

# Hector's and Māui Dolphin Incident Database- External User Information

Please read this information before using or analysing the Department of Conservation's marine mammal data.

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## How the data updates work

Quarterly updates are posted about Māui and Hector's dolphin incidents in early May, August, November and February each year. Individual updates are current as at the date of publication, results that are pending at that time will be updated as they are received. Incidents are now grouped per year but will still be updated every quarter.

The data is provided in two tabs, one for event information and one for individual information. With the 'individuals' tab, data is displayed as one row per individual. Some events may include multiple individuals, use the 'MarMam observation ID num' to identify individuals involved in the same event. Event information will be the same for each individual in that event.

Fields containing sensitive information have been removed from all data sets, e.g. details of persons who reported sightings.



In order to align reporting and maintain the integrity of government fishery observer programmes, data on observed captures will generally be reported here only in the quarterly report after the quarter that the incident occurred in.

## What data is captured?

### *Māui and Hector's dolphin incidents*

- All incidents (live strandings, beachcast incidents, injuries, entanglements/bycatch, ship strike) of sub-species Hector's dolphin or Māui dolphin only.
- Tab EVENT contains information about the occurrence such as date, location, number of animals, etc. There may be multiple individuals involved in one event.
- Tab INDIVIDUAL contains information about a specific animal such as measurements, DNA results, necropsy results etc. There may be more than one individual per event, these are linked via the 'MarMam observation ID num'.
- Pathology reports and this data set is available publicly via our website, [doc.govt.nz/dolphinincidents](http://doc.govt.nz/dolphinincidents)

## Guide to fields

### General

There are several values used to define missing data throughout the data sets, they may also be blank:

- 'Not applicable' – field doesn't apply to this record
- 'Not recorded' – information wasn't recorded
- 'Unknown' – the status/existence of the information isn't known, often used with older data when original records aren't available or haven't yet been cross-checked. *Note: It is important to differentiate between this and 'Indeterminable' as a necropsy result. 'Indeterminable' is an assigned value from the pathologist when they are unable to determine a cause of death. 'Unknown' in the same field would mean DOC doesn't know what the result of the necropsy was.*

### Dates

Generally dates are in the format DD/MM/YYYY and may include time as HH:MM. For unknown dates, a year of 9999, or 1111 may have been used, e.g. 1/01/9999.

'Date event observed confidence' indicates whether a date is estimated or accurate.

## Locational data

All new data that comes in has coordinates converted to WGS84 degrees decimal, or coordinates determined from a location description. This has not been done for all past data so there may be spatial data missing from some data if you plan to map the records.

'Capture method' indicates whether the coordinates are estimated from a description ('Estimated location') or provided ('GPS – observer location' or 'GPS – subject location').

'Region' is defined by the council regions of New Zealand.

'Area Descriptor' is unique to Hector's and Maui dolphins and describes areas of their distribution.

## Caveats

Please consider the following caveats when analysing the national marine mammal database:

- The data is limited to records received by the Department's National Office from a number of different sources and independent field offices and there are no guarantees that it is fully representative or accurate.
- The quality and quantity of data collection has improved over time, particularly with the advancement of technology.
- Processes for strandings and data collection have changed over time and have not necessarily been followed evenly around the country.
- The ownership, storage and formatting of this data has changed over time.

## Conditions

We ask that you observe the following conditions regarding the use of this data:

- The data shall only be used in the manner outlined in your submitted proposal, unless prior permission is granted from the Department of Conservation.
- The Department is to be supplied with a copy of any reports, papers etc that result from your analysis of this data.
- The Department is to be informed of the intention to publish any findings resulting from the analysis of this data prior to the draft being submitted to the chosen publication.
- The Department of Conservation is to be appropriately acknowledged in any reports, publications etc that result from your analysis of the data provided.
- The data shall not be supplied to any third party without prior written permission from the Department.
- The data supplied shall not be made available on the internet or any other publicly available medium without prior permission from the Department.

## **Recommended acknowledgement**

Department of Conservation Hector's and Māui Dolphin Incident Database, [date in filename e.g. 31 January 2021].

## **Contact**

For enquiries and communication, contact the Department's Marine Species Team via [marinemammals@doc.govt.nz](mailto:marinemammals@doc.govt.nz).