



*Te Hunga Takutai o Aotearoa*

**NEW ZEALAND  
COASTAL SOCIETY**

# Conference 2025

**18–21 November  
Ahuriri Napier**

**Field Trips Overview**



# Conference Field Trips

Below is an overview of the four field trips on offer at the upcoming NZCS Conference 2025. Registrants are welcome to select one option which is included in a full conference registration [ticket](#)\*.

*\*These are limited spaces and subject to availability at the time of registering.*

## Field Trip: Napier Port Experience

Inside the Gates: A Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Napier Port



Join us for an exclusive tour inside the gates of Napier Port – New Zealand’s fourth largest container port and a critical gateway for the Hawke’s Bay and lower North Island economies.

This guided experience offers NZCS 2025 delegates a unique look at the scale, complexity and environmental considerations of port operations. You’ll board a bus for a drive-through tour of key areas, getting up close to the heavy machinery, vessels and infrastructure that keep goods moving across the region and beyond.



The tour will take in Napier Port’s container terminal, bulk cargo wharves, and marine services, including a stop at the tug berth to view the port’s marine fleet. You’ll also hear about Napier Port’s newest addition – a purpose-built trailing suction hopper dredge (TSHD), currently under construction and arriving in late 2026 through a joint venture with Port Otago. The vessel will enhance regional dredging capability and long-term navigational resilience.

We’ll highlight 6 Wharf – Napier Port’s newest deepwater berth – and the engineering and operational benefits it brings. The tour also includes commentary on the Eastern Beach erosion control project, designed to help protect the port’s coastal edge while working with natural coastal processes.

The final stop is Napier Port’s kororā (little blue penguin) sanctuary. From outside the enclosure, the team will speak to the port’s biodiversity initiatives and ecological monitoring across land and sea.

This is a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at one of New Zealand’s most active working ports.



**Tug In Action**

*Photography by: Napier Port*



**Kororā Sanctuary**



**Erosion Control Project**

## Field Trip: Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary) is a culturally and ecologically significant coastal wetland in Hawke's Bay, shaped by a dynamic history of natural change and human intervention. Once an expansive tidal lagoon, the estuary was significantly altered by the 1931 Napier earthquake, which uplifted the land and drastically altered hydrology and estuarine function. Further diversion and drainage has reduced the wetland extent from 3806ha to its current size of 440ha.

Today, it remains a vital remnant of a once much larger system, providing habitat for migratory wading birds, native fish, and invertebrates, and supporting important mahinga kai values for mana whenua. During our field trip, we will explore the estuary's history, its diverse habitats, saltmarsh, tidal flats, and remnant channels, and discuss its ecological role as a nursery for marine species. These pressures are compounding with sea-level rise, leading to habitat loss.

The field trip will be a walk and talk style, leaving from Humber Street and walking along the railway bridge before rejoining the boardwalk on the northern side and round Meeanee Quay back to Humber Street.



**Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū – Ahuriri Estuary**  
*Photography by: Anna Madarasz-Smith*



**Rocky Reef - Mahia in Hawkes Bay**



## Field Trip: Coastal Strategy – Southern Cells Visit

Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton are some of the areas that are most exposed to coastal erosion and coastal flooding, each one having its unique characteristics. At Haumoana, the flood risk comes from both the Tukituki river and the ocean, hence stop banks, coastal groynes and sea exclusion banks are some of its flood and erosion defences.

At Te Awanga, the same waves, reef and river that create its famous right hander can also cause floods, failure of its drainage system and severe erosion. Clifton, located at the very beginning, of Cape Kidnappers has been undergoing chronic coastal erosion over the past years, regardless of the occasional sediment input from the eroded cliffs of the cape.

This field trip will stop by specific locations at each cell and show the present coastal structures, the main challenges to be tackled, and the solutions proposed by the Hawke's Bay's Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy.



**Hauman**



**Te Awanga**



**Clifton Motor Camp**



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NZCS Conference 2025 – Local Organising Committee

[nzcs.org.nz](http://nzcs.org.nz)