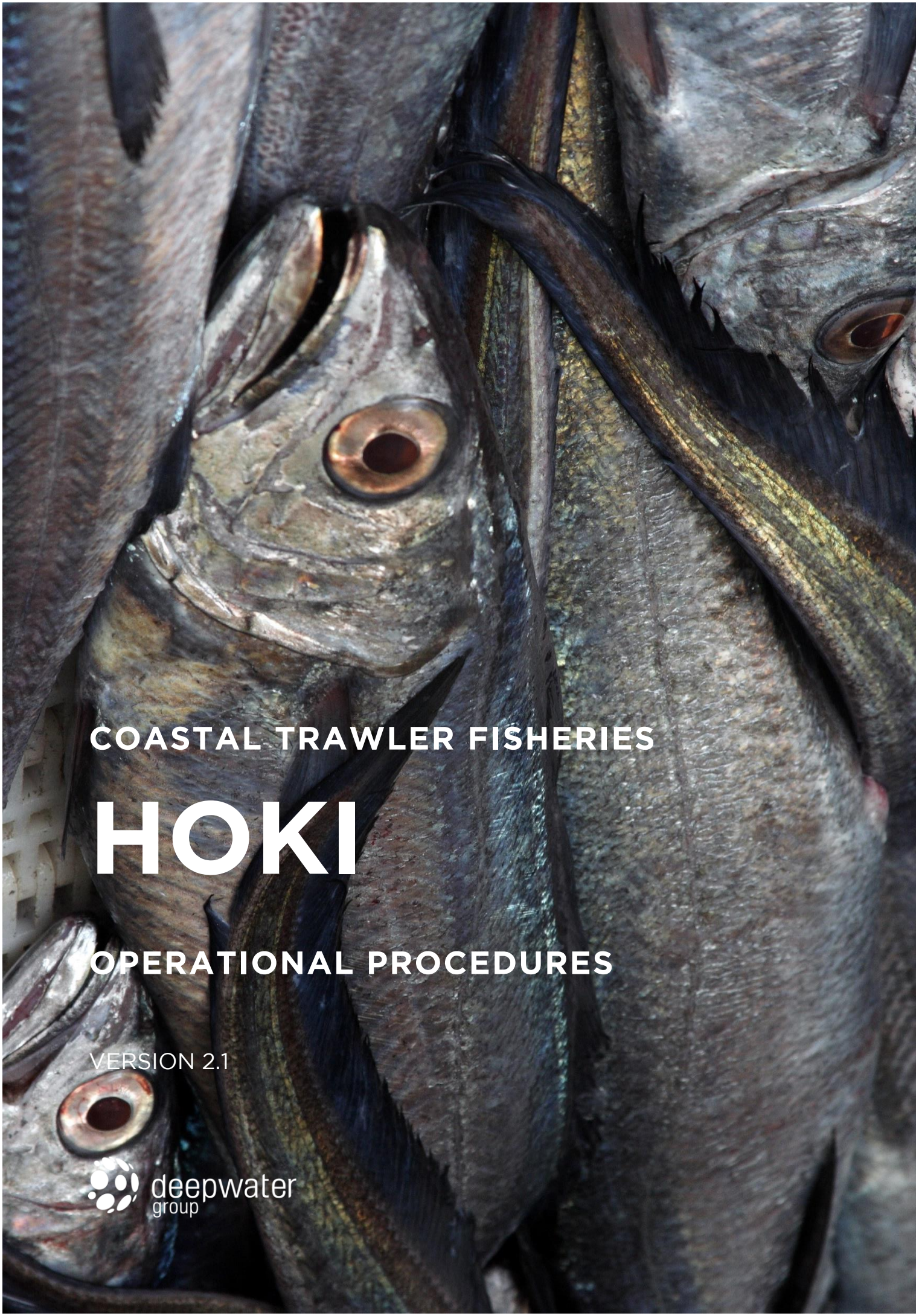

COASTAL TRAWLER FISHERIES

HOKI

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

VERSION 2.1

deepwater group

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide information to companies (vessel skippers, crew and operators**,** quota owners and Licensed Fish Receivers) involved in the West Coast and Cook Strait coastal trawler hoki fisheries.

This document has been prepared by Deepwater Group Ltd (DWG), on behalf of quota owners, to outline requirements to manage the risks when fishing for hoki in these areas.

Fur seal and seabird risk

The coastal hoki fishery attracts New Zealand fur seals and to a lesser extent seabirds, which feed around the vessels.

Cook Strait is the highest risk area for fur seal captures. The West Coast fishery also interacts with fur seals, but to a lesser extent, and has more seabird interactions due to more seabirds in the area and the potential for more offal discharge (e.g. ling).

It is important to manage these risks when fishing for hoki in these areas.

Both fisheries are very important with significant tonnages of hoki caught by the coastal fleet on a seasonal basis. Managing these environmental risks is important for the sustainability of the fishery.

Figure 1: Hoki vessels at Picton wharf

Bulk fishery

The coastal hoki fishery is a bulk (high volume) fishery with vessels usually targeting dense fish marks and taking large catches in a short tow time.

This requires excellent seamanship, fishing skills and practices to ensure careful management of catch size and subsequent catch handling, given the known safe working limits for vessel and crew in sometimes difficult conditions.

Fishing operations and tow times through the fish mark must be carefully managed to ensure you do not catch beyond the capability of the gear and vessel.

Catch monitoring systems

Your ability to judge the density of the mark on the sounder and the amount of time you will tow through the mark to ensure the required catch volume, are dependent on two important factors:

- The experience level of the skipper and his knowledge of the fishery and area
- The catch monitoring equipment used on the fishing gear to improve the level of information available to the skipper throughout the tow (e.g. net headline monitor and codend catch sensors). It is also important to have an echo-sounder capable of good mark recognition and description.

DWG recommends the use of catch control and monitoring systems in all hoki fisheries to reduce the potential issues with using a window (see below). This also improves fish quality, reduces potential for gear damage and loss, minimises need of transhipments of excess fish, reduces tow times and therefore improves fishing and energy efficiencies, as well as reduces the safety risks associated with catch volumes that may exceed the capabilities of the gear or vessel. Nearly all coastal vessels and all deepwater vessels now have headline monitors and catch sensors.

Windows

Windows are used in the fishery as a vessel and gear safety measure. If the skipper misjudges the density of the fish mark, or the time the trawl is in the mark, the window mitigates the significant risk to vessel, gear and crew.

However, windows are **not** to be used as a way of allowing for poor fishing practice, judgement and seamanship. They are merely an insurance against mishaps or events where catches cannot be controlled despite best efforts.

Any fish seen lost must always be reported in the vessel's Electronic Reporting System (ERS) under code 'A' (accidental loss). You must read and understand the reporting regulations.

A window is considered a recognised safety measure in some bulk fisheries, but it is not to be used as a volume control measure. "Stitched" windows are considered illegal and are not recommended.

Fisheries New Zealand approval to transfer fish

On occasion a vessel may bring aboard hoki volumes exceeding its fish hold capacity. In order to tranship excess fish to another vessel, each vessel requires a transhipment permit from Fisheries New Zealand (Approval to Tranship Fish under Section 110 of Fisheries Act 1996 - see Appendix 3).

Operators intending to fish the Cook Strait fishery must receive a permit prior to the commencement of the season. This permit must list each registered vessel that may receive or tranship fish. Applications can be emailed to Fisheries New Zealand Deepwater Team: deepwater.team@mpi.govt.nz

Once the vessel has a transhipment permit, no prior notification is needed to tranship fish.

Transhipment details must be entered in the Catch Landing Return (CLR) form. The vessel that caught and transhipped the fish should report the amount under destination code "T" (that amount does not go on the subsequent Monthly Harvest Return) and the vessel that received the fish reports it under code "L" as normal.

PART 2: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Hoki Management Areas (HMAs)

HMAs are areas where there are high abundances of juvenile hoki (<55 cm in total length). DWG quota owners have agreed to manage and monitor effort within HMAs to protect juvenile hoki.

All operators and vessels are required to monitor catches of hoki across the entire HOK 1 QMA (not just within the HMAs) and, as a matter of principle, all vessels must move from any area where catches of juvenile hoki (<55 cm) comprise 20% or more of the hoki catch by number.

Trawlers >28 m LOA are not permitted to target hoki inside any of the HMAs. The Cook Strait HMA is the only HMA within the coastal hoki fishery area (Figure 2). There are other HMAs for the deepwater hoki fishery, as specified in the DWG Hoki Operational Procedures.

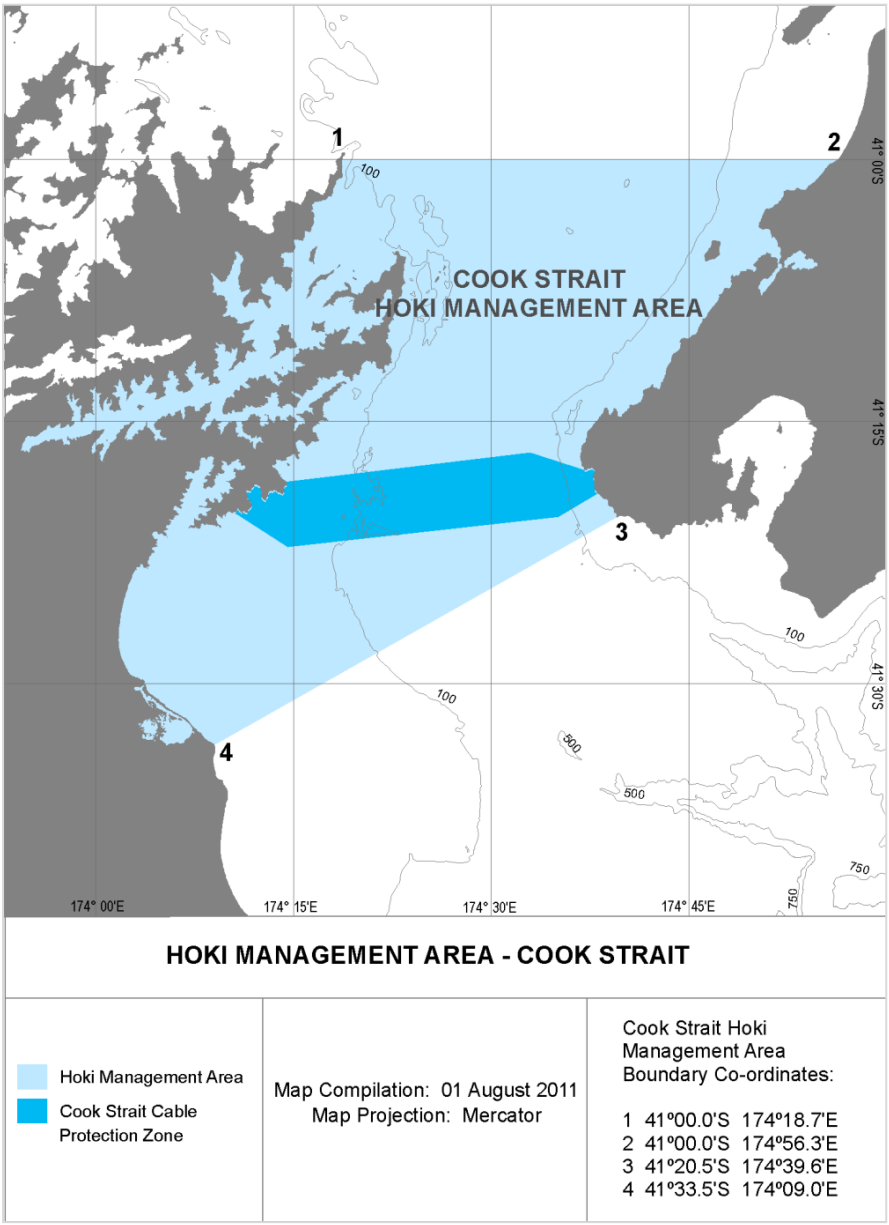

Figure 2: Cook Strait HMA

Hoki Spawn Season Areas (HSSAs) – Closed Area Periods

HSSA closures are to give hoki a period of undisturbed spawning. These areas were developed and agreed by DWG quota owners. While not required by law, DWG quota owners agree to require their vessels and ACE users to adhere to these.

Fishing in HSSAs

No trawler, regardless of size, shall target hoki within the four designated areas (co-ordinates and maps Appendix 1) during the time periods, as set out below:

- **West Coast inside the 25 nm closure:** between 0000 hrs 18 July and 2400 hrs 24 July (noting trawlers >46 m LOA are already prohibited from fishing within this area by regulation)
- **West Coast outside of the 25 nm closure**, shallower than 800 m, between Kahurangi Point in the north and the boundary between FMAs 5 and 7 in the south: between 0000 hrs 25 July and 2400 hrs 31 July
- **Cook Strait:** Entire fishery between 0000 hrs 1 August and 2400 hrs 7 August (noting trawlers >46 m LOA are already prohibited from fishing within this area by regulation)
- **Pegasus**: Within the designated areas between 0000 hrs 1 September and 2400 hrs 7 September.

Cook Strait Submarine Protection Zone

The Cook Strait Submarine Protection Zone (CPZ) protects vital submarine electrical and telecommunication cable links between the North and South Islands (see Appendix 2 for map).

There are severe restrictions on activities that can be carried out within the CPZ under the Submarine Cables and Pipeline Protections Act 1996. To deter illegal activity there are severe penalties in the form of fines and forfeiture of vessels for violations of the Act. All fishing vessels fishing in the Cook Strait hoki fishery should have the CPZ co-ordinates on the fishing plotter and allow a buffer zone to keep clear of this area when fishing or anchoring.

Transpower operates sea and air patrols within the CPZ. Ken Bedford, marine patrol manager (phone 027 477 0744), coastal patrol vessel MV Seapatroller (phone 027 444 2288).

New Zealand fur seal capture mitigation (Cook Strait)

The Cook Strait hoki fishery attracts New Zealand fur seals which feed around the vessels, particularly while nets are near the surface during hauling and shooting. As a result, the fishery has the highest estimated number of fur seal captures of any New Zealand fishery.

Fur seals are known to migrate long distances to reach plentiful food sources from such fisheries. These provide ample opportunities to access food by scavenging fish from the net and codend.

Average captures per season for Cook Strait hoki season in recent years

- 50 to 80 New Zealand fur seal captures reported to Fisheries New Zealand by vessels
- Around 5% to 10% of tows are observed by Fisheries New Zealand each hoki season.

Capture reports should be made via the MPI Non-Fish Protected Species part of the daily ERS report and if a trigger point is reached, the DWG Environmental Liaison Officer should also be notified (see Part 4: Reporting – When Captures Occur).

Seabird capture mitigation

The coastal hoki fishery is of relatively low risk to seabirds. This is because the catch is landed whole, little processing of bycatch occurs, and seabird numbers are lower in winter.

All coastal vessels are <28 m LOA. which unlike vessels >28 m are not required by law to carry and use seabird scaring devices. However, DWG and hoki quota owners require that all hoki vessels <28 m LOA have Protected Species Risk Management Plans (PSRMP) on board.

The PSRMP is a one-page document outlining information on:

- The vessel including a photo
- Vessel-specific seabird risks
- Vessel's offal control system
- Vessel's seabird mitigation devices including a photo of the actual warp mitigation on board.

PSRMPs are now onboard all the fresh fish hoki fleet of <28 m vessels. These plans are a much simpler version of the deepwater trawlers' VMPs, but retain the basic management procedures:

Offal control

No continuous discharge of fish waste while towing, hold for the tow or batch at intervals.

Warp mitigation

If you discharge fish waste into the path of the warp and birds are present in the 'warp danger zone', deploy a warp mitigation device.

Risk awareness, reduction & reporting

Follow your vessels PSRMP and deploy seabird mitigation to reduce capture risk. In the event of multiple captures know the DWG Trigger Points, and report to the DWG Liaison Officer (same day) and complete the required Fisheries New Zealand reports (see Part 4: Reporting – When Captures Occur).

PART 3: ANIMAL HANDLING / RELEASE AND CREW SAFETY

The following outlines what to do if a marine mammal or seabird capture occurs.

Animal welfare

- All practical care should be taken to release animals alive while maintaining the safety of the crew.
- Handle all captures with care to minimise harm to the animal and to increase their survivability.
- **Deliberately harassing or harming the captured animal is an offence.**

- **Taking any part and keeping it or cutting or mutilating the body of a protected species is an offence.**

The above applies to ALL protected species.

Health and safety when handling animals (dead or alive)

Crew and vessel safety are paramount. Animals can be dangerous, particularly when stressed, and carry infectious diseases that can infect humans. Handling marine mammals should always be kept to a minimum and should only occur when needed.

When attending to animals landed on deck the following steps should be followed to ensure crew safety:

- Whenever handling animals, wear waterproof gloves and waterproof protective clothing (refer examples shown below).
- Where possible, avoid direct contact with blood, urine, faeces and other body fluids. It is also important to avoid the animal's mouth as this is a major source of disease. Take special care when marking a dead animal.
- If bitten or grazed by an animal, wash and disinfect the wound immediately, apply betadine/antiseptic ointment and cover the wound. This minimises the risk of painful infections caused by bacteria carried by some animals.
- After handling any animal, wash your hands and forearms with antibacterial soap and hose down your protective clothing.

Marking and returning marine mammals

Any dead marine mammal returned to the sea must be marked with twine. The purpose of this is to avoid the same animal being counted twice should the body be caught again. (This can and does happen especially on other fishing grounds but is much less likely in Cook Strait).

When marking a dead fur seal ensure either a cable tie or twine is fixed firmly behind the lower or upper jaw canine teeth prior to returning to the sea.

Figure 3: Marking dead fur seal jaw with either twine or cable tie

PART 4: REPORTING - WHEN CAPTURES OCCUR

DWG reporting requirements

Trigger points and vessel action

Once a DWG trigger point is reached, the vessel captain will notify their vessel manager and DWG within 24 hours. The situation is then monitored more closely by DWG, the vessel manager and the captain, and steps are taken to mitigate the risk of further captures.

Trigger points help the crew to assess capture risks and how to minimise these in the future. The crew is required to assess why the captures occurred and take responsive actions to mitigate future risks including where necessary deploying additional mitigation devices.

DWG trigger points

For vessels <28 m (deepwater vessels >28 m also have trigger points):

- 2 fur seals (dead or released alive) in a single trip
- 3 seabirds (dead of released alive) in a single trip

Most often a coastal hoki trip is just one or two days' fishing.

Trigger reports

Report all DWG trigger point breaches in real time (within 24 hours) to admin@deepwatergroup.org. Note these emails are automatically forwarded to DWG Environmental Liaison Officer (ELO), John Cleal, and to Richard Wells. The ELO will follow up to provide support and may seek additional information.

DWG CONTACTS (AVAILABLE 24/7)	PHONE	EMAIL
DWG (email auto-forwards to John & Richard)		admin@deepwatergroup.org
John Cleal (ELO)	021 305 825	admin@deepwatergroup.org
Richard Wells	021 457 123	admin@deepwatergroup.org

Fisheries New Zealand mandatory reporting requirements

The following outlines how to report to Fisheries New Zealand.

It is not illegal to accidentally capture protected species while commercially fishing **but it is illegal to fail to report the capture.**

As required by Fisheries Regulations, all protected species landed dead or alive (then returned to the sea) must be recorded via the Fisheries New Zealand Electronic Reporting System (ERS).

Capture reports should be made via the Non-Fish Protected Species part of the daily ERS report and if a trigger point is reached also to the DWG ELO (as instructed above).

Always know and meet your legal requirements.

Animal Welfare

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, it is illegal to harass, kill or deliberately catch any marine mammal. However, in commercial fisheries any incidental capture is not illegal provided the incident is reported.

Any vessel capturing a fur seal should return all animals to the sea as soon as possible (unless in the unlikely event an MPI observer says to keep it).

Seabird identification codes

Unless you can positively identify the seabird species, use the generic/unidentified codes listed here:

XAL - Albatrosses (unidentified) i.e. big birds

XXP - Petrels, prion's and shearwaters (unidentified) i.e. small birds

Marine mammal 'common' identification codes

SEA - Unidentified seals

WHT - Unidentified, whale or dolphin

FUR - Fur seal

CDD - Common dolphin

Accurate reporting of all mortalities is the best approach. Having accurate information regarding captures helps better understand and manage the process which in turn helps get the most appropriate risk mitigation measures in place.

Note: The ERS system has fields to allow reporting of leg band or flipper tag numbers found on a captured animal. This information is highly valued so please always record and report.

See Appendix 5 for the 10 Golden Rules for Non-Fish Protected Species Catch Reporting, which can be printed and displayed for a quick reminder.

APPENDIX 1: HOKI SEASONAL SPAWN AREAS CLOSED AREA PERIODS

Cook Strait HSSA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HSSA.

The Cook Strait HSSA is encompassed by:

- The northern boundary of the Cook Strait HMA, defined as a line extending between 41º00'S, 174º18.7'E and 41º00'S, 174º56.3'E and (i.e. points 1 and 2 in Figure 4)
- The southern boundary defined as a line extending between Cape Campbell light at 41º44'S, 174º16'E and Cape Palliser light at 41º37'S, 175º17'E (i.e. points 3 and 4 in Figure 4).

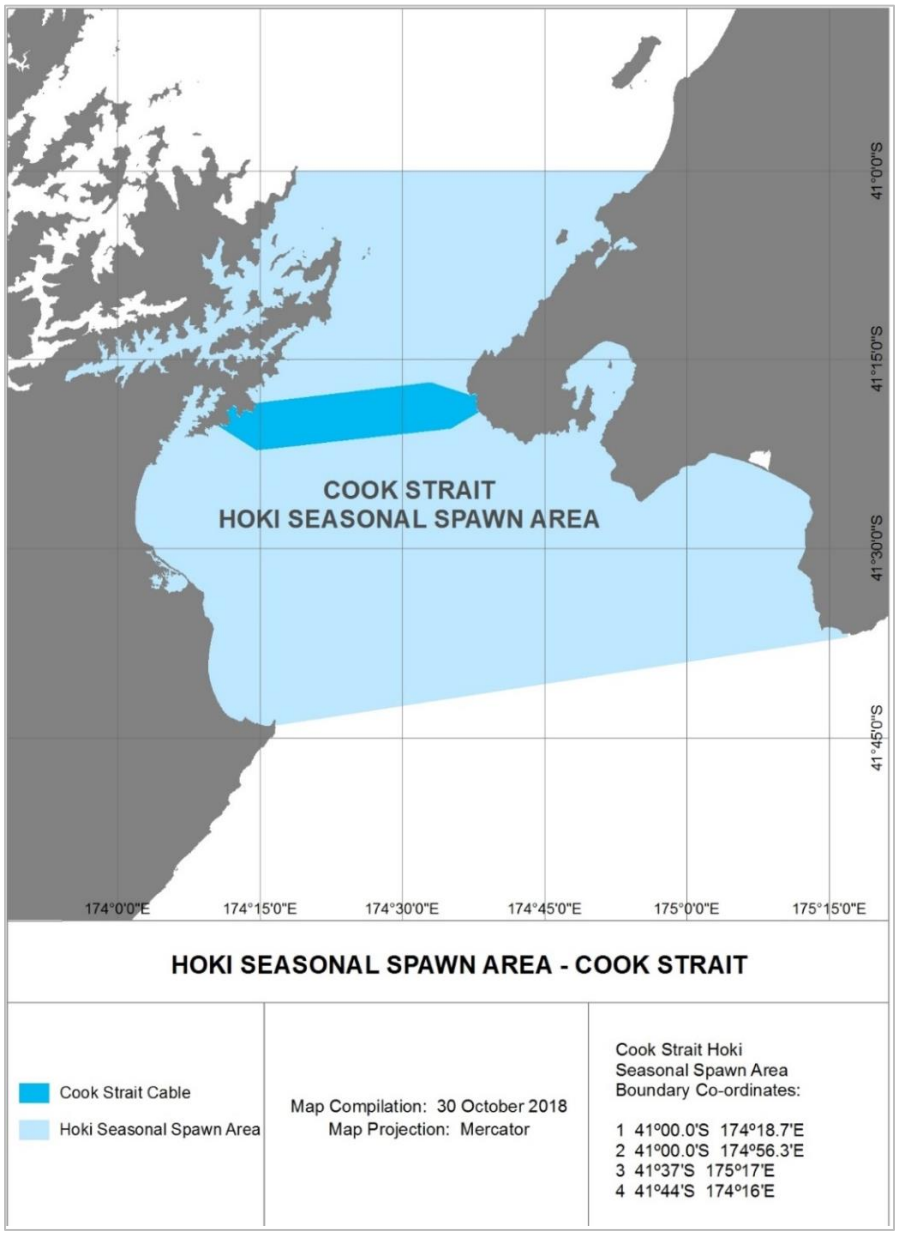

Figure 4: Cook Strait HSSA

West Coast Outside the 25 nm Line HSSA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HSSA.

The West Coast Outside the 25 nm Line HSSA is encompassed by:

- The regulatory boundary for the 25 nm closure, and
- A line extending due west from Kahurangi Point light (40º47'S) to the intersection with the 800 m depth contour (i.e. points 3 and 4 in Figure 5), and
- The line designating the boundary between FMA 5 and FMA 7 from the coast to where it intersects the 800 m depth contour (i.e. points 1 and 2 in Figure 5), and
- The 800 m depth contour continuously between the two points of intersection with the northern and southern boundaries as defined above (i.e. points 2 and 3).

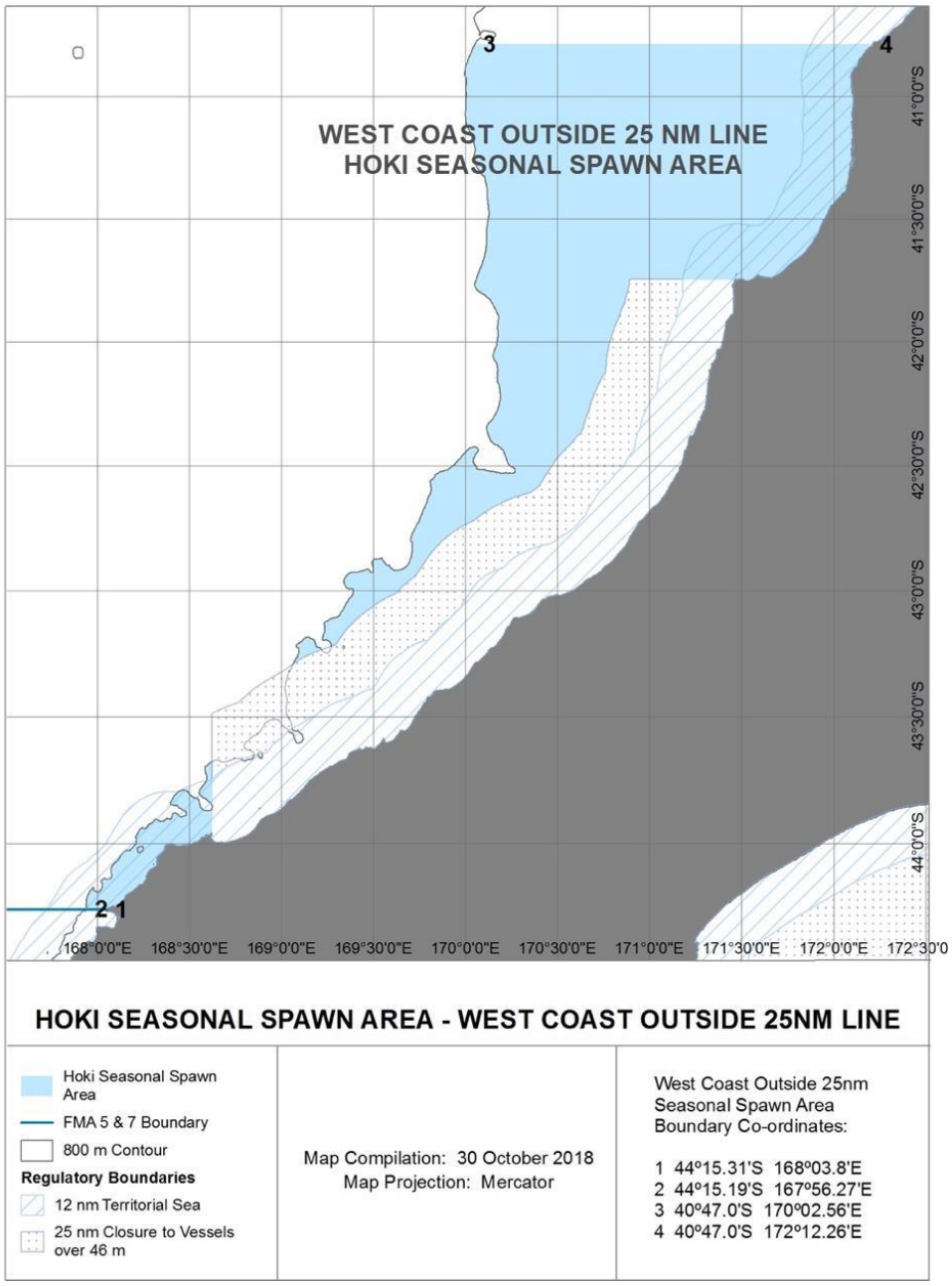

Figure 5: West Coast Outside the 25 nm Line HSSA

West Coast Inside the 25 nm Line HSSA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HSSA.

The West Coast inside the 25 nm Line HSSA is encompassed by:

- That area closed by regulation to trawlers >46 m LOA, as bounded
- In the west by 25 nm boundary, and
- In the north by a line extending due west from Cape Foulwind to the 25 nm line, and
- In the south by a line extending due north from Jackson Head to the 25 nm line.

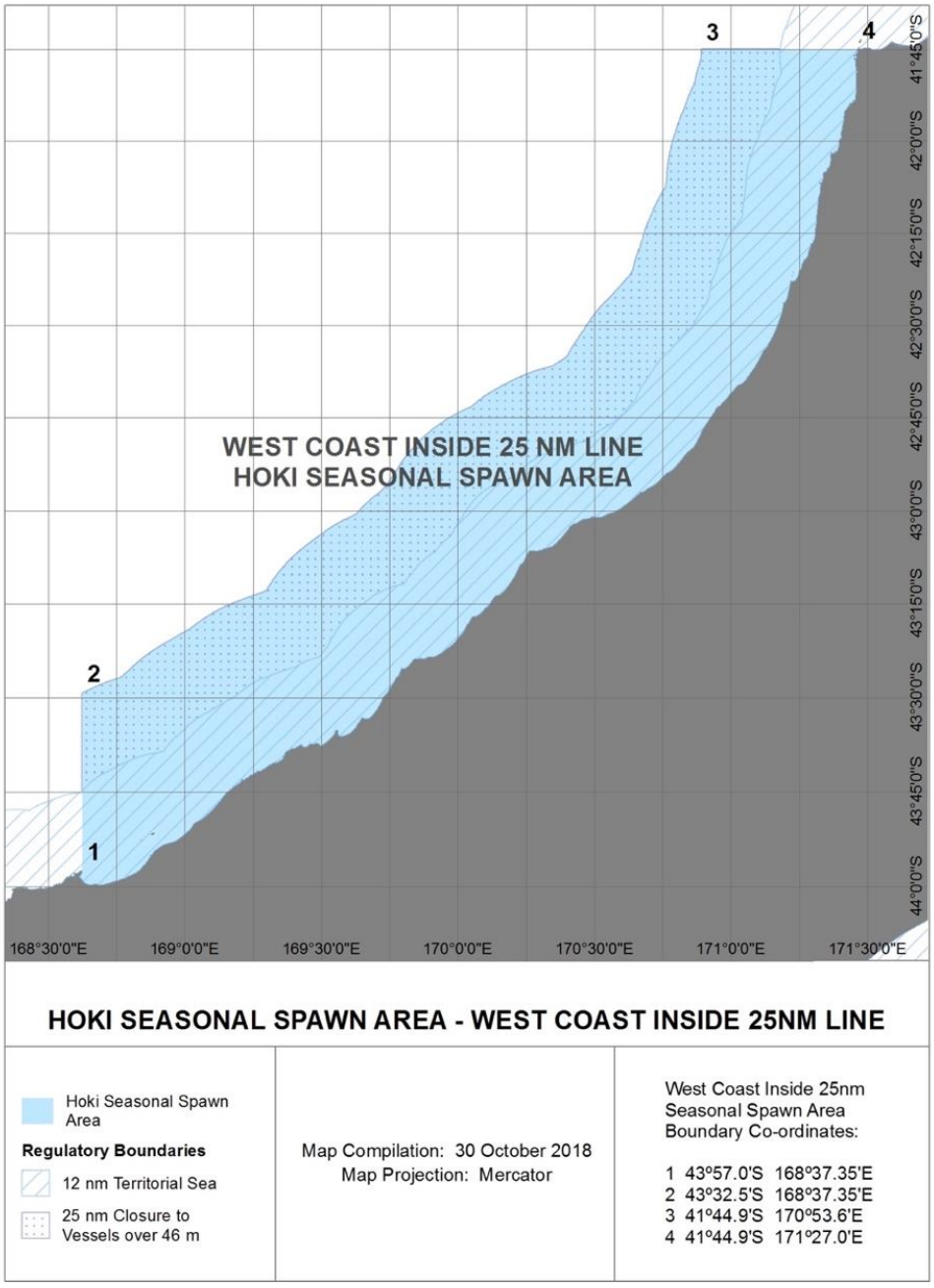

Figure 6: West Coast Inside the 25 nm Line HSSA

Pegasus HSSA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HSSA.

The Pegasus HSSA is encompassed by:

- 43º00’S 173º20’E / • 43º00’S 173º55’E / • 43º27’S 174º05.7’E / • 43º27’S 173º20’E

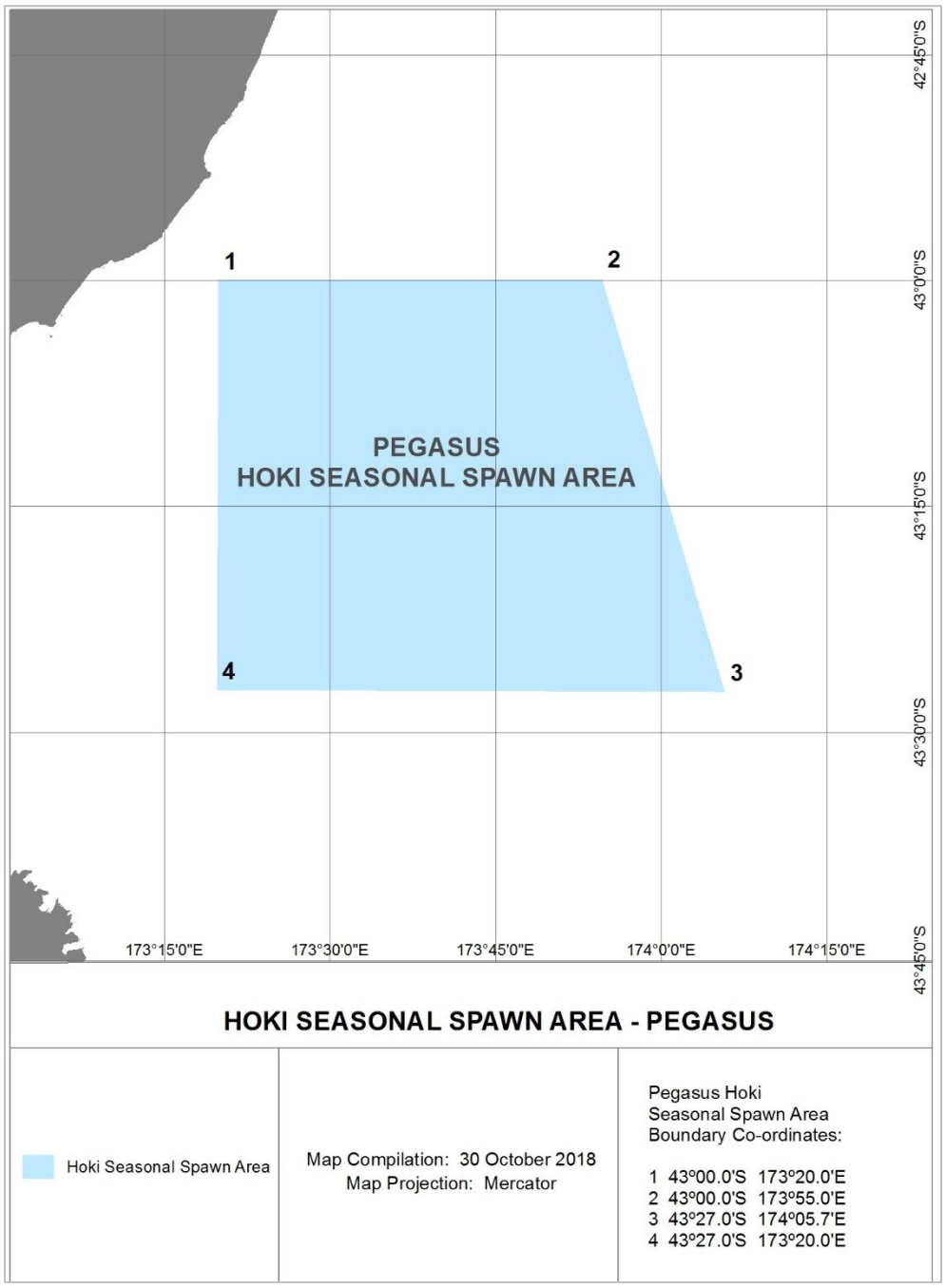

Figure 7: Pegasus HSSA

APPENDIX 2: COOK STRAIT SUBMARINE CABLE PROTECTION ZONE

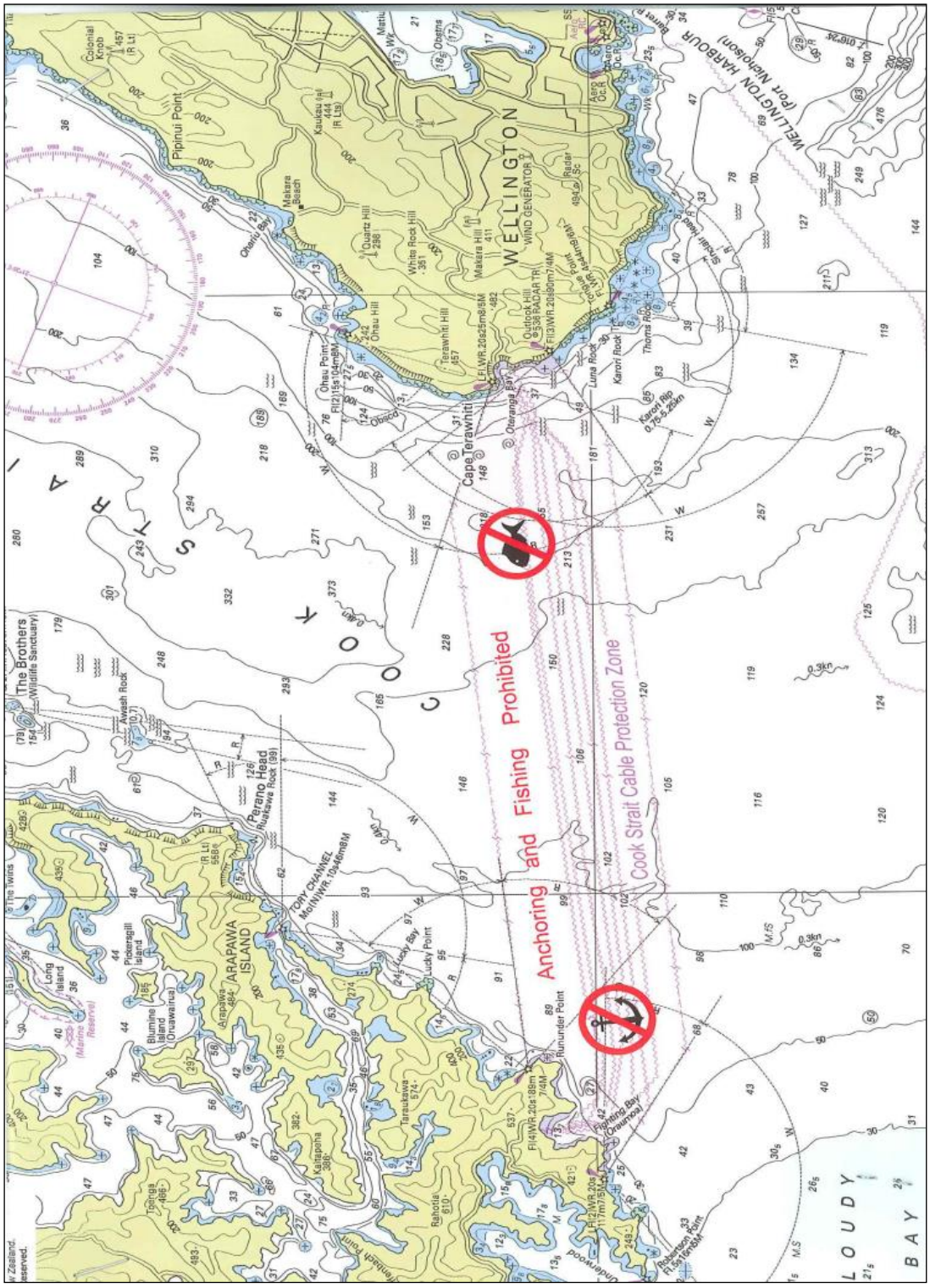

Figure 8: Map of Cook Strait Cable Protection Zone from Transpower NZ's 'Catch fish not cables' brochure

APPENDIX 3: APPROVAL TO TRANSHIP FISH

SAMPLE ONLY

Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

APPROVAL TO TRANSHIP FISH UNDER SECTION 110 OF FISHERIES ACT 1996

1. Pursuant to section 110 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act) I hereby authorise the operators of the vessels listed in Schedule 1 to tranship fish from one registered fishing vessel to another.

Term of approval

2. This approval is valid between the date of signature and 30 September 2019.

Defined area

3. This approval only applies to fishing vessels taking hoki in Cook Strait (fisheries statistical areas 16 and 17) and off the West Coast South Island (fisheries statistical areas 33, 34 and 35).

Reporting requirements

4. For the avoidance of doubt the requirements of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 still apply to any fish transhipped pursuant to this approval.
5. For vessels operating under the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017, the vessel that caught the transhipped fish must report that fish on a Landing Report under either landing code TL (catch balancing obligations lie with the vessel that caught the fish) or landing code TT (catch balancing obligations lie with the vessel that received the fish). In the case of the latter, the vessel that received the fish must also report it on a Landing Report and balance the catch with ACE.
6. For vessels operating under Schedule 1 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 (equivalent to the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001), the vessel that caught the transhipped fish must report that fish under the destination type code "T" when completing catch landing returns. The vessel that received the transhipped fish must report that fish under the destination type code "L" when completing catch landing returns.

Dated this day of 2019

Arthur Hore
Manager Offshore Fisheries

Acting pursuant to a delegation issued under section 41 of the State Sector Act 1998 – with delegation for section 110 of the Fisheries Act 1996

Fisheries New Zealand
Fisheries Management
Charles Fergusson Building, 24-38 Bowen Street
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

www.fisheries.govt.nz

APPENDIX 4: TEN COMMANDMENTS

TEN COMMANDMENTS

FOR FRESH FISH HOKI FISHERY

1. Do not target hoki in the Cook Strait Hoki Management Area. **Never fish/deploy gear in the Cook Strait Submarine Cable Protection NO GO Zone.**

2. A window is a legitimate vessel and gear safety tool, but not a best practice catch volume control tool. Stitched windows are considered illegal.

3. Net monitoring systems are strongly recommended and net headline monitors and catch sensors should be deployed, giving real-time catch information.

4. In Cook Strait, hoki vessels should have a MPI transhipment permit so that transhipping can be legally undertaken. Both vessels involved need a permit and must complete the required details as per reporting rules.

5. Avoid shooting the gear in the midst of large numbers of fur seals.

6. Minimise the time that gear is on or near the surface (shoot and haul the trawl as quickly as practicable) and avoid mending the trawl with gear in the water unless the head and ground-rope are on deck.

7. Avoid discharging offal or fish waste when towing. Always remove fish stickers from the net prior to shooting.

8. All coastal hoki vessels must have a Protected Species Risk Management Plan and deploy a seabird warp mitigation device when there is a risk of warp strikes.

9. Advise DWG (same day) when fur seal captures (dead or released alive) reach Trigger Point. Email DWG Trigger Point Report to admin@deepwatergroup.org. Assess event and implement further risk reduction measures. Trigger points are:
   - 2 fur seals (dead or released alive) in a single trip
   - 3 seabirds (dead or released alive) in a single trip

10. Mark any dead fur seals with a cable tie or twine tied around the jaw before returning it to the sea. As legally required, record all protected species captures in your vessel's Electronic Reporting System or on the Non-fish / Protected Species Catch Return.

deepwater group **For support phone John Cleal (021 305 825) or Richard Wells (021 457 123)**

APPENDIX 5: 10 GOLDEN RULES FOR NON-FISH PROTECTED SPECIES CATCH REPORTING

deepwater group

FISHERIES INSHORE NEW ZEALAND

TEN GOLDEN RULES

NON-FISH OR PROTECTED FISH SPECIES (NFPS) CATCH REPORTS

1. The Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 require reporting of **all** NFPS captures (dead or alive). It is an offence to fail to report.
2. All permit holders and skippers must know the law and be able to file an NFPS catch report using their vessel's Electronic Reporting system.
3. Fisheries New Zealand observers file their own NFPS catch reports, but this does NOT mean the vessel's obligation to report has been removed.
4. *Captures* means that the NFPS has become fixed, entangled, or trapped in such a way that it cannot move freely or free itself from any part of the fishing gear. (includes for example tori lines and paravanes)
5. *Deck strikes* means seabirds injured or dead from colliding with the vessel, or any that need crew assistance to leave the vessel because they are disoriented.
6. Treat all animals with respect and care (dead or alive).
7. Return all NFPS to the sea promptly and carefully unless required to be kept on board by a Fisheries New Zealand observer.
8. Unauthorised retention or any further interference with protected species is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953.
9. If unsure of the species name (NFPS code) use the generic codes provided.
10. E-logbook Users Instructions and Codes can be found here: https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/dmsdocument/37982-Fisheries-E-logbook-Users-Instructions-and-Codes-Circular-2019

Non-Fish or Protected Fish Species Catch Report - Summary Information

(from Fisheries New Zealand Electronic Catch and Position Reporting Guide July 2019)

You must complete an NFPS Catch Report if there is an interaction with the following by the vessel or gear during a trip:

- Birds;
- Marine mammals (e.g. New Zealand fur seal);
- Marine reptiles (e.g. turtles);
- Protect fish species (e.g. basking shark, great white shark, manta ray, black spotted grouper);
- Selected benthic organisms (corals, sponges, and bryozoans).

You will be prompted for more information about how the capture happened if a seabird is taken during trawling or surface or bottom longlining.

You must take care when choosing codes where there is a group option and a specific option so that you do not accidentally report an organism twice.

If there is more than one NFPS capture during an event, they will all be recorded on the same NFPS Catch Report.

The NFPS Report must be completed and provided at the same time as the Fish Catch Report, if it occurs as part of a fish catch event.

If the capture happens while you were not actually fishing (e.g. while steaming), the NFPS Catch Report will be a standalone report, i.e. it will not be linked to a Fish Catch Report and must be completed and provided to FishServe before the end of the day on which you became aware of the capture.

Online resources to assist you with NFPS identification

- The DOC website has material on coastal and deep water seabird species. Guides include MPI reporting codes and are available in multiple languages: doc.govt.nz/ our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/a-fishers-guide-to-new-zealand-seabirds/
- A fuller set of invertebrate NFPS material is available at: fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23020/AEBR_86.pdf.ashx
- A coral guide is available at: doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/fishing/coral-id-guide-updated.pdf

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