Māui dolphin fisheries monitoring

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Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

New Zealand Government

Introduction

- Monitoring approach
- Monitoring levels in 2020/21 financial year*
- Future monitoring

- Monitoring years are based on the 1 July to 30 June financial year to align with the delivery of and cost-recovery processes for observer services.
- All references to monitoring coverage years (e.g. 2020/21) refer to the financial year unless otherwise stated.

The Māui dolphin habitat zone and FRML

- The Fisheries Related Mortality Limit (**FRML**) relies on a fishing-related capture or death being detected. For commercial fishing this will be through fisher-reporting and/or detected by fisher-independent monitoring (**observers** or **on-board cameras**).

- Moving towards full monitoring coverage of commercial set net and trawl vessels operating within the coastal portion of the habitat zone (excluding harbours).

- A staged multi-year approach is underway to achieve this level of coverage, involving on-board cameras and observers.

Monitoring using on-board cameras

- Cameras are the most cost-effective and efficient approach to monitoring fisheries interactions for Māui/Hector's dolphins where there is a very low likelihood of interaction.

- Stage One trial of cameras on the west coast started in 2019 in the **camera monitoring zone**. There are currently 17 set net and trawl vessels that have on-board cameras.

- 14 vessels equipped with on-board cameras fished the **Māui Habitat Zone** in the 2020/21 fishing year.

- Six trawl vessels without cameras fished in the habitat zone.

Current monitoring targets

For 2020/21 and 2021/22, the level of monitoring coverage across the coastal **Māui habitat zone** is targeted:

- between 50 – 70% for trawl and
- at 100% for set net.

Monitoring coverage is targeted at 100% trawl fishing events within 4-7nm from Maunganui Bluff to Pariokariwa Point.

Coastal set net monitoring

- Within the coastal portion of the Māui dolphin habitat zone for 2020/21, 97.4% of all **set net** effort has been monitored.

Trawl monitoring

- Within the coastal portion of the Māui dolphin habitat zone for 2020/21, 59.1% of all **trawl** effort has been monitored.

Trawl monitoring continued

- Over the last four years:
  - monitoring coverage within the target **observer coverage area**, has ranged between 92.2-99.9%.
  - overall effort has declined from 1039 tows to 536 tows.
  - unobserved effort ranged between 1 and 48 tows.

Camera zone

- In 2020/21,
  - 65.9% of all trawl effort has been monitored within the on-board camera monitoring zone.
  - all coastal set net fishers within the camera monitoring zone had an on-board camera.

Wider rollout of on-board cameras

- Consultation underway on the wider rollout of on-board cameras across New Zealand's inshore fishing fleet (300 vessels by 2024).

- The WCNI inshore trawl (<32m) and set net (>8m) vessels (~58 in total) are the **proposed 1st priority group**.

- This covers the west coast of the North Island between Cape Reinga and Cook Strait.

- Support verification that the new trawl and set net restrictions are effective in managing fisheries risk to Māui dolphins.

- Installation of new cameras in late 2022 (includes replacing existing cameras).

PRIORITY 1
Inshore trawl and set net
West Coast North Island
58 Vessels (Approx)