



Environment

Marine Conservation.



New Zealand seafood is produced in an environment that is rich in marine habitats and species diversity. New Zealand has therefore developed and implemented a large number of laws, regulations, policies and planning processes to help maintain, protect and restore marine biodiversity.

106

New Zealand's marine biodiversity is protected through a network of 106 marine protection areas.



5x

The seabed protection network legally restricts trawling from an area 5x the size of New Zealand's land mass.



17

New Zealand is a signatory to 17 international and regional agreements related to marine conservation.

NEW ZEALAND APPROACH

All marine mammals and reptiles, most seabirds and corals, and many other marine species are fully protected under New Zealand law. The Government is empowered with various legal and enforcement mechanisms to protect species or areas for the purpose of marine conservation and biodiversity.

IMPLEMENTATION

Conservation measures currently in place in New Zealand include Action Plans for seabirds and sharks, Threat Management Plans for Hector's and Māui dolphin and New Zealand Sea Lion, 44 Marine Reserves, 19 Marine Protected Areas, 17 seamount closures, and 17 Benthic Protection Areas.

COMPLIANCE

Failure of commercial fishers or vessel owners to comply with conservation measures could result in fines, forfeiture of fishing gear and/or imprisonment. Compliance is monitored via land-based and vessel-based patrols, electronic monitoring (where required), inspections and investigations.

COMPARABILITY

New Zealand's Marine Protected Area network and Benthic Protection Areas have been acknowledged for their contribution to marine biodiversity in numerous international publications, including from the United Nations Environment Programme.