



Environment

# Marine Mammals.



The seafood industry plays an active role in minimising impacts on marine mammals through investment and adoption of scientific research, technology and mitigation techniques, as well as supporting protection areas.

**8**

New Zealand has eight marine mammal sanctuaries to help protect Hector's and Māui dolphins, New Zealand sea lions, fur seals and the southern right whale.



**100%**

All marine mammals are fully protected under New Zealand law.



**2**

Threat Management Plans have been completed for Hector's and Māui dolphins and New Zealand sea lion.

## NEW ZEALAND APPROACH

New Zealand's management of interactions between marine mammals and commercial fishing activities is broadly based on the status of marine mammal populations and risks to those populations. Species-specific risk assessments have been conducted for the Māui dolphin and New Zealand sea lion.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Regulatory controls used to manage interactions with marine mammals include area-based or method-based restrictions on commercial fishing activity. Additional mitigation measures have also been put in place, such as the use of Sea Lion Exclusion Devices for all vessels in the southern squid trawl fishery.

## COMPLIANCE

Although all marine mammals are fully protected under New Zealand law, it is not illegal to capture or kill a protected seabird accidentally or incidentally in the course of commercial fishing activities, provided any such event is reported to the Government. Fishers can be held liable for prosecution if they fail to report the incident.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

Under the Government's new Integrated Electronic Monitoring and Reporting System, regulators will have an unprecedented ability to verify incidents of marine mammal captures and assess fishers' compliance with reporting requirements.