Māui dolphin fisheries monitoring

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Introduction

- Monitoring approach
- Monitoring levels in 2021-2022 financial year*
- Future monitoring

Note:

- All references to years (e.g. 2021-2022) refer to the financial year (1 July to 30 June) unless otherwise stated. The financial year aligns with cost-recovery processes for observer services.
- **Figures presented are provisional for 2021-2022 and are current up to 26 October 2022**.
- Reviewing of camera monitoring does not happen in real time.

The Māui dolphin habitat zone and FRML - recap

- The **Māui dolphin habitat zone** occurs from Cape Egmont to Cape Reinga out to 12 nm.

- A Fishing Related Mortality Limit (FRML) of **one** Māui or Hector's dolphin has been established and relies on a fishing-related capture or death being detected. For commercial fishing this will be through fisher-reporting 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).

Monitoring using on-board cameras

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

- In 2019 a proof-of-concept camera trial began off the WCNI in the **camera monitoring zone** (yellow area).

- For 2021-2022 there were 8 trawl vessels and 2 set net vessels that had onboard cameras in the **coastal portion** of the **Māui dolphin habitat zone.** There were 9 trawl vessels that fished in this zone without cameras and are new arrivals to the area since the camera trial began.

Coastal set net monitoring results

Level of set net monitoring coverage targeted across the coastal portion of the **Māui dolphin Habitat Zone**: **100%**

2021-2022: 91.3 % of all set net effort has been monitored.

Trawl monitoring results

Level of trawl monitoring coverage targeted across the **coastal portion** of the **Māui dolphin Habitat Zone**: **50-70%**

2021-2022: 42.9 % of all trawl effort has been monitored.

Trawl monitoring results

Level of trawl monitoring coverage targeted within the **observer coverage area** (4-7 nm blue lines): 100%

Over **the last four years**:

- Monitoring coverage within the target observer coverage areas (4-7 nm) has ranged between 92 - 99%.
- Overall effort has declined from 867 tows to 473 tows.
- Unobserved effort ranges between 1 and 43 tows.

Camera zone

In **2021-2022**:

- 55.9 % of all trawl effort has been monitored within the camera monitoring zone (yellow zone).
- All coastal set net fishers within the camera monitoring zone had an on-board camera.

Future of on-board cameras

- On 25 May 2022 the Minister confirmed details of the nationwide rollout of cameras on commercial fishing vessels.
- From 30 November 2022, all **trawl vessels (≤ 32 m overall length) and set net vessels (≥ 8 m overall length)** operating off the WCNI from Cape Reinga to the Wellington region will be required to have cameras onboard and be **transmitting footage** to Fisheries New Zealand.
- Up to 300 in-scope fishing vessels will be fitted with onboard cameras nationwide by the end of 2024.

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On-board cameras

For further information about the rollout of on-board cameras see:

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/commercial-fishing/fisheries-change-programme/on-board-cameras-for-commercial-fishing-vessels/

Questions?