

## Timeline and Key Events

- **17 Aug:** First capture events - multiple of five animals, then a second single animal
- **19 Aug:** Observer re-identified captures as New Zealand sea lions (previously identified as New Zealand fur seals)
- **21 Aug:** Vessel redeployed to Pukaki. A second vessel arrived at Campbell Island grounds, caught two animals and released both alive.
- **21 Aug:** DWG talked to all operators in the SBW6I fishery and those about to enter and ensured SLEDs aboard all vessels (including transport of SLEDs to vessels already on the grounds) as contingency to their required use
- **22 Aug:** Daily reporting of position and captures/sightings instigated. Reports show large numbers of very aggressive sea lions feeding in close proximity to nets during hauling (reports of up to 60 animals)
- **22 Aug:** More captures lead to two vessels moving to eastern and then to southern grounds. Sea lions present in numbers and equally aggressive in these areas.
- **22-23 Aug:** Further vessels joined the fishery and further capture events (including another multiple capture event - 4 dead)
- **22-23 Aug:** Discussions with operators lead to decision to attempt to either distract or to satiate sea lions in attendance to vessels by deliberately feeding them with fish. This idea was dropped on advice of MPI and DOC regulations prohibit this activity without permits
- **24 Aug:** MPI observers and DWG alerted all vessels to take all precautions to reduce offal loss overboard from factory floors
- **29 Aug:** The SBW6I fleet was advised to cease making 'doors up' turns on concern that this may serve to increase the risk of capture, and reinforced the requirement to avoid unnecessary gear time in water
- **29 Aug:** DWG circulated net binding instructions to be implemented animals are present during shooting although, at this time, this is not seen as a high risk
- **29 Aug:** A SLED trial was arranged in consultation with operators and MPI. Explicit instructions were drafted including the need for trials to be undertaken with MPI observer knowledge and oversight and to be fully documented
- **29 Aug:** Following another capture, one vessel again moved to eastern grounds in search of sea lion free fishing. After 24 hours of trouble free fishing this vessel then captured two sea lions from another gathering congregation Subsequently the vessel moved back to the north to join the rest of the fleet
- **30 Aug:** MPI met with DOC and advised/discussed situation
- **31 Aug:** Two trial tows were undertaken using SLEDs and results provided to DWG and MPI. The trials were not problematic with one shot being 30 tonnes
- **1 Sep:** Last interactions to date occurred, including 2 on the eastern area, this vessel subsequently moved back to the northern area where the rest of fleet was operating (and has since)
- **2 Sep:** DWG circulated results of SLEDs to all operators along with instructions on SLED use for the SBW6I fishery. Commencement on SLED deployment, on voluntary basis, across a number of vessels in the fleet.
- **4 Sep:** After receiving advice from officials in MPI and DOC on this developing situation, the Ministers of Conservation and for Primary Industries wrote to DWG requesting confirmation that all vessels operating in the SBW6I fishery will commit to deploy SLEDs in all tows for the remainder of the 2013 season; asked that DWG continue to provide information to MPI on a daily basis; and asked DWG to make

# SUMMARY OF OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSES: NZSL CAPTURES IN SBW6I FISHERY

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further suggestions that may assist in reducing the risk of sea lion captures in this fishery

- **5 Sep:** DWG obtained agreement from all vessel operators and wrote to both Ministers to confirm that all vessel operators in the SBW6I fleet have agreed to participate in the trial use of SLEDs for the balance of this season and that other mitigation ideas are also being trialled
- **5-6 Sep:** All SBW6I vessel operators deploy SLEDs
- **9 Sep:** To date no further captures of NZSL in the SBW6I fishery, noting that the management measures prior to SLED deployment, and changes in NZSL behaviours lead to no captures between 31 Aug and 6 Sep, and thankfully this unprecedented spate of incidental capture events appears to have passed

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**George Clement**  
CEO