

Linking Science, Engineering, Management & the Community  
Problems, Progress & Possibilities

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The major outcomes of the Earth Summit (1992) including Agenda 21, signalled a paradigm shift, based in part on the reality of interdependence. The text of Agenda 21 calls for 'integrated policy and decision-making processes and institutions for integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas ... (Para. 17.6). The concept of 'integrated coastal management' subsequently entered the coastal management lexicon and was more, or less, ratified in a range of conventions and enacted through national legislation. The Resource Management Act 1991, for example, provides for integrated management, however, as with many other issues, doesn't necessarily demand integrated management.

Integrated coastal management comprises several dimensions, including (i) intersectoral integration; (ii) intergovernmental integration (integration between levels of government); (iii) integration across the land-sea interface (or the line of spring high tides in New Zealand); (iv) international integration (including the resolution of international disputes); and (v) science-management integration, or integration among the different disciplines important in coastal management (the natural sciences, social sciences, and engineering) and management agencies (and the general public). Given the theme of this year's conference (He waka eke noa - Linking science, engineering, management and community) it seems timely to examine our progress towards integrated coastal management, and the fifth dimension of ICM in particular.