



COASTAL ACTION PLAN 3: MANAGEMENT OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

This EMP is a subcomponent of the BCM Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) which deals specifically with the management and provision of acceptable levels of services for recreational activities. It aims to identify the necessary steps which need to be undertaken to minimize the environmental damage originating from recreational activities as well as identify suitable sites in order to reduce user conflict and ensure a safe environment for all participants. This Focus Area Plan is a subcomponent of the ICZMP and provides a starting point for the development of more detailed beach/boating/recreational management plans for identified sites along the BCM coastline.

1.1 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

Objectives of the recreational management plan

This section lays out the objectives of the management plan

Institutional structure and requirements for management of coastal recreational activities

This section outlines the existing management arrangements for recreational activities in the BCM and identifies future needs and restructuring for appropriate management

Zonation of the BCM coastline into high, moderate and low use areas

This section presents the desired level of services which the BCM wish to offer at high moderate and low use areas and then identifies suitable areas along the coastline for each type of service provision. It also identifies specific sites for certain recreational activities from past use of the area.

Primary and Secondary recreational beaches and natural recreational areas

The management objectives and recommendations for these three recreational beaches are discussed in terms of the required future facilities and management capacity.

Specific recreational activities requiring management interventions

This section identifies specific recreational activities which occur in the coastal zone and which require special management interventions due to potential safety and recreational conflict issues, as well as environmental degradation. Management recommendations are made for the following activities:

- Boat launching
- Power boating & jet skiing
- Orient beach boating
- Beach and coastal events management

Opportunities for development and promotion of sustainable recreational activities

This section identifies specific opportunities for enhancing tourism and recreational activities in the coastal zone, and provides management recommendations for the following:

- Nature based activities
- Culture and heritage sites
- Surfing promotion
- Public awareness and education
- Tourism promotion



1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

In order to manage the coastal recreational activities the current and future uses of the coastline need to be determined. This coastal recreational plan provides general management guidelines for overall management of recreational activities as well as specific actions which need to be undertaken in order to meet the desired BCM objectives for each recreational use. This management plan also outlines the spatial zonation of the BCM coastline for recreational activities. The main areas for swimming beaches, surfing sites, power boat launch sites and picnic areas have been identified and management recommendations for each site have been suggested.

The objectives of this focus area are to:

- 1. Identify all recreational activities occurring in the coastal zone.**
- 2. Anticipate future needs & activities.**
- 3. Identify and zone suitable areas for different types of recreational activities.**
- 4. Ensure adequate and appropriate amenities and services are provided for coastal recreational activities.**
- 5. Minimize conflict between recreational user groups.**
- 6. Ensure recreational activities cause acceptable impacts on the environment.**



2. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BCM is responsible for the overall management of the beaches and coastal recreational activities occurring along the coastline. The management of all these activities should be undertaken by the existing beaches unit headed by the Beaches Senior Superintendent. This unit has recently been transferred to the existing Marine Services Division which is proposed to change to the Coastal Amenities Division as outline in the ICZMP. The management of the recreational activities can be divided into 3 categories, namely beaches, estuaries and coastal activities outside of these areas. With the proposed new restructuring of the Marine Services Division and the establishment of a BCM Coastal Management Unit (ICZMP) the management of recreational activities will be divided between the beaches unit under Coastal Amenities and the Coastal & Estuarine Conservation Superintendents under the CMU.

Beaches Unit

The beaches unit will continue to manage the primary and secondary beaches as well as service and maintain all the associated amenities and services at these beaches. This unit is currently well placed to undertake these activities with the existing capacity, however, additional dedicated staff will be required for the management of new Blue Flag Beaches should they attain this status. The current institutional arrangement of the Beaches unit is shown in Figure 2.1 below.

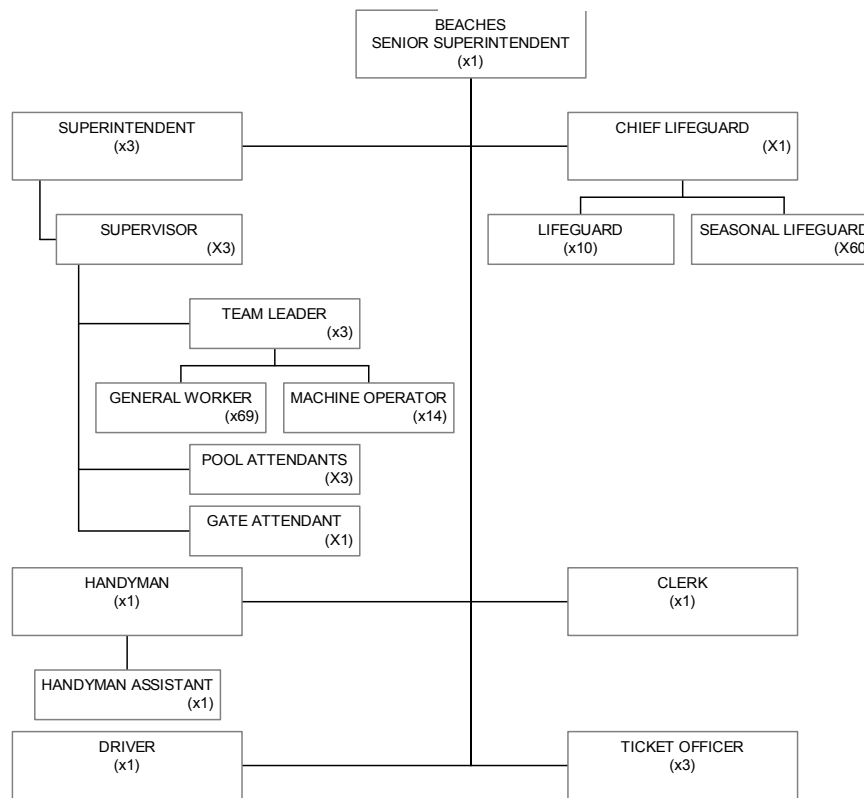


Figure 2.1: Current institutional arrangement of the Beaches Unit currently responsible for management of the recreational beaches and facilities.



Estuarine Recreational Management

Management and enforcement of all estuarine recreational activities is to be undertaken by the Estuarine Conservation Officer (within the CMU) and the river rangers assigned to him (See ICZMP). Duties will include enforcement of the boating regulations and bylaws as well as consumptive resource use under MLRA.

Coastal Recreational Management

Although the beaches unit (as well as the coastal town overseers) will continue to be responsible for servicing of the facilities at all the beaches the Coastal Conservation Officer and the coastal rangers assigned to him (See ICZMP) will be responsible for monitoring the activities occurring along the natural beaches where there is no active daily management. This will take the form of regular foot patrols along these beaches and responding to local residents reporting certain issues.



3. ZONATION OF THE BCM COASTLINE INTO HIGH MODERATE AND LOW USE RECREATIONAL AREAS

The BCM coastal zone can be divided into three types of areas based on the level of recreational use. For the purposes of this management plan these areas have been termed Primary, Secondary and Natural recreational areas and represent zones which offer different levels of services and allow for different recreational activities.

In consultation with BCM managers involved in coastal activities the entire BCM coastline was assessed in terms of its current levels of utilization, and discussion was held over the desired and anticipated future uses and services BCM wish to offer their residents and visitors. In doing so the coastline was been divided into the three main types of beaches namely, primary, secondary and natural beaches according to desired future level of recreational activities along the coastline and the types of services to be provided at each.

Primary recreational beaches represent small areas of the coast which are subject to intensive management throughout the year to ensure a high level of environmental health and safety standards as well as a wide range of services and amenities to users. Some of these may charge entrance fees and have controlled access. Although this may be in contradiction to recent policy documents it is necessary to ensure that the required standards are met and maintained throughout the year. Swimming and other passive recreational activities such as sun bathing are the primary activities promoted at these beaches, and other active activities are discouraged as it compromises the safety of others.

Secondary recreational beaches represent those areas of the coastline which are subject to high seasonal recreational use and offer limited facilities and have limited active management out of season. These beaches are promoted as multi-user beaches where a wider range of activities are permitted. However, services such as life guards are only offered during certain periods and only basic ablutions and shower facilities are offered.

Natural recreational beaches represent the remainder of the coastline, between the primary and secondary recreational beaches, where no additional services are provided. The majority of recreational activities (fishing, jetskiing, dogs etc) should be permitted in these areas and recreational use of the sea and seashore is not restricted except for certain activities deemed to have a negative impact on the environment (e.g. braaiing; boat launching etc.) The restricted activities at these beaches must be clearly indicated on information boards at ALL access point to the beaches. Management within these areas is limited to basic environmental management to ensure that the natural environment is maintained in as near a natural state as possible.

Table 3.1 below indicates the areas which have been identified for the establishment of Primary and Secondary beaches as well as the level of services to be provided. The management objectives and recommendations for each type of beach are discussed in section 3.



Table 3.1: Spatial zonation of the BCM coastline into Primary, Secondary and Natural Beaches

Category	Beach	Management Objective
Primary Swimming beaches	Orient Beach	To upgrade facilities to Blue Flag standards
	Eastern Beach	
	Nahoon Beach (Corner)	
	Bonza Bay	
	Gonubie Beach	
Secondary Swimming Beaches	Fullers Bay	To provide basic ablutions facilities & water points as well as life guards and secure parking areas over peak holiday periods
	Nahoon Reef/Point	
	Leach's Bay	
	Hickmans Beach	
	Gulu Beach	
	Igoda Beach	
	Kidds Beach	
	Kaysers Beach	
Natural beaches	Remainder of coastline	To maintain a natural functioning coastal environment through appropriate integrated environmental management practices which minimize environmental degradation.

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE SITES FOR SPECIFIC RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to reduce user conflict, the primary recreational requirements within the BCM coastline were identified and the most suitable and desired sites for these activities were decided upon. Only the active recreational activities were assessed due to their potential to create conflict between the different user groups, and passive activities such as sunbathing and swimming were not assessed as they are unlikely to cause conflict (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Main recreational activities and their primary locations within BCM

Activity	Location	Aim
Surfing	Nahoon Point	To reduce user conflict and provide basic ablution facilities and safe and secure parking
	Eastern Beach	
	Gonubie Point	
	Gonubie Mouth	
Sea Boating	Orient Beach	To manage launching of sea going boats in a safe manner and reduce user conflicts at each sites
	Gonubie River	
	Kwelera River	
Estuary Boating	Nahoon Batting Bridge	To ensure management of all municipal estuarine launch sites and licensing of all recreational craft
	Gonubie Tide Waters	
	Kwelera (as above)	
Nature based activities	All secondary beaches and natural areas	To provide suitable public access and facilities at these sites and encourage use
	Nahoon Point	
	Nahoon River	
	Quinera Sanctuary	
	Gonubie wetland	
	Potters Pass	
Culture and heritage sites	Nahoon Footprints near Bats Cave	To promote awareness and tourism of these sites through appropriate access and information
	Cove Rock	



4. PRIMARY RECREATIONAL BEACHES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Swimming and passive recreational activities such as sunbathing are to be the main recreational activity at primary beaches within the BCM. These beaches aim to offer a high standard of services and safety to the public. Marketing these beaches appropriately will help to promote Buffalo City as a prime tourism destination for local and foreign tourists. Non-active recreational activities (swimming sunbathing etc) are the main attractions to these beaches and no conflicting activities should be permitted within these demarcated beaches, or the beaches should be clearly and carefully zoned for various uses.

4.2 OBJECTIVES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIMARY SWIMMING BEACHES

The objectives for primary swimming beaches were based on the South African Blue Flag criteria (Appendix 1) in order to ensure safety and service provision in line with international standards. All primary beaches should aim to achieve Blue Flag status within the first five years of implementation of this ICZMP. In the interim, however, these beaches should aim to achieve the following management objectives to ensure a safe and healthy environment can be assured to all users (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Primary recreational beaches management objectives

Objectives	Management Recommendation
Ensure appropriate management of beaches to reduce user conflict and pollution	Delegate responsibility for management of each primary swimming beach to a Beach superintendent
	Delegate sufficient staff and resources to beach superintendent to allow efficient management
	Active management of beach activities ensuring conflicting activities are prohibited : ORVs, dumping, dogs & camping
	Oversee maintenance and servicing of all facilities
	Develop detailed EMPs for all primary swimming beaches including emergency protocols etc.
	Clearly demarcate primary swimming beach boundaries
Provide a healthy environment	Ensure adequate refuse facilities and servicing of facilities
	Ensure daily water quality monitoring
	Ensure weekly review of water quality results
	Ensure cleaning of storm water outlets
Provide safe & sheltered swimming conditions	Ensure qualified life savers present on all demarcated swimming beaches
	Ensure they have adequate equipment and facilities to carry out their duties
	Identify suitable swimming beaches and demarcate and sign post as official swimming beaches
Provide suitable access to beaches & adequate parking	Ensure appropriate infrastructure at all demarcated swimming beaches - access points/boardwalks/parking
	Maintain access points in suitable conditions
Provide ablutions & change rooms of high standards including facilities for disabled persons	Motivate for additional funding to upgrade facilities to required Blue Flag status and ensure that they are in working condition
	Ensure sufficient toilet facilities as per Blue Flag guidelines
	Ensure disabled toilet facilities
	Ensure suitable showers and change rooms



Objectives	Management Recommendation
	Ensure sufficient drinking water points
Reduce user conflict on primary beaches	Clearly demarcate the extent and boundaries of all primary swimming beaches, or swimming areas
	This area must be designated and clearly sign posted as a primary swimming area which has rights over all other activities
	Reduce user conflict at demarcated swimming beaches by clearly zoning the beach for different activities, for example boating (all crafts), fishing, jet skiing, spearfishing, surfing, dogs, could be allowed in clearly demarcated areas adjacent to primary beaches.
Provide additional services & facilities to improve beach user enjoyment	Promote the development of additional services if required e.g. shops, kiosks etc.
	Ensure access to public phones
Ensure the security of all users and their belongings	Security guards should be present at all beaches and community car guards in the parking areas
Promote information sharing and awareness	Erect information boards outlining the prohibited activities and emergency contact details.
Cater for all emergency situations	Maintain and circulate list of emergency contact numbers and emergency protocols for all types of emergency events.

4.3 SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to ensure that the primary swimming beaches identified in section 1.2 meet the required standards set out in section 2.2 a review of the current facilities and services was undertaken. Additionally possible conflicts or problem areas were identified and possible management responses have been recommended (Adapted from Avis, 1992 & Revel Fox & Partners 1986). Table 4.2 below indicates the management requirements for all the identified primary recreational swimming beaches in order for them to meet the desired BCM objectives.

Table 4.2: Management recommendations for Primary Recreational Beaches in BCM

Problems/conflicts	Management Recommendations	Responsibility	Priority
Orient beach			
Conflict between boat launch site and swimming beach	Demarcate ORV & boat access point as well as launching channel for boats	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Conflict between power boating and swimming	Clearly demarcate and zone swimming areas and boating areas	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Signage	Ensure sufficient information boards indicating to the public beach zonation for different recreational activities	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
Vehicle access for launching	Open second access point through back western end of beach for boat launching purposes only	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
Water quality	Continue daily monitoring of water quality for E.coli levels	Senior Beach Superintendent & BCM Scientific Services	H



Problems/conflicts	Management Recommendations	Responsibility	Priority
	Reporting to beach manager of exceedences in levels	Scientific Services	H
	Closing of swimming beach during periods of exceedance	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
	Investigate possible mechanisms to reduce the <i>E. coli</i> problems		
Eastern Beach			
Security	Upgrade and replace degraded boundary fence around Marina Glen	Amenities/IED	M
	Construct Gate house & employ permanent gate keeper	Amenities/IED	M
	Convert beach to official pay beach	Amenities/IED	M
	Define time periods for public access - opening and closing times	Amenities/IED	M
	Increase the presence of enforcement officials through regular patrols	Public Safety & City Police	H
	Encourage car guards possibly through PPP	Amenities/IED	H
Poor ablution facilities	Increase the size of ablution facilities	Amenities/IED	M
	Increase the standards of ablutions facilities	Amenities/IED	M
Littering and pollution	Enforcement of beach bylaws through increased presence of supervisory staff	City Police & Supervisory Staff	H
	Acquisition of sand cleaning machine and regular use on beaches	Amenities	M
Poor signage	Provide clear signage of the permitted recreational activities and the areas in which they can be undertaken	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
Facilities	Improve the braaing, picnic, sun shelter and seating facilities particularly around the Blind River area	Amenities/IED	M
	Provide access to public telephones	Amenities/IED	L
	Provide sufficient drinking points	Amenities/IED	L
	Provide disabled ablution facilities and access points	Amenities/IED	M
Sand movement	Regular removal of accumulated wind blown sand from roads and facilities	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
User conflict	Ensure appropriate zonation of beach to reduce user conflict between swimmers, surfer and other beach users	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
Nahoon Beach			
Security	Train all life guards as Peace Officers to assist with enforcement	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
	Increase enforcement capacity during Easter and December peak periods through employment of beach marshals	Amenities Dept.	H
	Delegate overall beach management to one responsible beach superintendent	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Ablutions	Upgrade and upscale ablutions facilities	Amenities Dept.	M



Problems/conflicts	Management Recommendations	Responsibility	Priority
	Provide disabled access and ablutions facilities	Amenities Dept.	M
Parking	Increase the size of the parking facilities	Amenities Dept.	L
Facilities	Provide additional facilities - benches, shade covers, picnic sites	Amenities Dept.	L
	Provide access to public telephones	Amenities Dept.	L
	Provide fixed access points through the provision of boardwalks to reduce the trampling effect on dune scrub	Amenities Dept.	M
Signage	Improve signage at beach indicating necessary information	Senior Beach Superintendent	M
Bonza Bay			
Security	Train all life guards as Peace Officers to assist with enforcement	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
	Increase enforcement capacity during Easter and December peak periods through employment of beach marshals	Amenities Dept.	H
	Delegate overall beach management to one responsible beach superintendent	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Ablutions	Upgrade and upscale ablution facilities	Amenities Dept.	M
	Provide disabled access and ablution facilities	Amenities Dept.	M
Parking	Provide additional parking facilities	Amenities Dept.	L
Facilities	Provide additional facilities - benches, shade covers,	Amenities Dept.	L
	Improve access to public telephones	Senior Beach Superintendent	L
Signage	Improve signage at beach indicating necessary information	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Emergency Access	Identify and develop suitable beach access point for emergency situations	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
Gonubie Mouth			
Pilot Blue Flag Status	Complete current upgrade of facilities	Amenities Dept.	H
	Maintain existing standards of facilities	Senior Beach Superintendent	H
	Continue regular water quality monitoring	Senior Beach Superintendent / Scientific Services	H



5. SECONDARY RECREATIONAL BEACHES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Additional areas of the coastline have been identified as secondary recreational beaches in which a greater variety of activities will be permitted, although a lower standard of services and infrastructure will be provided to users. These secondary recreational beaches are those which are subject to high seasonal use during holiday periods and very low levels of utilization during the remainder of the year. Due to the seasonal nature of their utilization it is not feasible to provide services all year, and additional management measures will only be provided during the holiday seasons to ensure a safe and healthy bathing environment. Although all other recreational activities (fishing, boating etc.) are permitted on these beaches swimming during the peak seasons takes preference over all other recreational activities within the demarcated areas.

5.2 MANAGEMNT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECONDARY RECREATIONAL BEACHES

Although secondary beaches do not require intensive management throughout the year they do require a certain level of maintenance and service delivery to ensure a health environment. For example regular cleaning of refuse facilities and ablutions is required, while life guards and marshals may only be required for a few weeks of the year. Table 5.1 below outlines the management requirements for secondary recreational beaches and table 5.2 provides a review of the current levels of facilities at each of the desired secondary beaches with recommendations for improvement.

**Table 5.1:** Management requirements for secondary recreational beaches

Criteria	Management requirement	Responsibility	Priority
Beach management	Weekly cleaning of beaches and servicing of refuse facilities though out the year. To be undertaken daily during peak seasons	Senior beach Superintendent	H
	Ensure Active management during peak seasons	Senior beach Superintendent	M
Safe & sheltered swimming conditions	Clear signs/information boards indicating the nature of the beach and the periods and times during which life savers are present and not present	Senior beach Superintendent	H
	Clear demarcation of swimming zones during peak periods	Senior beach Superintendent	H
Healthy environment	Weekly water quality monitoring of beaches and tidal pools out of season	Scientific services / Senior beach Superintendent	M
	Daily water quality monitoring during peak seasons ¹	Scientific services / Senior beach Superintendent	H
	Provision of additional refuse facilities during peak holiday seasons	Senior beach Superintendent	M
Life saver stations	Ensure qualified life savers present on all demarcated secondary swimming beaches during peak periods	Senior beach Superintendent	H
	Ensure they have adequate equipment and facilities	Senior beach Superintendent	H
Suitable access to beaches & parking	Ensure suitable maintenance of all beach access points throughout the year	Senior beach Superintendent	M
Ablutions & change rooms	Ensure provision of basic ablution facilities and change rooms	Amenities Dept	M
	Regular servicing of ablution throughout the year	Senior beach Superintendent	M
Limit other activities e.g. boating, surfing etc	Other activities permitted in these areas except over peak holiday periods. Swimming portion of the beach must be clearly demarcated during these periods	Senior beach Superintendent	M
	Restrict other recreational activities within demarcated areas over peak holiday seasons	Life guards	M
Security	Car guards/marshals must be present at these sites during peak seasons	Senior beach Superintendent	H
Information	Erect information boards outlining the prohibited activities and emergency contact details.	Senior beach Superintendent	H

¹ Peak seasons include the Christmas and Easter Holiday periods.



Table 5.2: Review of existing public infrastructure at Secondary recreational beaches and management requirements in order to meet secondary recreational beach objectives.

Facilities	Fullers Bay	Leach's Bay	Hickmans beach	Gulu Beach	Igoda	Kidds Beach	Kaysers Beach
Ablutions	Yes	Yes	Ablutions not suitable. Require upgrade	Yes but in poor condition requires upgrade and maintenance	Yes	Yes but require upgrade	Yes but require upgrade
Showers	Yes	Yes	Not required	Not required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water points	Yes	Yes	No water points. Require upgrade	Water source problem. Require tank system to be installed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disabled ablutions	No – require upgrading	No – require upgrading	Not required as part of upgrade	No – require upgrading	No – require upgrading	No – required as part of upgrade	No - required as part of upgrade
Signage	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required	Improved signage/information boards required



6. NATURAL RECREATIONAL AREAS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The remainder of the BCM coastline in between the Primary and Secondary recreational beaches has been demarcated as Natural Recreational Areas. Unless specifically stated at a particular site, all recreational activities are permitted within natural areas. There is no active management within these areas and services are limited to picnic sites and ablutions in some areas. Coastal conservation officers must undertake regular patrols throughout the year and enforce the relevant marine and coastal legislation and bylaws. During holiday periods and peak seasons the capacity for enforcement and monitoring should be increased through the employment of temporary Coastal Conservation Rangers who are empowered to enforce the relevant coastal legislation and bylaws.



7. SPECIFIC RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES REQUIRING MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

7.1 BOAT LAUNCHING

Under the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1988) for Control of Vehicles in the Coastal Zone all boat launch sites require a license from DEAET to operate. Authorities/clubs which wish to use launch sites which were in use before promulgation of the new regulations are required to submit applications to DEAET and prepare Environmental Management Plans for the sites. Although local clubs are able to apply for a license for a launch site and would be the responsible body for management of that site, BCM must ensure overall management of all launching sites and compliance with the DEAET approved Environmental Management Plans. Strict regulation at launch sites will facilitate the overall management of boating activities within the BCM as well as enforcement of MLRA regulations.

The following general management recommendations apply to launch sites:

1. Identify all previously used launching sites and close access to the sites.
2. Erect information boards informing the public that the site is closed and may no longer be used, provide information on alternative launch sites which may be used.
3. Identify potential sites for future use and possible partnerships with local organizations.
4. Launch site must have controlled access either via a guard over weekends or during high use periods, or through a boom gate or alternative means at other times.
5. Public use of the facilities must not be restricted but rather promoted at these locations. Appropriate means/information boards must be erected to inform boaters of the launching requirements and access information if the site is controlled by a boom.
6. Seaworthiness of all boats launching to sea must be ensured through checking the appropriate seaworthy license for all vessels.
7. Estuary launch sites must ensure that all vessels are licensed with BCM.
8. Appropriate areas must be identified and demarcated for parking vehicles and trailers. No vehicles and trailers must be permitted to park on any beach.
9. The BCM Coastal Conservation officer must ensure that all launch sites adhere to their EMPs.
10. Catch and license inspections must be undertaken during peak periods at official launch sites.
11. Informal launching of boats over the estuary banks must be discouraged in estuaries and suitable sites must be identified for those estuaries on which power boating is permitted (Table 7.1). Although formal infrastructure need not be provided and clearly demarcated area must be established to limit environmental damage.

**Table 7.1:** Current boat launch sites in the BCM

Site	Management responsibility	Current management	Launch to sea	Launch to estuary
Orient Beach	BCM	Draft Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 2)	Yes	No
Gonubie River	Gonubie Club	Draft Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 2)	Yes	Yes
Kwelera	BCM – investigating partnership with Ski Boat Club	Draft Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 2)	Yes	Yes
Tide Waters (Gonubie)	BCM	?	No	Yes
Batting Bridge (Nahoon)	BCM	?	No	Yes

7.2 POWER BOATING AND JETSKIING

7.2.1 ACTIONS REQUIRED

The BCM currently have a comprehensive list of bylaws which cover boating activities. In order to ensure compliance with these laws the following actions need to be undertaken:

1. Information boards must be erected at all launch sites and all formal access points to estuaries. Information must include license/permit requirements, existence of boating bylaws and locations where these can be obtained, specific boating regulations for launch site/estuary.
2. All persons licensing boats must be given a copy of the boating bylaws.
3. Skiing must be prohibited on all estuaries and Brideldrift/Nahoon Dams must be promoted as skiing sites. This information must be clearly displayed at launch sites and on boat license forms.
4. Jet skiing must be prohibited on all estuaries. Information boards must clearly indicate this. Orient beach and other sea launching sites as well as Bridledrift and Nahoon Dams must be promoted as jet skiing sites.
5. Estuarine conservation officer/rangers must undertake regular patrols to enforce bylaws during peak seasons.
6. Table 7.2 below outlines the recommended levels of boating for the BCM estuaries

Table 7.2: Recommended boating levels on the BCM estuaries

Open for power boating	Restricted to no wake speeds	No power boating allowed
Kwelera	Gonubie	Quinera
Nahoon	Igoda	Hlaze
Buffalo	Gulu	Blind
Tyolomnqa	Ncera	Ngquenga
Keiskamma	Mcantsi	Mvubukazi
	Kiwane	Hickmans
		Hlozi
		Umlele
		Ross's Creek
		Lilyvale
		Shelbertsstroom
		Ngqinisa
		Shwele-Shwele



7.2.2 ORIENT BEACH BOATING FACILITIES

In order to promote responsible recreational boating activities BCM aim to promote the Orient Beach launch site as the main sailing, power boating and jet skiing venue through the provision of adequate services. In order to do so the following actions will need to be undertaken by the CMU (Coastal Conservation Superintendent):

1. Improve vehicle and trailer access to the western side of Orient Beach by providing alternative access in order to minimize traffic passing the swimming pools and beach area.
2. Ensure controlled/permitted access for launching purposes through the employment of a launch site manager.
3. Launch site manager must ensure seaworthiness of all boats.
4. Launch site manager in conjunction with beach manager must clearly demarcate vehicle access route onto beach.
5. Launch site manager and beach manager must ensure safe and clearly zoned areas for swimming and boating activities.
6. Increase the trailer parking facilities and ensure safety and security of vehicles
7. Provide water points for washing boats and trailers.
8. Provide facilities for cleaning fish and prohibit any fish cleaning on the beach.
9. Information boards must be erected at launch site indicating launching requirements, launching fees, zonation of launching area, emergency contact numbers.

7.3 BEACH & COASTAL EVENTS MANAGEMENT

In order to ensure appropriate public safety during large public events such as beach parties and surfing events, as well as to ensure that the required capacity and resources can be arranged to cater with the increases in volumes of people using the coastal resources a protocol for planning such events needs to be formalized. Currently these activities are organized through the Senior Beach Superintendent who is then responsible for contacting the relevant departments. The aim of this section is to formally document the procedure to be followed for organizing and planning a large public event at any coastal location. The following recommendations are made and the procedure outlined in figure xx:

1. Application form – a standardized application form must be used which includes the following information:
 - a. Name of applicant/organization
 - b. Purpose of the event
 - c. Activities to be undertaken at the event
 - d. Requested location of the event
 - e. Date and duration of event
 - f. Anticipated number of people attending
 - g. Requirements for the event - equipment to be utilised by applicant & facilities required from municipality
2. It must be clearly indicated on the application form that the applicant may be required to cover costs of additional services provided, such as a cleanup team and overtime of BCM officials.
3. The application must be submitted to the Amenities Department/IED? who will investigate the feasibility of the event
4. The Amenities Department?IED? must submit copies of the application to the following departments:



- a. Waste management Services
- b. Integrated Environmental Development
- c. Department of Public Safety
 - i. Traffic & law enforcement
 - ii. Fire & Rescue Services
 - iii. Disaster Management
5. Each department must respond to the application indicating:
 - a. the level of involvement required by them
 - b. their availability of resources on the proposed dates
 - c. Additional requirements in resources for the activity
 - d. Anticipated costs for the services
6. The Amenities Department/IED must synthesize the response from all departments and prepare a response to the applicant indicating the suitability of the requested function and the requirements and conditions of the function as well as the costs to be incurred
7. If the applicant decides to proceed with the event then a formal request must be submitted by the Amenities/IED to all departments who are required to be involved in the event and requesting the required facilities/capacity on the specified date.



8. OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

8.1 MARINA GLEN COMPLEX

The Marina Glen area is currently in a poor environmental condition and public safety is of concern. The location of the Marina Glen, within the city center, offers a wide range of opportunities for enhancing the tourism potential through the provision of suitable amenities and facilities. The following recommendations are made:

1. Investigate the possibility of establishing a Public Private Partnership with the existing vendors currently using the esplanade.
2. If deemed suitable, design and construct a suitable market area for the vendors.
3. Vendors are to assist in daily management of the Marina Glen area and assist in uplifting the current state and public safety in order to attract tourists to the market.
4. A boom gate should be erected and the entrance and permanently manned to ensure controlled access to the site.
5. The existing facilities should be upgraded and refurbished where required to create a clean and friendly environment for public use.

8.2 NATURE BASED ACTIVITIES

The BCM coastline is unique in having a large area of the coastal zone designated as conservation areas either through state forests or local municipal reserves. These reserves present a great opportunity for the promotion of tourism and recreation while still maintaining their conservation status. In order to maximize the benefits from these areas and promote access to the resources the following recommendations are made and should be undertaken by the CMU (Marine Services):

1. Existing public access points within the coastal zone must be identified and the level and condition of facilities provided determined.
2. Current management authorities of all sites must be identified (Beaches Unit, IED etc.).
3. The need for additional public access sites in the coastal reserves must be determined and possible sites identified.
4. Suitable sites for the establishment of day trails and birding trails in the reserves must be identified.
5. Investigate the possibility of obtaining funding from alternative sources for the establishment of trails.
6. Encourage the participation of NGOs in the establishment of nature trails in reserves.
7. Information boards and signage must be provided at public access points to increase public awareness of nature reserves and recreational opportunities.

8.3 CULTURAL & HERITAGE SITES

BCM has two unique cultural and heritage sites within the coastal zone, namely the Nahoon Footprints near Bats Cave, and Cove Rock. Currently there is poor public awareness of these sites and there is no formal protection or public facilities offered. The recent development of the Nahoon Point Reserve is a positive step towards protection of the Nahoon Footprints,



however, additional management is required if the site is not to be damaged and tourism is to be encouraged.

The CMU should undertake the following tasks:

1. Develop appropriate public infrastructure at the two sites:
 - a. Parking areas
 - b. Picnic facilities
 - c. Ablutions
 - d. Information boards
 - e. Boardwalk infrastructure
 - f. View points
2. Employ and train tourism guides to be permanently stationed at these sites and ensure public access to and education about the sites while ensuring protection.
3. Train/empower the tourism guides to enforce coastal legislation so they can double as coastal rangers.
4. Advertise the sites through the Eastern Cape and Buffalo City Tourism

8.4 SURFING PROMOTION

One of the visions of the BCM is to establish East London as an international sporting destination through the establishment and provision of world class sporting facilities. One of the opportunities offered by the coastal zone in East London and identified by the municipality is the Nahoon Point Surfing Spot. The site currently offers top class surfing conditions and has hosted big surfing events in the past. In order to promote it as an international surfing competition venue the facilities associated with this site need to be upgraded. The following is recommended:

1. Identify and appoint a suitable municipal representative for undertaking the following actions.
2. Source funding for upgrading facilities and creating new facilities.
3. Upgrade the facilities (ablutions/change rooms etc) to Blue Flag Beach standards (Appendix 1).
4. Construct viewing platforms and boardwalks to facilitate access and viewing.
5. Undertake an active marketing campaign through tourism and sporting agencies.
6. Increase publicity of future surfing events at Nahoon Point.

8.5 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INFORMATION

In order to encourage and promote the sustainable utilization of the coastline and coastal resources the public users of the resource need to be encouraged to take responsibility of their actions and assist in monitoring and reporting transgressions of the existing rules and regulations. In order to do this information regarding coastal processes and ecosystems needs to be available to the public through appropriate means. In order to increase the public involvement and knowledge of coastal zone management the following recommendations are made:

1. Establish a coastal information center and education programme. This center must be permanently staffed by a trained educational person (Coastal Education and public Engagement Superintendent or Assistant Environmental Educator) who can inform the public about all aspects of the coast and coastal management and can link in with the Blue Flag education programmes. This facility could easily be established in the existing Aquarium building or possibly in the Orient Beach complex.



2. Coastal education must be promoted through educational talks at local schools and coastal schools projects should be promoted in which there is active involvement of the coastal conservation officers and educational persons.
3. Information pamphlets and brochures must be prepared which should be:
 - a. Given to persons purchasing MLRA permits from local post offices etc
 - b. Given to persons purchasing boating permits
 - c. Given to persons using official launching sites
 - d. Available to the public at strategic locations and coastal conservation offices within the BCM
4. Information should be provided at all formal access points and coastal/estuarine public picnic sites through the erection of information/education boards
5. All conservation areas/nature reserves should have information boards at their access points which provide information on the types of wildlife present in order to promote bird watching and nature based activities.
6. A reporting/information system must be established which allows the public to contact and report incidences/or request information on coastal activities/information/regulations.
 - a. The task of public interaction and education must be delegated to a responsible BCM official within the CMU
 - b. Contact details must be provided for which all coastal related issues can be sent to (Fax, telephone, email)
 - c. All queries/reports must be responded to by the delegated BCM representative and if necessary they must be informed of the actions being undertaken and the final outcomes.
 - d. Standardized reporting forms should be prepared which can be completed by local residents/rate payers associations
 - e. Suitable organizations/persons should be identified at all coastal towns/resorts who should be tasked with completing and submitting forms on a quarterly basis, or in the incidence of a specific activity/occurrence of particular concern/severity
 - f. Information from these reports should be synthesized and a public information document/newsletter should be prepared on a quarterly basis and widely distributed.

8.6 TOURISM PROMOTION

The Buffalo City coastline offers opportunities for the promotion of tourism and due to the aesthetic appeal of the natural coastal areas and ecosystems which are interspersed by small resort and coastal towns which offer suitable services within reasonable distances to visiting tourists.

1. Staff member delegated responsibility of public information & education should also be required to identify and promote additional tourism activities.
2. Identify all possible coastal tourism attractions within BCM. This includes heritage and cultural sites, nature reserves, historical sites, recreational sites and activities
3. Identify those sites which currently do not have suitable facilities for public access
4. Identify possible means for obtaining funding and capacity for developing the required infrastructure at these sites possibly through community based management or PPP's.
5. Advertise the tourist sites and activities through tourism departments
6. Identify non-consumptive tourism activities which can be promoted within the BCM and encourage the promotion of these activities through PPPs (Boat based whale



watching; SCUBA Diving; Coastal tourism/education tours; horse back riding; day trails; adventure activities – abseiling etc.)



9. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1. Blue Flag Beaches

This indicator aims to report on the number of beaches which have achieved international standards according to the Blue Flag Criteria.

- Number Blue Flag beaches/year

2. Coastal recreational events

This indicator reports on the number of beach events hosted during the year by the BCM and the success of these events. This includes international, national, provincial or local sporting events such as surfing, sailing and fishing competitions as well beach festivals or parties which are organized (e.g. 5 FM Summer party).

- Number of sporting competitions/year (International; national; provincial & Local)
- Number of beach events/year
- Number of accidents on recreational beaches/year (serious injury or deaths)

Recreational Boating

This indicator reports on the number of officially licensed recreational boat launching sites available to the public within the BCM and the number of recreational licenses issued per year. This should also report on the number of seaworthy boats licensed within the BCM and boating clubs.

- Number of licensed estuary launch sites
- Number of licensed launch sites for access to the sea
- Number of public launch sites managed by BCM
- Number of launch sites management by clubs/forums (ski-boat & fishing clubs; estuary forums etc.)
- Number of ski and rubber duck clubs
- Number of seaworthy licenses issued/year

Recreational activities

This indicator aims to report on the number of recreational activities offered to the public within the BCM and the utilization of the recreational services

- Number of coastal hiking trails
- Number of declared heritage sites with developed recreational access and facilities
- Number of SCUBA diving clubs
- Number of boat based whale watching charters
- Number of action activity shops (kite surfing; sea kayaking; diving)

7. Coastal facility standards

This indicator reports on the satisfaction/dissatisfaction of the public regarding public facilities management by the BCM.

- Number of complaints regarding public facilities/year

**Table 9.1:** Summary of actions recommended in the Recreational Coastal Action Plan

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
Beach Management			
Improve amenities and beach management at Primary Beaches to Blue Flag Status	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Improve facilities and management of all Secondary Beaches	Beaches Unit	Medium	Long
Improve safety at all beaches	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Ensure regular patrols are undertaken on Natural Recreational Areas	Beaches Unit & CMU	Medium	Medium
Boat Launching sites			
Identify all previously used launching sites and close access to the sites unless a license has been obtained	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Erect information boards informing the public that the site is closed and may no longer be used, provide information on alternative launch sites which may be used.	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Identify potential sites for future use and possible partnerships with local organizations.	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Ensure controlled access to launch sites either via a guard or through a boom gate	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Promote public access and use of boat launching sites by means of appropriate information boards	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Ensure seaworthiness of all boats launching to sea from public access sites	CMU, CMU Ranger	Moderate	SHORT
Ensure licensing of all boats using estuary launch sites	CMU; CMU Ranger	HIGH	SHORT
Identify and demarcate appropriate vehicle and trailer parking areas for launch sites	CMU	Medium	Medium
Develop and implement environmental management plans at all launch sites	CMU - Estuary Conservation Officer	Medium	SHORT
Implement a monitoring program at all launch sites	CMU	Medium	SHORT
Prevent illegal launching of boats over the estuary bank and demarcate launching areas for small boats on all estuaries	CMU –Estuary Conservation Officer	Medium	Medium



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
Management of boating activities			
Erect information boards at all launch sites and all formal access points.	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Ensure all recreational boaters receive copies of BCM Bylaws when obtaining licenses	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Prohibit skiing & jetskiing on all estuaries and promote Bridledrift/Nahoon Dams as skiing destinations. Clearly display this information at all sites and advertise appropriately	CMU	Medium	Medium
Promote Orient Beach and Bridledrift and Nahoon dams as power boating and jetskiing sites	CMU	Medium	Medium
Ensure regular patrols of launch sites and boating activities by rangers or through Access Point Control system (See ICZMP)	CMU	Medium	Medium
Management of Orient Boating Activities			
Improve vehicle and trailer access to Orient Beach	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Ensure controlled/permitted access for launching purposes through the employment of a launch site manager.	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Check seaworthiness of all boats using this site.	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Clearly demarcate vehicle access route onto beach.	Beaches Unit	HIGH	SHORT
Ensure safe and clearly zoned areas for swimming and boating activities.	Beaches Unit	HIGH	SHORT
Increase the trailer parking facilities and ensure safety and security of vehicles	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Provide water points for washing boats and trailers.	Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Provide facilities for cleaning fish and prohibit any fish cleaning on the beach.	Beaches Unit	Low	Long
Erect information boards at launch site indicating launching requirements, launching fees, zonation of launching area, emergency contact numbers.	CMU	HIGH	SHORT



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
Beach Events			
Develop an stringent application procedure to be followed for all large beach/coastal events	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Ensure all beach events comply with the required application procedures	Beaches Unit/Amenities	Medium	Ongoing
Ensure internal circulation of all applications to the relevant BCM departments	Beaches Unit/Amenities	Medium	Ongoing
Marine Glen Complex			
Investigate the possibility of establishing a Public Private Partnership with the existing vendors currently using the esplanade.	CMU	Medium	Medium
Control access to site via boom gate which should be permanently manned	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Upgrade and refurbish existing facilities where required to create an clean and friendly environment for public use.	CMU/Amenities	Medium	Medium
Nature Based Activities			
Identify all existing public access points and undertake audit of facilities/amenities at these sites	CMU	Medium	Medium
Identify management authority for all access points and amenities	CMU	Medium	Medium
Identify suitable public access sites within coastal reserves	CMU; ECPB; IED	Medium	Medium
Establish tourism features such as day trails and birding trails in the reserves.	CMU; ECPB; IED	Medium	Long
Investigate sources of funding, possibly through public-private partnerships, for the establishment of trails.	CMU	Medium	SHORT
Encourage the participation of NGOs in the establishment of nature trails in reserves.	CMU	Medium	Ongoing
Provide information boards and signage at public access points to increase public awareness of nature reserves and recreational opportunities.	CMU	Medium	SHORT



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
Historic, cultural and heritage sites			
Develop appropriate public infrastructure at Cove Rock and the Nahoon footprints. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parking areas b. Picnic facilities c. Ablutions d. Information boards e. Boardwalk infrastructure f. View points 	CMU	HIGH	Medium
Employ and train tourism guides to be permanently stationed at these sites and ensure public access to and education about the sites while ensuring protection.	CMU	HIGH	Medium
Train/empower the tourism guides to enforce coastal legislation so they can double as coastal rangers.	CMU	HIGH	Medium
Advertise the sites through the Eastern Cape and Buffalo City Tourism	CMU	Medium	Medium
Surfing promotion			
Identify and appoint a suitable municipal representative for developing BCM as a surfing destination.	CMU	Medium	Medium
Source funding for upgrading facilities and creating new facilities at surfing beaches.	CMU	Medium	Medium
Upgrade the facilities (ablutions/change rooms etc) to Blue Flag Beach standards (Appendix 1).	CMU/Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Construct viewing platforms and boardwalks to facilitate access and viewing.	CMU/Beaches Unit	Medium	Medium
Undertake an active marketing campaign through tourism and sporting agencies.	CMU	Medium	Medium
Increase publicity of future surfing events at Nahoon Point.	CMU/BCM Tourism	Medium	Medium
Public Awareness and Information			
Establish a coastal information center and education programme.	CMU	HIGH	Medium



ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME
Employ suitably qualified staff to run the information and education center	CMU	HIGH	Medium
Establish a coastal education program including educational talks at local schools and coastal schools projects	CMU	Medium	Medium
Ensure preparation of information pamphlets and brochures and distribution of these to the public	CMU	Medium	Medium
Ensure the provision of information at all formal access points and coastal/estuarine public picnic sites through the erection of information/education boards or through distribution of pamphlets by coastal guards	CMU	Medium	Ongoing
Erect information boards at coastal reserves to promote public use	CMU	Medium	Medium
Establish a reporting/information system (hotline) to allow the public to report incidences/or request information on coastal activities/information/regulations.	CMU	HIGH	SHORT
Tourism promotion			
Identify all possible coastal tourism attractions within BCM. This includes heritage and cultural sites, nature reserves, historical sites, recreational sites and activities	CMU/BCM Tourism	Medium	SHORT
Identify those sites which currently do not have suitable facilities for public access	CMU	Medium	Medium
Identify possible means for obtaining funding and capacity for developing the required infrastructure at these sites possibly through community based management or PPP's.	CMU	Medium	Medium
Advertise the tourist sites and activities through tourism departments	CMU	Medium	Medium
Identify non-consumptive tourism activities which can be promoted within the BCM and encourage the promotion of these activities through PPPs (Boat based whale watching; SCUBA Diving; Coastal tourism/education tours; horse back riding; day trails; adventure activities – abseiling etc.)	CMU	Medium	Medium



10. REFERENCES

Avis 1992

Revel Fox and Partners 1986