

Our vision

A healthy coast and sea managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community now and into the future

Strategy Goal

The Strategy responds to the priority threats to water quality, habitats and biodiversity of the State's coastal waters and estuaries. It also aims to maximise the benefits the NSW community derives from the marine estate.

Key Actions

- Work with partners and agencies to improve water quality
- On-ground works to reduce diffuse source water pollution
- Focused marine litter campaign

- Improve understanding of climate change impacts
- Identify mangrove and saltmarsh migration pathways
- Support strategic adaptation planning

- Expand commercial fishing observer programs
- Educate the community on threats to wildlife
- Improve marine wildlife incident responses, reporting and data sharing

- Reduce vessel impacts on seagrass
- Solutions to boat storage demand
- Manage boat-based contamination

- Improve government coordination and implementation
- Streamline regulatory instruments
- Increase stakeholder and community participation in marine estate management

Management Objectives

To improve water quality and reduce marine litter for the benefit of marine habitats, wildlife and the community

Understand, adapt and increase resilience, to help mitigate the impacts of climate change on the NSW marine estate

To understand and mitigate threats to threatened and protected species in NSW

To balance protection of coastal and marine habitats and species with ongoing access and safe and sustainable boating

To improve governance arrangements across the marine estate to support coordinated, transparent, inclusive and effective decision-making

Initiatives

Improving water quality and reducing litter



Planning for climate change



Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species



Enabling safe and sustainable boating



Delivering effective governance



Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development



Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate



Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture



Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits



Management Objectives

To protect coastal and marine habitats and associated species and enhance the health of the marine estate by improving the design, quality and ongoing management of foreshore development, use and waterway infrastructure

Work with Aboriginal communities in the management of Sea Country to reduce threats and risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage

To ensure fishing and aquaculture is managed in a way that is consistent with ecologically sustainable use while providing for the health, heritage and social benefits of fishing and seafood consumption

To improve the social, cultural and economic benefits that the NSW community derives from the marine estate by responding to priority threats

Key Actions

- Improve assessment of coastal development activities
- Develop marine vegetation management plans
- Resilient coastal floodplains and priority fish passage barriers

- Framework for involvement in Sea Country management
- Establish Aboriginal positions to manage Sea Country
- Develop Sea Country plans

- Complete an environmental assessment of recreational fishing
- Introduce fisheries harvest strategies
- Enhance social acceptance of fisheries
- Enable new marine aquaculture ventures

- Building on existing school and community education programs
- Establish a Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
- Identify and map current and future use
- Exploring opportunities for innovative ecologically sustainable activities