

2017 – 2022

# New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka Threat Management Plan



**Vision:** Promote the recovery and ensure the long-term viability of New Zealand sea lions, with the ultimate goal of achieving 'Not Threatened' status.

**5 year objective:** Halt the decline of the New Zealand sea lion population within 5 years.

**20 year objective:** Ensure the New Zealand sea lion population is stable or increasing within 20 years.

## Site specific measures of success

### Stewart Island/Rakiura

#### Support population growth to achieve breeding colony status:

- Pup counts remain higher than 35 for 5 years in a row, qualifying this site as a new breeding colony
- Pup production continues to increase to allow for colonial breeding
- There are no cases of deliberate human-caused mortality
- Public involvement in the conservation of sea lions increases.

### Auckland Islands

#### Pup production continues to increase from the 2014 count:

- Adult female survival rate and pup survival rate improve
- Pup numbers are consistently above 1,575 (2014 pup count) and ideally over 1,965 (2017 pup count).

### South Island/Te Waipounamu

#### Support population growth:

- Pup counts along this stretch of coastline increase to above 16 per year, eventually reaching 35, on track to achieving breeding colony status
- There are no cases of deliberate human-caused mortality
- Public involvement in the conservation of sea lions increases.

### Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku

#### Reduce pup mortality and support population growth:

- Pup counts are consistently at or above 696 (2015 pup count)
- Pup mortality rates are consistently lower than 40% per annum, and
- Frequency and consistency of monitoring of sea lions has increased.

## Success across the New Zealand sea lion range

- Pup mortality from falling into natural holes is reduced
- Disease research yields answers to inform recommendations to reduce pup mortality from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- Estimation of SLED efficacy and cryptic mortality affecting adult female survival improves
- The effects of climate change and fisheries on sea lion nutritional status are better understood
- Sea lion breeding sites developing and colonies establishing at new locations
- The New Zealand sea lion threat status improves from Nationally Critical to Not Threatened.

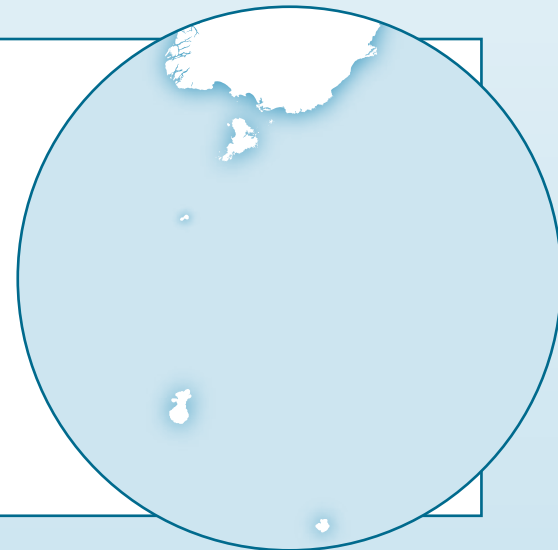
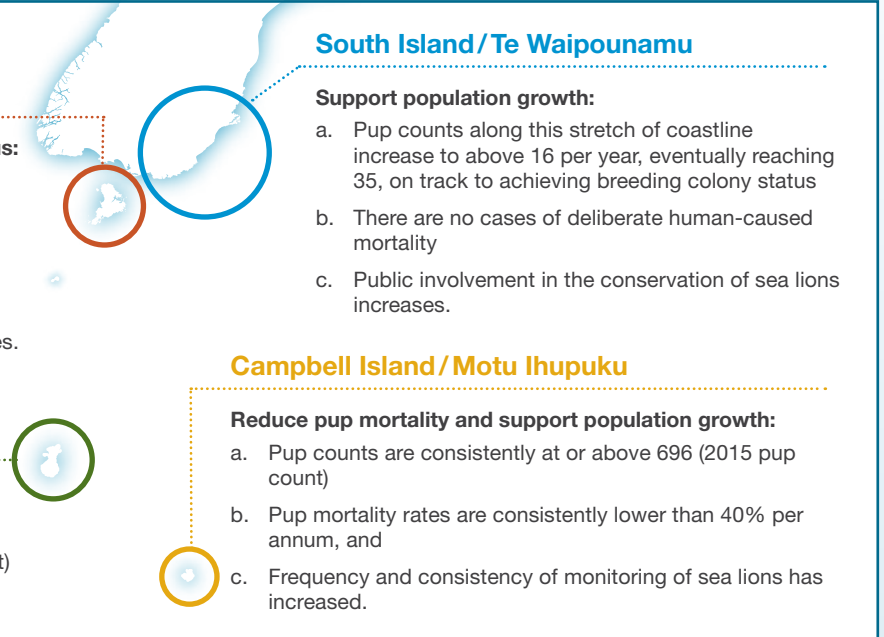


Figure 3: What success looks like at each site and across the entire population.