
CSP Technical Working Group
Thursday, 5 March 2020

MIT2018-01: Protected species engagement project

Department of Conservation

Reducing the impacts of commercial fishing on protected species.

PREPARED FOR:
Shannon Weaver

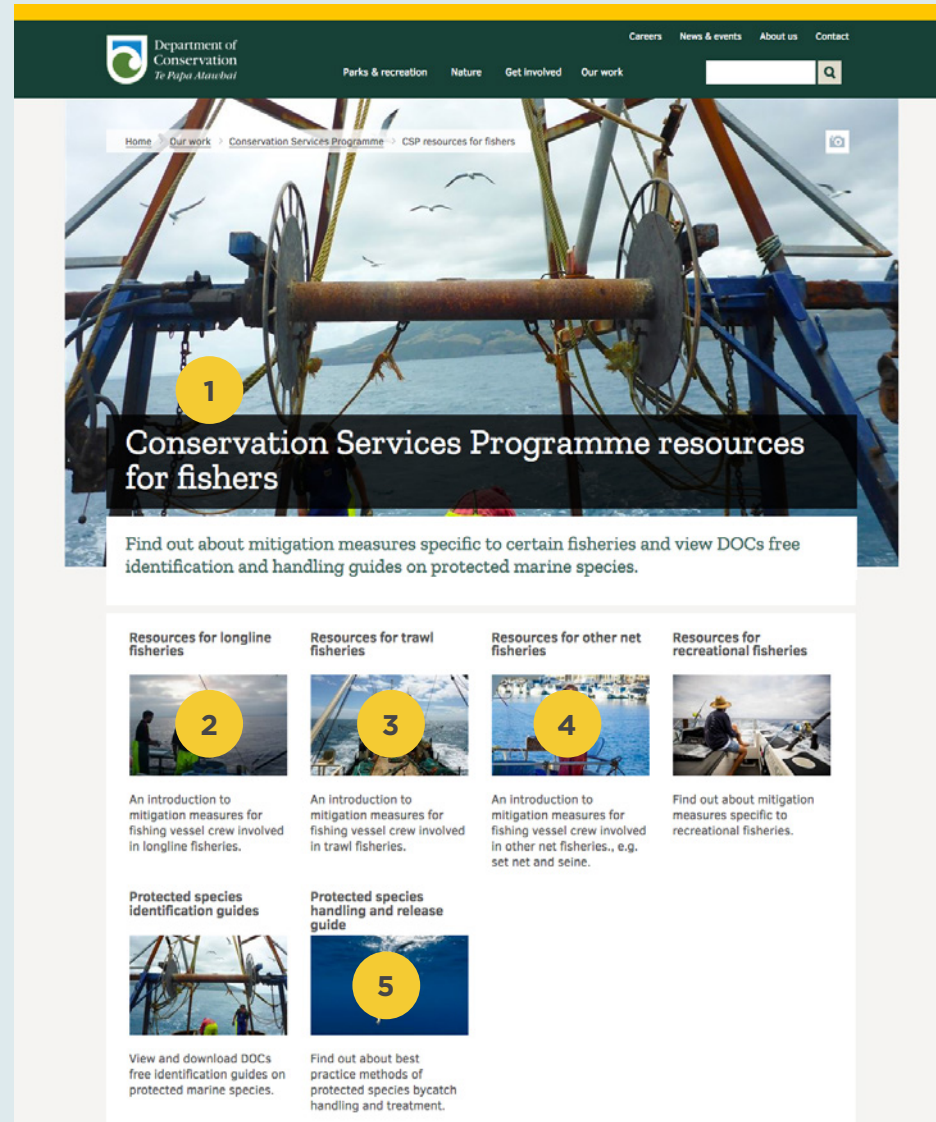
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Kia ora

Today we will be sharing with you the analytics of the Conservation Services Programme, specifically the resources for fishers page and associated assets. These being six mitigation videos and the Handling Guide in English and translated into five other languages.

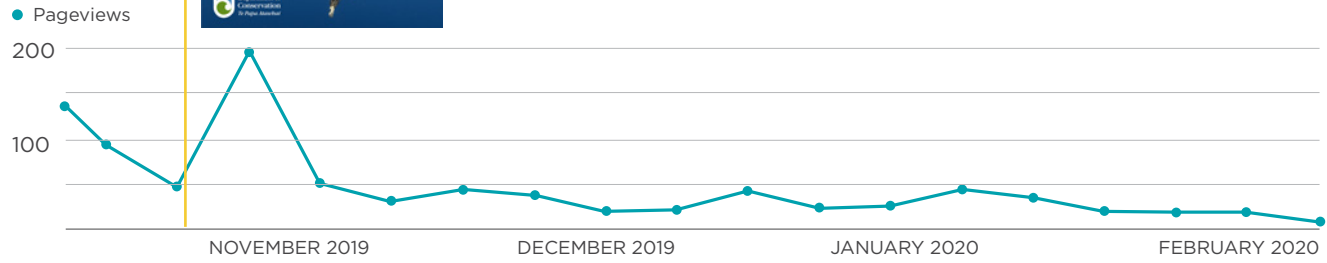
The objective for these is to reduce the impacts of commercial fishing on protected species. This relies on individual fishers actively applying best practice mitigation methods to their fishing activity. Applying and developing mitigation methods in *specific circumstances* requires an understanding of the protected species that could be impacted (*identification guides for seabirds and sharks*).

Findings from project MIT2016-01 identified the need for producing pictorial guides on protected species handling and short videos demonstrating deployment of key mitigating gear supported with additional, existing identification tools. Delivery of this project will complement and support the Protected Species Liaison Project to provide information on species of concern which will assist in development and refinement of effective mitigation strategies.





SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN
 MPI regional fishing pages that fishermen are signed up to. Go to [DOC.GOV.T.NZ/CSP](https://www.doc.govt.nz/CSP)



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Conservation Services Programme resources for fishers

HOME PAGE

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Resources for longline fishers

- Sink rates (101 VIEWS)
- Tori / streamer lines (124)
- Discard management (88)
- Light management (76)
- Hook shielding devices (85)
- Protected Species Handling and Release Guide.

3

Resources for trawl fishers

- Bird bafflers (78 VIEWS)
- Tori / streamer lines (124)
- Discard management (88)
- Light management (76)
- Protected Species Handling and Release Guide.

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Resources for other net fishers

Protected Species Handling and Release Guide.

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Protected species handling and release guide

- Protected Species Handling and Release Guide.
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Ukrainian

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Time on Page Min / sec

0:44 4:00 2:11 1:34 0:23

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Sink rate - 101 VIEWS



Bird bafflers - 78 VIEWS



Tori lines - 129 VIEWS



Hook shielding devices - 86 VIEWS

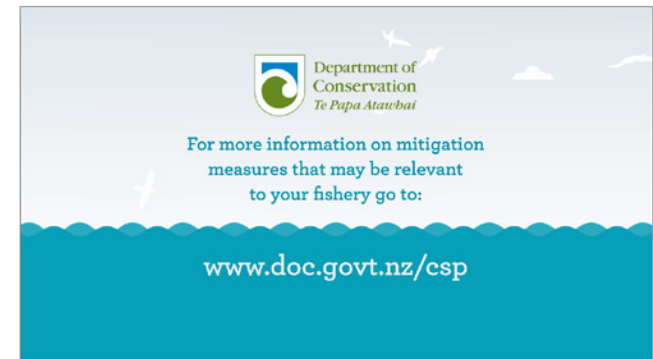
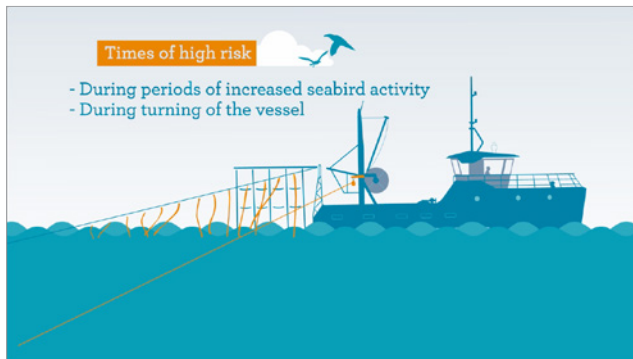
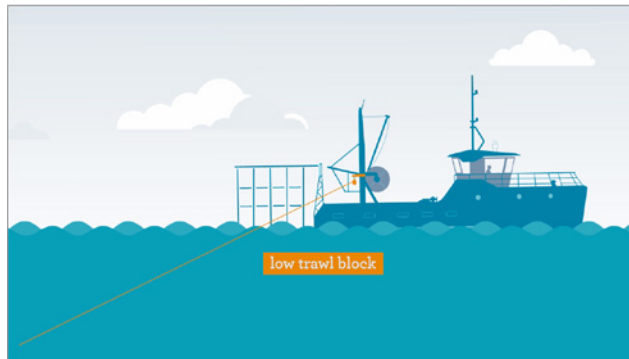
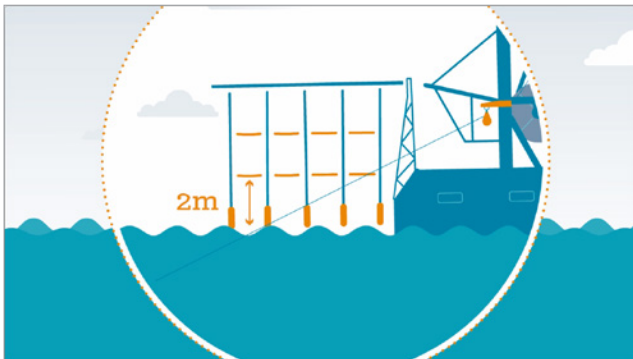


Discard management - 89 VIEWS

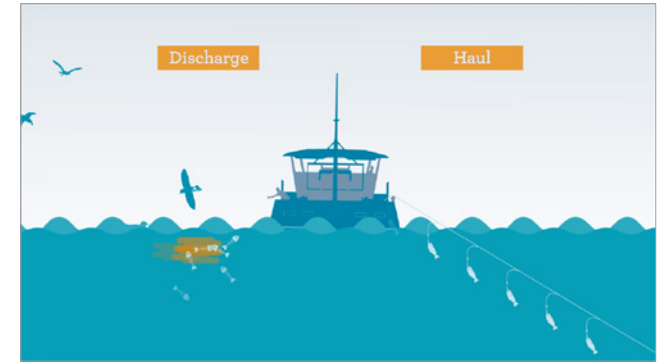
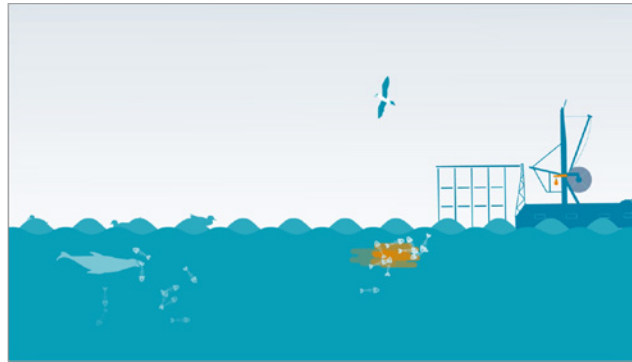
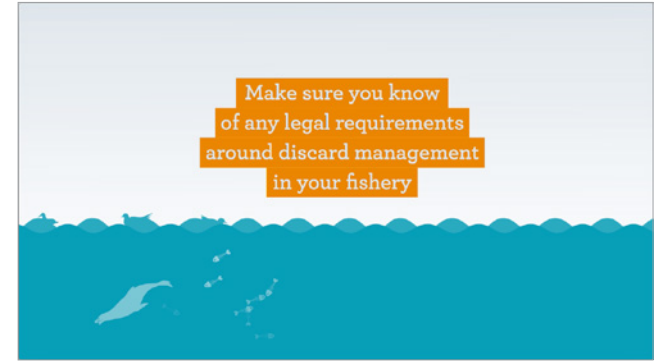


Light management - 76 VIEWS

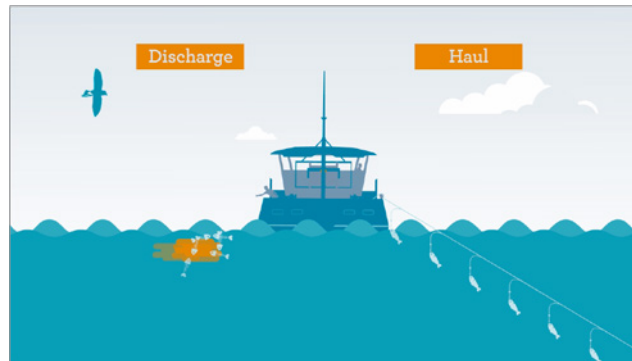
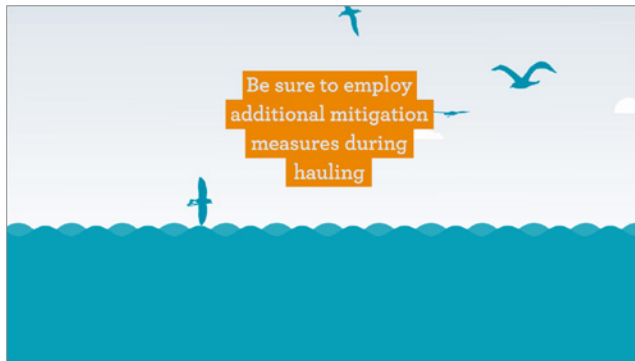
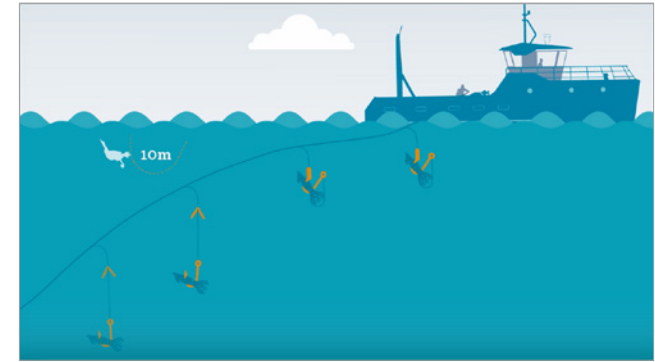
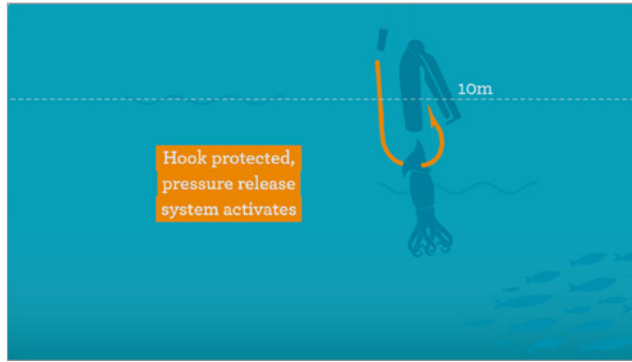
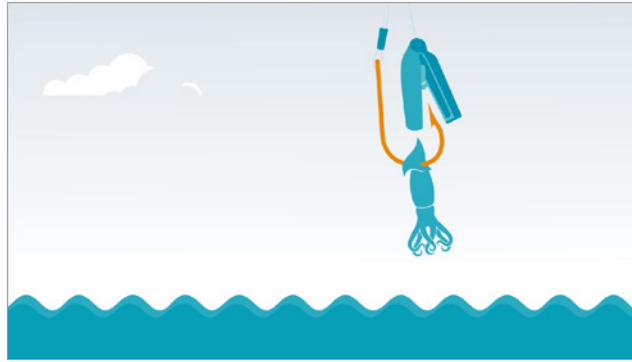
Bird Baffles



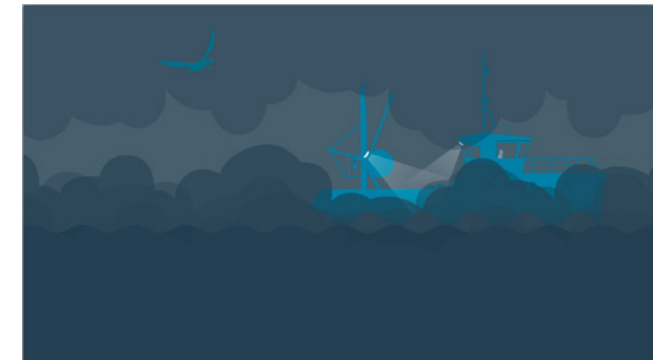
Discard Management



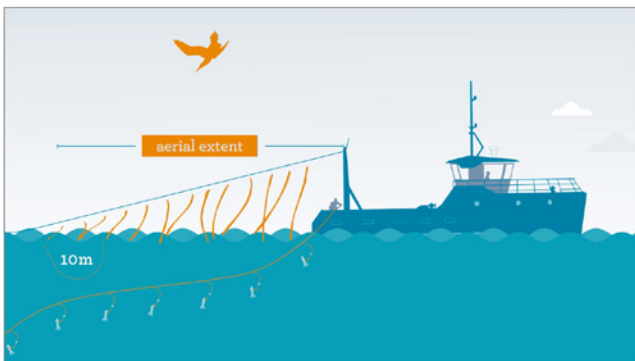
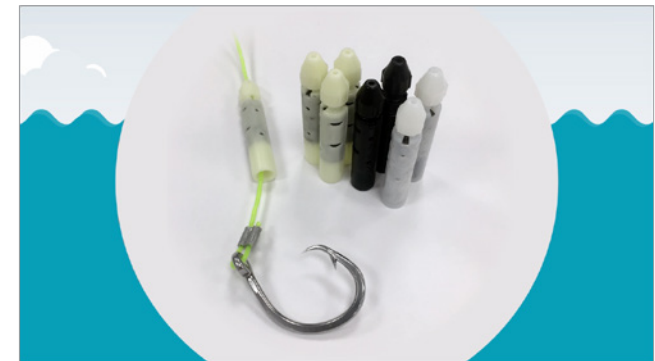
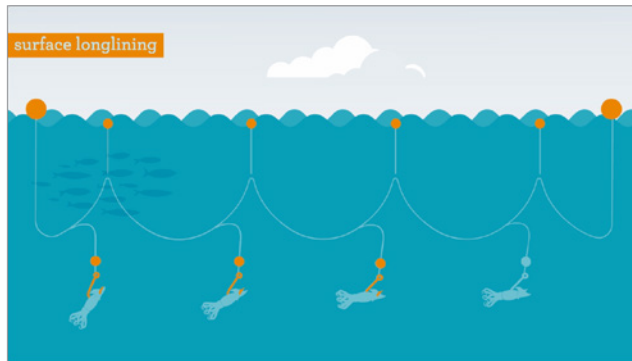
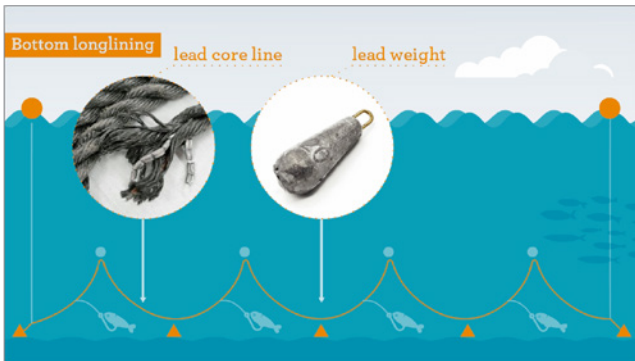
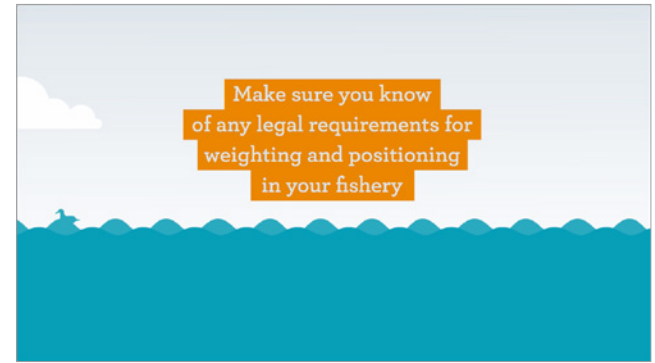
Discard Management



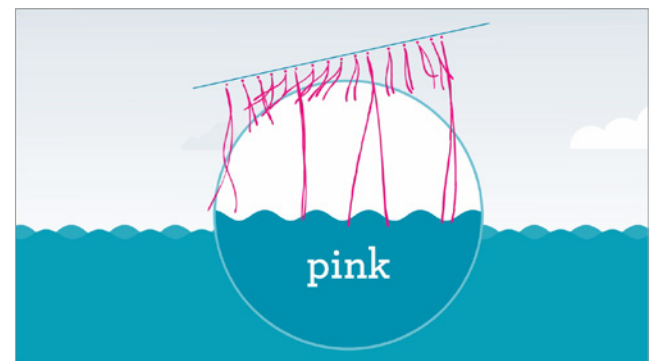
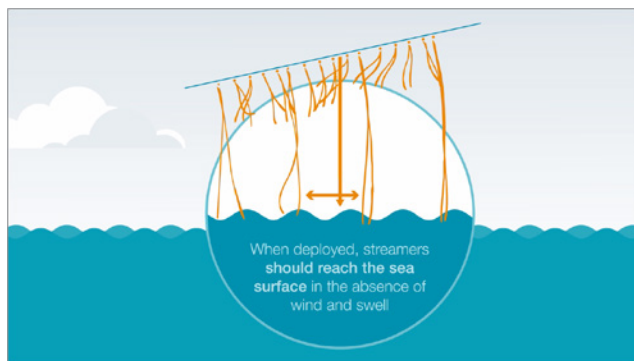
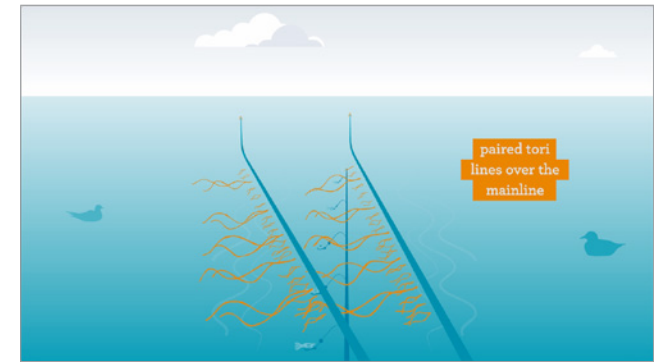
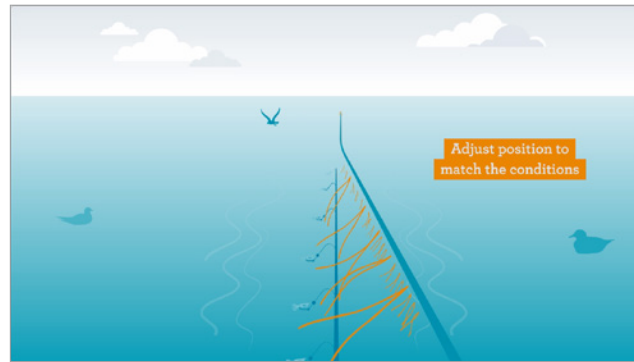
Light Management



Sink Rate



Streamer / Tori Lines



Streamer / Tori Lines

Only effective if:

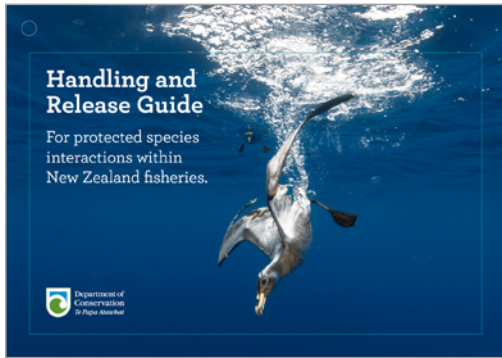
- fit and proper
- spare parts are onboard
- a maintenance schedule is followed
- **worn and lost parts are replaced**

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

For more information on mitigation measures that may be relevant to your fishery go to:

www.doc.govt.nz/csp

Protected Species Handling Guide



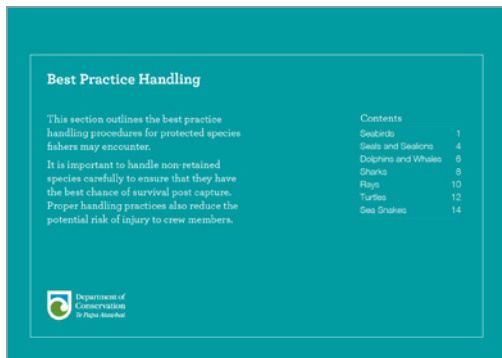
Cover



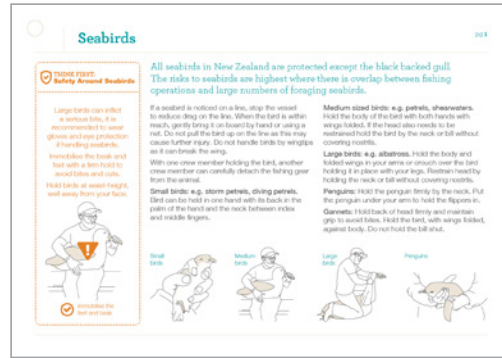
pg 1



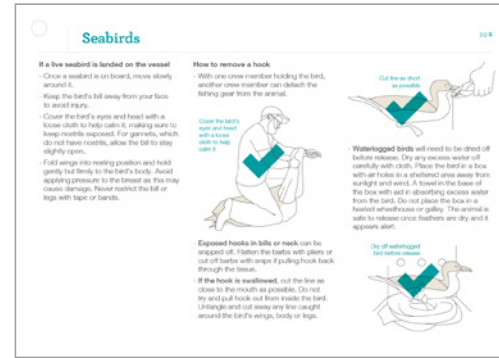
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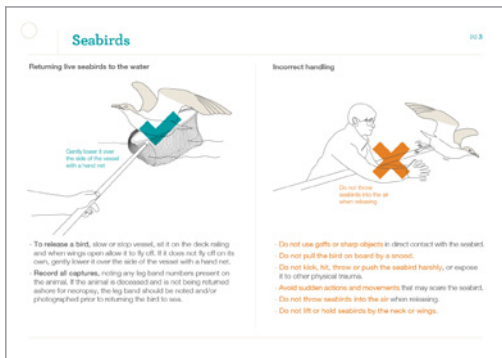
pg III



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pg 4



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Protected Species Handling Guide

Dolphins and Whales pg 6

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Dolphins and Whales

Potential injuries include being struck, injured or killed by animals. Do not sit unsecured a height behind the animal as it has a strong tail and may kick.

There are a range of protected dolphins and whales in New Zealand waters, they can be accidentally captured in a range of fisheries, though predominantly in trawl or set net fisheries. Where possible, release the dolphin or whale from fishing gear without bringing it on deck.

If live animals are landed on deck

- Dolphins should be released as soon as they arrive on deck.
- Alternatively, the animal can be returned to sea using wedge slings. Do not use the cables.
- If the dolphin is injured it should be returned to the water as carrying to injured marine mammals may cause additional stress and leaving it onboard may add stress to the animal.

Returning live dolphins to the water

Once the animal is untrapped from fishing gear, it can be released carefully in to the water.

Two or more crew members may need to lift the dolphins, hold the dolphin's head of the dorsal fin while pulling the postural line close to your body. Be cautious of the tail, and avoid the eyes and blowholes.

Do not kick, hit, throw, push, use gaffs or other sharp objects to move the dolphin.

Do not cover or pour water in to the blowhole.

Do not leave the dolphin exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Avoid sudden actions and movements that may scare the dolphin.

Do not pick up or drag the dolphin by the tail as this can damage spinal vertebrae.

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Dolphins and Whales pg 7

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Dolphins and Whales

Incorrect handling:

Do not kick, hit, throw, push, use gaffs or other sharp objects to move the dolphin.

Do not cover or pour water in to the blowhole.

Do not leave the dolphin exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Avoid sudden actions and movements that may scare the dolphin.

Do not pick up or drag the dolphin by the tail as this can damage spinal vertebrae.

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Sharks pg 8

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Sharks

Treat all sharks as if they are alive, as even sharks which appear to be dead may suddenly lurch out and injure you.

Planned releases from sharks include being struck, injured or killed.

When possible, avoid working around the jaws of sharks. Put a net along behind a shark's jaws to prevent bites.

There are five protected species of shark in New Zealand waters, they can be accidentally captured in a range of fisheries. When possible, release the shark from fishing gear without bringing it on deck. This minimises the risk of internal organ damage for the animal.

If sharks are landed on deck

- If a large and active, let it lie below deck.
- Rest all sharks as if they are alive.
- Close its gills as soon as possible to stop it from breathing.
- Close its eyes as soon as possible to stop it from seeing.
- Always attempt to keep the shark in a horizontal position and on their side to reduce the risk of internal damage.

Releasing sharks on deck

For the behaviour:

- Hold the shark firmly behind the head and around the tail using gloves and/or wet towels, and then try to remove the hook.
- If the hook cannot be removed easily the line should be cut as close to the mouth as possible.
- To calm a shark down turn it over onto its back or place a wet towel over its eyes.
- If release needs to be delayed, place a check hose in the shark's mouth so that water flows through the shark's gills.

Do not use gaffs or sharp objects in direct contact with the shark.

Do not kick, hit, throw or push the shark heavily, or expose it to other physical trauma.

Do not leave the shark exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Do not carry the shark by the tail to avoid being struck.

Do not carry or move the shark by the gill slits.

Do not cut off rays' tail or wings.

Do not cut holes in rays' wings to put ropes or straps through for release.

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Sharks pg 9

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Sharks

Returning sharks to the water

- Lower the shark gently into the water head first and release it. Do not throw it.
- If it may be necessary to face the shark into the current and it looks like a few minutes to avoid releasing before it swims away.
- Small sharks can be released by one person.
- Large sharks may require two people to lift and hold the shark.
- Very large sharks may need to be lifted with the use of wedge slings.
- Do not use thin wires or cables.
- Do not release sharks with ropes still attached.

Incorrect handling:

Do not use gaffs or sharp objects in direct contact with the shark. A gaff should be used only to control the line.

Do not leave the shark's exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Do not kick, hit, throw or push the shark heavily, or expose it to other physical trauma.

Do not cut off fins or other body parts to remove sharks entangled in gear.

Do not pick up the shark by the tail, head or the gill slits.

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Rays pg 10

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Rays

Potential injuries include being injured, struck and/or exposed to ultraviolet radiation by protective material. When possible, avoid working around the tail as they can strike in any direction. Do not carry rays by the tails.

There are two protected ray species in New Zealand waters. Rays are caught in a range of fisheries, though they are most commonly bycaught in purse seine and surface longline fisheries. Protected rays should if possible be released while the net is still in the water to avoid damage and stress.

If rays are landed on deck

- Use a net to return the ray to the sea with minimal stress, releasing them into the water headfirst.
- Keep your fingers away from the mouth and hold the ray away from your body to avoid lacerations of the tail and body.
- For small rays isolate tail and lift by spracle of snout.
- For medium size rays, isolate the tail and pick up by the snout or the spiracles (the openings behind the eyes).
- For large rays it is best to slide the animal along the deck to a shoreward or inboard, always watch the tail as rays have the ability to strike in any direction.

Treating live rays on deck

- Keep your fingers away from the mouth and hold the ray away from your body to avoid lacerations of the tail and body.
- For small rays isolate tail and lift by spracle of snout.
- For medium size rays, isolate the tail and pick up by the snout or the spiracles (the openings behind the eyes).
- For large rays it is best to slide the animal along the deck to a shoreward or inboard, always watch the tail as rays have the ability to strike in any direction.

Lower the gaffs into the water near tail.

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Rays pg 11

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Rays

Returning rays to the water

- Lower a small to medium ray gently into the water head first and release it. Do not throw it.
- Large rays can be released by placing them on a piece of net, plastic, or canvas that can be lifted and lowered into the water.

Incorrect handling:

Do not use gaffs or sharp objects in direct contact with the ray.

Do not kick, hit, throw or push the ray heavily, or expose it to other physical trauma.

Do not leave the ray exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Do not carry the ray by the tail to avoid being struck.

Do not carry or move the ray by the gill slits.

Do not cut off rays' tail or wings.

Do not cut holes in rays' wings to put ropes or straps through for release.

pg 11

Turtles pg 12

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Turtles

Make sure your hands are out when the figure can catch them against the shell.

Turtles have strong jaws, so keep all fingers, hands and feet away from the turtle's mouth to avoid being bitten.

There are five protected species of sea turtles in New Zealand waters, they can be accidentally captured in a range of fisheries, but they are most commonly caught in surface longline fisheries.

If a turtle is noticed on the line, slow down to reduce trauma to the animal. If possible, release the turtle without handling by carefully bringing the animal as close to the vessel and out the line with a long-handled line cutter as close to the animal as possible or use a de-hooker to remove the hook.

If a turtle has to be brought onboard

- Use a dip net to bring onboard.
- Take extreme care when handling turtles, they have strong jaws so keep fingers, hands and feet away from the turtle's mouth. Do not position hands where the figure could catch them against the shell. Lift turtles with one hand at the front of the shell (above head) and the other at the back (near tail). Two crew members may be required to lift large animals.

Treating live turtles on deck

- If the turtle appears exhausted or ill it will need to be brought on board to be rehabilitated.
- If the animal is injured it may have water in its lungs. Place the net flippers by 20cm from a maximum of 1 hour. A tyre makes a good platform for this.
- Place the turtle in a shaded location and cover it in loose wet air underwater, keeping the noose exposed. Keep wet by spraying with saltwater.
- Monitor its recovery intermittently using the reflex test gently pinch the tail of the turtle to gauge reaction.

Do not use gaffs or sharp objects in direct contact with the turtle.

Do not leave the turtle exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.

Do not kick, hit, throw or push the turtle heavily, or expose it to other physical trauma.

Do not leave the turtle upside down as they cannot breathe in this position.

Do not hold the tail of a turtle by the tail, flipper or the sides of its shell.

Do not pick up the turtle by the tail.

Large turtles (e.g. Leatherback turtles) may be too large to lift by themselves or slings.

pg 12

Turtles pg 13

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Turtles

Returning turtles to the water

- Lift turtles from water or head and back.

Correct handling:

- Do not use gaffs or sharp objects in direct contact with the turtle.
- Do not leave the turtle exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time.
- Do not kick, hit, throw or push the turtle heavily, or expose it to other physical trauma.
- Do not leave the turtle upside down as they cannot breathe in this position.
- Do not hold the tail of a turtle by the tail, flipper or the sides of its shell.

Do not pick up the turtle by the tail.

Large turtles (e.g. Leatherback turtles) may be too large to lift by themselves or slings.

pg 13

Sea Snakes pg 14

THINK FIRST. Safety Around Sea Snakes

Sea snakes are highly venomous and should not be handled, or released, to the sea, gaffs force it off the deck with water.

Clearly from the water off deck.

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