# Set Net - Protected Species Risk Management Plan

| FV (ID) | | Port | | Date | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Owner | | Skipper(s) | | | |

**Purpose:** This PSRMP documents agreed procedures and actions that skippers will follow to reduce risk of protected species captures and includes implementation of best practice Mitigation Standards. Skipper(s) and crew are also to read and understand the supporting Operational Procedures. Information in this plan will be provided to MPI and SNZ for reporting and management.

**Regulations:** Observe all spatial restrictions for operating in your area. All protected species captures must be reported using the electronic NFPS Catch Report.

**MS Alignment:** ☐ 1.1, ☐ 1.2, ☐ 2.1, ☐ 2.2, ☐ 3.1, ☐ 3.2, ☐ 3.3, ☐ 3.4, ☐ 3.5, ☐ 4.1, ☐ 4.2, ☐ 4.3

Additional Resources

| **Vessel's Practices** – Health and Safety of crew comes first | |
|---|---|
| **Discharge management** | - Setting: No discharge immediately before or during<br>- Hauling: fish waste is held or batched at intervals *(select one or indicate if both)*<br>- Storage & discharge point: *E.g. Stored in fish bins and dumped from stern while steaming or opposite side to the hauling station*<br>- All practicable stickers are removed from the net before each shot. |
| **Net** | - Nets are not stalled<br>- Spatial placement of nets don't pose unnecessary risk to protected species<br>- Consider depth, soak time, and time-of-day with respect to protected species<br>- Minimise time net is at/near surface to reduce risk of seabird interactions<br>- Fishing gear/equipment is regularly inspected and maintained, and repairs occur while net is onboard or when low-risk to seabirds |
| **High-risk periods/areas** | *- E.g. avoid fishing around high seabird abundance or over full moon*<br>- Some high-risk periods/areas include: *(include areas and times discussed with LO)*<br>- Areas avoided when using external lights at night: x |
| **Acoustic deterrents** | *- Number, make, model, intensity, spacing, battery change schedule, performance checks and indicate where/when in use* |
| **Light management** | - Lighting reduced to minimum requirements and intensity for operations and safety<br>- Essential lights are shielded, angled, and/or positioned to only light required areas |
| **Other** | - Skipper and crew follow safe protected species handling and release procedures<br>- Dead captures are shown to camera for independent ID; report bands to your LO<br>*- E.g. – visual/LED deterrent* |

## Contact your Liaison Officer when a TRIGGER POINT is reached

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **24 hr** | (Alive or Dead) Any great albatross, penguin, dolphin, whale, sea lion, turtle or basking shark<br>(Alive or Dead) 2 albatrosses/mollymawks, or 5 small (e.g. petrel/shearwater) seabirds<br>(Dead) Any black petrel, flesh-footed shearwater or white pointer shark | | |
| **7 day** | (Alive or Dead) 10 protected seabirds of any type or 5 fur seals | | |
| **Contact:** | | **Ph:** | **Email:** |

# TEN GOLDEN RULES

## FOR SET NET FISHING TO SAVE PROTECTED SPECIES

1. **Ensure your vessel has onboard the current Coastal Setnet Operational Procedures (OPs), a Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP), a map of setnet prohibition areas and that you and your crew are familiar with the regulations and reporting requirements.**
2. **Avoid setting nets in the vicinity of significant seabird colonies and foraging areas (consider time and season) for the region you fish, and where seabird and/or marine mammal activity is particularly high.**
3. **Ensure that stalling does not occur while the nets are set (i.e. minimise the time the net sits at the surface).**
4. **Avoid excessive soak time (only soak as long as needed to maximise catch value) and ensure you are aware of maximum soak time outlined in the regulations.**
5. **Ensure your setnets do not cover more than one quarter of a channel, bay, inlet, etc, as required by the regulations.**
6. **No discharging of offal or fish waste immediately before or during setting and remove all stickers as practicable from the net prior to each shot.**
7. **While hauling, either hold or batch discharge offal and fish waste. Return live fish (meeting the legal requirements) to the sea as quickly as practicably possible.**
8. **While ensuring safe operating standards, minimise and contain lighting so as not to attract or disorientate seabirds, especially while sheltering or at anchor or steaming past colonies**
9. **Ensure you and your crew are familiar with and follow safe animal handling procedures and protocol. Record and report any bird band numbers to you Liaison Officer.**
10. **Report all protected species captures by ERS and notify your local Liaison Officer (same day) and if possible implement further risk reduction.**

**For support phone your local Liaison Officer.**

**DOC CSP Protected Species Liaison Programme set net 10GRs (Version 5 Dec 2025)**

SEAFOOD NEW ZEALAND

# New Zealand Coastal Setnet Operational Procedures

## Protected Species Risk Management

**Version 4.0 December 2025**

***Disclaimer**: These Operational Procedures do not replace or override any fisheries legislation or other regulations, including but not limited to Health & Safety, Maritime Safety, Fisheries, Animal Welfare or the Wildlife Act. Vessel operators are required to ensure that both they and their crew understand all regulations and requirements that are relevant to the fisheries and environment that they are operating in, whilst always maintaining crew and vessel safety.*

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Operational Procedures (OPs) is to provide a structured approach to the mitigation of risk to protected species.

The New Zealand fishing fleets, both inshore and deepwater, experience some level of monitored capture.

Many protected species are of great importance to the wider community and have tourism value in some regions. All protected species have biodiversity value to New Zealand and varying levels of population and threat status, with government and relevant agencies monitoring and managing impacts on their populations.

There are legal frameworks and guidelines in place for specific protected species groups. Seafood New Zealand (SNZ) Operational Procedures (OPs) aim to summarise key information on risk and mitigation options for inshore fisheries.

The OPs align with the 'Mitigation Standards to Reduce the Incidental Captures of Seabirds in New Zealand Commercial Fisheries' (Toolbox of Measures) developed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ). These standards, based on international best practice and statutory requirements, provide bycatch mitigation options that are above and beyond minimum legal requirements.

The OPs sit alongside vessel-specific Protected Species Risk Management Plans (PSRMPs). The PSRMPs document each vessel's individual approach to minimising risk to protected species and how they implement the OPs, legal requirements, and mitigation standards.

Fishers are legally required to reduce any undue impact on protected species and report all interactions with protected species using an electronic Non-Fish Protected Species (NFPS) capture form.

Remember it is not illegal to catch a protected species however it is illegal not to report it.

The ultimate mitigation practice is to **LOOK – THINK – ACT**

## 2. LEGLISLATION AND GUIDING POLICY DOCUMENTS

### The Wildlife Act and Marine Mammals Protection Act

The Department of Conservation (DOC) are responsible for the Wildlife Act 1953 and Marine Mammals Protection Act 1972. The Acts protect various species, and it is an offence to hunt, kill, take, disturb, possess, buy, sell or destroy any protected species or any part of one without a permit. For some species (e.g. Antipodean albatrosses, Hector's dolphins) you may receive an authorisation from DOC to retain these for analysis ashore.

It's not an offence to accidentally catch any of these species if they are released immediately and the capture is reported accurately as soon as possible to DOC and MPI, via your electronic logbook.

Crew must observe safe handling practices for themselves and protected species when dealing with captured animals. Handle animals with care to minimise any further stress, harm or injury, and to maximise the chances of post-release survival. Refer to the DOC Handling and Release Guide for further diagrams and instructions.

### The Fisheries Act

The Fisheries Act 1996 regulates fishing and is administered by Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ). They produce the mitigation and reporting circulars which describe the legal requirements. See the Reporting Requirements (Section 3) and Mitigation Measures (Section 8) of this OP for more information.

Beyond this, FNZ have only reasonably blunt tools to regulate impacts on protected species – for example closed areas/seasons and setting fisheries related mortality limits (FRMLs). The goal of this OP and the support you receive from DOC Liaison Officers and Seafood New Zealand aims to keep captures sufficiently low to avoid such measures.

### Department of Conservation, Conservation Services Programme (CSP)

There are provisions under the Fisheries Act 1996 for both fisheries services (which largely sit with FNZ) and conservation services (which largely sit with DOC). Conservation services are outputs produced to mitigate the adverse effects of commercial fishing on protected species, as agreed between the Minister for Conservation and the Director-General of the Department of Conservation. Following consultation, industry is levied to provide services to undertake research relating to the effects of fishing on protected species and research into measures to mitigate the adverse effects of commercial fishing on protected species.

The DOC Liaison Programme is one such output enabled through CSP, and Liaison Officers are your primary contact to utilise for mitigation advice and protected species capture responses.

### National Plan of Action - Seabirds

The National Plan of Action – Seabirds (NPOA) is part of an international management framework that guides seabird risk management. It is a requirement of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) of which New Zealand is a signatory. It is also linked to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) processes and guidelines.

The NPOA guides assessment and management of risk to seabirds in New Zealand fisheries. This management comes mostly from Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) and Department of Conservation (DOC) with support from fishing industry bodies such as Seafood New Zealand (SNZ).

The Risk Assessment referred to in the NPOA assesses the impact of potential fisheries mortalities on 70 of the seabird species that breed in New Zealand. Risk for each seabird species is estimated as the ratio between the estimated annual deaths from fishing and the number that the population can withstand. The risk ratios are assessed on a fishery-by-fishery basis where data is sufficient to allow this.

A key NPOA objective is to move seabird species to lower risk categories, so the populations are not threatened, and a long-term objective is to have negligible impact on all 70 seabird populations.

DOC and FNZ have published mitigation standards which specify ‘best practice’ seabird bycatch mitigation methods for each fleet to support the NPOA.

### Species specific approaches

Species specific approaches are in place for some particularly at-risk species including hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) which are managed in line with the Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho. This is a high-level strategy which aims to restore hoiho populations in the face of pressures from human activities.

More detailed threat management plans are in place for New Zealand sealions and Hector’s dolphins which are managed with area specific fisheries related mortality limits (FRMLs).

### Te Mana O Te Taiao Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020

The Government also administers the Biodiversity Strategy which includes the objective (12.2.1):

*The number of fishing-related deaths of protected marine species is decreasing towards zero for all species.*

## 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All protected species captures must be reported. Protected species are considered caught if they have become fixed, entangled, or trapped in such a way that they cannot move freely or free themselves. Deck strikes must also be reported and are defined as: where a bird collides with, or lands on a vessel or its superstructure, and is unable to leave the vessel of its own accord because it is injured or disoriented.

Instructions for completing E-logbooks, including species codes can be found here:

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/70593-Fisheries-E-logbook-Users-Instructions-and-Codes-Circular-2025

If you are 100% sure of the identification of a protected species you have captured, use the individual species codes supplied by FNZ and available in the identification guides supplied by your Liaison Officer. If you are not 100% sure of the species identification, take a photo and send it to your Liaison Officer who may help you identify the protected species. You can use a more general group code if you are unsure (e.g. XMA - 'Smaller albatross – unidentified').

### Seabirds

All seabirds, except black-backed gulls, are protected.

**DO NOT USE CODE XAL (unidentified albatross).** If you use this code, your Liaison Officer will be in touch to confirm ID. Please take photos and confirm with LO if you are uncertain.

Albatrosses should, as a minimum, be split into **XGA – Great albatrosses** (wandering and royals) and **XMA – Smaller albatrosses** (mollymawks). Split mollymawks to species level if you are confident – this just takes a bit of practice.

Record any leg band numbers, take a photo and send it to your LO. These are important for scientific assessment purposes.

If dead birds have a recorder attached remove this and inform your Liaison Officer

For dead birds show them to the camera including views of the head (side on), feet, upper and lower side of wings. This is important for identification confirmation.

### Marine Mammals

All marine mammals are protected including NZ fur seal, NZ sea lion, dolphins and whales. Please make sure your crew are aware of the differences between seals and sea lions and are checking all individuals as juveniles can be misidentified.

Fur seals have a pointy nose, long whiskers and a thick double layer of fur. The maximum size is 2.5 m and 150 kg (females 1.5 m, 50 kg) use code **FUR**

Sea lions have a flat nose, shorter whiskers, and 'velvety' fur. The maximum size is 3.5 m and 400 kg (females are smaller and lighter in colour 2.0 m, 160 kg) use code **HSL**

**SEA** is the general code for seals and sealions. If you use this code, your Liaison Officer will be in touch to confirm ID. Please take photos and confirm with your LO if you are uncertain.

**Any dead marine mammals should preferably be marked before returning them to the sea, with twine or cable ties around the jaw. This avoids them being double-counted if recaptured in a trawl.**

### Marine Reptiles

All marine reptiles, including sea turtles, sea snakes, and kraits are protected.

Three species of sea snake are present in New Zealand, and all are protected. The group code is **SSN** but they are relatively easily identifiable to species based on colour.

Although turtles breed in the tropics and subtropics, there are five species that are seen in New Zealand waters, with green and leatherback being the most common**.**

Leatherback Turtles **(LBT)** are easy to identify due to their size and ridged leathery looking back.

Hard-shelled turtles will be harder to split to species level – use the identification guides and the following codes:

- Green turtle **GNT**
- Hawksbill turtle **HBT**
- Loggerhead turtle **LHT**
- LHT Olive Ridley turtle **ORT**

The group code for turtles is **TLE.** If you use this code, your Liaison Officer will be in touch to confirm ID. Please take photos and confirm with your LO if you are uncertain.

### Protected Fish

There are two bony fish species that are protected species:

- Giant grouper **GGP**
- Spotted black grouper **SBG**

Similar to seabirds, NZ's shark species are managed under a 'NPOA -Sharks' that documents the planned actions for conservation and management of those species. Several sharks and ray species are protected under NZ legislation including:

- Oceanic whitetip shark **OWS**
- Basking shark **BSK**
- Deepwater nurse shark **ODO**
- White pointer shark **WPS**
- Whale shark **WSH**
- Manta ray **RMB**
- Spinetail devil ray **MJA**

### Benthic Species

A number of benthic species (things that live on the seafloor) are protected, including:

- Black corals **COB**
- Gorgonian corals **GOC**
- Stony corals **SIA**
- Hydrocorals **COR**

In addition to corals, it is a requirement under the Fisheries Act to report captures of sponges and bryozoans and record the weight of each species. These must be reported with a weight, whether they are alive or dead. For weights above a kilogram round to the nearest kilogram and use the following codes:

- Unidentified corals use **COU**
- Bryozoans use **COZ**
- Sponges use **ONG**

Identification can be difficult - if you are unsure use **CSB** which covers all three groups. However, if you use this code, your Liaison Officer will be in touch to confirm ID as not all corals are protected. Please take photos and confirm with your LO if you are uncertain.

Handling and release guide

Species ID guides

DOC Liaison Programme

## 4. NON-FISH PROTECTED SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND HANDLING RESOURCES

- DOC protected species identification guides are available at: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/protected-species-identification-guides/
- A detailed set of invertebrate NFPS material is available at: https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23020/AEBR_86.pdf.ashx
- Earth Sciences NZ invertebrate guides are available at: https://niwa.co.nz/oceans/identification-guides
- Handling and Release Guide – For protected species interactions within New Zealand fisheries: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/resources/protected-species-handling-guide-2022.pdf

Fishers can request hard copies of these documents in both English and Indonesian to keep onboard, via their Liaison Officer.

## 5. PROTECTED SPECIES RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS (PSRMPs)

Your Liaison Officer will help with the development of your Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP). This will detail your vessel's specific approach to mitigating protected species interactions. It will summarise the legal requirements and also include a comprehensive list of non-regulated measures that reduce risk.

**This is your plan – ensure that it accurately represents what is happening on your vessel.**

**Do not write anything into the PSRMP that you do not intend on doing.**

Trigger points are included in your PSRMP to help you proactively manage NFPS interactions and tell you when to act – they are our real time reporting "threshold" system and first line of defense to escalating risks on the water.

**The goal of a trigger point is to trigger a response by the skipper - to stop and think about the capture and how to avoid it happening again.**

If you hit a trigger, you need to think very carefully before shooting again and aim to change something to reduce the chances of it happening again.

**Report all trigger points to your Liaison Officer within 24 hours so that any follow-up can be discussed and carried out immediately.**

When a trigger point is reached, the Liaison Officer and the operator/owner and skipper (noting these might be the same person at times) will work together to review the situation.

If interactions continue to escalate, or the interaction is a species of concern, the Liaison Officer, your licensed fish receiver, and Seafood NZ can support the response and ensure fleet-wide communication of high-risk times and areas.

### Audit and review

The Government will audit the implementation of your PSRMP via Electronic Monitoring and port-based visits. Information collected will be provided to DOC, FNZ and the Liaison Officer.

If your NFPS interactions are continuous or significant, either the plan needs updating or practices onboard need to be improved. Your Liaison Officer can work this through with you and update your plan if necessary.

Your PSRMP may also need updating at other times. For example, if you change gear or target species, or there are changes in any element of your fishing operations that relate to the risk of protected species captures. At these times, please contact your Liaison Officer.

**Camera footage will be reviewed for all protected species interactions.**

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES

### Operator and Skipper Responsibilities

- Ensure all crew are briefed on the OP and the vessel's PSRMP and fully understand their responsibilities.
- Display a copy of the PSRMP on the bridge.
- Manage fishing operations in time and place based on experience and the information provided in this OP to minimise overlap with protected species.
- Be aware of protected species activity around the vessel and in the area; take actions to minimise risk. (See Section 8)
- Ensure correct protected species reporting to FNZ and DOC. (See Section 3)
- Ensure the Liaison Programme trigger points are reported promptly to your local Liaison Officer and work with them to review the effectiveness and implementation of content in the PSRMP. (See Section 5)
- Reach out if you need support, including for protected species ID.

### Crew Responsibilities

- Know the PSRMP contents – this is your approach to minimising risk.
- Maintain a watch of seabird and marine mammal activity around the vessel and advise the skipper when there is risk that requires action.
- Advise skipper if any animal is seen caught and ensure its immediate release if alive.
- Check and maintain any mitigation equipment (e.g. Hookpods, tori lines, bafflers).

## 7. MITIGATION MEASURES

### Legal requirements

There are a number of regulatory requirements for the use of set nets including mesh sizes, soak times and net lengths. The overarching requirements can be found in the *Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001* https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2001/0253/latest/whole.html.

Set net bans to protect Hector's and Maui dolphins are available on separate sheets and at:

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries/managing-the-impact-of-fishing-on-protected-species/protecting-hectors-and-maui-dolphins#fish-related-threats

Further restrictions to protect hoiho (yellow-eyed penguins) are available at:

.https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries/managing-the-impact-of-fishing-on-protected-species/reducing-deaths-of-seabirds

Fishers should also check with the Liaison Officer or Seafood NZ for any voluntary measures that have been adopted by region, these will be appended to this OP.

### Protected Species Risk Management Plans (PSRMP)

Your Liaison Officer will help with the development of your Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP). This will detail your vessel's specific approach to mitigating protected species interactions. It will be updated regularly and include a comprehensive list of measures that reduce risk.

**This is your plan – ensure that it accurately represents what is happening on your vessel.**

Important mitigation measures beyond those in the regulations that should form part of your plan include:

- Offal and discards management and control
- Reducing the amount of time gear is at the surface
- Use of acoustic devices and/or lights
- Light control – including when at anchor
- How you choose where and when to fish to minimise risk

**If you catch a Hector's or Maui dolphin or yellow-eyed penguin, and you have authorisation from DOC, retain the carcass for necropsy. The information necropsies provide are invaluable for learning more about these dolphins, particularly about disease.**

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Vessel operators need to be aware of all factors of your operation that can influence the risk posed to protected species.

| RISK ITEM | RISK FOR | WAYS TO MANAGE RISK |
|---|---|---|
| **All risks** | All species | • Consider overlap with protected species when choosing where and when to fish.<br>• Contain and minimise vessel lighting. |
| **Set capture** | Seabirds | • Sink nets rapidly<br>• Shoot only clean nets<br>• Remove attractants – no dumping of fish waste / offal immediately before or during setting. |
| **Soak capture** | Seabirds<br>Marine mammals | • Considered soak time and location to minimise overlap<br>• Acoustic devices<br>• Lights |
| **Haul capture** | Seabirds | • Recovering gear quickly<br>• Hold or, if necessary, batch discard offal and fish waste |
| **Deck strike** | Seabirds | • Minimise light spill, especially when at anchor and steaming close to colonies<br>• Keep deck clean |

## MAIN SPECIES AT RISK – SOUTH ISLAND

| Species at Risk | Species Code | Main Risk Area | Place, Time, Risk Profile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yellow-eyed penguin | XYP | Otago, Catlins, Stewart Island | • Typically found within 25 km of the coast, but may travel up to 50 km offshore<br>• Mostly feed on the seabed during the day at depths up to 150 m<br>• Juveniles migrate north after they fledge in February towards Kaikoura and are often sighted around the Canterbury Bight<br>• The mainland population is small and declining due to a number of threats and impacts (including, but not just, fishing). Little population data for sub-Antarctic populations |
| Fiordland crested penguin | XFC | Fiordland, Stewart Island, Foveaux Strait | • Most frequently caught nearshore e.g. overlapping with butterfish fisheries<br>• Intensive feeding period post chick-rearing (late Nov-early Feb) and post-moult (late Feb-early July)<br>• Multiple threats including ocean change (food issues) and land-based predators; fishing impacts may add to these threats |
| Little blue penguin | XLB | All Areas | • Strongly impacted by adverse climate and oceanic events<br>• Present year-round on entire NZ coastline<br>• Most frequently caught nearshore but may range up to 25 km<br>• Daylight forager, often rafts, return to land at night |
| Foveaux shag and Otago shag (previously Stewart Island shag) | XHG | Foveaux Strait, Stewart Island, Otago | • Present in Oamaru south to Stewart Island, have been identified as far north as Banks Peninsula<br>• Fly in flocks to or from feeding grounds and forage up to 50 km offshore<br>• Seabed forager (down to 30 m) also forage in murky water e.g. Otago Harbour |
| King shag | XHG | Marlborough Sounds and western D'Urville | • About 85% of all existing birds are located at five colonies: Rahuinui Island, Duffers Reef, Trio Islands, Sentinel Rock, and White Rocks<br>• Forage up to 25 km from their colony<br>• Seabed forager (down to 50m) during daylight hours |
| Spotted shags | XPP (spotted) | | • Summer breeders, ranging further from colonies outside of breeding season<br>• Can raft and feed in large numbers<br>• Hot spots –Banks Peninsula, Otago |

| Species at risk | Species Code | Main Risk Area | Place, Time, Risk Profile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hector's dolphin | HDO | ECSI, WCSI | • Most abundant off the ECSI and WCSI but also found on the north coast (Golden/Tasman Bay and Marlborough Sounds) and south coast (Te Waewae Bay)<br>• Patchy distribution, often in shallow water and off river mouths but can extend range 20 nm offshore<br>• Are thought to move further offshore at night<br>• Not know to feed from nets<br>• Use sonar to detect prey, but not 100% of the time – making them susceptible to captures<br>• NCSI, ECSI and SCSI: Closures regulated as of June 2020. See supplemental material for maps |
| Dusky dolphin | DDO | All areas,<br>Kaikoura | • Found all around the coastline of New Zealand |
| NZ Sea lion | HSL | Otago to Stewart Island | • Re-establishing on Mainland NZ<br>• Present year-round in southern coastal waters |
| NZ Fur seal | FUR | All areas | • Present year-round on entire NZ coastline, usually haul out on rocky shores<br>• Main SI colonies in Kaikoura, D'Urville Island Separation Point, Cape Foulwind, Banks Peninsula, Otago, Stewart Island, Ruapuke, Fiordland, the Solander Islands |
| Great white shark<br>(White pointer) | WPS | Particularly Stewart Island and Foveaux Strait | • Most common over summer, particularly Nov-Mar<br>• Trans-Tasman population (range between NZ, Australia and the South Pacific islands – highly migratory species |

## MAIN SPECIES AT RISK – NORTH ISLAND

| Species at risk | Species Code | Main Risk Area | Place, Time, Risk Profile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maui dolphin | MDO | WCNI, particularly between Manganui Bluffs and Mokau | • Patchy distribution, often in shallow water and off river mouths but can extend range 20nm offshore<br>• Not know to feed from nets, use sonar to detect prey, but not 100% of the time – making them susceptible to captures<br>• WCNI: Closure regulated as of June 2020. See supplemental material for maps |
| Dusky dolphin | DDO | All areas, Particularly ECNI | • Found all around the coastline of New Zealand, but more so on the East coast north island |
| NZ Fur Seal | FUR | All areas | • Present year-round on entire NZ coastline, mainly rocky shores<br>• Main SI colonies in Kaikoura, D'Urville Island Separation Point, Cape Foulwind, Banks Peninsula, Otago, Stewart Island, Ruapuke, Fiordland, the Solander Islands |
| Great white shark (White pointer) | WPS | Northern east coast | • Most common over summer, particularly Nov-Mar<br>• Trans-Tasman population (range between NZ, Australia and the South Pacific islands – highly migratory species |
| Little Blue Penguin | XLB | All areas | • Strongly impacted by adverse climate and oceanic events<br>• Present year-round on entire NZ coastline<br>• Most frequently caught nearshore but may range up to 25km<br>• Daylight forager, often rafts, return to land at night |
| Spotted shags | XPP | All areas | • Summer breeders, ranging further from colonies outside of breeding season<br>• Can raft and feed in large numbers<br>• Hot spots – Very small population in Firth of Thames |
| Black petrel | XBP | East coast | • Summer breeder on Great and Little Barrier (migrate to South America)<br>• Aggressive feeding on arrival into NZ and before departure<br>• Good diver |
| Flesh-footed shearwater | XFS | East coast | • Summer breeder on several Islands on East Coast to Marlborough Sounds and Sugarloaf Islands off Taranaki (migrate to N. Pacific).<br>• Aggressive feeding on arrival into NZ and before departure.<br>• More inshore distribution than black petrel<br>• Even better diver than black petrel |

Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

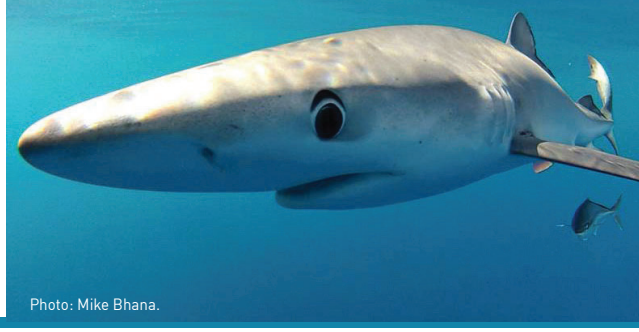


Photo: Mike Bhana.

Fact Sheet 1/4

# Conservation and management of New Zealand sharks

1

**Over 113 species of sharks have been reported in New Zealand waters. Sharks are now known to be an important part of marine ecosystems and New Zealand's *National Plan of Action – Sharks* (available at www.mpi.govt.nz) recognises this.**

## SHARK FINNING BAN

From 1 October 2014, it is **ILLEGAL TO REMOVE THE FINS FROM A SHARK AND DISCARD THE BODY OF THE SHARK AT SEA**. The Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 require that any shark fins landed must be naturally attached to the body of the shark (see fact sheet 2).

The Regulations provide exceptions to the "fins attached" requirement for eight species of shark. These exceptions take two forms, the first is for blue shark and it allows the fins to be removed from the body but requires that the fins be attached to the trunk after processing (before landing). The second exception is for seven other QMS species, for which the fins may be landed separately but in accordance with a gazetted ratio (see fact sheet 3).

The management of individual shark species depends on the scale of catch, as well as other factors such as how vulnerable they are to fishing. You are likely to come across the following categories –

- **QUOTA MANAGEMENT SPECIES**
  - –Blue shark BWS
  - –Elephant fish ELE
  - –Ghost shark GSH
  - –Mako shark MAK
  - –Pale ghost shark GSP
  - –Porbeagle shark POS
  - –Rig SPO
  - –School shark SCH
  - –Spiny dogfish SPD

Nine species of shark are managed under the Quota Management System (QMS). Catches of these species must be retained like any other QMS species, unless they are listed on Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Act 1996. A separate fact sheet is available explaining the conditions under which Schedule 6 applies and providing information on the appropriate recording of Schedule 6 releases (see fact sheet 4).

- **NON-QUOTA SPECIES**

The remainder of shark species are not managed under the QMS. Reporting obligations still apply for these species, but they do not have to be retained and landed.

You are encouraged to use best practice handling methods to release sharks alive wherever possible.

Note that you are not required to land any fins.

| Approach | Species | |
|---|---|---|
| Fins naturally attached | Spiny dogfish<br>All non-QMS species | SPD |
| Fins artificially attached | Blue shark | BWS |
| Ratio | Elephant fish<br>Ghost shark<br>Mako shark<br>Pale ghost shark<br>Porbeagle shark<br>Rig<br>School shark | ELE<br>GSH<br>MAK<br>GSP<br>POS<br>SPO<br>SCH |

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fact sheet 2 – Landing sharks with fins attached

Fact sheet 3 – Landing shark fins subject to a ratio

Fact sheet 4 – Requirements for returning sharks to the sea (Schedule 6)

A copy of the regulations is available at: **http://legislation.govt.nz**

# Conservation and management of New Zealand sharks

- **PROTECTED SPECIES** – catches of these species both in the EEZ and on the high seas cannot be retained by law, but all catches must be reported on the "non-fish species or protected fish species catch reports":
  - Basking shark BSK
  - Great white shark (White pointer shark) WPS
  - Oceanic whitetip shark OWS
  - Deepwater nurse shark ODO
  - Whale shark WSH

- **CITES-LISTED SPECIES NOT OTHERWISE PROTECTED:**
  - Porbeagle shark POS
  - Smooth, scalloped and great hammerhead sharks HHS
  - Shortfin mako shark MAK

Porbeagle, hammerhead, and more recently mako sharks have been listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Any landings from the high seas now require a "CITES introduction from the sea" permit before bringing any sharks into NZ fisheries waters. Exports of these sharks or their products now requires a "CITES export/re-export" permit.

Note that sharks caught in the New Zealand EEZ but not exported are not subject to CITES regulation. The CITES documentation process is administered by the Department of Conservation. For more information see **http://www.doc.govt.nz/cites**

Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

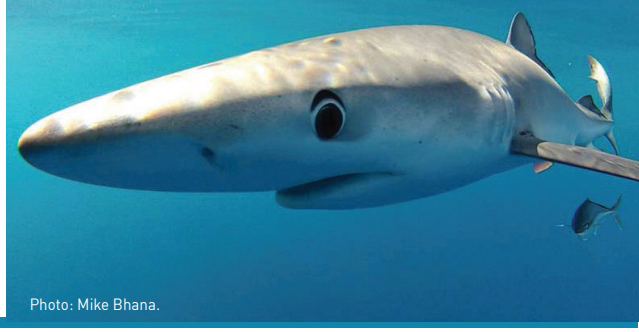


Photo: Mike Bhana.

Fact Sheet 2/4

# Landing sharks with fins attached

2

**The Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 require that for all non-quota management system (QMS) species, spiny dogfish, and blue shark, any fins to be landed must be attached to the remainder of the shark.**

## Blue shark

If you are planning to land the fins of any blue shark they must be attached to the trunk of the shark.

If you are retaining blue shark fins, you may land the shark either green (whole) or as the principal product state of **"SHARK FINS ATTACHED"** (SFA). This state is described as the shark being processed to the dressed state (see Figure 1 over the page) and then the fins re-attached by some artificial means. This includes (but is not limited to) stitching them on, or storing both the dressed trunk and the fins in the same bag (one shark per bag).

This rule will allow the small fishery for blue shark meat to continue, by allowing processing at sea to maximise the value of the fish, but still allowing for retention of the fins.

Note that you are not required to land the fins; you may land a different principal product state of blue shark. It is only if you wish to retain the fins that you must land it in either the "**SHARK FINS ATTACHED**" state or green. You are allowed to return unwanted blue shark to the sea under Schedule 6 provisions (see fact sheet 4).

## Spiny dogfish and all non-QMS species

For spiny dogfish and non-QMS species, any fins landed must be **naturally** attached to the remainder of the shark. This means that there must be some portion of uncut skin connecting the fins to the body. If you are retaining fins, you may land these sharks either as green (whole) or as the principal product state **"SHARK FINS ATTACHED".** This is defined for spiny dogfish and all non-QMS species as the fish being processed to the headed and gutted state with the primary fins naturally attached (i.e. the pectoral fins, dorsal fins and some or all of the caudal (tail) fin).

You may cut the fins to allow them to be folded flat against the fish, or to allow for bleeding, but they must remain naturally attached to the trunk of the shark if they are being landed.

Note that this does not preclude landing another primary landed state. It is only if you wish to retain the fins that you must land it in the "**SHARK FINS ATTACHED**" state.

Non-QMS species can also be legally returned to the sea (dead or alive) if you don't wish to retain them (reported on disposal reports under disposal code "D"). Spiny dogfish can be returned (dead or alive) and reported on disposal reports under disposal code "M".

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

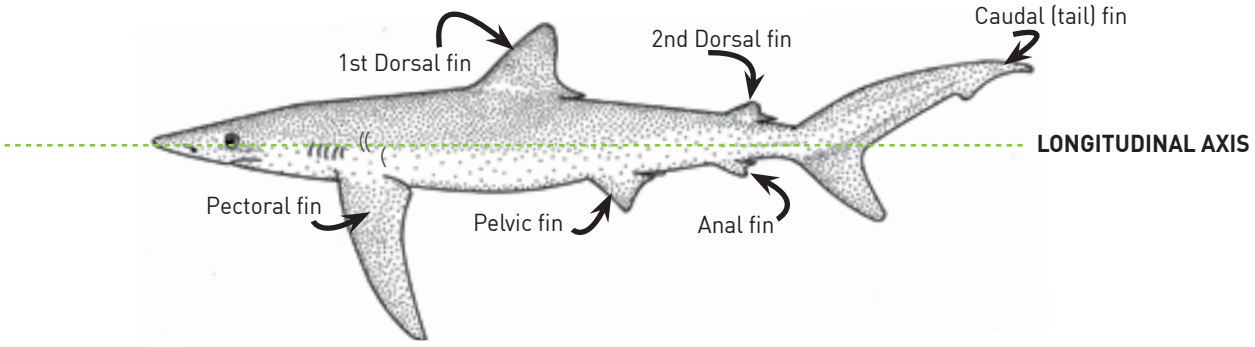
Fact sheet 1 – Conservation and management of New Zealand sharks

Fact sheet 3 – Landing shark fins subject to a ratio

Fact sheet 4 – Requirements for returning sharks to the sea (Schedule 6)

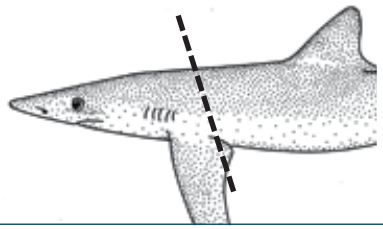
A copy of the regulations is available at: **http://legislation.govt.nz**

## FIGURE 1: BLUE SHARK (BWS) DRESSED (DRE)



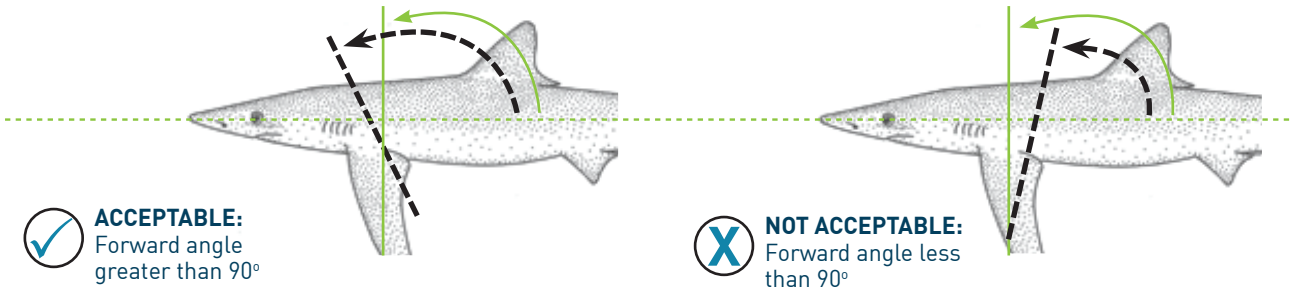

### The body of a fish from which the head, gut and fins have been removed with:

**1) the anterior cut being a straight line passing immediately behind the posterior insertions of both pectoral fins.**

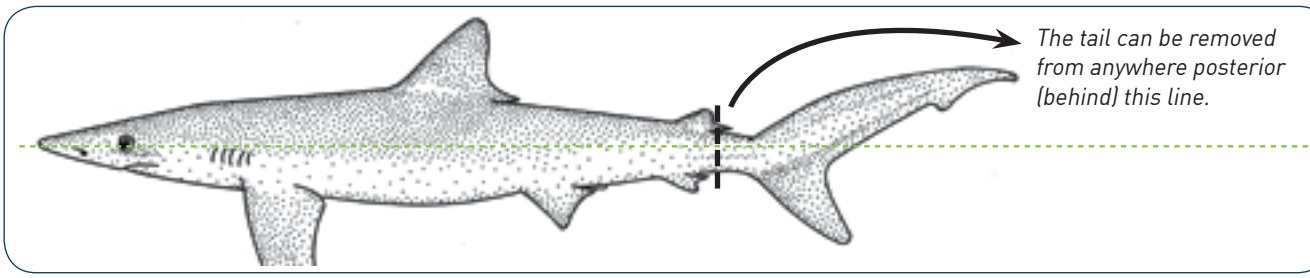


*(The posterior insertion of the pectoral fin means the point along the body of a fish at which the rear (posterior) edge of the pectoral fin emerges.)*

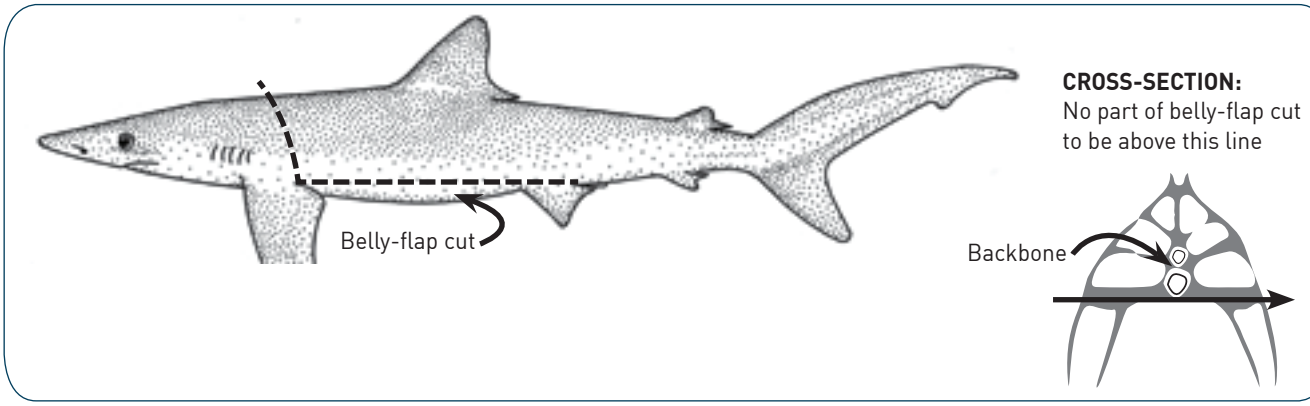
**2) the forward angle of the anterior cut not less than 90 degrees in relation to the longitudinal axis of the fish.**




**3) no part of the tail cut forward of the posterior base of the anal fin.**




**4) the belly-flap may be removed by a cut, no part of which is dorsal to the cartilaginous backbone.**



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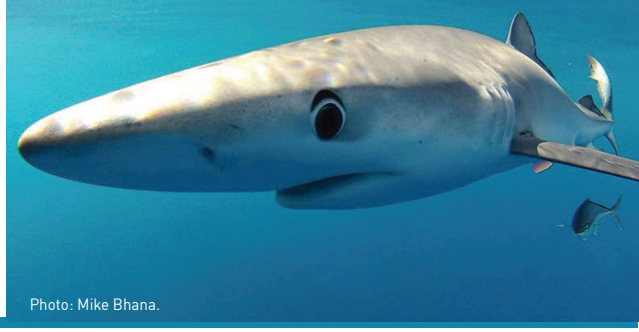

Photo: Mike Bhana.

Fact Sheet 3/4

# Landing shark fins subject to a ratio

3

**The Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 prohibit shark finning and require that any shark fins landed must be naturally attached to the remainder of the shark (or artificially in the case of blue shark). However, an exception to the fins attached requirement is provided for seven QMS species to allow at-sea processing to continue.**

These seven QMS species are:

- Elephant fish ELE
- Ghost shark GSH
- Mako shark MAK
- Pale ghost shark GSP
- Porbeagle shark POS
- Rig SPO
- School shark SCH

For these species, the weight of all fins landed must not exceed a specified percentage of the greenweight of the shark. For example, if the ratio for a particular species is set at 3.5, if sharks are landed that have a total greenweight of 100 kgs, the fins of that species landed cannot weigh more than 3.5 kgs. They may weigh less than that. The ratios will be applied to landings on a trip-by-trip basis.

The species which may have fins landed seperately, the specific ratios for each species, and the "primary fins" which have been used to set the ratios are defined in a *Shark Circular* which can be found at: **www.mpi.govt.nz**

Note that landing other fins may result in being over the gazetted ratio for a species.

## How will the ratio work?

For species where you normally process the catch at sea and keep both a trunk (for example, dressed) and also the fins, not a lot should change, but you will need to **STORE AND LAND THE FINS SEPARATELY BY SPECIES**. Fins must be landed wet. This will be a legal requirement from 1 October 2014, and will allow monitoring to make sure you are not retaining any more shark fins than the trunks they come from.

Future reviews of ratios will be based on direct sampling over the coming years.

For the main inshore shark species, the ratios have been set so that if you follow normal processing practices, you shouldn't exceed the ratio with your landings of shark fins. The ratios for each species have been set based on statistical analysis of at-sea sampling data. However, you will need to monitor your landings more closely so you can be confident you aren't exceeding the weight ratio, especially as you become familiar with the new rules.

**FOR MAKO AND PORBEAGLE**, there are some differences in cut and which of the fins are retained across different fleets. **THE RATIO IS SET BASED ON RETAINING THE WHOLE TAIL (CAUDAL) FIN.** This has been done to try and avoid any accidental non-compliance (which could occur if the ratio was set lower), but you will still need to monitor your landings more closely to ensure you don't exceed it, especially if your vessel normally lands the whole tail. You can choose to land just the lower tail lobe. Close monitoring will occur to make sure no high-grading is occurring within the ratio.

Over the next two years, there will be ongoing monitoring and continued data collection to ensure that the ratios are set appropriately. Monitoring and enforcement will differentiate between slight variation around the ratios, which is to be expected, and a consistent trend of too many shark fins compared to shark bodies.

It is your responsibility to ensure you are within the ratio, but if you think the ratio is set incorrectly for a particular species, talk with MPI and/or a commercial stakeholder organisation such as Fisheries Inshore.

If you land any fins, you will need to report the actual weight of the fins for each species in the appropriate part of landing reports.

Retaining the fins from one shark and the trunk from a different shark (high grading) is an offence under the shark finning regulations.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fact sheet 1 – Conservation and management of New Zealand sharks

Fact sheet 2 – Landing sharks with fins attached

Fact sheet 4 – Requirements for returning sharks to the sea (Schedule 6)

A copy of the regulations is available at: **http://legislation.govt.nz**

Fisheries New Zealand

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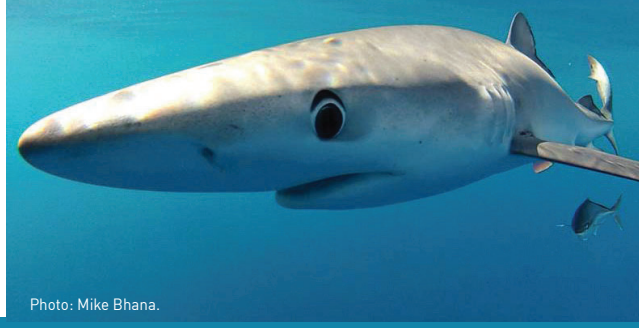

Photo: Mike Bhana.

Fact Sheet 4/4

# Requirements for returning sharks to the sea (Schedule 6)

4

**Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Act 1996 sets out QMS species that may be returned to the sea, so long as the specified conditions are met.**

As part of the regulatory package to ban shark finning, MPI has made changes to Schedule 6 for several species of shark to allow them to be returned to the water. This provides a legal option for fishers who accidentally catch a shark for which they have no market.

In many cases, the best option is to try and avoid catching the sharks altogether if they are not marketable species. There may be different ways to avoid shark catches, depending on the species and the fishery. Some research is currently being done for surface longline fisheries.

Schedule 6 returns to the sea provide another option if you have already caught the shark. This fact sheet has been produced to explain the Schedule 6 provisions for shark species and detail the associated reporting requirements.

## Live release only

The following species of sharks may only be returned to the sea **ALIVE**, if they are **LIKELY TO SURVIVE** and returned as soon as practicable:

- Rig SPO
- School shark SCH

Any returns of these species must be reported on disposal reports under disposal code "X" and will not be counted against your Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE).

## Live or dead – pelagic sharks

For the following species:

- Mako shark MAK
- Porbeagle shark POS
- Blue shark BWS

Sharks may be returned to the sea **ALIVE**, if they are **LIKELY TO SURVIVE** and returned as soon as practicable. Any sharks returned to the sea **ALIVE** must be reported on disposal reports under disposal code "X" and will not be counted against ACE.

As of 1 October 2014, these sharks may also be returned to the sea if they are **DEAD** or **UNLIKELY TO SURVIVE** provided they are correctly reported. Any sharks returned to the sea dead or unlikely to survive must be reported on disposal reports under disposal code "Z". These returns will be counted against ACE. You need to accurately estimate the weight of the sharks discarded this way.

## Live or dead – spiny dogfish

Spiny dogfish may be returned to the sea either live or dead. There is no differentiation between live and dead fish. Any spiny dogfish returned to the sea must be reported on disposal reports under disposal code "M" and will be counted against ACE.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fact sheet 1 – Conservation and management of New Zealand sharks

Fact sheet 2 – Landing sharks with fins attached

Fact sheet 3 – Landing shark fins subject to a ratio

A copy of the regulations is available at: **http://legislation.govt.nz**

# Requirements for returning sharks to the sea (Schedule 6)

## SUMMARY OF OPTIONS BY SPECIES OF SHARK

| SPECIES | | LIVE RETURN | Destination Code | Balanced with ACE | DEAD RETURN | Destination Code | Balanced with ACE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School shark | SCH | Yes | X | No | Only observer-authorised discards | J | Yes |
| Rig | SPO | Yes | X | No | Only observer-authorised discards | J | Yes |
| Mako shark | MAK | Yes | X | No | Yes | Z | Yes |
| Porbeagle shark | POS | Yes | X | No | Yes | Z | Yes |
| Blue shark | BWS | Yes | X | No | Yes | Z | Yes |
| Spiny dogfish | SPD | Yes | M | Yes | Yes | M | Yes |

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# Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Standards Guide
## *Set net*

## What Are Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Standards?

August 2021

The seabird bycatch Mitigation Standards were developed alongside the NPOA Seabirds 2020. They document the 'best practice' mitigation methods for reducing the risk of seabird captures in New Zealand commercial fisheries. It is expected that by 2025 the majority of vessels will have a Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP) that is tailored to their operational needs and works towards achieving the best bycatch mitigation options available.

These Mitigation Standards do not replace or override any fisheries regulations, or legislation on workplace health and safety, maritime safety, or other relevant subject.

## Legal Requirements

1. **Set net vessels must meet all regulations pertaining to size of mesh, the maximum soak times, maximum lengths and net prohibition areas and restrictions.**
2. **Commercial fishers must ensure that stalling does not occur while the nets are set.**

## 'Best Practice' Mitigation Methods

1. **Control the discharge of fish waste**
   - No discharging of fish waste immediately before or during setting.
   - During hauling, either hold or batch discharge fish waste at intervals of no less than 30 minutes.
   - During hauling, retain all used bait on board until hauling has finished.
   - Return live fish (meeting legal requirements) to the sea as soon as practicable.
   - Document a plan for fish waste discharge should there be any equipment failures. Keep a copy on board.
   - Whilst still allowing the free movement and egress of water, maintain a secondary system that prevents uncontrolled fish waste discharge (*i.e.* equipment to minimise fish waste lost to factory floor or deck, grating and/or trap systems in fish sorting and gutting areas that lead overboard).

2. **Minimise any risk due to the spatial placement of set nets**
   - Nets are not set in the vicinity of known or observed bird colonies or foraging areas (consider time of year).
   - Nets are not set in an area when there is high bird activity, such as feeding/diving. Avoid fishing in known areas where seabirds have recently been caught.

3. **Minimise any attractions or access to the set net itself**
   - All practicable stickers are removed from the net before each shot.
   - Minimise the time the net is at or near the surface of the water. Shoot and haul as quickly as practicable.
   - Ensure net is set in a way that does not risk stalling.
   - Regularly inspect and maintain gear and equipment to reduce the risk of gear failure.
   - Where possible, conduct maintenance during periods of low risk to seabirds and with the net on board.

4. **Minimise deck landings or vessel impacts by seabirds**
   - Keep additional and unnecessary deck lighting to a minimum so as not to attract or disorientate seabirds, especially while sheltering or at anchor.
   - Keep gear and deck clean of any remaining fish waste where possible.
   - Ensure crew are familiar with safe seabird handling procedures (see DOC Handling and Release Guide).

## For More Information

Contact your Liaison Officer for any questions you may have. They will be working with you to try and achieve these Mitigation Standards. The full document is available on the MPI website.

# Managing artificial lights to reduce seabird vessel strikes

Aotearoa New Zealand is the seabird capital of the world. Our seabirds are taonga (treasures) and our long coastline is dotted with their colonies. Unfortunately, many of our seabirds are threatened with extinction, so managing threats, including light pollution, is critical to their survival.

## Why is light management important?

Many seabirds get disorientated by artificial lights at night, which can lead to collisions with vessels (vessel strikes). Following vessel strikes, seabirds can be contaminated with chemicals on deck (eg oil or fuel), causing loss of waterproofing and subsequent drowning. Vessel strikes can also cause direct seabird deaths. The risk of vessel strike is highest during foggy and rainy nights.

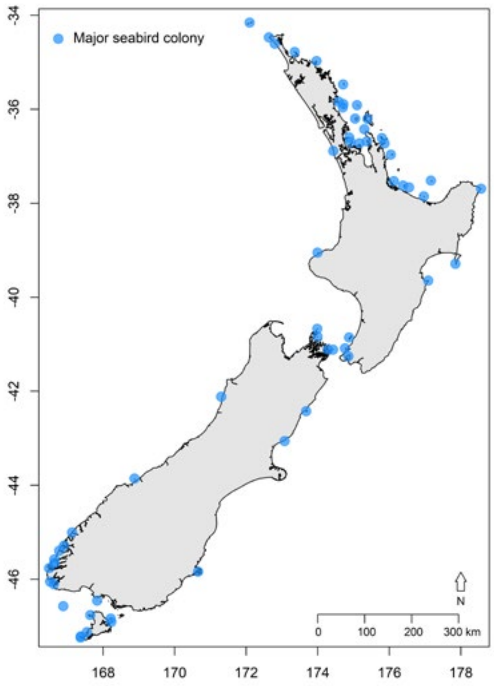
## What can you do to help seabirds?

*We recommend taking the following actions, while maintaining vessel and crew safety.*

- Minimise light use, especially spotlights and floodlights, when you are within 5 km of an offshore island, where most seabird colonies are located.
- Avoid unnecessary movements and activities at night.
- Eliminate unnecessary lights.
- Shield lights to only light areas essential for safe operations.
- Use lights with reduced or filtered blue and violet wavelengths (eg 2200 K).
- Use black-out blinds wherever possible.
- Practice safe seabird handling and release techniques when vessel strikes occur (see diagrams below).
- Record and report vessel strikes.

### Commercial fishers

- Follow your Protected Species Risk Management Plan and operational procedures.
- Contact your liaison officer for more information.





Sooty Shearwater

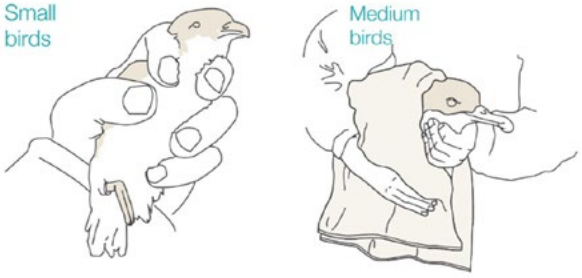

Antarctic Prion


Black-bellied Storm Petrel

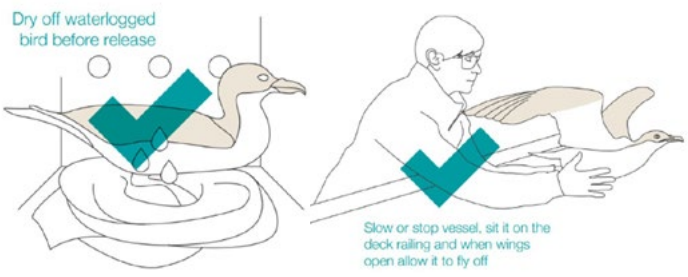

Common Diving Petrel

Shearwaters and petrels (including diving petrels, storm petrels and prions) are particularly susceptible to vessel strikes. *Photos: Oscar Thomas*

### Safe seabird handling techniques




### Safe release techniques





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For more information contact **marine@doc.govt.nz.**

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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# Protected Species Information for Commercial Fishers

## Tākoketai/Black Petrel

### Where are black petrels?

**Breeding location:** Tākoketai/Black petrel breed only in New Zealand. There are two remaining breeding colonies found in the Hauraki Gulf on Aotea/Great Barrier Island and Te-Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island.

**Breeding time:** Tākoketai/Black petrel breed from October through to June each year. When they are not breeding, they migrate to South American waters to forage and feed.

**Foraging distribution:** Tākoketai/Black petrels forage and feed in the entire inshore area of the East Coast of the North Island from Mahia to Kaitaia. Their distribution is focused on deeper water near the continental shelf, with concentrations found closer to Great Barrier Island where they breed. Offshore they extend and are found on the East and West of the North Island.

### How to recognise black petrels

Tākoketai/Black petrels are black or very dark brown, with black feet. The bill is pale yellow with a black tip and a distinctive double tube nostril on top.

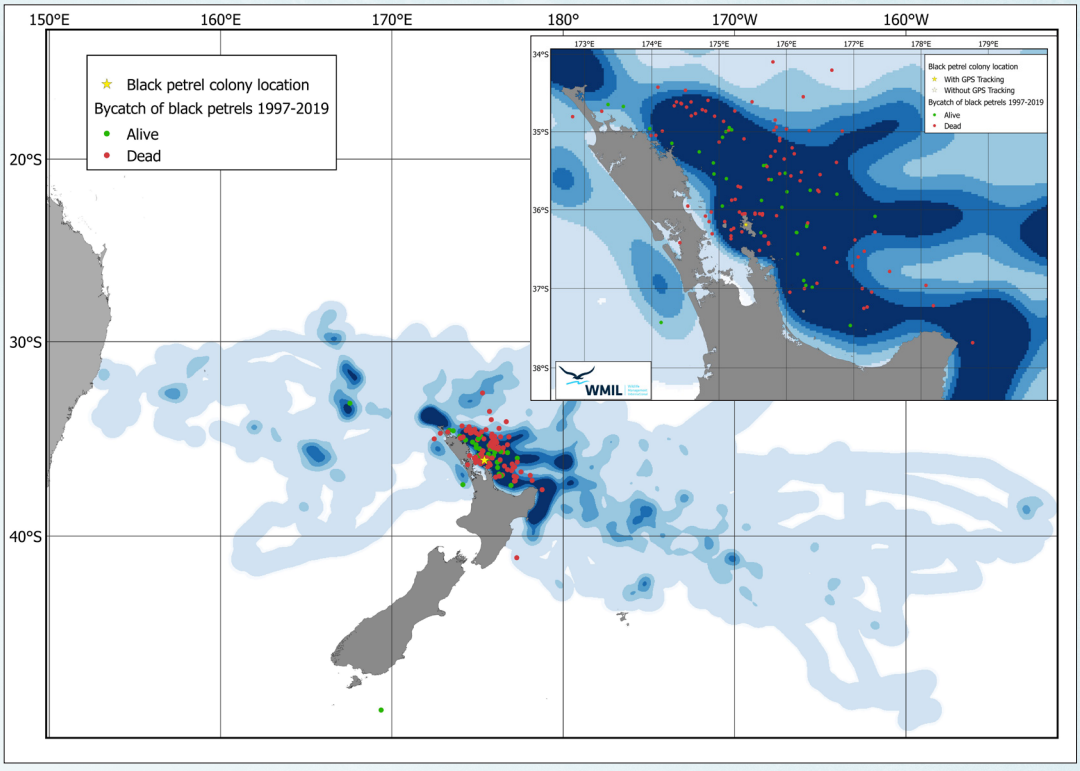
### Distribution Map:

The distribution map shows where Tākoketai/black petrels are more likely to be found during the breeding season and where bycatch has occurred.

The dark blue areas indicate where numbers are most concentrated (hot spots) for foraging and feeding. These areas are also where most captures have been reported.

This data was accumulated from 1997 to 2019 breeding seasons.

It is not illegal to capture seabirds. IT IS ILLEGAL not to report captures of seabirds.




For more information on what to do when you have caught a bird, please refer to your Operational Procedures for Protected Species Risk Management document.

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

# Protected Species Information for Commercial Fishers

## Toanui/Flesh-footed Shearwater

### Where are flesh-footed shearwaters?

**Breeding location:** Toanui/Flesh-footed shearwaters breed on islands off the coast of north of New Zealand and in the Marlborough Sounds, Australia, and on St Pauls Island in the Indian Ocean. Mauima/Lady Alice Island, Northland Ohinau Island, Coromandel and Titi Island, Marlborough also carry large colonies.

**Breeding time:** Toanui/Flesh footed-shearwaters breed from September to May. When they are not breeding, they migrate to the Northern Hemisphere to forage around Japan, India, and North America.

**Foraging distribution:** Toanui/Flesh-footed shearwaters forage and feed in the entire inshore area of the North Island and the upper South island, with concentrations found closer to where they breed. Offshore they extend and are found on the East and West of the North Island. They are active at the day and night during their breeding season, with most feeding occurring during the day.

### How to recognise flesh-footed shearwaters

Toanui/Flesh-footed shearwaters are approximately 45cm long and are dark brown. They have a light pink coloured bill and white-flesh coloured legs and feet.

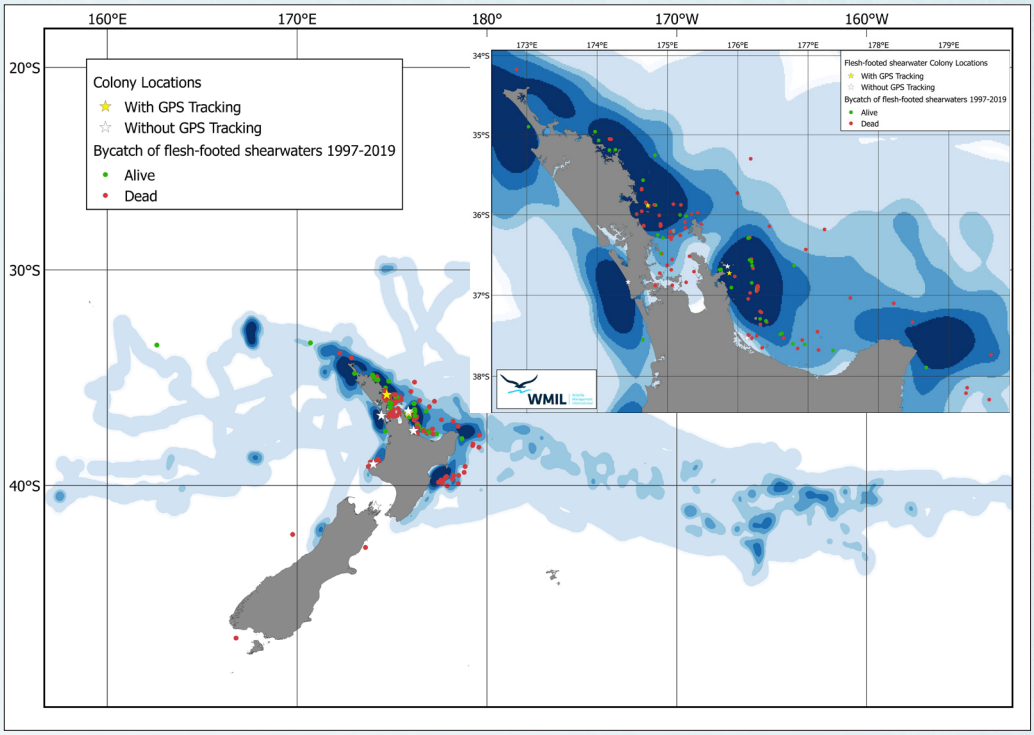
### Distribution Map:

The distribution map shows where flesh-footed shearwaters are more likely to be found during the breeding season and where bycatch has occurred.

The dark blue areas indicate where numbers are most concentrated (hot spots) for foraging and feeding. These areas are also where most captures have been reported.

This data was accumulated from 1997 to 2019 breeding seasons.

It is not illegal to capture seabirds. IT IS ILLEGAL not to report captures of seabirds.




For more information on what to do when you have caught a bird, please refer to your Operational Procedures for Protected Species Risk Management document.

# Identifying New Zealand Mollymawks

## SMALLER ALBATROSSES

The *Thalassarche* albatrosses, sometimes known as mollymawks, are considerably smaller than the great albatrosses. The following guide is to help you identify any mollymawks you may encounter.

**Average wingspan of Great albatrosses**
350 cm

**Average wingspan of Mollymawks**
**220 cm**

Department of Conservation
*Te Papa Atawhai*

### Blue/grey bill with yellow tip


## New Zealand white-capped albatross

**XWM**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Larger-sized
- White head

**Wingspan**

180 – 256 cm

### Yellow/grey bill with dark tip


## Salvin's albatross

**XSA**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Larger-sized
- Mid-grey head and white crown

**Wingspan**

256 cm

### Chrome yellow bill with dark tip


## Chatham Island albatross

**XCI**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Medium-sized
- Darker grey head
- Most common around the Chatham Rise

**Wingspan**

220 cm

Image: © M. P. Pierre

Image: © M. P. Pierre

Image: Scott Brooks

## Yellow/orange bill (XKM)



### Campbell albatross

**XCM**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Larger-sized
- White head with black eyebrows
- More common in summer

**Wingspan**

250 cm


Image: Tui De Roy, Roving Tortoise Photos

### Southern black-browed albatross

**XSM**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Larger-sized
- White head with black patch around eye
- More common in winter

**Wingspan**

210 – 250 cm

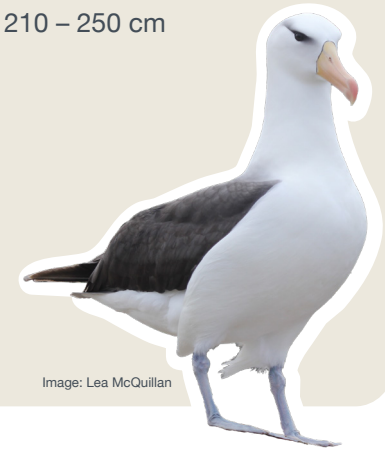


Image: Lea McQuillan

## Black and yellow bill


### Southern and Northern Buller's (Pacific) albatross

**XPB**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Medium-sized
- Grey head and neck with white-ish crown

**Wingspan**

213 cm


Image: Harold Stiver


### Grey-headed albatross

**XGM**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Medium-sized
- Grey head and neck

**Wingspan**

220 cm


Image: © Ric Else

## Dark bill with pale blue stripe


### Light-mantled sooty albatross

**XLM**

**Distinguishing characteristics**

- Medium-sized
- Dark brown body and head with greyish neck and back
- White eye ring

**Wingspan**

220 cm


Image: Ian Parker

# Shags

**XPP -** Spotted shag

Slender grey with long slender brown bill and green facial skin

*yellow/orange feet

**XPS -** Pied Shag

Black above and white below, long pale bill with pink base, yellow spot by eye and dark underwings

*black feet

**XHG**
Unsure/Other – Shags

**XSI -** Unknown Otago/Foveaux Shag

**XSO -** Otago Shag


Large, have pied and bronze phases and orange caruncles during breeding season

*pink feet

**XFO -** Foveaux Shag

Large, have pied and bronze phases and no orange caruncles

*pink feet

*black, yellow or pink feet

# ACOUSTIC PINGERS FOR SETNET FISHING GEAR

Acoustic deterrents, or 'pingers', alert dolphins to the presence of fishing nets. The following are two examples of acoustic pingers readily available in the Australisian market. For more product information and to assess the best option for your fishing operation contact the relevant distributor.


Ben Sullivan
Level 2, 11 Morrison St
Hobart, Tasmania
Australia, 7000

**m.** +61 (0) 418518080
**e.** ben.sullivan@fishtek.co.uk
**w.** http://www.fishtekmarine.com
skpe: benjosul


### Porpoise & dolphin deterrent pinger (50-120kHz)

For use globally. Seal safe.

| | |
|---|---|
| Battery life | 12 months with average use (50% immersion time) |
| Frequency | 50kHz – 120kHz with harmonics |
| Advanced acoustics | randomised pings with harmonics, prohibits habituation |
| Transmits outside the audible range of seals (Source). | |
| Dimensions | 185mm x 52mm x 42mm |
| Weight (with battery) | 229 grams |
| Space the pinger every 200m | |
| Sound level | 145dB +/- 3dB @ 1m |
| Compliant with | European legislation: EC 812/2004 |

### Porpoise deterrent pinger (10kHz)

For use globally

| | |
|---|---|
| Battery life | 12 months with average use (50% immersion time) |
| Frequency | 10kHz with harmonics |
| Dimensions | 185mm x 52mm x 42mm |
| Weight (with battery) | 229 grams |
| Space the pinger every 100m | |
| Sound level | 132dB +/- 3dB @ 1m |
| Compliant with | European legislation: EC 812/2004 |
| Compliant with | NMFS Harbour Porpoise Take Reduction Plan |
| Compliant with | NMFS Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan |

### Dolphin Anti-Depredation Pinger (40kHz)

| | |
|---|---|
| Frequency – | 40kHz |
| Battery Life – | 175 hours |
| Dimensions – | 185mm x 52mm x 42mm |
| Weight (with battery) – | 229 grams |
| Space the pinger | every 75-100m |
| Sound level | 175dB +/- 3dB @ 1m |

# Future Oceans

## – Global Headquarters

**Australia**
Registered Office
1/80 Sixth Avenue
Maroochydore 4558
Queensland
Email: contact@futureoceans.com

NETGUARD

FIND OUT MORE / BUY NOW

### Dolphin Pinger 70kHz

- "Seal Safe" Dolphin Pinger.
- Reduce interactions with Dolphins.
- Meets European 812/2004 Pinger regulations.

NETGUARD

FIND OUT MORE / BUY NOW

### Porpoise & Dolphin Pinger 10kHz

- Avoid expensive net repairs caused by Porpoise and Dolphin interactions.
- Avoid non-compliance with European and US Pinger regulations.

NETSHIELD

FIND OUT MORE / BUY NOW

### Anti-Depredation Pinger 70kHz

- Stop Dolphins taking your fish!
- Reduce expensive damage to your gear caused by Dolphin attacks.
- Over 1000 times louder than 132 decibel Pingers.

# Hector's and Māui dolphins Threat Management Plan

## North Island fisheries measures

Below is a summary of the new fisheries measures to support the Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Māui dolphins, which come into effect on **1 October 2020**.

Hector's and Māui dolphins are only found in New Zealand waters and together are one of the world's rarest dolphin species.

Extensive measures are already in place to reduce fishing-related threats to Hector's and Māui dolphins and more is needed to be done to protect them.

The Government is extending and creating new areas that will prohibit the use of commercial and recreational set-nets in both the North Island and South Island.

While trawl fishing poses a lower risk of fishing-related mortality, given the critically endangered status of the Māui dolphin, the Government is also extending the trawl prohibition within the central Māui dolphin habitat zone.

### What does this mean for the North Island?

**The west coast North Island, from Cape Reinga down to Wellington, will see new measures introduced.**

- New commercial and recreational set-net closures out to 4 nautical miles offshore will be created between Cape Reinga and Maunganui Bluff, and between Hawera and Wellington.
- Set-net closures will be extended between Maunganui Bluff and the Waiwhakaiho River (New Plymouth) from 7 nautical miles to 12 nautical miles offshore, as well as between the Waiwhakaiho River and Hawera from 2 nautical miles to 7 nautical miles offshore.
- Set-net closures within the Manukau Harbour will be extended to Taumatarea Point in the north and Matakawau Point in the south within the harbour.
- An extension to commercial trawl closures between Maunganui Bluff and Pariokariwa Point will be put in place, extending south to the Waiwhakaiho River (New Plymouth) and to 4 nautical miles offshore. This falls within the central Māui dolphin habitat zone.
- Commercial and recreational drift netting will be banned in its entirety in all New Zealand waters.
- A change to the regulations allows the Minister to act immediately to impose further restrictions if a single dolphin is caught in the Māui dolphin habitat within the west coast of the North Island.

### How do the measures affect commercial fishers?

The measures will prevent commercial set-net fishing in the areas outlined above, extend closures to trawl fishing in the central Māui dolphin habitat zone, and prohibit drift netting in all New Zealand waters. These changes are significant to fishers who operate between Maunganui Bluff and Hawera, given the scale of the offshore extensions. However, the measures will also be notable in the Northland, Manawatu-Whanganui, and Wellington (Kapiti) regions where there are currently few or no commercial restrictions on the use of set-net.

**An additional new measure will enable the use of commercial ring nets in set-net prohibition areas within west coast North Island harbours; this fishing method poses a low risk to Māui dolphins.**

Other commercial fishing methods including drag netting and beach seining may continue to be used unless otherwise prohibited.

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

## Will the new measures impact customary fishing?

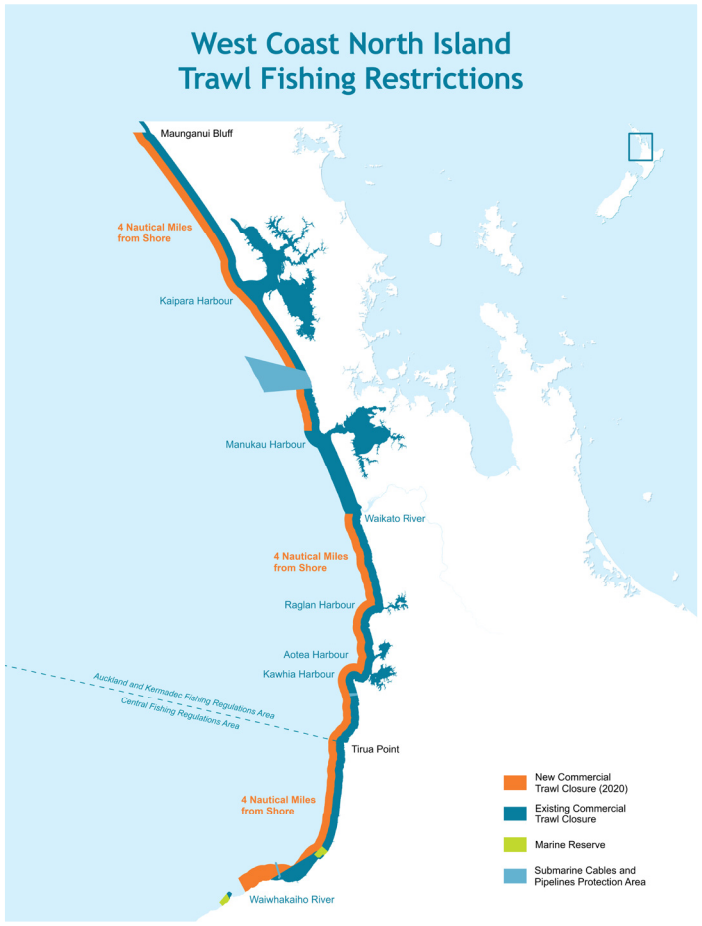
Tangata whenua may still authorise customary fishing to be carried out by non-commercial or commercial fishers, with or without a fishing vessel, using any type of gear or method.

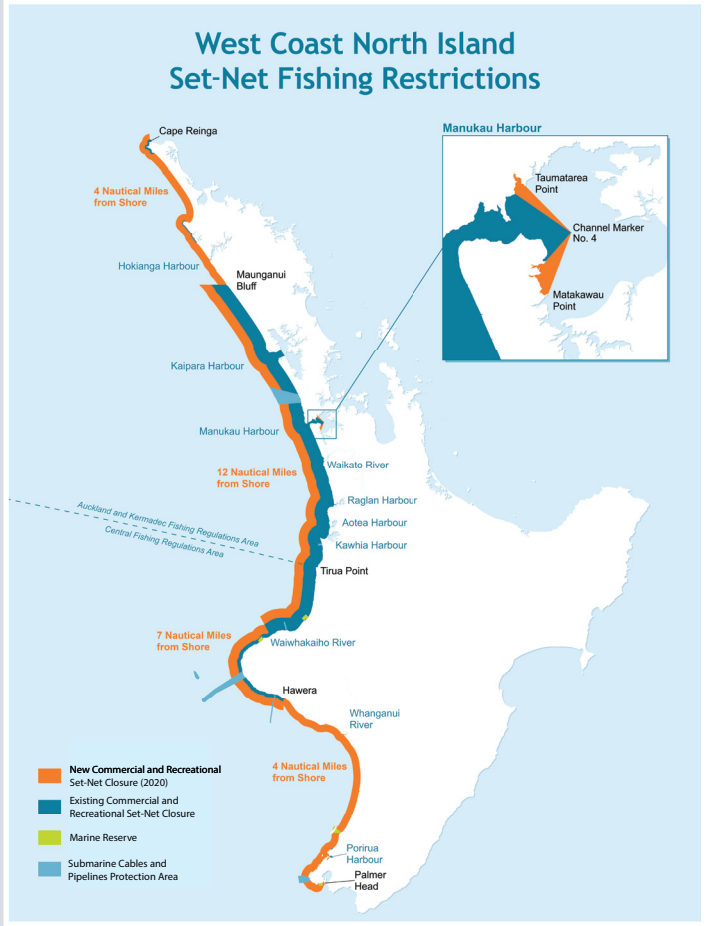
## What do the measures mean for recreational fishers?

Recreational fishers will no longer be able to fish using set-nets in the areas outlined above, or drift net in any New Zealand waters. The set-net changes will be notable in the Northland, Manawatu-Whanganui, and Wellington (Kapiti) regions where there are currently few or no restrictions on the use of set-net.

Other recreational fishing methods including drag netting and beach seining may continue to be used unless otherwise prohibited.

## What does this look like in your area?




**For more information, please visit [www.fisheries.govt.nz/dolphintmp](www.fisheries.govt.nz/dolphintmp) or contact dolphintmp@mpi.govt.nz**