SLL - 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: Be familiar with the SLL Seabird Mitigation Circular, which is included in your mitigation folder. All protected species captures must be reported using the electronic NFPS Catch Report.

MS Alignment: ☐ 1.1, ☐ 1.2, ☐ 2.1, ☐ 2.2, ☐ 2.3, ☐ 3.1, ☐ 3.2, ☐ 3.3

Additional Resources

Vessel's Practices – Health and Safety of crew comes first	
Discharge management	- Setting: No discharge immediately before or during, especially rejected baits - Hauling: All used bait is retained. Fish waste held or batched at intervals *(select one or indicate if both are used)*. - Storage & discharge point: *E.g. used bait and fish waste are held in fish bins and discarded off the side opposite the hauling station*
Hookpods	- x% *(explain if/when)*
Night setting	- Always/Sometimes/Never Night setting *(explain if/when day-setting may occur)*
Tori line	- Tori line meets regulations including protecting hooks even in a crosswind - Tori line is used for the duration of all sets *(or state when if 100% pods)* - Attachment height: x metres (Approx x metres above waterline at stern)
Line weighting	- Minimum x metre snoods with bait sufficiently thawed - High risk: 100% snoods with x g at x m from hook - Outside high risk: 100% snoods with x g at x m from hook
Soak mitigation	- Shoot deeper where possible *(how/when)* - Minimum float rope length: *e.g. 8m SWO, 12m Tuna, 14m over moon* - Basket size and moneymaker use: *e.g. x-x hooks Tuna, x-x hooks + mm SWO*
Haul mitigation	- During haul breaks, hooks remain below 10 m due to minimum snood length - Haul mitigation behaviour: *E.g. hose, sound, and/or vessel manoeuvres* - Haul mitigation device: *E.g. hauling curtain*
High-risk periods/areas	- *E.g. avoid fishing around high seabird abundance or over full moon* - Some high-risk periods/areas include: *(include areas and times discussed with LO)* - Areas avoided when using external lights at night: x - Vessel follows the industry COP for SI STN fishery *(delete if NA)*
Light management	- Lighting reduced to minimum requirements and intensity for operations and safety - 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 - Turtle release kit is kept onboard and accessible - Laser: Y/N *(Identify type, intensity and when in use)* - *E.g. Blue-dyed bait, 100% use of fish bait to reduce risk to turtles*

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 (Alive or Dead) 2 albatrosses/mollymawks, or 5 small (e.g. petrel/shearwater) seabirds (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 SURFACE LONGLINE FISHING TO SAVE PROTECTED SEABIRDS

1. **Ensure your vessel has onboard the current Surface Longline Operational Procedures (OPs), a Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP), and the current surface longline regulations, and that you and your crew are familiar with them.**

2. **As legally required during setting you must either:**

    - Use Hookpods on all hooks **OR**

    - Set at night (0.5 hrs after nautical dusk to 0.5 hrs before dawn) **AND**
    - Use a legal tori line **AND**
    - Meet line weighting requirements:
        - 40 g incorporated into the hook, or
        - 40 g within 0.5 m of the hook, or
        - 60 g within 1 m of the hook, or
        - 80 g within 2 m of the hook

3. **Ensure your tori line meets legal specifications and always maintains a 75 m aerial extent**. Ensure it is adjustable so it protects the baited hooks even in a crosswind, and carry ample spare parts.

4. **No discharge of offal or fish waste or baits immediately before or during setting, including rejected baits.**

5. **Use thawed bait to maximise sink rate.**

6. **While hauling, either hold or batch discharge offal, fish waste, and bait from the side opposite to the hauling station,** and return live fish (meeting legal requirements) as quickly as practicable.

7. **While ensuring safe operating standards, minimise additional and unnecessary lighting** so as not to attract or disorientate seabirds, especially while sheltering or at anchor.

8. **Ensure you and your crew are familiar with and follow safe protected species handling procedures and protocols** (See DOC Handling and Release Guide). Record and report bird band numbers to your Liaison Officer.

9. **Notify your local Liaison Officer (same day) when protected species captures reach a Trigger point.** The Trigger points are outlined in your PSRMP. Assess the event and if possible implement further methods for risk reduction.

10. **Report protected species captures by ERS to species level if possible.**

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

For support phone your local Liaison Officer.

DOC CSP Protected Species Liaison Programme SLL 10GRs (Version 5 Nov 2025)

SEAFOOD NEW ZEALAND

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

SLL Tori line Design Guide (vessels less than 35m)

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Vessel Attachment

Attached to the vessel at least 6m above the surface of the sea in calm conditions, and as close to the stern as practically possible.

Streamer Aerial Section

The aerial extent section needs to be in the air (in calm conditions) for 75m, (not including the drag section). Streamers must be brightly coloured.
Within the first 15m streamers may be modified to minimise the risk of entanglement.
Streamers must be fitted every 1m along the aerial extent.

Long streamers: Must reach the sea surface and be fitted at a max of 5m spacings.

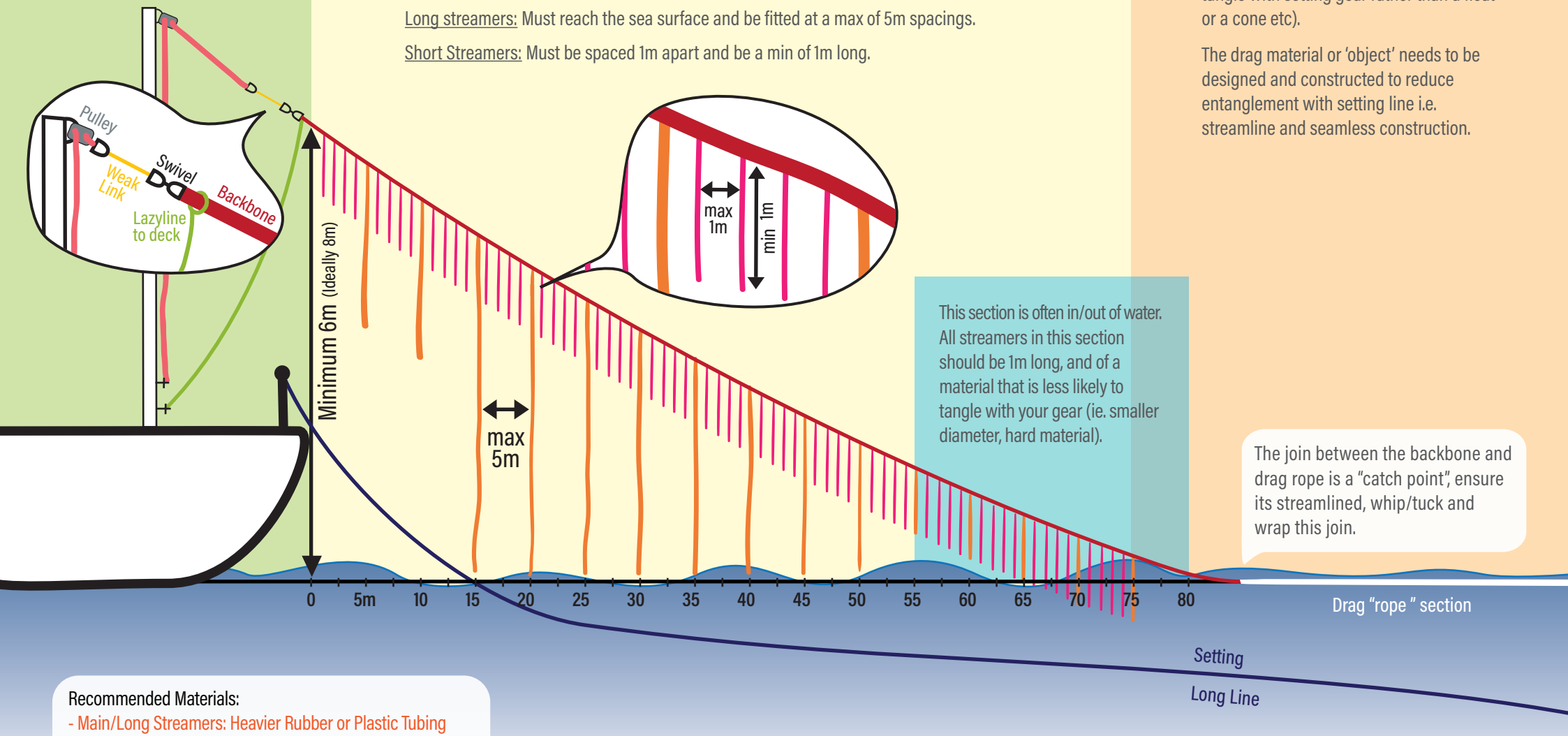
Short Streamers: Must be spaced 1m apart and be a min of 1m long.

Drag Section

There needs to be enough drag to maintain 75m of aerial extent.

Braided rope or mono is best (less likely to tangle with setting gear rather than a float or a cone etc).

The drag material or 'object' needs to be designed and constructed to reduce entanglement with setting line i.e. streamline and seamless construction.



Recommended Materials:
- Main/Long Streamers: Heavier Rubber or Plastic Tubing
- Secondary/Short Streamers: Lighter weight tubing/tape etc

Tori Line Design and Build – Guiding Principles (vessels less than 35m)

Use the tori line design guide (over page) as a starting point to construct something that works for your vessel design and fishing practices.

A well-designed and deployed tori line reduces risk of seabird captures but only if it is used in conjunction with an effective sink rate.

Tori lines (streamer lines) must be used when setting surface long lines at any time and must achieve a minimum of 75m aerial extent.

To maximise performance, the tori line needs to be:

- Well-constructed, light weight, easy to deploy and retrieve. It should leave the vessel as high as possible and have plenty of drag. You will need spare parts and should have a spare line set up and ready to deploy if a major tangle or breakage occurs.
- The key to reducing tangling issues - is to keep as much as possible of the streamer section in the air above your setting hook line. The drag section construction and materials need to be streamlined to reduce the risk of tangling. To do this, make sure the joins are whipped and taped to create a smooth surface so it is less likely to catch your gear.

Three Main Sections of a Tori line:

Vessel Attachment – This height is crucial in order to increase aerial extent

- Height: You are required to suspend the tori line from a point on the vessel at least 6m above the surface and as close to the stern as possible. Ideally it should leave the stern at around 8m+ above the waterline. If necessary, fit a pole to get extra height (for every 1m extra height above 6m you'll achieve about 8m more aerial extent).
- Weak link/ breakaway system: fit a weak link at the attachment point so that the tori line will break off at your weak link, or before the tori line 'spools off' your gear. Use a lazy line back to the deck so that you can regain control of the vessel end of the tori line if/when it breaks.
- If the tori line breaks or is lost, you need to redeploy another before setting any further gear.

Aerial Streamer section – Suitable materials make a difference

- Backbone: This is the main part of the tori line which supports the streamers, the aerial extent 'backbone section' needs to be 75m from the stern and you need to maintain a minimum 75m in the air. Choose a material that is light-weight, durable and braided as it twists less.
- Streamer materials: Must be brightly coloured, suitable/durable, use rigid, stiff, strong materials such as rubber tubing, tape, or cord attached in a way that prevents streamers from wrapping around the backbone and tangling with each other.
- Streamer placement: Must have streamers fitted every 1m along the aerial extent section, however within the first 15m the streamers may be modified to reduce tangling with the setting hooks.
- Long streamers: Often are heavier 5/6mm rubber tubing, placed at a maximum of 5m intervals, need to reach the water surface (in calm conditions) along the 75m aerial extent.
- Short streamers: Lighter weight 2-3mm plastic tubing, or strips of plastic-tape etc, placed at 1m intervals must be a minimum of 1m in length.
- Do a test deployment: Trim each longer streamer to suit your deployment height. In calm conditions the streamers must reach down close to the surface, but ensure most of the time they are in the air and not the water (streamers in water are more likely to tangle with setting hook line, reduce aerial extent and can even tangle birds).

Drag Section - Drag section is crucial in order to increase aerial extent

- Drag object: A length of rope or mono (or an object like a cone or float, or a combination of both) fitted to the end of the aerial streamer section and needs to provide enough drag to maintain the streamer section to the required 75m aerial extent.
- The connection between aerial section and drag section needs to be as seamless as possible to prevent tangling with the setting gear (braided rope or mono material twists less).
- *Sea-trials have shown a tori line deployed from a height of 6m (at 6 knots) requires about 90m of 9mm braided (500L) drag rope to achieve 75m aerial extent. When deployed from a height of 8m, about 70m of 9mm braided (500L) drag-rope was required.*

For more advice: Contact your local SLL Liaison Officer, listed in your Protected Species Risk Management Plan

SEAFOOD NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Surface Longline Operational Procedures

Protected Species Risk Management

Version 4.0 November 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**

Loggerhead turtle **LHT**

Hawksbill turtle **HBT**

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

Regulated mitigation measures to reduce the risk to seabirds can be found at the link below and in your liaison programme mitigation folder:

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/67593-Fisheries-Seabird-Mitigation-Measures-Surface-Longline-Circular

In summary you must:

- Use Hook-shielding devices on all hooks, or set at night with a tori line and weighted gear
- If **not** using Hookpods on every hook:
    - Line weighting must be either:
        - 40 g incorporated into the hook, or
        - 40 g within 50 cm of the hook, or
        - 60 g within a metre of the hook, or
        - 80 g within two metres of the hook.
    - A tori line must have 75 m of aerial extent, be attached at least 6 m above the sea surface, and have bright streamers at least a metre long with spacing between streamers not exceeding a metre. Baits must be protected by the tori line, even in a crosswind.
    - Night setting is the period of time between half an hour after nautical dusk and half an hour before nautical dawn the next day.

Additionally, you must report all captures to DOC and MPI and handle protected species carefully and respectfully to maximise the chances of survival for live releases.

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, bait and discards control
- Hauling mitigation
- Soak mitigation – setting deeper at high-risk times and areas, using weight
- Light control

South Island STN Code of Practice

A fleet-wide code of practice will be implemented for the South Island bluefin fishery which overlaps with large numbers of vulnerable seabirds. This code of practice outlines additional measures that the fleet has agreed to in order to reduce risk, reduce captures, and ultimately maintain access to the fishery.

Turtle Operational Plan

A turtle mitigation plan is also in place. This outlines fleet-wide operational measures that will be taken in response to captures. In brief it involves sharing capture locations with other vessels and move-on rules in the event of multiple captures. The aim is to keep capture numbers below a level that would result in government intervention – likely area closures.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

RISK MANAGEMENT		
RISK ITEM	**RISK FOR**	**WAYS TO MANAGE RISK**
All risks	All species	• Consider overlap with protected species when choosing where and when to fish. • Contain and minimise vessel lighting. • Consider impacts on gear configuration and bait type on risk

Set capture	Seabirds	• Sink hooks rapidly (under tori line)
		  ○ line weighting
		  ○ thawed baits
		  ○ good setting practices
		  ○ don't drag baits
		• Protect hooks (Hookpods)
		• Reduce access immediately behind the boat where hooks are shallow (tori lines, shoot downwind)
		• Reduce visibility / attractiveness of baits (dyed squid)
		• Remove attractants – no dumping of baits / offal during setting, retaining rejected baits onboard
		• Set at night when birds are less active and baits are harder to detect (keep lighting to a minimum)

Soak capture	Seabirds
	Marine mammals
	Marine reptiles
		• For seabirds - minimise instances of shallow hooks:
		  ○ set deeper (longer float ropes)
		  ○ reasonable minimum snood length
		  ○ weight close to the hook
		  ○ larger snood spacing
		  ○ shorter soak times (especially during the day)
		  ○ catch less sharks as they bring the line to the surface
		• For turtles - setting deeper, shorter soaks
		• For marine mammals – shorter soaks

Haul capture	Seabirds	• Recovering snoods quickly (haul only as fast as the crew can coil snoods) • Exclude birds from the danger area (droppers / streamers) • Ensure gear isn't left on the surface during breaks in hauling • Retain baits • Batch discard offal and baits
Deck strike	Seabirds	• Minimise lighting • Keep deck clean

9. PRIMARY SPECIES OF CONCERN FOR SLL

Species at Risk	Species Code	Main Risk Area / Time	Threat Classification, Risk Profile
Royal Albatross (great albatross with dark line on bill)	**XRA**	East Coast South Island	• Breed on Chathams, Tairoa Head, and subantarctic islands, migrate to South America • Extensive distribution, not generally North of East Cape • Good at finding boats • Tend to hang back and harass other birds but can scavenge aggressively • Forage on the shelf
Wandering Albatross (great albatross with no line on bill)	**XWA**	North Island	• Breed on Auckland and Antipodes Islands • Generally well offshore but good at finding boats • Tend to hang back and harass other birds but can scavenge aggressively. • Historical captures in summertime on shallow gear and daylight sets.
Buller's albatross (mollymawk with black stripe on bill)	**XPB**	Everywhere – more so off South Island, especially West Coast	• Southern species nests on the Snares • Highest ranked in risk assessment
Salvin's albatross (mollymawk with yellow/grey bill, grey head)	**XSA**	Everywhere – more so off East Coast South Island	• Summer breeders on the Bounty and Snares Islands • Forages on both coasts, further north on the East Coast than white-caps • Particularly vulnerable to warp strike
White-capped albatross (mollymawk with blue/grey bill, white head)	**XWM**	Everywhere – more so off East Coast South Island	• Summer breeder on Auckland Islands • Forages on both coasts, closer inshore than Salvin's
Black petrel	**XBP**	FMA 1 and S into FMA2 Summertime	• Summer breeder on Great and Little Barrier (migrate to S. America in winter) • Aggressive feeding on arrival into NZ and before departure • Naturally forages offshore at shelf break but attracted to boats and will follow you inshore • Good diver
Westland petrel	**XWP**	Winter West Coast South Island	• Winter breeder at Punakaiki (migrate to Australia and South America) • Good diver • Forages close to home in breeding season
White-chinned petrel	**XWC**	South Island, more so East Coast	• Summer breeder on subantarctic islands • Good diver

Species at Risk	Species Code	Main Risk Area / Time	• Threat Classification, Risk Profile
Flesh-footed shearwater	**XFS**	FMA 1 and S into FMA2 Summertime	• Summer breeder on several Islands on East Coast to Marlborough Sounds and Sugarloaf Islands off Taranaki (migrate to N. Pacific in winter). • Aggressive feeding on arrival into NZ and before departure • More inshore distribution than Black Petrel, high abundance off East Cape • Even better diver
Leatherback turtle	**LBT**	All areas, Particularly ECNI	• Breeds in the tropics • Feeds on jellyfish • Migrates / feeds down both coasts, more so east coast and out to Chatham Rise, right down to Fiordland on West Coast
Green turtle	**GNT**	North Island	• Resident populations in upper North Island
Other hard-shell turtles	**LHT, ORT, HBT**	Warmer water	• Generally rare visitors to NZ, spend most of their time in the tropics
NZ Fur Seal	**FUR**	All areas	• Present year-round on entire NZ coastline, mainly rocky shores • Can travel large distances • Attracted to boats / lines
NZ Sea Lion	**HSL**	Otago to Stewart Island	• Re-establishing on Mainland NZ • Present year-round in southern coastal waters
Dusky dolphin	**DDO**	Everywhere, particularly East Coast	• Found in large groups around the coastline of NZ, but more so on the East Coast (generally < 2000 m) • Forage offshore at night on anchovies, hake and squid
Common dolphin	**CDD**	Everywhere, particularly East Coast	• Commonly found in large groups offshore NZ year-round, particularly in warm-temperate waters Forages on squid and small schooling fish • In spring often associated with Pilot, Bryde's and Sei whales
Bottlenose dolphin	**BDO**	Everywhere,	• A pod of ~450 range between Doubtless Bay (Northland) and Tauranga. Another pod ranges from the Marlborough Sounds to Westport. Feed on mid-water fish and squid • Commonly associated with pilot whales, rough-toothed and Risso's dolphins, and humpback whales
Great white shark (white pointer shark)	**WPS**	All areas	• Most common over summer, particularly Nov-Mar • Trans-Tasman population (range between NZ, Australia, and the South Pacific islands – highly migratory species)
Spine-tailed devil ray	**MJA**	Warmer waters, North Island	• Migrate to northern NZ waters (east and west coasts) during spring and summer • Predominantly pelagic (in water deeper than 200m) but do occur coastally • Look very similar to Manta Rays and often misidentified • Susceptible to fishing pressure due to being slow growing/slow to mature, low numbers of eggs e.g. 1/year

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Mitigation and safe handling of accidentally caught turtles

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide best practice mitigation measures and methods for handling and release of sea turtles accidentally hooked/entangled in surface longline gear.

Turtles can be accidently captured in a range of fisheries, but they are most commonly caught in surface longline fisheries. Handling turtles correctly is safer for you and gives them a better chance of survival.

Legal requirements

- You must use circle hooks, and have the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank, when surface longlining in New Zealand fisheries waters.
- All sea turtle captures must be reported electronically via logbook – as Non-Fish or Protected Species (NFPS). The NFPS reporting codes are:
  - Leatherback turtle – LBT
  - Green turtle – GNT
  - Loggerhead turtle – LHT
  - Hawksbill turtle – HBT
  - Marine turtle (unidentified) – TLE

'Best Practice' – mitigation measures, handling and release methods

1. Minimise turtle access to baited hooks

- Consider avoiding line setting in areas where turtles, particularly leatherback turtles, are caught.

2. Measures that help mitigate turtle captures

- Use large circle hooks with an offset not exceeding 10°.

3. If a turtle is hooked or entangled in your longline

- Slow down to reduce trauma to the animal.
- Remove as much fishing gear as possible, including the hook.
- If a turtle is too large to bring on board, bring it as close to the boat as possible then cut the line as close to the turtle as possible.

4. For turtles hooked in the mouth, throat or flippers

- Do not use de-hooking devices.
- If the hook is visible, the shank should be cut with bolt cutters, and if possible, cut the barb off too.
- If the hook is not visible, cut the line as close as possible to the animal, as trailing gear is likely to be fatal.

5. For turtles hooked elsewhere:

- Use dehookers, if possible.
- If you cannot remove the hook, cut the branchline as close to the turtle as possible.

6. If a turtle is small enough to be brought on board

- Use the supplied dip-net to lift small turtles aboard for disentanglement, hook removal and recovery. Do not use a gaff or pull on the line.
- Once a turtle is on board, place a piece of wood in the turtle's mouth so it cannot bite, then cut the hook or line.
- If the turtle is inactive, place it in a shaded location and cover its body with wet towels. Allow it to recover before being released.
- If the turtle is sluggish, it may have water in its lungs. In this case the rear flippers should be raised about 20cm off the deck while it is recovering.
- If the turtle is conscious and active carefully return the turtle to the water headfirst, after slowing down or stopping the fishing vessel.
- Record any tag numbers on the turtle.
- Ensure the turtle is well clear of the vessel before making way again.

Liaison Officer support

- If a capture has occurred, your Liaison Officer will work with you after the event to complete a *Turtle Questionnaire* form.
- The Turtle Questionnaire form, can be used to provide details on how and where in the gear the turtle was caught, how it was released, and if any injuries were visible.

For More Information

Turtle dehooking kits are available from your Liaison Officer, if you don't have one readily accessible, please get in touch (liaison@doc.govt.nz). Other questions can be directed to either of the below emails.

liaison@doc.govt.nz
HMS@mpi.govt.nz

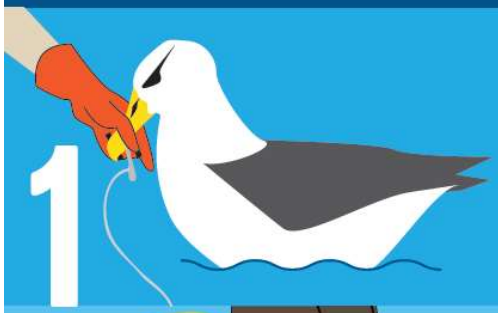
HOOK REMOVAL FROM SEABIRDS

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Release Kit

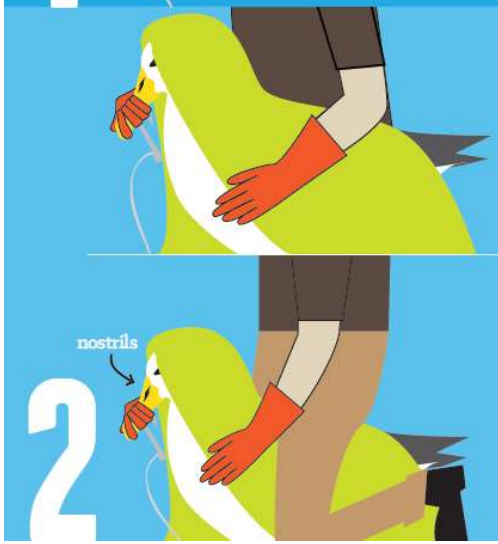
ACAP

Visit **www.acap.aq** for more information



1 Bring bird aboard

If possible, slow or stop hauling and slow or stop vessel to release line tension. If practical, use a landing net to lift small birds on board, otherwise retrieve the bird on the line as safely and quickly as possible. When within reach, grab it by the bill. Never grab the wing.



2 Restrain bird and hold securely

Carefully fold the wings into the bird's body. Wrap the bird in a towel/blanket (not too tightly) and cover the eyes if possible. Make sure the bird doesn't come into contact with oil on deck.

For large birds that you cannot manage under your arm, restrain the bird securely between your legs without squeezing. Hold the bill gently shut but do not cover the nostrils.

If the bird vomits, loosen hold on bill so the bird does not suffocate.

3 Remove the hook

If the hook is visible
Use pliers (or bolt cutters for large hooks) to cut through the hook shaft (or to flatten the barb). Pull the hook back out of the bird.

If the hook is swallowed and removal is possible
A second person can find the hook position externally by feeling along the neck or internally by following the line to the hook. Gently force the tip of the hook so that it bulges under the skin of the bird (for large birds, this may be easier if you reach down the bird's throat and hold the hook). If you can get a good grip on the hook, push the tip of the hook though the skin and remove. Never try to extract the hook backwards.

If hook removal is not possible
Either because removing the hook will cause further damage to the bird or the hook is too deeply ingested, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook in the bird.

4 If the bird is exhausted or waterlogged

If possible, place in a ventilated box or bin in a quiet, dry, shaded place to recover for an hour or two. Otherwise, contain bird in a quiet dry area, away from oil. The bird is ready for release when the feathers are dry, bird is alert and able to stand.

5 Release the bird

If the bird is strong and mostly dry, release it onto the water (but clear of the vessel) immediately after hook removal. Having again first grabbed the bill, lift and slowly lower the bird onto the water letting go of the bill last.

Where birds cannot be lowered directly onto water, lift and release the bird from the side of the vessel into the wind letting go of the bill at the same time. The bird may remain on the water for some time after release.

ACAP

January 2019

HOOK REMOVAL FROM SEABIRDS

Visit **www.acap.aq** for more information

Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures-Surface Longline) Circular (Notice No. MPI 1864)

This circular is issued under Regulation 58A of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001.

1. Title

This circular is the Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures—Surface Longlines) Circular.

2. Commencement

This circular comes into force on **1 October 2024**.

3. Revocation

This notice revokes and replaces the Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures—Surface Longlines) Circular 2019 and its corrigendum, issued on 9 January 2020.

4. Application

This circular applies to surface longline fishing when the surface longline is set in New Zealand fisheries waters.

5. Interpretation

1. Any term used in this notice that is defined in the Fisheries Act 1996 or the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 has the same meaning as that in the Act.

2. In this circular—

a. **aerial extent** means the distance from the stern of a vessel to the place where the streamer line enters the water.

b. **branch line** (also known as a snood) is the line that attaches the hook to the mainline.

c. **set**, in relation to a surface longline, means releasing the surface longline into the water.

d. **streamer line** (also known as a tori line) means a line attached to the vessel, with streamers attached along its aerial extent.

6. Seabird Mitigation Requirements

1. One of the following seabird mitigation measures must be used when setting a surface longline:

a. Hook-shielding devices as set out in clause 7; or

b. Simultaneous use of line weights, streamer line, and night setting, as set out in clauses 8 to 12.

7. Hook-shielding Device Requirements

1. Each hook must have a hook-shielding device.

2. Each hook-shielding device must do all of the following:

a. encase the point and barb of the hook during setting of the surface longline until the hook reaches a depth of at least 10 metres; and

b. be designed to remain attached to the branch line at all times; and

c. weigh a minimum of 40 grams.

8. Requirements for Simultaneous Use of Branch Line Weights, Streamer Line, and Night Setting

1. All the following must be used simultaneously:

a. Branch line weighting per the requirements in clause 9; and

b. A streamer line that complies with clauses 10 to 11; and

c. Night setting per the specifications in clause 12.

9. Requirements for Branch Line Weighting

1. Each branch line attached to a surface longline must be weighted at a minimum in accordance with one of the following:

a. 40 grams incorporated into each hook, or

b. 40 grams attached to the branch line within 50 centimetres of each hook; or

c. 60 grams attached to the branch line within 1 metre of each hook; or

d. 80 grams attached to the branch line within 2 metres of each hook.

10. Requirements for Streamer Lines on Vessels Less Than 35 Metres in Length

1. A streamer line must—

a. achieve and maintain an aerial extent of at least 75 metres; and
b. be suspended from a point on the vessel that is at least 6 metres above the surface of the sea; and
c. be mounted as close to the stern as practicably possible.

2. The streamers attached to the streamer line must be—

a. brightly coloured and resistant to damage from ultraviolet light; and
b. a minimum length of 1 metre; and
c. attached at intervals of not more than 1 metre along the aerial extent of the streamer line.

3. Where two streamer lines are used, baited hooks must be deployed within the area bounded by the 2 streamer lines.

4. If only one streamer line is used, the streamer line must be deployed such that the baits are protected by the streamer line, even in a crosswind.

11. Requirements for Streamer Lines on Vessels Equal to or Greater Than 35m in Length

1. A streamer line must—

a. achieve and maintain an aerial extent of at least 100 metres; and
b. be at least 200 metres long; and
c. be suspended from a point on the vessel that is at least 7 metres above the surface of the sea; and
d. be mounted as close to the stern as practicably possible.

2. The following two types of streamers must be attached to the streamer line—

a. short streamers that meet the requirements set out in clause 11.3; and
b. long streamers that meet the requirements set out in clause 11.4.

3. Short streamers must be—

a. a minimum length of 1 metre; and
b. attached at intervals of no more than 1 metre; and
c. attached along the entire aerial extent of the streamer line.

4. Long streamers must be—

a. long enough to reach the surface of the sea; and
b. attached at intervals of no more than 5 metres; and
c. attached with swivels that prevent the streamers from wrapping around the streamer line; and
d. attached starting from a maximum of 15 metres from the stern and out to a minimum of 55 metres from the stern of the vessel.

5. All streamers must be brightly coloured and resistant to damage from ultraviolet light.

6. Where two streamer lines are used, baited hooks must be deployed within the area bounded by the 2 streamer lines.

7. If only one streamer line is used, the streamer line must be deployed windward of the baited hooks.

12. Requirements for Night Setting

1. the entire surface longline must be set at night – that is, during the period of time between half an hour after nautical dusk and half an hour before nautical dawn the next day.

2. for the purposes of clause 12(1) above—

a. **nautical dusk** means the time at sunset when the centre of the sun is at a depression angle of 12° below the ideal horizon for the place, and
b. **nautical dawn** means the time at sunrise when the centre of the sun is at a depression angle of 12° below the ideal horizon for the place.

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longline) Circular

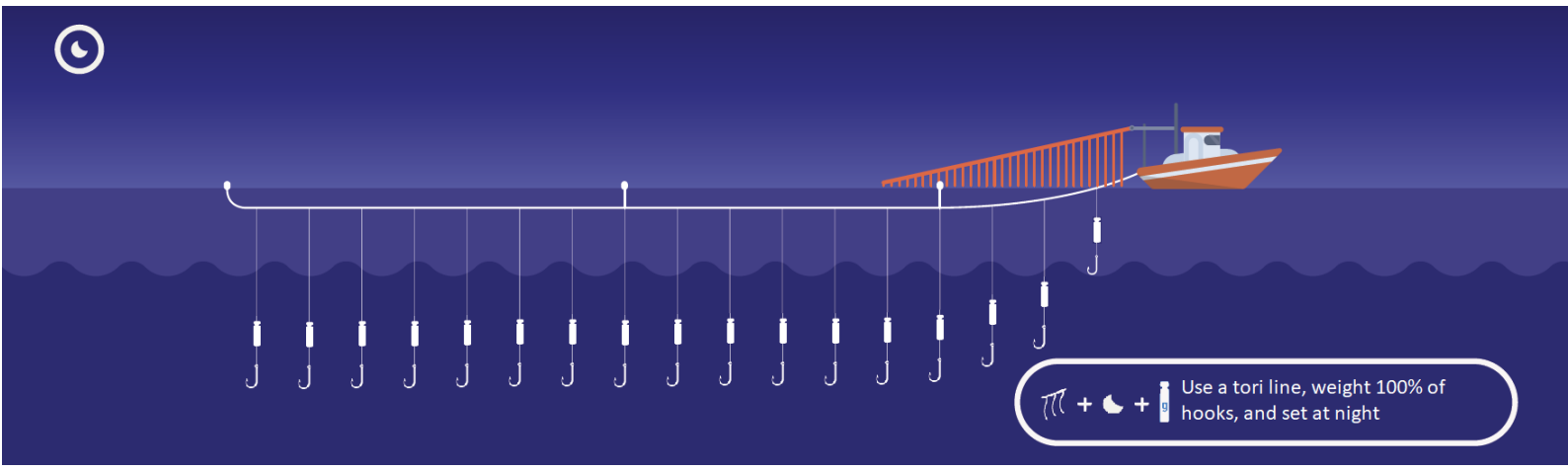
New requirements for vessels <35m effective 1 October 2024

Fisheries New Zealand has revised the rules which require commercial fishers to use certain mitigation practices while surface longline (SLL) fishing to reduce bycatch of seabirds. These rules are set out in the 'Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longline) Circular' (SLL Circular).

The new requirements are –

During SLL setting fishers must either:

a. *Use hook-shielding devices on 100% of hooks, or*
b. *Deploy a legal tori (streamer line), set at night, and weight 100% of branch lines to required specifications ('three out of three').*



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Hook-shielding devices

Hook-shielding devices (HSDs) encase the point and barb of the hook during setting, preventing seabird captures until a depth of at least 10 metres. They may be used as a standalone mitigation measure as long as **100% of hooks** have HSDs attached. Each HSD must weigh a minimum of 40 grams to help the hook sink quickly to a safe depth away from diving seabirds. Additionally, HSDs must be designed to remain attached to the branch line at all times, even when the hook is released.

'Three out of three' mitigation measures

If HSDs are not used on 100% of hooks, then 'three out of three' mitigation measures are required during setting of SLLs – that is, a legal tori line is deployed, line weights that meet specified requirements are on 100% of hooks, and lines are set at night. Note that tori line and night setting specifications have not changed from the previous Circular, except that they are now required to be used in conjunction with the revised line weighting regime.

Tori (streamer) line specifications

Tori lines must achieve a minimum aerial extent of 75 metres, and be attached to the vessel at least 6 metres above the water and as close to the stern as possible. Streamers attached to the streamer line must be brightly coloured, a minimum length of 1 metre, and spaced no more than 1 metre apart along the entire aerial extent of the streamer line.

Revised line weighting requirements

Line weighting requirements have changed. Each branch line must now be weighted at a minimum to one of the following specifications:

- 40g incorporated into each hook (i.e. 'heavy hooks'), or
- 40g or greater attached within 0.5m of the hook, or
- 60g or greater attached within 1m of the hook, or
- 80g or greater attached within 2m of the hook.

Night setting specifications

Surface longlines must only be set at night. This means that all hooks must be set during hours of darkness – that is, the period of time between half an hour after nautical dusk and half an hour before nautical dawn the next day.

- *Nautical dusk* means the time at sunset when the centre of the sun is at a depression angle of 12° below the ideal horizon for the place, and
- *Nautical dawn* means the time at sunrise when the centre of the sun is at a depression angle of 12° below the ideal horizon for the place.

Fisheries New Zealand
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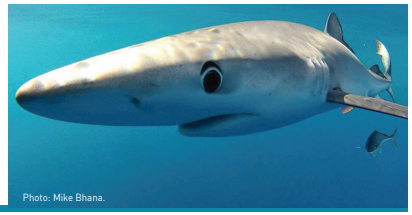


Photo: Mike Bhana.

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 –

Note that you are not required to land any fins.

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

- **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.

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

New Zealand Government

February 2020

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

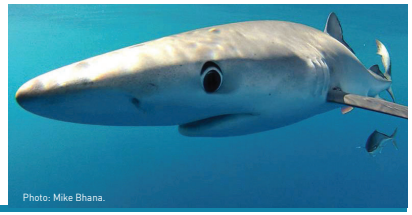


Photo: Mike Bhana.

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.

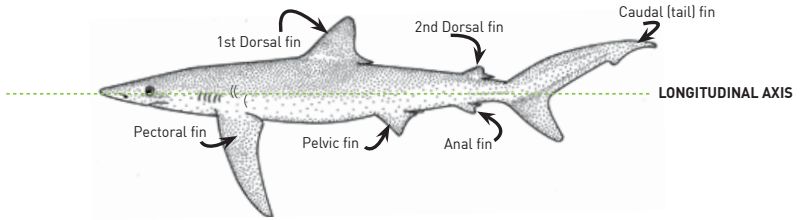
Non-QMS species can also be legally returned to the sea (dead or alive) if you don't wish to retain them (reported on disposal reports under disposal code "D"). Spiny dogfish can be returned (dead or alive) and reported on disposal reports under disposal code "M".

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)

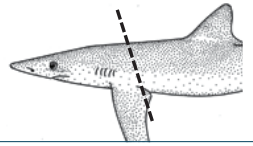
A copy of the regulations is available at: http://legislation.govt.nz

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



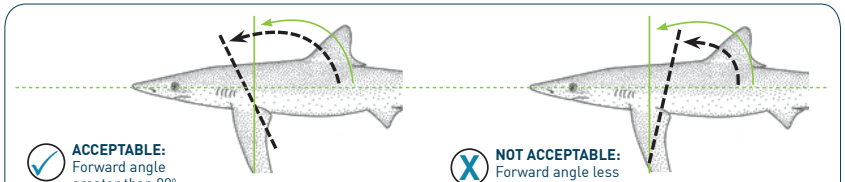
The body of a fish from which the head, gut and fins have been removed with:

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

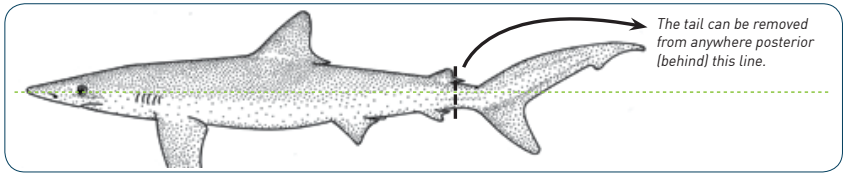


(The posterior insertion of the pectoral fin means the point along the body of a fish at which the rear (posterior) edge of the pectoral fin emerges.)

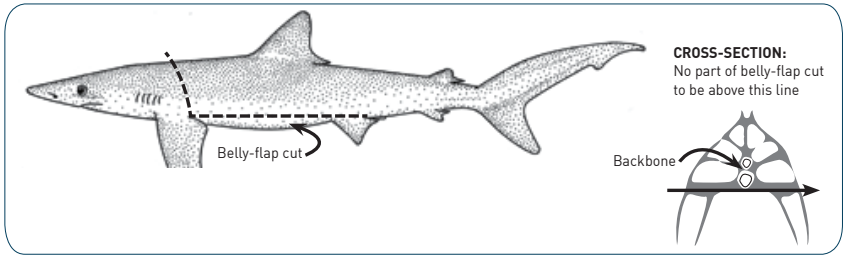
2) the forward angle of the anterior cut not less than 90 degrees in relation to the longitudinal axis of the fish.



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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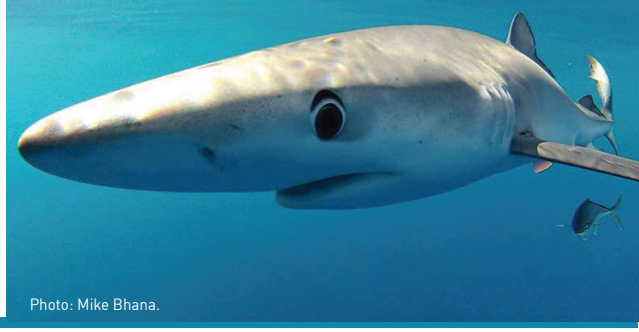

Photo: Mike Bhana.

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**

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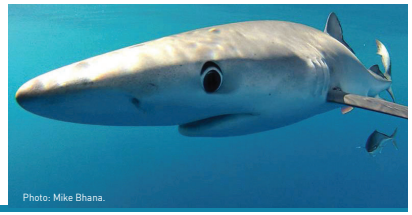
Photo: Mike Bhana.

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
Surface Longline

What Are Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Standards?

December 2024

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 each vessel 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- *Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures- Surface Longlines) Circular*

1. **During setting fishers must either:**
   - **a) use hook-shielding devices on 100% of hooks or**
   - **b) deploy a legal tori line, night set, and line weight to legal specifications.**
2. **For vessels under 35m, tori lines must achieve an aerial extent of ≥75m and attach at a point ≥6m above the water.**
3. **Tori line streamers are minimum 1m long, brightly coloured and spaced ≤1m apart along the entire aerial extent.**
4. **At a minimum, weighted gear is either: ≥40g within 0.5m of the hook, or ≥60g within 1m of the hook, or ≥80g within 2m of the hook.**

'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 seabird access to baited hooks during setting**
   - Either use hook-shielding devices on 100% of hooks or
   - Use a 'fit and proper' tori line that can be adjusted over the hook-bearing line to suit varying conditions,
     - and set in the period between 30 minutes after nautical dusk and 30 minutes before nautical dawn (night set),
     - and weight gear: ≥40g within 0.5m of hook, or ≥60g within 1m of hook, or ≥80g within 2m of hook.
   - Carry a second (back-up) tori line and sufficient materials onboard to effect repairs when necessary.
   - Use sufficiently thawed bait.
3. **Minimise seabird access to hooks during hauling**
   - Minimise the time hooks are at or near the surface of the water. Haul as quickly as practicable.
   - Implement hauling mitigation measures, device(s) and/or vessel manoeuvres when appropriate.
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 (see *Mitigation Standards to Reduce Light-induced Vessel Strikes of Seabirds with New Zealand Commercial Fishing Vessels*).
   - 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.

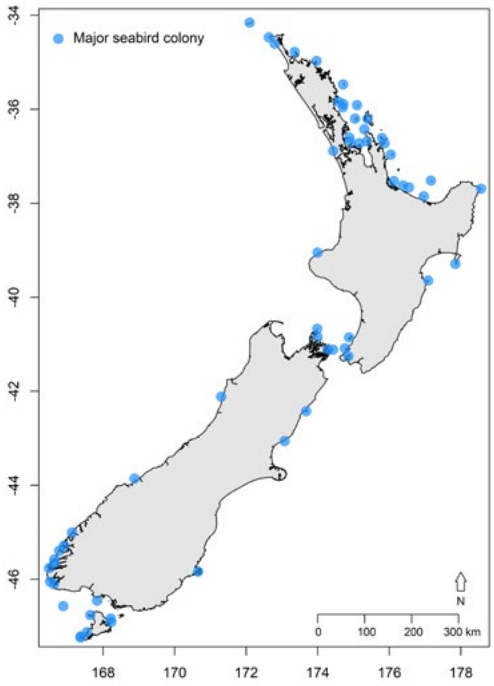
What can you do to help seabirds?

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

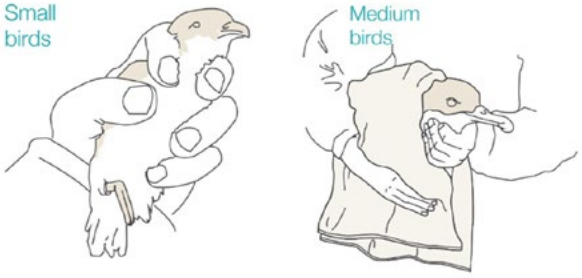

Antarctic Prion


Black-bellied Storm Petrel

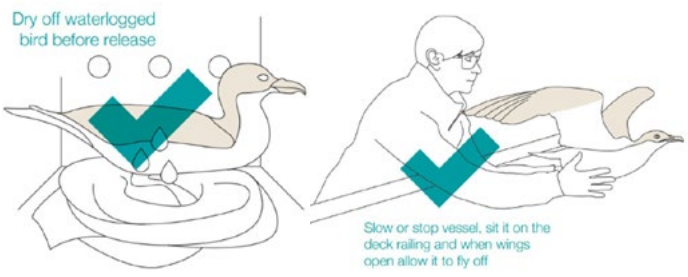

Common Diving Petrel

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.

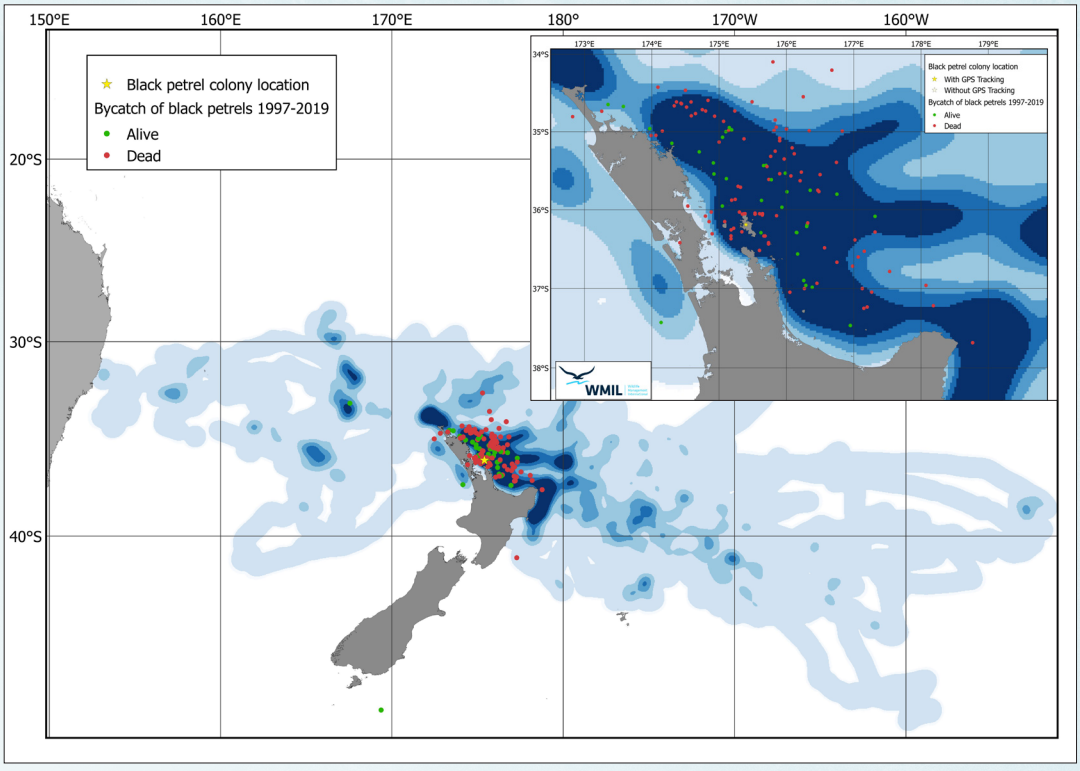
Distribution Map:

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.

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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.

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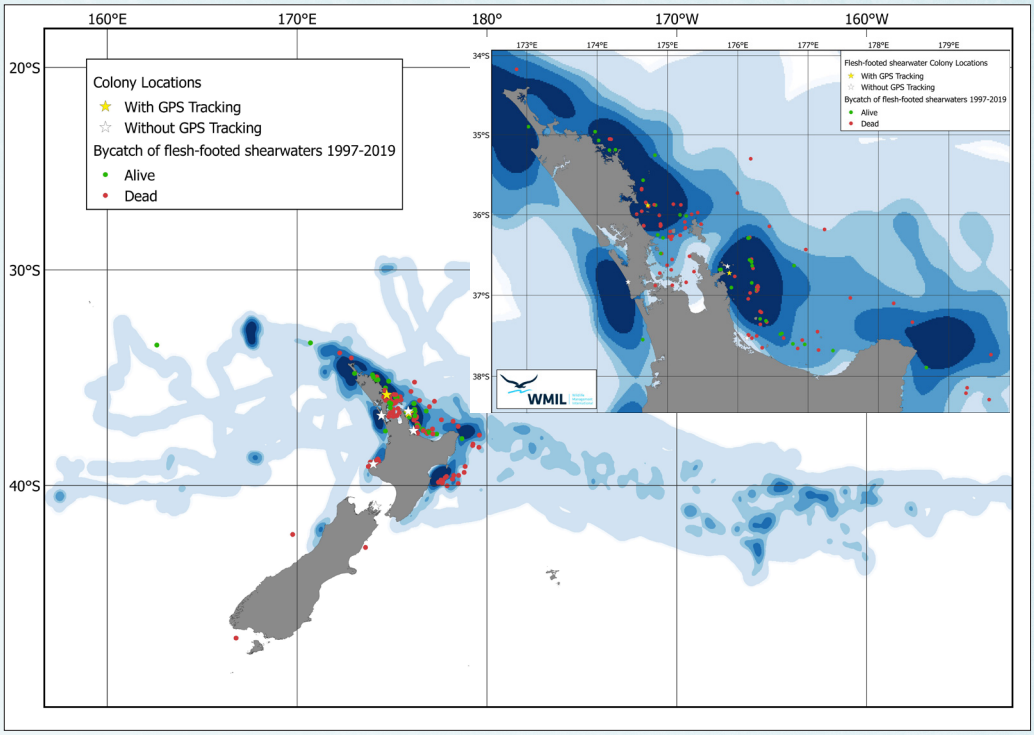

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