



June 2023

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE HOKI & SBW FISHERIES**

The Ministry for Primary Industries has previously profiled the hoki and southern blue whiting fisheries, which has highlighted the following areas of compliance risk.

**ALL OPERATORS** are advised the Ministry will continue to monitor these fisheries to ensure that the level of compliance achieved in recent years has not slipped and expects that all improvements that have been made to date remain in place.

Final landed declaration of greenweight must be based on a robust method of determining actual nett weight of fish, not nominal carton weights.

Deductions for glaze applied must be based on actual use of, and verifiable calculation of, average glaze weight. Testing regimes must be documented and recorded to be in use.

If QMS fish is accidentally lost from the trawl this must be declared as a best estimate against code **A** in Disposal Reports. This code does not allow discarding of unwanted fish, e.g. small or damaged.

Discarding of QMS species, except those listed on the [Fisheries \(Landing and Discard Exceptions Notice](#) (formerly Schedule 6), is prohibited and can only be authorised by a Fisheries New Zealand Observer or Fishery Officer and must be accurately reported on Disposal Reports against code **J**. Where this is not possible, ALL small and damaged QMS species must be frozen (whole or processed to a prescribed product state) or recorded by weight before meal, and accurately declared.

Ensure that processing specifications meet state definition requirements and that cuts are consistent with states described in the [Fisheries \(Conversion Factors\) Notice 2014](#). Vessels must have processes in place to monitor adherence to state definitions, and fish not meeting a definition must be reported differently (next state up) or meal and quantified appropriately.

Vessels producing meal must ensure they have a robust system for reporting all whole/damaged or badly cut fish to meal.

Procedures need to be in place to minimise damage to hoki, including on-board practises and handling techniques, as well as fishing strategies.

Product packed should reasonably meet processing and grading specifications, e.g. S grade packs must contain S grade fish, B grade packs must contain B grade product.

Captains should refresh their knowledge of all species, both QMS and non-QMS, to ensure accurate reporting, particularly of shark species. QMS species codes are listed

[here](#) while non-QMS codes are available [here](#). A guide to species caught by bottom, midwater and surface fishing is available [here](#).

All non-fish and protected species captures must be reported by the vessel - even if an observer is on board.

### Other matters

Operators must ensure that all spatially based regulatory restrictions (i.e. closed or prohibited areas), conditions, or regulations together with all non-regulatory measures, are adhered to. This includes all on-board plotting systems incorporating the most up to date coordinates and boundaries, and ensuring vessel operator and senior crew awareness **of all such areas**. MPI's spatial data and information is available to download [here](#).

Operators should ensure that large sharks can be removed from a vessel in a safe and humane way. This requires carrying the appropriate equipment and ensuring crew are trained to know what to do in the eventuality of a large animal being captured. Refer to the [DWG Shark Operational Procedures](#) for more details.

Electronic reporting (ER) has been in place for all vessels since 2019. If all information is completed as intended, good quality information will be available to Fisheries New Zealand and research providers. Aspects of ER that Fisheries New Zealand wishes to remind operators of the ongoing need to be aware of include:

- Ensuring that NFPS and Disposal Reports are populated, if required, with the link to the corresponding Fish Catch Report.
- Adding comments that can provide additional context to any report. For example, comments on any seabird or marine mammal captures. reported on NFPS reports are appreciated by Fisheries New Zealand
- Use of the correct landing or disposal codes. ER has been implemented to provide for almost all catch to be reported, including some catch that was not required to be reported under paper-based reporting. Please ensure the most applicable codes are used.
- Responding in a timely manner if an email is received from FishServe indicating a possible correction is required with ER information.