



Environment

# Seabirds.



New Zealand is often referred to as the seabird capital of the world. For some species groups, the diversity found in New Zealand is greater than anywhere else in the world.

# 14.4k

Scientists have estimated there are roughly 14,400 potential seabird fatalities in New Zealand commercial fisheries each year (range: 11,900 - 17,500).



# 4

Four species of seabird are at risk of being incidentally caught in New Zealand fisheries at unsustainable levels.



# 99%

Relative to other fishing methods, most seabird interactions with commercial fishing activities are reported from longline and trawl fisheries.

## NEW ZEALAND APPROACH

New Zealand's management of interactions between seabirds and commercial fishing activities is broadly based on the status of seabird populations and risks to those populations. Guidance for managing risks to seabird populations due to commercial fishing activities is provided by New Zealand's National Plan of Action for Seabirds.

## IMPLEMENTATION

NZ fisheries law specifies the use of bycatch mitigation devices on trawl vessels 28 metres or more in length and most longline vessels. These include the use of streamer lines, bird bafflers, night-setting and/or line-weighting requirements.

## COMPLIANCE

Nearly all seabirds found in New Zealand are protected by law. However, it is not illegal to capture or kill a protected seabird accidentally or incidentally in the course of commercial fishing activities, provided any such event is reported to the Government.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

Non-binding initiatives aimed at addressing seabird interactions with fishing activities include vessel-based management plans and liaison activities, capacity-building amongst vessel operators and crew, research and monitoring, and operational conformance measures.