

Extracts relevant to the environmental impact of tourism in New Zealand from the document “New Zealand’s Maritime Domain: Environment Scan”

The following paragraphs were extracted from a Ministry for the Environment internal document because they were deemed relevant to the environmental impact of tourism in New Zealand. The original document is a working document, for internal purposes only and does not represent Government Policy. All extracts are direct quotes.

Extracts from original document:

From Section *Introduction*:

“This paper assesses the key opportunities and major threats within New Zealand’s maritime domain, looking out over the next decade. New Zealand, with one of the largest exclusive economic zones, has maritime interests across a vast area of the globe. Over the next decade these maritime interests will face significant threats and opportunities.”

From Section *What this means for New Zealand*

- “New Zealand is highly likely to see continued growth in the maritime economy through tourism, fishing, petroleum and minerals, scientific research, and marine energy developments. This growth is likely to place pressure on the maritime environment and our international reputation.”
- It is likely vessels will carry potentially more hazardous materials, transport unwanted organisms, and other invasive exotic species; necessitating more complex environmental emergency management plans and responses.
- It is highly likely New Zealand will experience increased vessel traffic and larger vessels carrying more cargo and passengers; necessitating deeper regional ports, specialised infrastructure, and adaptive monitoring and inspection procedures.
- Given the maritime domain’s significant contribution, there will be flow on impacts for our capability, reputation, and legislative/regulatory frameworks.”

From Section *Maritime Economy – New Zealand’s cruise market*

“In the last two decades, the cruise market has developed into a substantial component of the tourism sector. It is highly likely there will be continued growth of the New Zealand market, with increased frequency of larger cruise ships and smaller boutique vessels. Due to the increasing alignment of the Australian and New Zealand markets with cruise operations in Southeast Asia, it is highly likely that more ships will become available for local deployment after they finish their northern summer itineraries in Asia, while others are highly likely to pursue cruises exploring the sub-Antarctic islands and the Ross Sea region.”

“The New Zealand cruise industry contributed approximately \$310.3 million in value added expenditure during the 2012/13 cruise season. Passenger numbers have

grown by almost 40,000 in each of the last two years. In the 2014/15 season 32 cruise ships are expected to visit New Zealand.”

From Section *Maritime Economy – Environmental impacts of the Maritime Economy*

“New Zealand is highly likely to see continued growth in the maritime economy with areas like tourism, fishing, petroleum and minerals, scientific research, and marine energy competing for the same space. It is likely vessels entering our EEZ will carry potentially more hazardous materials, transport unwanted organisms and invasive exotic species which will necessitate more complex environmental emergency management plans and responses. We judge it is likely there will be a major maritime incident within this period, be it a significant oil spill, distressed cargo or a potential environmental disaster.

From Section *Maritime Safety – Search and Rescue*

“New Zealand’s search and rescue responsibility is large and includes waters that are especially demanding. New Zealand also has responsibility for navigation and weather warnings in the Southwest Pacific. With recreational boating activity increasing, and cruise vessels visiting more challenging regions in the southern oceans, it is highly likely that managing maritime incidents will become more complex and demanding.”

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