



# Save the last 55 Maui's dolphins!

Maui's and Hector'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.

They inhabit coastal waters up to a depth of 100m, where fishing pressure is intense. Hector's dolphin numbers dropped from 29,000 to just over 7,000 since the 1970s. The situation is even worse for Maui's dolphins, a subspecies of Hector's dolphins, which barely clings on in a tiny population off the west coast of New Zealand's North Island.

**Maui's and Hector's continue to die because only a small part of their home is protected.**

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

**Unless things change, Maui's dolphins will become extinct by 2030.**

Their demise would be the first extinction of a marine cetacean due to man - something even the whalers haven't managed to do. But Maui's dolphins are not doomed to extinction. If human induced mortality is removed, they can still bounce back. But they need action now!

In line with urgent recommendations made by world's scientists, we are calling on New Zealand to afford Maui's and Hector's dolphins immediate and full protection against harmful net throughout their habitat

**Help us save New Zealand's forgotten dolphins before it's too late!**

[www.hecordsdolphins.com](http://www.hecordsdolphins.com)

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