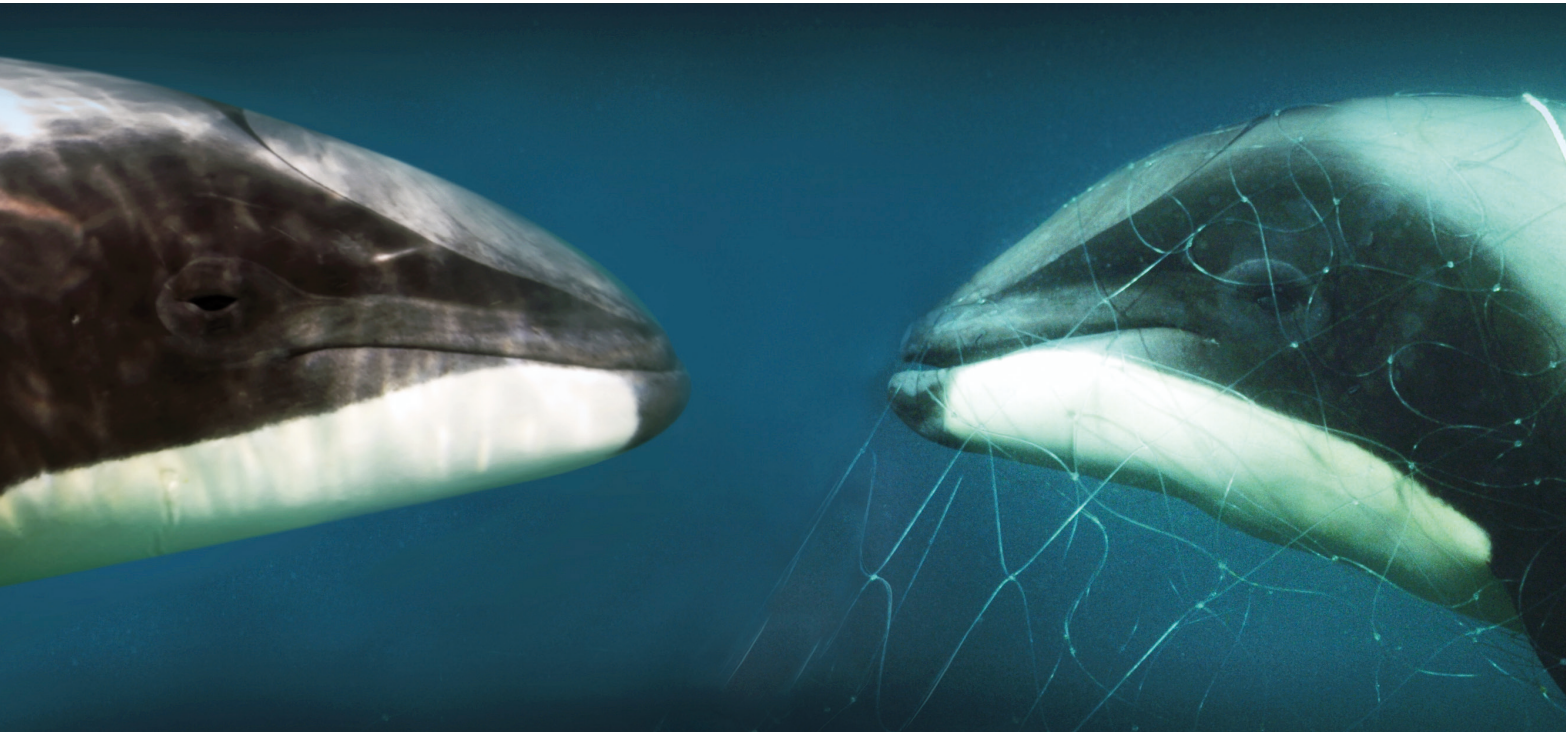


FACING EXTINCTION

Hector's and Maui's dolphins

... are the smallest and rarest marine dolphins on earth and New Zealand's only native dolphin species.

Gillnets and trawl nets have decimated them almost to the point of extinction.



A species' last stand

Since the 1970s, Hector's dolphin numbers have dropped from 30,000 to just over 7,000. The situation is even worse for Maui's dolphins, a subspecies of Hector's dolphins, which clings on in a tiny population off the west coast of New Zealand's North Island.

Forty years ago there were about 1,000 Maui's dolphins. Today there are only around 55. With less than 20 breeding females and a declining population due to fishing, Maui's dolphins are facing imminent extinction.

They can only cope with one death due to human activities every 10-23 years, but around five Maui's dolphins die in fishing nets every year. That's 75 times more than the sustainable limit.

New Zealand's forgotten dolphins

... almost gone!

Save Maui's and Hector's dolphins

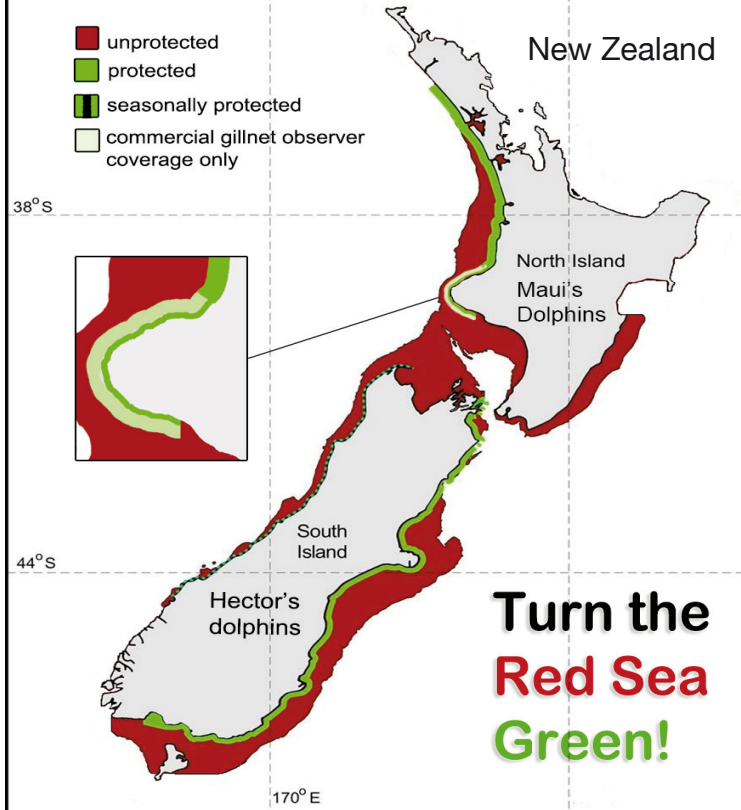


Maui's and Hector's have declined for over three decades because their protection is inadequate in terms of the areas and the fishing methods it covers.

Slow reproduction = slow recovery

Females don't breed until they are aged 7-9 and only have one calf every 2-4 years. This means they raise just a few calves during their lifetime. A population of 60 dolphins therefore can only grow by one animal a year.

Maui's dolphins are not doomed to extinction. If human induced mortality is removed, they can still bounce back!



Hector's and Maui's dolphins inhabit coastal waters up to a depth of 100 m (red). Because only a fraction of their home is protected against harmful fishing methods (green), their numbers continue to decline.

Saving Hector's and Maui's dolphins is a race against time ...

Each year 23 Hector's dolphins drown in commercial gillnets off the east coast of the South Island alone. The sustainable limit for this area is one death a year. But fishermen report less than one percent of the dolphins they kill.

Current and newly proposed protection measures fall significantly short of what is required to allow the dolphins to recover. However without the threat of fishing, Hector's dolphin numbers could grow to 15,000 in just a few decades.



www.hecordsdolphins.com

We need to act now and
turn the **red sea green**

Ban gillnetting and trawling across the dolphin's habitat

The world's largest conservation assembly, the IUCN World Conservation Congress recently urged the New Zealand Government to expand the protection of Maui's and Hector's dolphins against gillnetting and trawling across their range to a depth of 100 m offshore. The motion was adopted with 117 governmental and 459 NGO votes in favour. Only New Zealand voted against it. Maui's and Hector's dolphins can't hang on much longer. They need action now!

Unless things change, Hector's and Maui's dolphins will become extinct.

The New Zealand Government has opened a public consultation on new protection measures. This gives everyone the opportunity to have their say about the dolphins' protection.

Make your submission by sending the postcard to New Zealand's Minister of Primary industries David Carter today, to let him know that you want Hector's and Maui's dolphins to be protected.

Postage Stamp

To
Hon. David Carter
Minister of Primary Industries
Maui's dolphin TMP
PO Box 5853
Wellington 6011
NEW ZEALAND

✂
Submission: Maui's dolphin Threat Management Plan

Dear Minister,

Hector's and Maui's dolphins are declining because of insufficient protection against gillnetting and trawling. Only a zero tolerance approach to fishing-related mortality will save these dolphins from extinction.

In line with recommendations made by the IUCN World Conservation Congress, I urge you to immediately protect Hector's and Maui's dolphins fully against gillnetting and trawling throughout their range. This means a ban of these fishing methods and the effective management of all other threats, in all waters up to a depth of 100 metres, including harbours.

Name _____
Address _____
Signature: _____