# **RMA Team & Conservation Boards**

The purpose of this information sheet is to help Conservation Boards understand how and when the RMA Team can support with Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) or the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZA) work.

### Role of Conservation Boards

Conservation Boards do not have a specified role in relation to statutory processes under the RMA or the EEZA. Likewise, supporting Conservation Boards is not a specified requirement of DOC’s RMA Team.

### How DOC engages in RMA processes

DOC has a leadership role in the RMA – it is our job to advocate for conservation of natural resources generally.

DOC’s RMA Team seek better conservation outcomes under the RMA by engaging with councils and communities to help develop district, regional and plans, and submitting on and participating in court processes for notified resource consent applications (amongst other things).

From an RMA / EEZA perspective DOC has previously taken a range of approaches to support Conservation Boards including:

* Funding an appeal to the Environment Court.
* Making joint submissions.
* Sharing information (e.g. summaries of technical information).
* Providing a quarterly update of DOC engagement in statutory RMA advocacy.
* Requiring Conservation Boards to seek information via OIA.

### How Conservation Boards can engage in RMA processes:

* Highlight when (for example what triggers) you would like DOC to provide a high-level overview of our initial thoughts and expert comments prior to the close of the submission period.
* Obtain independent planning, technical and legal advice to inform your submission.

### What the RMA Team can do to support Conservation Boards

* Provide regular written updates on our statutory advocacy engagement.
* In instances where both DOC and Conservation Boards submit with the same stance on a matter, a discussion can occur regarding the sharing of experts and/or on the option of adopting each other’s evidence (note any legal advice contained in any draft evidence or submission cannot be shared).

### What the RMA Team cannot do

* Share DOC legal advice, as this is subject to legal privilege.
* Share draft documents as these are subject to change and are not circulated externally until completed.
* Provide relevant existing conservation data (e.g. species distribution data) to support Conservation Boards’ engagement in statutory advocacy. This can be requested directly from the relevant DOC Biodiversity Team, let us know if you need this information and we can put you in touch with the right people