TEN GOLDEN RULES

FOR NON-FISH AND PROTECTED SPECIES CATCH REPORTING

1. Fisheries regulations require reporting of ALL non-fish and protected species (see back) captures, i.e. it is an offence to fail to report – all permit-holders and skippers must know the law.

2. This means non fish or protected species that are brought aboard and are unable to move freely (entangled or held) and leave any part of the fishing gear (which includes for e.g. tori lines and paravanes).

3. Deck strikes (seabirds injured or dead from colliding with the vessel) as well as any alive and released animals must also be reported.

4. Instructions for electronic reporting can be seen here:
https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/32428/send

5. Vessels using paper catch effort logbooks are required by law to also have a Non-Fish Protected Species Catch Return on board (instructions are in this logbook and regulations on the back of this page).

6. Government observers file their own reports on protected species capture events but this does NOT mean the vessel's obligation to report has been removed.

7. If unsure of the species name use the generic codes provided.

8. Treat all animals with respect and care (dead or alive).

9. Return all non-fish and protected species to the sea promptly and carefully unless required by a Government observer to retain.

10. Unauthorised retention or any further interference with protected species is an offence under the Wildlife Act.

Protected species in New Zealand waters include

- All seabirds
- All marine mammals – e.g. whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions
- Turtles
- Most coral species – black, gorgonian, stony and hydrocorals
- Great white, whale, oceanic whitetip, basking and deepwater nurse sharks
- Manta rays and spine tailed devil rays
- Giant and spotted black grouper

Non-fish species examples

- Sponges
- Bryozoans
- Any other corals

Excerpt only from 2001 Reporting Regulations:

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11E Non-fish and protected species catch return

(1) A permit holder who takes non-fish species or protected fish species listed in Parts 2A, 2B, or 2C of Schedule 3, whether alive or dead, or on whose behalf non-fish species or protected fish species are taken, whether alive or dead, must complete and provide to the chief executive non-fish and protected species catch returns.

(2) The permit holder must—

    (a) complete a return for each fishing trip on which a non-fish species or protected fish species is taken; and

    (b) complete a row of non-fish or protected fish species catch information in section 3 of the return as soon as it becomes evident that a non-fish or protected fish species has been taken; and

    (c) complete, as soon as the first row in section 3 of the non-fish and protected species catch return has been completed,—

        (i) section 4 of the return; and

        (ii) the permit holder and vessel details in section 5 of the return; and

    (d) sign and date the return after all fishing reported on the return has been completed; and

    (e) provide the return to the chief executive no later than the due date for the return that reports the effort during which the non-fish species or protected fish species was taken.

(3) The permit holder must use the relevant species code listed in Part 2C of Schedule 3 to report protected fish species.

(4) The permit holder must use the relevant species code listed in Part 2A of Schedule 3 to report non-fish species unless they cannot identify the species, in which case they must use the most appropriate species group code from Part 2B of Schedule 3.

(5) If a permit holder finds a tag from a marine turtle, the tag number must be reported to the chief executive in the manner specified by the chief executive in relation to the non-fish and protected species catch return.

(6) A person contravenes this subclause if the person provides a non-fish and protected species catch return after the date it is due, but not more than 1 calendar month after that date.

(7) A person contravenes this subclause if the person provides or fails to provide a non-fish and protected species catch return more than 1 calendar month after the date it is due.

Regulation 11E: inserted, on 1 October 2008, by regulation 7 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SR 2008/28).