South Island Hector's dolphin Forum

How did we get here and where are we going?

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November 2023

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Background of Threat Management Plan

- First established in 2008
- Non-statutory agreement between Conservation and Fisheries
- Shared goals and objectives
- Management under respective legislation:

  - DOC: Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

  - Fisheries NZ: Fisheries Act 1996

- Overarching these pieces of legislation are agency obligations to our Treaty partners, e.g. as set out in the Conservation Act 1987

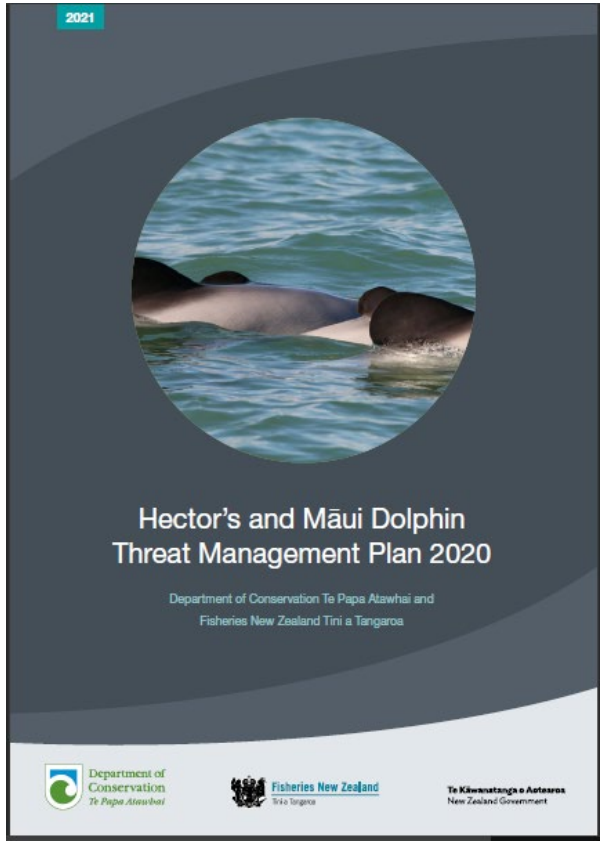
Background of Threat Management Plan

- Risk reduction via area-based restrictions on fishing and other measures under Fisheries Act.
- Department of Conservation uses Marine Mammal Sanctuaries under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 to reduce risks from seismic surveying and seabed mining.
- Other threats not addressed in the TMP are managed under other legislation:
  - Tourism and boat traffic – Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (1992)
  - Oil spills – managed through Maritime NZ and Regional Councils
  - Other pollution and run-off – Resource Management Act (1991)
  - Coastal development – RMA

Background of Threat Management Plan

- The TMP for both subspecies was reviewed 2019/20
- For this review, agencies developed an extensive independent research, risk assessment and evaluation process, completed in 2019
- June 2020, the Minster of Conservation and the Minister of Fisheries announced their decisions on new measures from the review to increase protection for Hector's and Māui dolphins. Including a Toxoplasmosis action plan
- Hector's dolphin 4 subpopulations: SI east coast, SI west coast, SI north coast, SI south coast.
- Additional South Island fisheries measures in 2022.

The Threat Management Plan



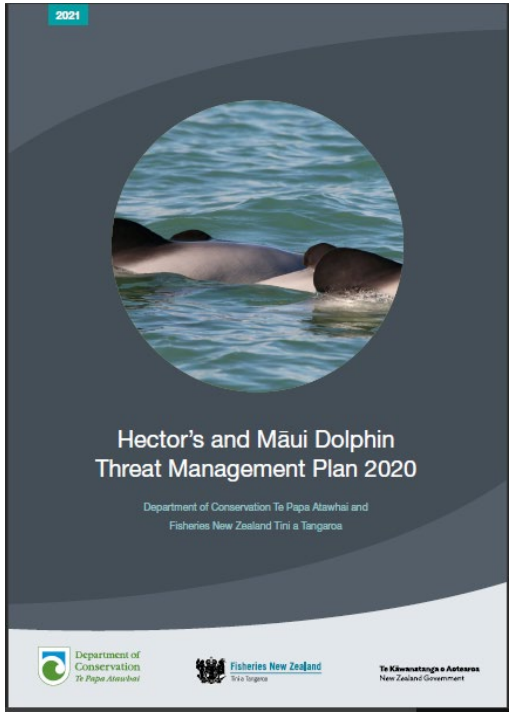
Vision

New Zealand's Hector's and Māui dolphin populations are resilient and thriving throughout their natural range.

Long-term goal

Hector's and Māui dolphin subpopulations are thriving or increasing, supported by an enduring, cohesive and effective threat management programme across New Zealand.

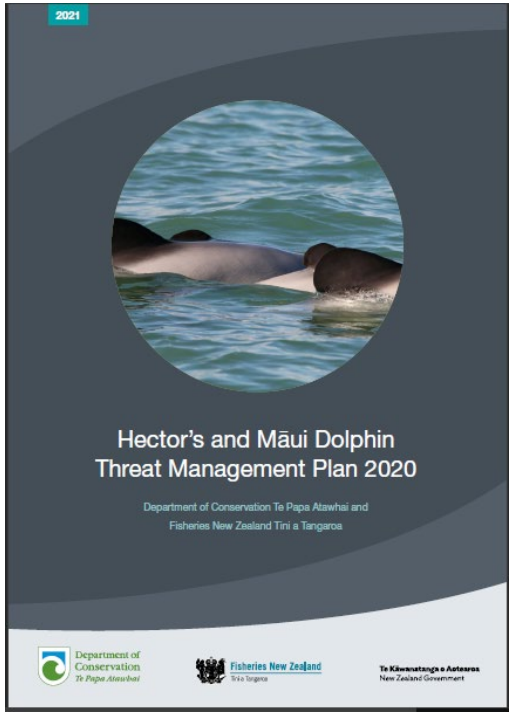
The Threat Management Plan



Medium-term goals:

1. **Ensure known human-induced threats are managed within levels that allow subpopulations to thrive and recover.**
2. **Engage all New Zealanders in Hector's and Māui dolphin conservation.**
3. **Understand how tangata whenua wish to exercise kaitiakitanga of Hector's and Māui dolphins.**
4. **Improve knowledge of poorly understood threats to support long- and medium-term goals, which are effectively targeted, measurable and time-bound.**

The Threat Management Plan

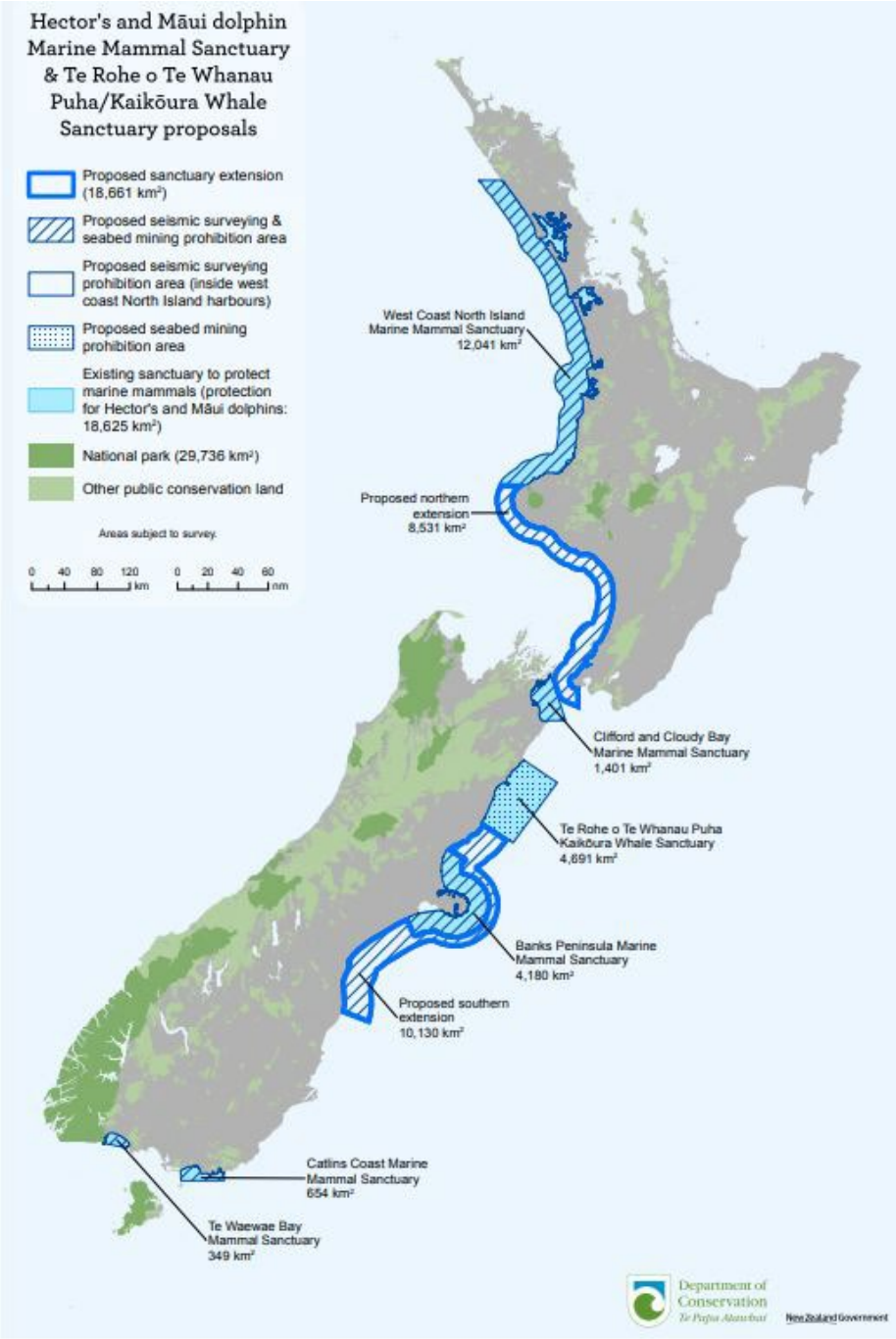


Population Outcomes

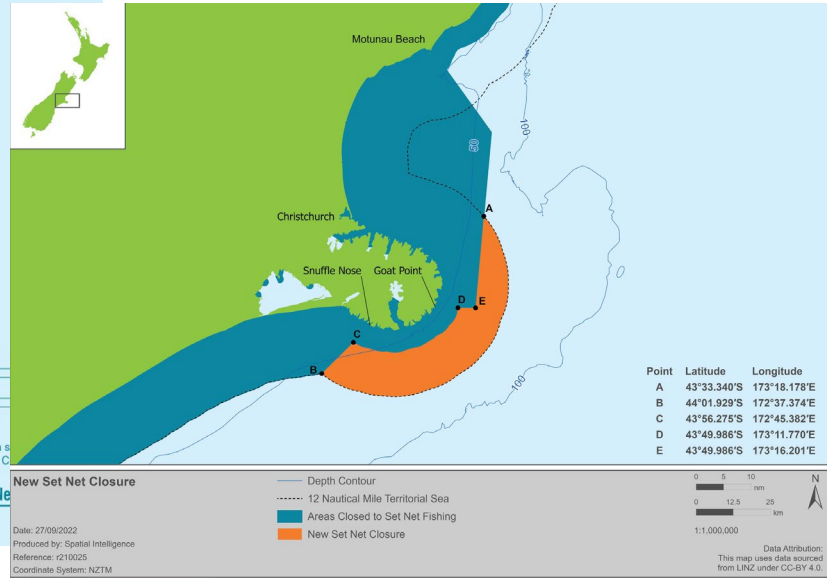
Māui dolphins: Human impacts are managed to allow the population to increase to a level at or above 95% of the maximum number of dolphins the environment can support.

Hector's dolphins: Human impacts are managed to allow the population to increase to a level at or above 90% of the maximum number of dolphins the environment can support.

Map of Marine Mammal Sanctuaries and extensions

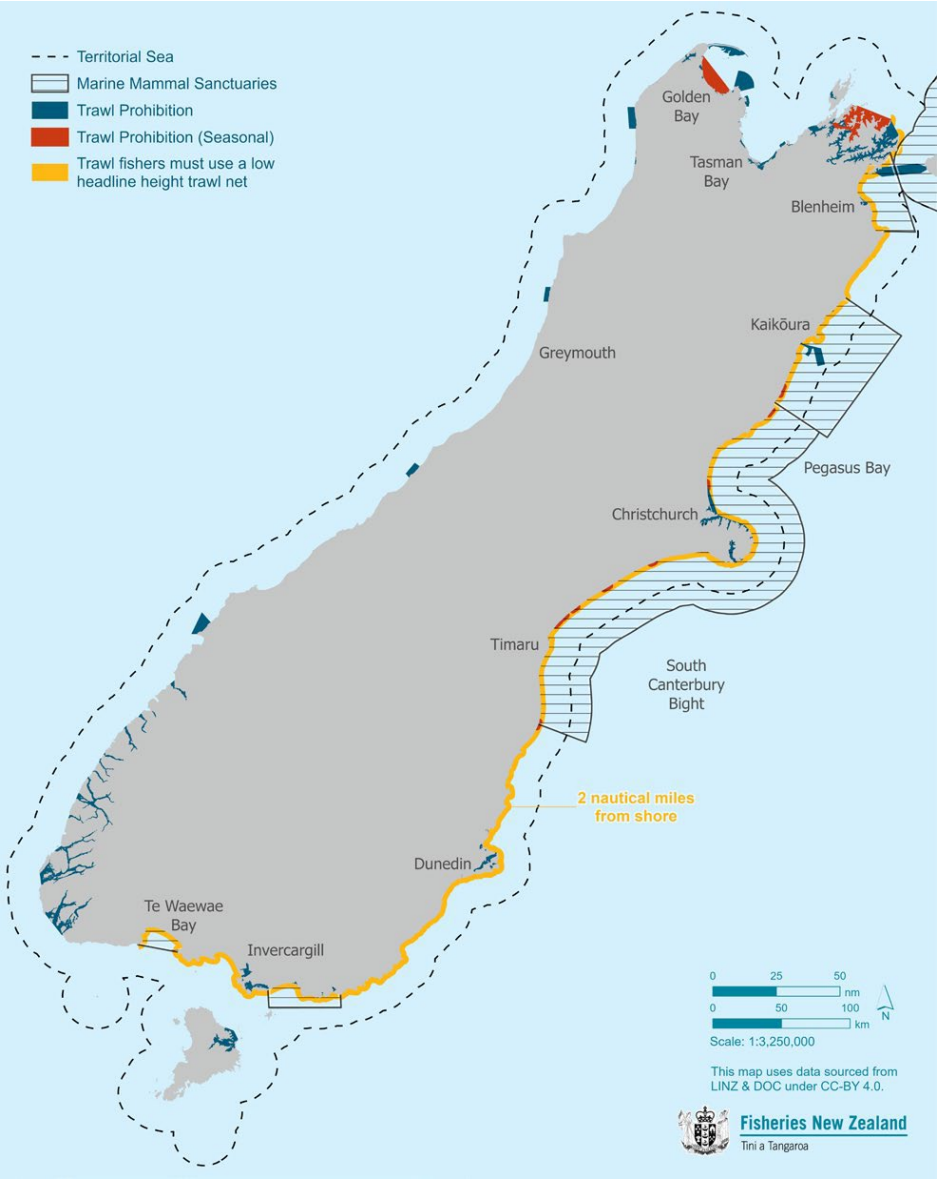


Commercial and recreational set net prohibition areas around the South Island



Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	43°33.340'S	173°18.178'E
B	44°01.929'S	172°37.374'E
C	43°56.275'S	172°45.382'E
D	43°49.986'S	173°11.770'E
E	43°49.986'S	173°16.201'E

Commercial trawl restriction and prohibition areas around the South Island



Purpose of this forum

In Scope

The Forum will be jointly convened by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand to:

- gather input and undertake discussions on progress in implementing the TMP and associated research priorities;
- provide a platform through which DOC and Fisheries New Zealand can communicate annual plans and proposals to achieve the TMP objectives;
- facilitate the exchange of information, concerns, ideas and perspectives.
- The Forum will meet annually, or more frequently should the need arise.

Purpose of this forum

Out of Scope

- The Forum is not a substitute for statutory consultation, nor is it the only forum that DOC and Fisheries New Zealand may use to provide for input and participation with tangata whenua or engage and consult with stakeholders.

- The Forum is not a science review forum and will not focus on technical aspects related to research projects that have been procured by DOC or Fisheries New Zealand. Science peer review of Hector's and Māui dolphin research is done by DOC and Fisheries New Zealand's science staff and science working groups, in particular the Conservation Services Programme (CSP) and Aquatic Environment Working Group (AEWG).

- The Forum is not an advisory or decision-making body. DOC and Fisheries New Zealand have the statutory role of advising their respective Ministers, who ultimately make decisions around protection of Hector's and Māui dolphin pursuant to their respective legislation.