



## MEMO TO VESSEL OPERATORS AND SKIPPERS:

# SEA LION RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

## SBW CAMPBELL 2015-16

### REQUIRED

Full use of SLEDs is required at Campbell Islands for sea lion risk mitigation as per the MPI Operational Plan 2015. If your SLED's were used in the SQU6T fishery, please have them re-certified at Motueka Nets or Hampidjan (copies will be sent to DWG and MPI). Ensure you sail with a minimum of (2) certified SLED's on board (or 3) if you have them. Treat this process as the same as SQU6T (as the need and requirements are same). If you had a SLED checked for SQU 6T but never deployed it this season please advise us and resupply the SLED-Check certificate.

Correct identification of large fur seals and juvenile sea lions (by crew and observers) prevents delays in appropriate responses 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, so please ensure each vessel has a digital camera on board to photo any animal caught.

### VESSEL: SEA LION RISK REDUCTION and MONITORING MEASURES

- Deploy a netshed certified SLED for all Campbell tows: and carry at least one spare onboard.
  - Advise DWG, immediately when a SLED is damaged and changed over with your spare SLED
- Daily (midnight to midnight) reporting: Send report containing date, SLED use (yes/no) and marine mammal capture (yes/no) 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 animal: (fur seal and sea lion) and email photo on request to DWG. Do not return any animal to the sea before taking 2 clear photos as below:
  - The whole animal; and a clear close up of its head (**side profile so we can see whiskers & ears**)
  - Mark animal with twine etc as per MMOP
- Reduce the time gear is on the surface to an **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM** and do 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 (livers and roe lost overboard from the processing deck are particularly attractive and observed to attract sea lions). It is paramount that all vessels continue to closely follow the offal management procedures detailed in their VMOPs.
  - If or when offal is discharged and birds are present in the warp danger zone; deploy secondly mitigation to reduce risk of warp captures.
- Soaking the catch will 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 increase risk
- Ceasing 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)
  - Send ID photos of every sea lion and fur seal

#### Key fur seal and sea lion identification characteristics also see your MMOP:

- 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.

If you have any questions please contact Richard Wells [richard@resourcewise.co.nz](mailto:richard@resourcewise.co.nz) or John Cleal [john.fvms@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.fvms@xtra.co.nz)