Hall – Operations Manager on the Pike 29 Memorial Track
- Jason Arnold – Te Runanga O Ngāi Tahu on the history of Ngāi Tahu, its focus to provide for future generations and the importance of good working partnerships
- C Hickford presented on ‘Our Nature’ – DOC Story and the 2025 stretch goals

## 7. Board Committees and Representation

### Subcommittees

Subcommittee	Members
Paparoa National Park Management Plan	Mike Legge Dan Moloney Paulette Birchfield Coraleen White Rob Roney Rauhine Coakley (Iwi rep)
Westland National Park Review	Mike Legge Terry Scott Veronica Baldwin

## 8. Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- (a) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- (b) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- (c) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- (d) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General
  - (i) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
  - (ii) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- (f) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- (g) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

## 9. Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- (1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each Board may –
  - (a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - (b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- (3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.



## 10. Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987

No members were co-opted during the year.

## 11. Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

There are two National Parks within the Board's region: Pararoa National Park and *Tai Poutini* Westland National Park. The Board has sub-committees involved in the management plan review for these. The Board also advocates for cross boundary issues with Kahurangi National Park (which is the responsibility of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board), Arthur's Pass National Park (Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board), Mt Aspiring National Park (Otago Conservation Board) and Fiordland National Park (Southland Conservation Board)

## 12. Liaison

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise and some members have specific roles in liaison.

Public forums are offered at each Board meeting for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board.

### 12.1. Other Conservation Boards

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* region's immediate neighbours are the Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury *Aoraki* and Otago Conservation Boards. Liaison with neighbouring Boards are maintained principally through the exchange of minutes and agendas. Consideration of joint Board meetings has been discussed.

### 12.2. Community

The West Coast is a region of small communities. Board members are often well known in their local communities and have regular contact with members of the public. Where possible the Board tries to meet with local community groups while on field inspections.

Board members are invited to join in activities organised by the Department and other conservation groups to celebrate national events. This gives members a chance to interact with other groups and to learn more about the Department's work.

### 12.3. District and Regional Councils

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues in which it is interested.

During the year, the Board had the Buller District Mayor Garry Howard at their December meeting

### 12.4. Iwi

Two members of the Board are nominated by Ngāi Tahu as required under the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998. At the April meeting Jason Arnold, Te Runanga O Ngāi Tahu gave a presentation on the history of Ngāi Tahu, its focus to provide for future generations and the importance of good working partnerships.

# Appendix I – West Coast *Tai Poutini* Annual Work Plan

Work Board Programme for 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

## Work Programme Overview

This West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Associate Minister of Conservation dated 31 August 2015. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:
  - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS);
  - Advice relating to stewardship land;
  - Other statutory functions for the Board;
  - Advocacy; and
  
- Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
  - Working with the Department;
  - Taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Statement of Intent;
  - Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA;
  - Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
  - General engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board; and
  
- Part C: Risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

## PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

### 1. Review/development of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

#### 1.1. Board Objective:

The Board will review the revised West Coast CMS draft and will recommend the approval of the draft by the NZCA with or without amendments

Planned Board Activities		Progress Updates
(a)	Paparoa National Park Review	October 2016 – Paparoa National Park Management Plan presented to NZCA
(b)	Continue refinement of the CMS Management tool	Development of CMS management tool ongoing to link with the use of the new CMS format
(c)	Initiate progressive internal review of CMS	Limited progress due to National Park reviews
(d)	Liaise with local councils on issues relating to the CMS	Board Chair met with the Mayor of Westport and is a member of the joint local authorities working group for establishing a ‘Discovery Centre’ in Greymouth. Submissions on Regional Policy Statement.

#### 1.2. Board Objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved West Coast CMS

Planned Board Activities		Progress Updates
(a)	In conjunction with the Department, identify areas in the CMS which require review	Progressing slowly due to National Park Reviews, linked with Management Tool development
(b)	In conjunction with the Department prioritise thematic areas on the Conservation Estate	Ongoing, linked in part to the Stewardship land initiatives
(c)	Continue glacier access discussions	Ongoing for 2016/2017 with Westland National Park Management Plan

## 2. Stewardship Land

### 2.1. Board Objective:

The Board will provide the Minister and Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require Increase protection because of their significant conservation values.

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) Progress inclusion of the Mokihinui River in to Kahurangi National Park	Awaiting decision by New Zealand Conservation Authority
(b) In conjunction with the Department review the West Coast Stewardship Land	Five areas of 'high' significance have been identified and submitted to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
(c) Identify areas with significant conservation value and areas with no or limited conservation value	Limited discussion with local authorities. Key area for 2016/17 work plan because of the West Coast Growth Study
(d) Develop appropriate measures for protection of significant Stewardship Land	Awaiting decision by New Zealand Conservation Authority relating to 'priorities'

## 3. Other statutory functions<sup>1</sup>

### 3.1. Board Objective:

The Board will nurture ongoing working relationships with Fish and Game Councils regarding issues of mutual interest within the region

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) Continue to maintain liaison with Fish and Game	Rob Roney current Board member is also a member of Fish and Game and therefore the Board's liaison person
(b) Maintain good communications with the New Zealand Conservation Authority	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(c) Liaise with Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	The Board was invited to attend the QEII National Trust meeting in May 2016. R Coakley attended the meeting. Dr M Legge was elected as a Director in February

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<sup>1</sup> This section should include Board functions relating to statutory functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act

3.2. Board Objective:

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for national and internationally important areas, when sought but the department

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, when sought by the department	Ongoing. The Board is interested in the use of RAMSAR classification for West Coast wetlands
(b) Continue investigations for a National Park in South Westland	Ongoing
(c) Encourage wetland protection	Submission to Regional Policy Statement.

4. Advocacy

4.1. Board Objective:

The Board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning process

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) Continue advocacy role on Regional and District Plans	Ongoing. Submissions made to Regional Policy and Coastal Policy Statements
(b) Continue advocacy on marine protection including Conservation Services Programme and Marine Protection Bill	Strong support for Marine Reserve development. Submissions on the Conservation Services Programme and the Marine Protection Bill
(c) Investigate the development of public discussion forum for whitebait protection.	Ongoing
(d) Whitebait protection	Continued interest in a review of whitebait regulations. Strong advocacy for protection of whitebait spawning grounds

## PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

### 5. Working with the Department

Board Objective:

Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned Board Activities		Progress Updates
(a)	Maintain contacts with the Department via Board and other meetings	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(b)	Support Board Support Officer	Regular email/phone contact with Board members and Chairperson is maintained to provide support
(c)	Encourage partnerships with the Department in developing conservation strategies	Currently occurring and will be ongoing

### 6. Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department<sup>2</sup>

Board Objective:

The Board will identify opportunities to support West Coast community conservation as identified.

Planned Board Activities		Progress Updates
(a)	Review outcomes and impacts of 1080 use	Over the year all parties relating to 1080 have given presentations to the Board, including a teleconference with DoC staff on new technologies in pest control. Established literature updates on pest control for Board members
(b)	With the Department and local authorities investigate the sustainability of tourism on the West Coast	Ongoing. Consideration of the West Coast Growth Study and Tourism for 2017
(c)	Encourage conservation community groups to present at Board meetings	Invite Community Groups to present to the Board at Board meetings

Board Objective:

The Board will identify opportunities for building relationship to support the Healthy Parks/Healthy People programme

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) In conjunction with the Department formulate approaches based in “The Nature of Wellbeing” report to support the “Healthy Parks/Healthy People” concept	Ongoing as Board general considerations with conservation and tourism policies for the West Coast

7. Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA

Board Objective:

Board member will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross boundary CMS issues and other matters of interest

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) Continue to exchange Agendas and Minutes with South Island Boards	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(b) Use Chairs meetings to facilitate face-to-face discussions	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(c) Maintain open communication with the New Zealand Conservation Authority	Currently occurring and will be ongoing. G McSweeney attended part of the February meeting at Bruce Bay.



8. Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Board Objective:

The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as under section 4 of the Conservation Act	At the July meeting – Victoria Tumai gave a presentation on section 4. She discussed relationship with Iwi, Crown, The Department of Conservation, Conservation legislation and the NZCA
(b) Continue to liaise with local Iwi	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(c) Develop an understanding of the meaning and intent of "consultation"	To work closely with Iwi to develop pathways of communication

9. Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board

Board Objective:

Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, in order to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern

Planned Board Activities	Progress Updates
(a) Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(b) Maintain media contacts	Media contacts are sent Agenda's/Minutes and Board papers as available. Chairperson also provides a Press Release after each meeting
(c) Ensure public access to Board meetings	Currently occurring and will be ongoing
(d) Ensure that all Board meetings are 'open' with minor exceptions	Currently occurring and will be ongoing

Board Objective:

Board members will take the initiative to meet with community groups and the general public to gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by DOC

Planned Board Activities

Progress Updates

(a) Board members will take the initiative to meet with community group and the general public to gauge reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implement by the Department	Ongoing. Community Groups present at Board meetings and the Board has held separate public meetings. Board members were part of the wider pre-consultation public meetings for the Paparoa National Park Review
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## PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 10. Risks from the Board's perspective

- (a) Board members time
- (b) Funding of Board activities
- (c) Geography/distance on the West Coast
- (d) Stability of the Board
- (e) Re-structuring of the Department

### 11. Opportunities for conservation growth

- (a) Interactions with local authorities
- (b) Engagement with communities
- (c) Encourage historic places conservation and management
- (d) Whitebait protection
- (e) Future planning