

MEMO

DWG Operational Procedures 2022-23 Update for Operational Managers and Vessels

To	Managers, Vessel Operators and Captains in DWG Deepwater Trawl Fleet
From	Ben Steele-Mortimer
Subject	Status DWG OPs and other Management Processes for 2022-23
Date	4 October 2022

Dear Managers, Vessel Operators, and Captains,

With the commencement of the new fishing year, this memo is to advise the status of the various processes undertaken on behalf of DWG Shareholders for improved management. All up to date Operational Procedures (OPs) can be found here: <https://deepwatergroup.org/newsresources/op-manual/>

Hoki

Shelving of HOK 1 ACE

The Minister has met our request for the HOK 1 TACC to remain at 110,000 t, acknowledging the co-management of the hoki fishery with HOK 1 quota-owners.

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to continue managing hoki stocks by:

- collectively holding hoki catches to 100,000 t (plus any uncaught ACE carried forward from 2021-22, according to either East or West) by shelving 10,000 t HOK 1 ACE
- reducing the West catch limit by 5,000 t (from 45,000 t to 40,000 t)
- reducing the East catch limit by 5,000 t (from 65,000 t to 60,000 t)

Hoki East/West Agreement

The Hoki E/W Agreement for 2022-23 is essentially unchanged from last year apart from acknowledging the above shelving process. It was circulated on 28 September with the usual associated documents to all quota owners and significant ACE holders for signature and authority of data use by FishServe. Please advise if you have not received this.

Hoki Operational Procedures (OP)

The Hoki OP (Version 18) remains current for 2022-23.

Vessel operators are reminded in particular of the two major principles and purposes of these OPs:

- Avoidance of juvenile hoki (< 55cm)
- Not targeting hoki inside Hoki Management Areas
- Hoki Seasonal Spawning Area (HSSA)

Please note that HSSA closures are currently under review. DWG will inform you whether there are changes to these measures after agreement from shareholders.

Coastal Hoki OP

The Coastal Hoki OP has been updated. The changes include:

- Additional material on warp mitigation,
- Updated Ten Commandments, and
- New contact as Ben Steele-Mortimer, replacing Richard Wells.

Orange Roughy and Oreo OP

These remain unchanged from last year with regard to catch limits and boundaries. The schedule of quota owners has been removed from the online versions of the OP.

Other DWG OPs

These OPs for trawlers over 28m LOA **remain unchanged**, and include:

- Marine Mammal OP
- Seabird OP
- Sharks OP
- Reporting OP

Benthic OP

In January 2022 DWG retracted the Benthic OP (version 1.2) due to errors in wording and conflation between ORH MSC requirements and general best practice. The ORH MSC requirements have been removed from the Benthic OP (2022-23) and wording corrected to avoid confusion.

- The main purpose of the OP is to ensure correct reporting and considered avoidance of catch of benthos (sponges, corals and bryozoans etc.)

Scampi OPs

The Scampi OP has been updated to include a section on benthic interactions, focusing on avoidance and reporting principles.

Ling Bottom Longline OPs

This OP remains unchanged and in place for 2022-23

Fleet Liaison

The ELO will be focussing on the jack mackerel and squid fleets over the next two months. Also, note the DWG OP app allows managers to access the latest and correct OPs etc from their mobile devices.

Vessels will continue to be supplied with hardcopy OPs in the near term. However, DWG intends to transition to a paperless system, where OPs will be accessed digitally on all deepwater vessels (>28m). You will be advised in due course how and when this will occur.

John Cleal and I (Ben Steele-Mortimer) are on watch for all things re DWG OPs. Please contact us if you have any concerns via email or phone or email admin@deepwatergroup.org.



Other Fisheries New Zealand processes 2022-23

SQU 6T

FNZ has recently made SLED use in SQU 6T a legal requirement. Other than this, all the requirements for managing risk to sea lions (FRML, reporting and notification) remain the same as per FNZ SQU 6T Operational Plan 2020-23.

If you have any queries, please let me know.

Kind regards,

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