

From the Ridgeways to the Sea

Integrated Catchment Management from St Arnaud to Motueka

Call it trickle down, call it flow on, call it what you like but the fact is, what we do on our land has a huge effect on our waterways and coastal waters.

You can't care for our rivers and coast environment without addressing what's happening inland.

That's the logical theory behind the **Motueka Integrated Catchment Management Research Project**, an ongoing collaborative project involving Landcare Research, Cawthron Institute and Tasman District Council, with the support of NIWA, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Forest Research, local iwi, NZ Landcare Trust, the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and the community.

The research attempts to answer a whole range of questions such as:

- 1 Why did the trout population decline?
- 2 How do activities like farming, forestry and subdivisions affect marine farming?
- 3 How best should water be allocated between different users during water shortages?
- 4 How do people use scientific information to make decisions?

The research draws on a range of background information about the Motueka River and its catchment including topographical maps, aerial photos, satellite images, climate data, soil maps, river surveys, facts about hydrology, geology, vegetation, freshwater and marine ecology, population and much more.

Through this research and a diverse range of field work the various groups involved are working together to provide comprehensive information on the land and water resources of the Motueka catchment. The ICM team is also developing computer models to predict the impacts of catchment activities.

This information is invaluable for any decision making process that will affect these areas and having it available will make it easier to protect and enhance the environment of those special valleys and coastal waters, possibly the most important asset this District can lay claim to.

For more information please check out the website at:

<http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz>