CSP Annual Plan 2017/18 Summary of Submissions

List of Submitters

Submitter	Shown in Comment Summary as:
Simon Childerhouse (Blue Planet Marine)	BPM
Fisheries Inshore New Zealand & Deepwater Group jointly	FINZ & DWG
West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Board	WCTPCB
Peter Frost	PF
Rebecca French	RF

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PART A: General comments

Submitter	Submission	DOC response
WCTPCB	In general, support the Conservation Services Programme (CSP). Overall, the structure of the programme is significantly improved compared with previous CSP programmes and provides a clear and logical process.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Repeatedly sought a definition of "adverse effect" to clarify what constitutes a conservation service; has not been responded to adequately on this matter. The CSP strategic statement does not contain a definition of adverse effect. The definition of adverse effect must be seen in the context of the Fisheries Act Section 8 & 9 (ensuring sustainability and maintaining protected species about a level to ensure their long-term viability). Adverse effect can then be considered as a negative impact on the long-term viability of a protected species. An adverse impact on an individual does not equal an adverse effect on a species.	DOC considers "adverse effect" to be defined and described in the CSP Strategic Statement 2015, which was developed as part of a multi stakeholder process over several years. For clarification, the scope of the CSP includes actual and potential adverse effects on protected species arising from direct or indirect effects of commercial fishing and arising from activities associated with commercial fishing including: i. any temporary or permanent effect; ii. any past, present, or future effect; iii. any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects -regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect; iv. any potential effect of high probability; and v. any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.
FINZ & DWG	The cost recovery principles and the cost recovery rules cannot be used as the sole justification for recovering the costs of protected species research. If a proposed research project does not meet the statutory definition of a conservation service, it simply cannot be a	DOC considers that all projects in the Conservation Services Programme Annual Plan meet the relevant statutory definitions and criteria for a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct, with rationale further outlined in the CSP Strategic Statement 2015.

	conservation service and cannot be cost recovered. DOC appears to see cost recovery through conservation services as a mainstream funding opportunity for marine protected species work. The inclusion of an activity in conservation services does not automatically make the cost of that activity recoverable by the industry. In all instances, an adverse effect must be demonstrated and the decision must be consistent with section 262.	DOC undertakes a hierarchical decision-making process whereby projects must first meet the test against the statutory definition of a Conservation Service before going on to apply the relevant cost recovery principles and then the cost recovery rules.
FINZ & DWG	MPI has initiated a “First Principles” review of cost recovery. Industry is unaware of whether DOC has contributed to or been engaged in that review, and has serious concerns as to the quality of the review outputs and engagement processes to date. Industry wishes to agree a position with DOC on the cost recovery of conservation services and provide it to MPI for the review.	CSP is engaged in supporting MPI undertake this review, and has had the opportunity to comment.
FINZ & DWG	Note the absence of (and lack of progress to develop) strategic management plans for the management of marine protected species. Consider that neither Threat Management Plans nor Population Management Plans are appropriate for the strategic management of protected species.	The development of a seabird medium term research plan was requested at the CSP Research Advisory Group (RAG) meeting on the 3rd of December 2013. A protected fish medium term research plan was developed shortly thereafter. Work is underway on both a marine mammal and a coral medium term research plan, drafts of these documents are expected in time for the RAG meeting later this year. These medium-term research plans are intended to function as tools to develop and prioritise protected species-focused research proposals for consideration by the CSP RAG.

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FINZ & DWG	Concerns raised with regards to the definition of risk classes (particularly the categories of “high” and those below that) and the settings that are used in those classifications, and how CSP uses them to reflect an adverse effect from commercial fishing.	DOC does not use the classifications in the seabird Level 2 Risk Assessment as the test of adverse effect; instead it is used as a tool in the prioritisation between species. Industry comments will be forwarded on to MPI to consider as part of any review of risk assessment methodology or reporting.
FINZ & DWG	Concerns were raised about what appears to be a CSP commissioned series of alternative risk assessments. Industry does not see the report as being a replacement for the semi-quantitative L2 risk assessment or the L3 assessments, and does not see the value in the work.	The threat evaluation work referred to was not commissioned as part of CSP, and has not been used to inform the development of the CSP Annual Plan 2017/18. It forms part of DOC’s wider work to prioritise research and management actions related to at-sea threats to marine species.
FINZ & DWG	CSP is placing increasing reliance on indirect effects (i.e. dietary impacts) of commercial fishing to support its research activities and cost recovery. Industry rejects the claim that adverse effects exist from indirect fishing effects.	The indirect effects of commercial fishing had always fallen within the scope of the CSP. All CSP projects are focused on achieving the CSP objectives.
FINZ & DWG	Critical of the CSP seabird medium term research plan, its development, and the 35 species it has identified as fitting within CSP’s mandate. The inclusion of a seabird species or a research programme in the seabird medium term research plan does not confirm the research should be a conservation service or eligible for cost recovery.	The seabird medium term research plan was developed at the request of the CSP RAG and is intended as a tool to develop and prioritise seabird-focused research proposals for consideration by the CSP RAG. DOC does not use the classifications in the seabird Level 2 Risk Assessment as the test of adverse effect; instead it is used as a tool in the prioritisation between species.
FINZ & DWG	Disagree with CSP approach to spread work across wide range of project areas. In line with CSP’s mandate to reduce adverse effects, funds should be allocated to priority	Within each activity area projects are prioritised to address the highest risk species, guided by medium term research plans where these have been developed.

	species, irrespective of the spread between activity areas.	
FINZ & DWG	Concerns were raised with regards to the absence of research on Antipodean albatross, Hector's and Māui dolphins, and common dolphins.	Knowledge to date on Antipodean albatross suggests the great majority of human-induced risk is from fisheries outside the New Zealand EEZ, thus further research is being progressed outside of CSP. Research on Hector's and Māui dolphins is undertaken through the joint DOC & MPI Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP). MPI has proposed a research project on common dolphins.

PART B: Comments specific to INT2017-01 – Observing commercial fisheries

Submitter	Submission	DOC response
2.1 Observing commercial fisheries		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project, however, expressed concerns about the decrease of Observer coverage on the West Coast of the South Island (FMA 7). Concerns were also expressed about the number of Observer Days, as it has reduced from 2016/17, which was also a reduction from 2015/16.	Noted. The reduction was part of resourcing trade-offs to maximise data collection across all fisheries.
FINZ & DWG	Support the continuation of an observer programme, until any alternative or complementary electronic monitoring option has proven effective. Industry supports monitoring of interactions as monitoring the level of interactions is critical to assessing the level of risk.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Would like to see an active observer programme in the inshore trawl, surface, and bottom longline sectors to report on fleet performance and identify any remaining issues with protected species mitigation.	Noted. The proposed protected species liaison project aims to install vessel or seabird management plans on large portions (or in some cases all) of these fleets. These plans will then be independently audited through observer coverage providing the opportunity for reporting on fleet performance and identifying issues with protected species mitigation in those fleets.
FINZ & DWG	Recognise need for greater monitoring of the West Coast North Island trawl fleet, particularly for interactions with Maui dolphins. Propose electronic monitoring as a solution.	Electronic Monitoring (EM) is advancing in a number of areas and DOC has funded projects investigating the effectiveness of EM for protected species interaction monitoring in the past.

		There are still several limitations of EM that have been identified and that need to be worked through prior to EM becoming a replacement solution for observer monitoring, but DOC remains open to the delivery of certain monitoring objectives through EM systems.
FINZ & DWG	Oppose continued observer monitoring of the Taranaki setnet fleet, the programme is ineffective and does not provide a justifiable return on scarce resources.	Planning of observer coverage levels always considers the ability to detect changes in bycatch rates. In part, this is informed by an MPI commissioned sensitivity analysis to investigate appropriate levels of coverage. This work has previously been presented to the Aquatic Environment Working Group. Ability to deliver against planned coverage has always been a complex issue and mechanisms to facilitate this are constantly being developed.

PART C: Comments specific to other projects

Submitter	Submission	DOC response
2.2 Identification and storage of cold-water coral bycatch specimens – This project was consulted as part of the 2015-16 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Oppose cost recovery of the project as research has shown that fishing does not pose an adverse effect on cold water corals.	This project was consulted on in 2016-17, and as such, comments on the project were accepted during last year's consultation and were responded to the in CSP Summary of Submissions for 2016/17. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
2.3 Identification of seabirds captured in New Zealand Fisheries – This project was consulted as part of the 2016-17 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project, however, note that there is a lack of tables of seabird interactions with fisheries in the document.	Noted, tables of seabird interactions with fisheries are reported in the CSP Annual Research Summary (ARS).
FINZ & DWG	Note that the majority of seabirds captured are not at adverse risk from commercial fishing. See value in project outputs and support cost recovery. Would like a report from DOC on adequacy of photographic recording by observers and information on potential for DNA to aid identification.	This project was consulted on in 2016-17, and as such, comments on the project were accepted during last year's consultation and were responded to the in CSP Summary of Submissions for 2016/17. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct. DOC will consider options for future development in this

		research area considering developments in DNA identification.
2.4 Supporting the utility of electronic monitoring to identify protected species interacting with commercial fisheries		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Support the need for an evaluation plan for the efficacy of electronic monitoring for CSP purposes, but do not support the project as proposed. General concerns: - Project considered premature, - Concerns over the ability to contract the work without conflicts of interest, - No demonstrated adverse effect on protected species, the development of in-house training is an ongoing business function and not subject to cost recovery - CSP should compile the information using its own resources and tender for a similar project once the electronic monitoring systems have been specified and conflicts of interest eliminated.	DOC notes concerns raised relating to the project appearing premature, however, DOC considers it necessary to develop tools and training materials prior to implementation of EM to ensure successful and timely implementation. Issues of conflict of interest are addressed as part of DOC's procurement process. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
2.5 Identification of marine mammals, turtles and protected fish captured in New Zealand fisheries		
FINZ & DWG	Suggest that necropsy analysis of the captured animals could provide additional information.	Noted, the logistics and practicalities of this request can be investigated. Due to several factors (i.e. quality of the carcass, storage & freezer space on vessels, necropsy capacity, etc.), this may only be possible in certain circumstances.
FINZ & DWG	Cost recovery should be lower than 100% (due to the results of the marine mammal risk assessment), yet support the continuation of the programme and voluntarily agree to the full cost recovery as long as the information generated significantly informs the management of the	Noted. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.

	species necropsied.	
FINZ & DWG	Seek clarification of whether CSP considers any merit in retention and landing of any additional small protected species, (i.e. Hector's or Māui dolphins), where observers are not present and retention is currently illegal.	DOC and CSP remain open to consideration of the retention of certain protected species, for the purpose of necropsy, in certain fisheries, on a case by case basis.
3.1 Flesh-footed shearwater: Various locations population project – This project was consulted as part of the 2015-16 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Support the project and cost recovery.	Noted.
3.2 Yellow-eyed penguin foraging and indirect effects – This project was consulted as part of the 2016-17 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Do not support the project; risk assessment does not show that yellow-eyed penguins are at adverse risk of commercial fishing.	This project was consulted on in 2016-17, and as such, comments on the project were accepted during last year's consultation and were responded to the in CSP Summary of Submissions for 2016/17. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
3.3 Seabird population research: Chatham Islands 2017-18		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Note that there is no allowance in the budget for a helicopter. Suggest that the project requires better contingency planning.	There are no helicopters available for charter in the Chatham Islands.
FINZ & DWG	Question whether the survey needs to be done at all, as a	Previous estimates from the Sisters are few, and dated.

	previous study has already provided a robust estimate of the population on the Sisters. Industry sees conservation merit in a population estimate for the Northern Buller's and Northern Royal albatross, but opposes cost recovery of the project.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
3.4 Indirect effects of fishing on New Zealand sea lions		
BPM	Strongly support project, but note project funding ($80K) is almost equivalent to the New Zealand sea lion pup count project. Suggests that funding this project to this extent, while reducing the funding for resights in the New Zealand sea lion pup count project, is a poor choice unless further resight work is done to put the indirect work into context.	This project is separate to the New Zealand sea lion (sea lion) pup count project, and is therefore entitled to its own budget. The proposed budget of $80K is to be split over two years, with the $30K for the first element of the project involving sample analysis, and $50K for the second year of the project. Comments on the sea lion pup count project will be addressed later in this document.
BPM	Requests justification of the project as the preliminary NIWA demographic modelling results suggest that the model is no longer providing plausible demographic rates.	This project was developed in light of recommendations from a number of areas of previous work, including the development of the sea lion Threat Management Plan (TMP), the outcomes of the pup mortality workshop, and previous reviews and investigations of potential indirect fisheries effects on sea lions at the Auckland Islands.
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Project not supported; no evidence that fishing causes an adverse indirect effect; project does not legally meet the definition of a conservation service. Concerns that the project description does not adequately seek to link dietary change to fishing effort, and there is little reference to fishing in the project description.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, and the application of cost recovery principles and rules to be correct. The project description will be modified to more clearly describe the link between dietary change and fishing effort.

3.5 Salvin's albatross: Bounty Islands population projects		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
PF	Specific project outputs are implied in the research approach, but it would be better (and more consistent with the other elements of the programme) if specific outputs for the project were specified.	The project description will be modified to include outputs.
FINZ & DWG	Support the project, support cost recovery of a percentage, but a lower one than what is currently in the plan. Would prefer to see a larger deployment of tracking devices to yield more data to be covered by Crown funding.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
3.6 Seabird population research: Auckland Islands 2017-18		
BPM	Worthwhile project; long term data sets are crucial for understanding the population status of this species; strongly recommend they are continued.	Noted.
BPM	Note potential for this project to cost share a helicopter charter with the sea lion pup count project.	Noted. Helicopter charter has not been included in the budget of this project due to high costs. However, DOC is looking into possibilities to charter a helicopter through other means. If available, helicopter time will be spread over several projects to maximise cost benefit.
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Support the project and cost recovery. State that population estimates are more crucial than resighting data, and the importance of analysing the previous years' data. Suggest that the budget be expanded to include aerial	Noted. Helicopter charter has not been included in the budget of this project due to high costs, and hence population estimates are not included. However, DOC is looking into possibilities to charter a helicopter through other means. If available, helicopter time will be spread over several projects

	support for white capped albatross abundance survey and the analysis of outstanding survey data.	to maximise cost benefit.
3.7 New Zealand sea lion: Auckland Islands pup count		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
BPM, RF	Expressed concerns over the reduced budget (60%, as compared to the 2015-16 and earlier years) and the reduced field season length. Budget hasn't increased over the years to reflect inflation. Questions whether even a reduced field season may be possible for the proposed budget, as the major costs are vessel charter and personnel, and these costs are unlikely to be reduced, and the project was supported by extra funding for a helicopter for 2016-17. If there is no helicopter support for the 2017-18 year, the budget will have to accommodate an extended vessel charter due to the field team having to be transported to other islands.	The reduced budget corresponds to the reduced scope of the project, compared with some earlier years. Any sea lion research planned within the scope of the CSP Plan will draw synergies with other sea lion research priorities, such as disease monitoring and resighting that will be conducted as part of the sea lion TMP. DOC has designed a modular and flexible field season plan which can address the primary fisheries related data needs while remaining flexible enough to accept additional research components.
BPM, RF	Expressed concerns over the lack of resighting effort identified in the project proposal. This would create a hole in the long-term data set which could limit our understanding on the impacts of fisheries and other factors on sea lions. A 1 year gap in resighting data may be recoverable but 2 years is likely to remove possibility of investigating inter-annual variability and change, which could have repercussions for the results of the modelling. Little rationale provided for the proposed reduction in resightings.	As noted in the project proposal, supplementary objectives such as resightings and population modelling, are considered as part of the outputs of the sea lion TMP. Maintaining the integrity of the time series of resighting data will be a major consideration to TMP planning. Additional work on sea lions will be coordinated to maximise logistical and funding synergies.

BPM	Animal ethics approval for tagging work is primarily justified on the basis that it is a component of a long-term demographic study based on resighting. If there is no reasonable resighting programme, then tagging work will no longer fulfil its stated objective in getting AEC approval.	Noted.
BPM	Suggests that the CSP should apply an integrated approach to sea lion research and should put forward a comprehensive programme of work including (i) pup counts, (ii) resighting, (iii) population modelling and (iv) disease investigation.	As noted in the project proposal, supplementary objectives such as resightings, population modelling, and disease monitoring and pup survival estimates are considered as part of the outputs of the sea lion TMP, which forms an integrated approach.
FINZ & DWG	Does not consider sea lions to be at adverse risk from commercial fishing, yet recognise the conservation benefit of the project. As such, the cost recovery percentage should be changed from 90% to 50%.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct. As reiterated by the sea lion Risk Assessment, commercial fishing is by far the greatest human induced risk to sea lions at the Auckland Islands.
3.8 Indirect effects on seabirds in north-east North Island region		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
PF	Project fully supported. Detailed comments received on the proposed methodology of the project.	Comments received on the detail of the project methodology will be incorporated during project development.
FINZ & DWG	Project not supported. Detailed comments and concerns were received on the outputs of the 2016/17 project INT2016-04. No basis for any assertion that commercial fishing is posing an adverse indirect effect on the seabirds. Issues identified by the 2016/17 project could also be attributed to climate change, La Nina weather conditions, Southern	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct. The proportion of human induced risk posed by indirect fisheries effects has not been quantified, hence the attribution of 50% cost recovery.

	Oscillation phases, or changes to the habitats used by baitfish.	
3.9 The age and growth of New Zealand protected corals at high risk		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Project not supported. No basis for any assertion that commercial fishing is posing an adverse indirect effect on cold water corals. Project does not legally meet the definition of a conservation service.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.
4.1 Protected species bycatch media – This project was consulted as part of the 2016-17 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Continue to oppose this project; no indications that the newsletter is well received by the fishing sector, or does it appear to have any conservation value.	This project was consulted on in 2016-17, and as such, comments on the project were accepted during last year's consultation and were responded to the in CSP Summary of Submissions for 2016/17. Reviews in previous years have described the levels of uptake and engagement achieved.
4.2 Entanglement of cetaceans in pot/trap lines and setnets and a review of potential mitigation methods – This project was consulted as part of the 2016-17 CSP plan		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Do not support the project. No basis for an adverse effect or risk thereof to any whale species from pot/trap lines and rock lobster industry has a whale safe programme in place to mitigate issues.	This project was consulted on in 2016-17, and as such, comments on the project were accepted during last year's consultation and were responded to the in CSP Summary of Submissions for 2016/17. DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct.

4.3 Protected species liaison project		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Support the project and cost recovery, but would prefer all liaison officers operating under a joint programme. Specific suggestions for the project include: - Expand programme to include vessel mitigation plans for turtles and sharks, - Vessel mitigation plans expanded into the North Island trawl fishery, - Setnet component should be removed until a characterisation of set net activity has been done, - Have the liaison projects managed by someone with industry experience.	DOC notes the suggestion to operate all liaison projects under a joint programme and in implementation alongside MPI will ensure that, regardless of providers, the programme will be operated in an aligned and consistent manner. DOC notes the industry preference to include sharks and turtles and these species will be within scope of the project. The scope of the project has been expanded to include North Island trawl vessels, though this will be conducted in later years. Likewise, DOC notes Industry comments about the removal of the set net component, however, maintains that it should remain within scope, instead it will be phased into the latter years of the project DOC agrees that industry experience is important to the coordination functions and this will be one of the procurement criteria.
4.4 Characterisation and development of offal management for small vessels		
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Project not supported, the seabird risk assessment indicates that coastal trawl activities do not pose an adverse effect or risk thereof to seabirds. Recent review of offal management states that it is widespread in the fleet. The process of establishing vessel management plans is the South Island trawl fleet is underway.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct. As outlined in the project description, DOC considers that a better understanding of offal management practices will allow for more effective mitigation strategies to be developed and implemented (for example, though vessel management

	Favour the implementation of existing mitigation measures on all vessels as a priority over further research, if current measures are shown to be inadequate, then would review the offal management options.	plans).
4.5 Characterisation and mitigation of protected species interactions in the inshore trawl fishery		
BPM	Support the project.	Noted.
WCTPCB	Fully support the project.	Noted.
FINZ & DWG	Project not supported. If additional monitoring shows that the inshore trawl fleet poses an adverse effect to protected species, this could be reconsidered. General concerns: - Until better information is available on the coastal trawl fleet and its interactions with protected species, a characterisation of the extent of interactions cannot be undertaken, - The absence of high risk assessment scores indicates that the coastal trawl sector does not pose an adverse effect or risk to protected species, - Difficulties in determining methodology to employ in this project allowing to arrive at a robust estimate of the efficacy of existing mitigation and the need for additional mitigation, - No bounds as to the extent of protected species to be assessed, - Current budget seems too low to be functional for this type of work.	DOC considers this project is aligned with the CSP Strategic Statement, meets the definition of a Conservation Service, and that the application of cost recovery principles and rules is correct. This project will focus on the components of the inshore trawl fishery where data on protected species interactions exists, hence the modest budget. All protected species fall under the mandate of CSP, hence the scope of this characterisation.