



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Threat Management Plan for New Zealand Sea Lions

Proposed Tools for Developing
Management Options



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Why a TMP

From the Press Release 6 March 2014

- *Minister of Conservation and the Minister for Primary Industries announced their intention to develop a TMP*
- *The two agencies need to work together on this new plan so as to better protect our sea lions*
- *The purpose is to review all the risks and explore all possible measures to ensure their survival*



Overall process

- Adaptive management and monitoring
- Risk assessment
- Development of potential management options
- Consultation on draft TMP in early 2016 (6 weeks)
- Analysis of submissions
- Advice is provided to Ministers
- Ministers determine the management actions for the NZ sea lion 5 year TMP Plan
- Implementation, TMP Review in 2021



Purpose of this talk

- Share our thinking so far
- Discuss tools available
- Seeking additional ideas
- Welcome comments on feasibility
- Recognise constraints and dependencies
- The proposals in this presentation are DRAFT and open to comment



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Order of presentation

- Goals for options
- Range of options
- Regulatory tools available
- Overarching proposals
- Order of threats
- Potential options under consideration



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Goals for options

Management options should aim to;

- address all sea lion breeding sites
- focus on the major threats, and
- reduce uncertainty



Range of options

Management options can range from:

- Status Quo – recognising some management in place
- Further Research on threat mitigation
- Engagement and education actions*
- Voluntary actions
- Regulatory actions

*A number of initiatives already in place or if not are easy wins. We recommend these are strengthened, supported, or implemented as a matter of course



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Regulatory tools available

- **Marine Mammal Sanctuaries**
- Marine Mammal Protection Regulations
- Marine Reserves
- **Fisheries regulations (e.g. Gear restrictions)**
- Council bylaws
- RMA



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Marine mammal sanctuaries

- Under s22 Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- Sign-off by Min Conservation, requires Consent from Min Primary Industries and Min Transport
- Requires additional public consultation – 28 days
- Minister may specify the activities that may or may not be engaged in within the sanctuary, and may impose restrictions in respect of the sanctuary.



Fisheries legislation

S. 15 Fishing-related mortality of marine mammals or other wildlife

(2) In the absence of a PMP, the Ministers may take measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the effect of fishing-related mortality on any protected species, and such measures may include setting a limit on fishing-related mortality.



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Overarching proposals

- Two national initiatives proposed
 - National Engagement Campaign with targeted local campaigns
 - Establish a Sea Lion Research and Monitoring forum (Research Advisory Group)



Order of major threats

- Ordered as resulting from the Risk Assessment
- Noting the applicable breeding locations
 - Disease (All)
 - Fishing (AI, CI)
 - Trophic effects (All)
 - Pups drowning in holes (AI, CI)
 - Male aggression (All, ML*)
 - Entanglement (All, ML*)
 - Other human interactions (SI, ML)**



Disease (All)

Propose doing – recognising constraints and dependencies

- Intensive research programme – guided through research advisory group
- Strict enforcement of quarantine rules
- Potential actions coming from research



Fishing (AI, CI)

Consulting on mechanisms for mitigation

Regulatory mechanisms

- MMS/MR extensions
- Gear restrictions/further research

Non-regulatory mechanisms

- Review of operational plans
- Spatial or temporal shift of fishing activity

Additional Actions

- Observer coverage
- Further SLED research



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Trophic effects (All)

Propose doing – recognising constraints and dependencies

- Further research
- Potential actions from research



Pups drowning in holes (AI, CI)

Propose doing – recognising constraints and dependencies

- Expand '*Planks for Pups*' programme
- Direct rescues
- Site management
- Monitoring of effectiveness



Male Aggression (All, ML)

Propose doing – recognising constraints and dependencies

- Monitoring*
- Three strike rule**
- Sea lion sitters / community based volunteer programme
- Beach management → improving habitats for females to breed



Entanglement (All, ML)

Propose doing – recognising constraints and dependencies

- Improved entanglement release capacity (All)
- Rehabilitation center (ML)

This threat may occur at all locations though ability to respond will be limited at some locations



Human interactions (SI, ML) - 1

Consulting on mechanism for mitigation

Regulatory

- MMS (extensions/variations/new ones)
- MR (extension/new?)
- Moratorium under the MMPR
- Seasonal access conditions using pre-existing permitting processes
- Council bylaws



Human interactions (SI, ML) - 2

Consulting on mechanism for mitigation

Non-Regulatory

- Beach closures
- Beach management → improving sites for females to breed

Additional Actions

- addressed through engagement campaign