

## Timeline of protection for Maui's dolphin

### 2012

**January** - A dolphin was reported caught in a commercial set net off the Taranaki coast. The capture occurred outside the known range of the species and outside the existing set net restrictions. It was most likely a Maui's dolphin although without testing this could not be confirmed.

**March** - DOC releases a report with a new population estimate of 55 individuals over one year of age. The review of the Threat Management Plan is brought forward.

**March** - Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson and Primary Industries Minister David Carter propose interim protection measures for Maui's dolphin on the West Coast of the North Island.

**July** - The interim commercial and recreational set net fishing ban is established from Pariokariwa Point to Hawera out to 2 nautical miles, and out to 7 nm for commercial unless an MPI observer on board.

**August** - DOC code of conduct launched, with the Minister of Energy and Resources, for Seismic Survey Operations for minimising the acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from these operations.

**September** - The report, "A risk assessment of threats to Maui's dolphins" was published. The review of the Maui's dolphin TMP was released for consultation by DOC and MPI.

**September** - Motion put forward by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) meeting in Korea for a ban on commercial gill and trawl net fishing on New Zealand's North East Coast out to the 100 metre depth contour to protect Maui's dolphin. The Government's position was that there was insufficient evidence to show that the 100 metre contour reflected the limit of Maui's dolphin entire range and did not support the motion.

### 2013

**January** - Dr. Nick Smith appointed Minister of Conservation and Nathan Guy Minister for Primary Industries. The pair considered the review on the Threat Management Plan and process.

**June** - The IUCN scientific committee recommend that the highest priority should be given to immediate management actions to eliminate by-catch of Maui's dolphin and full closures of any fisheries within the range of Maui's dolphin's; i.e. it did not make reference to the 100 metre depth contour.

**September** - Dr Smith announced the proposed Waitara variation of the West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary to ban commercial and recreational set net fishing between 2 and 7 nm between Pariokariwa Point and the Waiwhakaiho River. More than 45,000 submissions received, all but 17 in favour of the proposal.

**November** - Final Threat Management Plan released and Waitara extension of set net ban confirmed.