

# Hector's and Māui dolphins Threat Management Plan

## South Island fisheries measures



Below is a summary of the new fisheries measures to support the Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Māui dolphins, which come into effect on **1 October 2020**.

Hector's and Māui dolphins are only found in New Zealand waters and together are one of the world's rarest dolphin species.

Extensive measures are already in place to reduce fishing-related threats to Hector's and Māui dolphins and more is needed to be done to protect them.

The Government is extending and creating new areas that will prohibit the use of commercial and recreational set-nets in both the North Island and South Island.

### What does this mean for the South Island?

**The South Island will see new measures introduced on the north, east and south coasts.**

- New commercial and recreational set-net closures out to 4 nautical miles offshore will be created within Golden and Tasman Bay, from Farewell Spit to Cape Soucis (Raetihi).
- Commercial set-net closures off Kaikōura will be extended as per the community proposed boundaries; no change to the current 4 nautical miles recreational closure.
- Commercial and recreational set-net closures will be extended off the east coast to encompass Pegasus Bay, approximately 19 nautical miles offshore southeast from the headland east of Motunau Beach offshore and then southwest to a point 7 nautical miles offshore from Goat Point.
- Commercial and recreational set-net closures will be extended off the east coast from Snuffle Nose southwest to 12 nautical miles offshore across the Canterbury Bight to just south of Timaru to the existing 4 nautical miles offshore boundary.
- Commercial and recreational set-net closures will be extended within Te Waewae Bay (between Sand Hill Point and Wakaputa Point) to 10 nautical miles offshore.
- Commercial and recreational drift netting will be banned in its entirety in all New Zealand waters.

### How do the measures affect commercial fishers?

The measures will prevent commercial set-net fishing in the areas outlined above, with notable impact on the north coast South Island where there are currently few or no commercial restrictions on the use of set-net.

Off the east coast South Island, the changes are significant due to the scale of the offshore extensions in Pegasus Bay and Canterbury Bight to Timaru.

Other commercial fishing methods including drag netting and beach seining may continue to be used unless otherwise prohibited.



**Fisheries New Zealand**

Tini a Tangaroa

## Will the new measures impact customary fishing?

Tangata whenua may still authorise customary fishing to be carried out by non-commercial or commercial fishers, with or without a fishing vessel, using any type of gear or method.

## What do the measures mean for recreational fishers?

Recreational fishers will no longer be able fish using the set-net method in the areas outlined above. The set-net changes will be notable on the north coast of the South Island where there are currently few or no restrictions on the use of set-net.

Other recreational fishing methods including drag netting and beach seining may continue to be used unless otherwise prohibited.

## What does this look like in your area?



## Further consultation

The new set-net restrictions address most of the fisheries risk to Hector's dolphins in the South Island. In response to public feedback, further consultation on commercial and recreational set-net closures between the north and south of Banks Peninsula is intended. Consultation on an alternative way to manage risk from fishing

in the South Island, beyond the blunt use of area closures, will also be undertaken. This would include development of a framework that is more collaborative with industry to achieve reductions in dolphin captures, and increased monitoring through Crown-owned cameras on vessels across South Island Hector's dolphin habitat.