

Research Strategy and Toxoplasmosis update

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New Zealand Government



Hector's and Māui dolphin Threat Management Plan

How we protect the
dolphins: TMP
science objectives

- › Improve knowledge of anthropogenic threats to Hector's and Māui dolphins.
- › Identify and prioritise new research and management measures, to inform management responses to threats to the dolphins.
- › Reduce the risk to the dolphins from the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* to near zero.

Hector's and Māui Dolphin Research Strategy 2021

Annual review

The annual review was undertaken recently to:

- › Review research priorities by sub-population and local population within the Hector's and Māui dolphin Research Strategy 2021,
- › Considering new and potential threats
- › Identify emerging research needs (current gaps)

This will be used to update the research strategy if necessary. This will be made available through our website as usual.

Research that has been funded by DOC and MPI can be found in a spread sheet here on the DOC website, which is updated as research is published and available.

Hector's and Māui dolphin Toxoplasmosis Science Plan

Summary

- › The DRAFT Science plan provided a framework for all researchers, partners, and government agencies to understand the priority needs for research for the management of the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* and the disease toxoplasmosis.
- › The plan underpinned a successful budget bid in Budget 2022
- › Key emphasis recognising the urgent need to reduce the risk to Māui dolphins from the parasite.
- › The plan also demonstrated the need to coordinate research activities and guide investment.

Toxoplasmosis

Update

- › Budget 2022 –\$4.88 Million for 3 years from July 2023
- › The DRAFT Hector's and Māui Dolphin Toxoplasmosis Science Plan 2021 was reviewed and now includes new themes to include social science, partnerships with iwi/Mātauranga Māori, and Governance.
- › Priority projects have been identified within each theme
- › Priority projects for year one have been allocated funding.
- › The Toxoplasmosis programme manager has been appointed – Michelle Boyle
- › Working to develop an action plan to guide direction for years 2 and 3 of funding.