

TOPIC – Noise Emissions	TRMP Chapter 24
<b>ISSUES</b>	
<p>The chapter is concerned with the effects of noise from activities in the coastal marine area (CMA) on natural character, wildlife, amenity values and people’s enjoyment of other activities. Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), Tasman District Council has a duty to control the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise in respect of any coastal marine area in the region. The RMA directs that activities in the CMA should not exceed a ‘reasonable level’. It also enables the Council to prescribe noise emissions standards in the TRMP and resource consents. Following the findings of an Environment Court decision, there is no performance standard in the TRMP for noise in the CMA, with Council instead relying on the general (and subjective) noise provision in the RMA.</p> <p>Council has received a number of noise complaints regarding activities in the CMA, typically regarding boats underway or operating within the AMAs. These complaints are hard to address because of the difficulty in measuring noise in the CMA and because noise generated by boats underway are not subject to the provisions. Under the TRMP, specific conditions controlling activities causing noise in aquaculture are commonly imposed, e.g., hours of operation. In addition, the marine farming industry seeks to minimise operation noise through voluntary codes of practice.</p> <p>The review also found that there is a lack of rules in this chapter to manage the effects of noise on wildlife, which means this aspect of Chapter 24 cannot be achieved under the current TRMP provisions.</p>	
<b>MANDATORY STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<p>The Resource Management Act (RMA) requires TDC to control emissions of noise and to mitigate the effects of noise in respect of the CMA. The RMA requires that every person shall ensure that the emission of noise from land or water does not exceed a reasonable level. National Environmental Standards, district and regional plans and resource consents can prescribe noise emission standards. More recently, the RMA has been amended to introduce a new type of national direction called “national planning standards”. The Noise and Vibration Metric Standard covers measurement of environmental sound, environmental noise, construction noise, port noise management and land use planning among other matters. The Standard requires TDC to ensure that any plan rules managing noise emissions and construction vibration are in accordance with mandatory noise measurement methods.</p> <p>Noise is not explicitly referred to in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) but it does have policies which include activities in the coastal environment, the preservation of natural character (which can be impacted on by noisy activities) and the provision of public open space that is compatible with natural values. This needs to be balanced alongside the importance of the coast and CMA on social, economic and cultural wellbeing.</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give effect to the NZ Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (particularly preservation of natural character) and the National Planning Standards noise standards.</li> <li>2. Consider merging Chapter 24 with the other coastal chapters.</li> <li>3. Review the options for addressing the effects of noise in the coastal environment, particularly those effects on natural character and amenity values.</li> <li>4. Undertake strategic planning for the coastal environment, identifying areas where activities are appropriate, including consideration of cross-boundary effects from noise arising from those activities, e.g., ports on other users, and the coastal environment.</li> </ol>	