



# SEA LION RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SBW CAMPBELL 2014-15

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## REQUIRED

Full use of SLEDs at Campbell for sea lion risk mitigation. If your SLED's were used in the SQU6T fishery, please have them re-certified as per SQU6T specifications at Motueka Nets or Hampidjan (copy's will be sent to DWG and MPI) Ensure your sail with a minimum of (2) certified SLED's on board (or 3) if you have them. Essentially treat this process as the same as SQU6T (as the stakes and requirements are just as high). If you had a SLED checked for SQU 6T but never deployed it this season please advise us and just resupply the SLED-Check, certificate.

Confusion last season Identifying large fur seals and juvenile sea lions (by crew and observers) lead to delays in appropriate response after each capture event. It's important we can rapidly and confidently identify any animals caught. MPI observers are not able to plug their cameras into your communications system and send pictures. Hence please all ensure you have a digital camera on board to photo any animal caught.

### Key Marine Mammal Identification Characteristics:

- Fur seals: Sharp pointed nose, very long whiskers usually reaching back to ears, dense brown fur.
- Sea lions: Blunt, dog-like nose, short whiskers that do not reach ears, short hair, not fur.

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## VESSEL: SEA LION MONITORING & RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

- Deploy a netshed certified SLED for all Campbell tows: and carry at least one spare onboard.
  - Advise DWG, ASAP if/when the SLED is damaged and changed over with your spare SLED
- Daily (midnight to midnight) reporting: Send report containing date, number of tows completed, nil-capture or number of fur seals or sea lions captured to [admin@deepwatergroup.org](mailto:admin@deepwatergroup.org) by 10:00 hrs each following morning
- Carry a digital camera, and take 2 clear photos of every dead mammal: (fur seal and sea lion) and email photo to DWG. Do not return any animal to the sea without taking 2 photos as below:
  - The whole animal and a close up of its head (**side profile so we can see whiskers & ears**)
- Reduce the time gear is on the surface to an **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM** and not shoot the gear when large numbers of animals are surrounding the vessel.
- Manage offal discharge as it may help reduce the number of marine mammals (and certainly seabirds) that are attracted to the vessel (it may be that livers and roe lost overboard from the processing deck are particularly attractive). It is paramount that all vessels continue to closely follow the offal management procedures detailed in their VMPs.
  - If or when offal is discharged and birds present in the warp danger zone; deploy secondary mitigation to reduce risk of warp captures.
- Soaking the catch may increase risk as sea lions can dive to 500 metres. Any practice or incident which results in increased time the gear is in the water or on the surface will generally increase risk
- Reducing full 180° turns back through the fish mark will reduce risk
- Immediate reporting of all NZ sea lion captures to DWG is critical (trigger limit report – each and every sea lion reported ASAP (within 24 hrs)
  - Send ID photos of every sea lion and fur seal

If you have any questions please contact Richard Wells or John Cleal.

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