

## Meeting Memo

Meeting with s.9(2)(a)

to discuss Hector's dolphins



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

### In Confidence

GS ref: 22-M-0222  
DOCCM: 7197134

To: Minister of Conservation

Date: 9 November 2022

Event name: Meeting to discuss Hector's dolphins with s.9(2)(a), 16/11/2022, 11.30 am.

| Key contacts    |              |                                   |           |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Name            | Organisation | Role                              | Cellphone |
| Kirstie Knowles | DOC          | Director, Aquatic                 | s.9(2)(a) |
| Dave Lundquist  | DOC          | Technical Advisor, Marine Species | s.9(2)(a) |

### Context & purpose

1. This memo is to support your meeting with s.9(2)(a) regarding regional issues affecting Hector's dolphins.

2. Out of scope  
[Redacted text]

## Strategic objectives

5. **Out of scope** [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

## Topics that may arise

- Out of scope** [redacted]
- [redacted]  
[redacted]  
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### **SailGP yacht race**

9. Sail Grand Prix (SailGP), a global sailing event, is scheduled to take place in Lyttleton Harbour over two days in March 2023. This harbour is home to a wide range of native wildlife including seabirds, fish, and marine mammals such as Hector's dolphin.
10. The F50 catamarans used for racing reach high speeds (approximately 50 knots in windy conditions), much like vessels used in the America's Cup yacht racing. There will also be a significant number of support and spectator boats during the event.
11. DOC is communicating regularly with event organisers, and based on current plans, race organisers have not needed to apply for any permissions from DOC.
12. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act and Marine Mammals Protection Regulations it is illegal to harm, harass, injure or kill marine mammals. All vessels involved in the event, including any support boats or spectators, are expected to abide by this legislation.
13. It has been made clear to the event organisers that DOC's role is to advocate for the protection of marine mammals, and to act as a compliance or regulatory agency if any issues involving protected wildlife were to occur.
14. DOC is working with the SailGP event organisers and ChristchurchNZ to help ensure any potential risks to marine mammals, including Hector's dolphins, are mitigated. A Marine Mammal Management Plan is being developed, with input from Te Hapu o Ngāti Wheke, independent marine mammal scientists, and a DOC technical expert.

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