Maui’s Dolphin Research Advisory Group
MPI’s current and proposed research projects

Rohan J. C. Currey

www.mpi.govt.nz
Summaries of existing information

Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity
Annual Review 2013

A summary of environmental interactions between the seafood sector and the aquatic environment.

An updated, annotated bibliography for Hector’s (Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori) and Maui’s (C. hectori maui) dolphins

DOC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERIES 332:
Samuel Froese, Daniel Burns and Emma Gates

Growing and Protecting New Zealand

newzealand.govt.nz
MPI’s current projects

Focused on Hector’s dolphins
Relevant to Maui’s dolphins

1. Aerial survey program
2. Fisheries observer coverage
3. Electronic monitoring
4. Risk assessments

Photo: DOC & Oregon State University
Aerial survey program

Estimating abundance and distribution

South Coast South Island - completed
• Summer & Winter 2010

East Coast South Island - completed
• Summer & Winter 2013

West Coast South Island - planned
• Summer & Winter 2015

No current plans for aerial surveys for West Coast North Island
Fisheries observer coverage

Covering a range of inshore set net and trawl fisheries around the North and South Islands

For Maui’s dolphin:

• Compulsory observer coverage (100% of effort) for set net vessels operating between 2-7nm from shore in Taranaki

• Extensive observer coverage (ramping up to 100% over 4 years) for trawl vessels operating between 2-7nm from shore further north
Electronic monitoring

Trial conducted on the ECSI (Timaru) in 2013/14

Successful in detecting a single dolphin capture

Comparable reliability with human observers in detecting catch of similar size proxy species (sharks)

Some issues with implementation (e.g. gear being turned off)
Maui’s dolphin risk assessment

Joint DOC and MPI project

Completed in 2012 to support the Review of the Maui’s dolphin component of the Threat Management Plan

Primarily expert-based but heavily informed by spatial distributions

Considered potential fatalities relative to PBR across multiple threats
Marine mammal risk assessment

Assesses risk posed by all relevant commercial fisheries for all marine mammals including Maui’s dolphin

Estimates direct fatalities from commercial fishing relative to PBR

Background information compiled in a recently published lit review

Survey based elicitation

Analysis currently underway and due to be completed by the end of 2014