



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Annual Operational Plan

For Highly Migratory Species Fisheries 2019/20



Image courtesy of Kaikoura Helicopters

Fisheries New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/06

Prepared by Fisheries New Zealand

ISBN No: 978-1-99-000896-2 (online)

ISSN No: 2624-0246 (online)

July 2019

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Overview of the Annual Operational Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2019/20

PURPOSE

The Annual Operational Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2019/20 (the Annual Operational Plan) establishes Key Focus Areas (KFA) and Business As Usual (BAU) tasks for the management of New Zealand's Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fisheries. This Annual Operational Plan commences on 1 July 2019, and will expire on 30 June 2020.

SCOPE

The Annual Operational Plan management initiatives are aimed at achieving desired outcomes for New Zealand's HMS fisheries, which is comprised of the commercial, recreational and customary sectors.

HMS are fish that travel large distances and are found in both New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone and on the high seas. New Zealand's HMS fisheries are made up of:

- Pelagic species: (fish that live near the surface of the water column) such as bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, and swordfish, caught by surface longline gear. Important non-target species include albacore tuna, pelagic sharks, Ray's bream, and moonfish
- Skipjack tuna: caught by purse seine in both New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone and on the high seas
- Albacore tuna: mostly caught by trolling and as a bycatch of surface longline gear.

New Zealand's HMS fisheries mainly operate within New Zealand fisheries waters (i.e. within the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone). The HMS fisheries in New Zealand waters are subject to both domestic and regional management. Therefore, the Annual Operational Plan must also account for New Zealand's international obligations to regional fisheries management organisations.

This Annual Operational Plan has been prepared in consultation with tangata whenua and stakeholders from industry, the recreational sector, and environmental organisations.

Key Focus Areas (KFAs)

The Key Focus Areas (KFAs) for the management of HMS fisheries during 2019/20 are outlined below.

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| KFA 1 | MANAGE INTERACTIONS OF HMS FISHERIES WITH SEABIRDS |
| Overview | |
| <p>The National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in New Zealand fisheries 2013 (the National Plan of Action for Seabirds) is under review. The HMS team is engaging in the review process, and will incorporate updated objectives into management initiatives when they are finalised.</p> <p>The HMS team will complete work to introduce hook shielding devices as an optional standalone seabird mitigation measures in domestic legislation. This is after changes (led by New Zealand) were made to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) seabird conservation and management measure in 2018.</p> <p>The HMS team will continue to engage with and support the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme. This year, the programme’s Liaison Officers will visit each vessel in the surface longline fleet and review their protected species risk management plans¹.</p> <p>Fisheries New Zealand will provide support, where necessary, in the trials and adoption of new and alternative seabird mitigation practices. In 2019/20 there will be trials of an underwater bait setter and hook shielding devices.</p> <p>Fisheries New Zealand will continue to lead and engage in meetings of the Antipodean Albatross Working Group². The intention of the meetings is to identify domestic and international actions to guide efforts aimed at improving the population status.</p> <p>The HMS team will continue to monitor seabird proxy measures³. The proxy measures have been updated since the last Annual Operational Plan (2018/19). The updates reflect recent changes in reporting, namely the additional reporting on line weighting, and the audits of vessels against their risk management plans. The seabird proxy measures for 2019/20 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed compliance with mitigation measures • The level of vessel non-fish bycatch reporting compared with observed non-fish bycatch reporting • Vessel adherence to risk management plans <p>Incidental capture of seabirds by recreational fishing activities and the resulting risk to seabird species is unknown. Boat ramp surveys in early 2019 included questions on seabird interactions. Results of the survey may provide an indication of potential risk that recreational fishing poses to seabirds.</p> | |

¹ The risk management plans provide vessel-specific strategies to mitigate bycatch of seabirds and other protected species, such as turtles.

² The Antipodean Albatross Working Group was set up in 2017 to address concerns that, the antipodean albatross could be functionally extinct within 20 years. The objective of the group is to investigate the declining population and determine remedial actions. Members of the group include HMS team members, the Department of Conservation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, industry representatives, environmental non-governmental organisations, and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

³ Seabird proxy measures are used in lieu of seabird capture rates since the observer coverage achieved does not allow statistically robust rates to be set.

HMS Management Initiatives

- Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds.
- Monitor seabird captures and seabird proxy measures using observer data and fisher reporting.
- Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures and the use of voluntary mitigation practices.
- Provide a liaison role to the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme.
- Provide information on seabird related issues at stakeholder meetings.
- Provide for and support the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate (such as the underwater bait setter).
- Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions.
- Monitor the impact of recreational HMS fisheries on seabird populations.
- Continue to seek improvements to data acquisition and data sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations.
- Use the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Ministry for Primary Industries to help Small Island Developing States manage seabird interactions.

Associated services from other teams and stakeholders

- Science: lead research projects and provide advice as required.
- Compliance: monitor and enforce compliance with seabird mitigation requirements.
- Observer Services: deliver planned observer coverage.
- Data Management: manage data submission processes for regional fisheries management organisations, and provide data for seabird proxy targets
- International Fisheries Management: Raise awareness of the decline in the antipodean albatross population as part of bilateral discussions with relevant states.
- Stakeholders: support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme; contribute to working groups; support efforts to improve representativeness of observer coverage; and provide feedback during consultations.

KFA 2

CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES THROUGH REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

Overview

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

A key work item at CCSBT this year is the development and adoption of a new management procedure. The management procedure will be used to guide the setting of total allowable global southern bluefin tuna catch for 2021 onwards. At the Extended Scientific Committee, candidate management procedures will be tested against a number of varying management objectives. New Zealand will continue to advocate for precautionary objectives to ensure that CCSBT improve on the interim rebuilding target for the southern bluefin tuna stock, and also recognise potential uncertainties in inputs, such as recruitment data.

New Zealand will continue to seek improvements that will reduce uncertainty surrounding certain sources of mortality. This year, independent experts will be providing advice to the Extended Scientific Committee on potential uncertainty in the data from Australian farming operations and the Japanese market. Progress on this advice will influence New Zealand's position at this year's Commission meeting and its willingness to support the adoption of a new management procedure.

New Zealand will lead intersessional work to update the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission reporting template. New Zealand will also develop a proposal to amend the CCSBT carry-forward resolution to clarify the existing obligation on members to account for all sources of mortality when calculating carry-forward of unfished allocation.

New Zealand will support the recommendations and advice from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group meeting held in May 2019, which will be reported through the Scientific Committee to the Extended Commission.

CCSBT business as usual tasks for the year ahead include administering the Catch Documentation Scheme; administering the authorised vessel list; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings:

- 24th Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (2-7 September 2019)
- Informal Compliance Technical Working Group Meeting (9 October 2019)
- 14th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (10-12 October 2019)
- 26th Annual Meeting of the CCSBT (14-17 October 2019)

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Key work items at WCPFC this year include the development of a harvest strategy to achieve the target reference point for South Pacific albacore, including agreement on harvest control rules, monitoring and reporting, and possibly allocation by the end of 2020.

Work will continue on the development of target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin tuna with the aim of achieving agreement at the WCPFC during 2019. The target reference point for skipjack is also due to be reviewed in 2019. A decision on adoption of hard limits and allocations for purse seine fishing on the high seas has been postponed to the Commission meeting in 2020.

Work will continue in 2019 on developing a shark conservation and management measure that will update and consolidate existing measures.

Work will continue in 2019 to consider the role of new processes and technology to improve the revised compliance and monitoring scheme. The revised scheme was adopted following an independent review of the WCPFC's compliance monitoring scheme in 2017.

WCPFC business as usual tasks include inputting New Zealand vessels onto the WCPFC's record of fishing vessels as required; issuing and updating high seas permits as required to ensure New

Zealand vessels fishing within the WCPFC area comply with all relevant measures; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings, including:

- 15th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (12-20 August 2019)
- 15th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (20 September-1 October 2019)
- 16th Regular Session of the Commission (5-11 December 2019)

The HMS and international fisheries policy teams will engage stakeholders when developing positions for both the CCSBT and the WCPFC; particularly in cases where these relate to issues that directly impact the New Zealand fleet either now or in the future.

HMS Management Initiatives

- Attend annual meetings of CCBST.
- Arrange stakeholder meetings before and after CCSBT and WCPFC meetings.
- Compile reports and ad-hoc papers to be submitted to annual meetings of CCSBT.
- Implement outcomes of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group, and support recommendations and advice going through the Extended Scientific Committee and to the Extended Commission.
- Lead intersessional work to update the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission reporting template.
- Draft a proposal to amend the CCSBT carry-forward resolution.
- Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure.
- Support International Fisheries Management with WCPFC work items, as and when required.

Associated services from other teams and stakeholders

- International Fisheries Management: lead input into WCPFC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); provide advice as required for CCSBT; and liaise with stakeholders to keep them informed about international management decisions.
- Science: lead input into scientific processes, provide additional scientific advice as required, and attend relevant meetings, such as the CCSBT Extended Scientific Committee meeting and the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting. The HMS team will support Fisheries Science in updating the seabird risk assessment and in identifying high risk CCSBT areas for seabirds.
- Compliance: provide compliance advice as required; and attend relevant meetings.
- Data Management: ensure timely submissions of New Zealand's fisheries data as required under WCPFC and CCSBT deadlines.
- Stakeholders: provide input into New Zealand's negotiating positions, through stakeholder consultation meetings and communications; participate in international meetings as part of the New Zealand delegation (following an approval process) or as meeting observers.

Overview**Customary fishing**

The HMS team will strengthen engagement with tangata whenua, and ensure the opportunity for tangata whenua to provide input and participate in the management of HMS species. In 2019/2020, the HMS team will continue to attend relevant iwi forums and engage with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives on proposed changes to HMS fisheries.

Customary fishing rights are guaranteed to tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the Treaty of Waitangi. These rights are provided for in law in through the provisions of:

- Section 10 of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992; and
- Section 21 and 186 of the Fisheries Act 1996

Customary reporting of certain HMS species can be achieved through the use of customary permits as set out under the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, the South Island Customary Fishing Regulations 1999 and other specific regulations that relate to Deeds of Settlement for particular iwi.

To date, there are no records of customary permits being used for HMS species. The HMS team will continue to monitor this.

Recreational fishing

The HMS team is responsible for monitoring non-commercial tuna and billfish game fisheries, as well as consulting and engaging with recreational fishers.

Recreational fisheries are monitored in a variety of ways. Amateur Charter Vessels are subject to compulsory registration, activity reporting, and catch reporting for specified stocks, including southern and Pacific bluefin tunas. Monitoring also occurs through voluntary reporting, including through the gamefish tagging programme, landed catch records from New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) clubs, and targeted logbook schemes.

The recreational allowance for southern bluefin tuna was increased in 2017/18 from eight tonnes to 20 tonnes, and a bag limit has been introduced of one fish per person per day. Fisheries New Zealand will continue to engage with stakeholders on longer term management measures for the recreational southern bluefin tuna fishery.

HMS Management Initiatives

- Liaise with Compliance on the implementation of the daily bag limit for the southern bluefin tuna recreational fishery.
- Improve engagement with iwi through attendance at relevant iwi forums and continued work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives.
- Monitor trends using landed catch from New Zealand Sports Fishing Council (NZSFC) records, tag and release data from the gamefish tagging database, information from charter vessel reporting, and catch per unit effort from logbook schemes.
- Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers.
- Continue to facilitate meetings between the recreational sector and the commercial purse seine sector.
- Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions and recognise the economic and inherent value of game fisheries to New Zealand.
- Review management of striped marlin if catch per unit effort drops below the long-term mean for four consecutive years.
- Explore longer term recreational management measures for the southern bluefin tuna fishery.
- Monitor the customary and recreational southern bluefin tuna fishery.
- Participate in the Marine Amateur Fishing Working Group.

Associated services from other teams

- Customary team: support HMS team with engagement with iwi as required.
- Compliance: monitor the daily bag limit for the southern bluefin tuna recreational fishery.
- Inshore Fisheries Management: assist HMS team with consultation, engagement, and education of recreational fishers.
- Science: lead on HMS related science for customary and recreational fishing effort.
- Data Management: collect and analyse recreational and Amateur Charter Vessel data as needed.
- Legal: provide advice on any management proposals.

Business As Usual (BAU) tasks

Management of HMS fisheries also includes a range of Business As Usual (BAU) tasks, as outlined below.

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| BAU 1 | MANAGE INTERACTIONS OF HMS FISHERIES WITH SHARKS |
| Overview | |
| <p>The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2013⁴ (NPOA Sharks) is under review. The HMS team are engaging in the review process, and will incorporate updated objectives into management initiatives when they are finalised.</p> <p>In 2019, Fisheries New Zealand will report on a review of the shark finning ban. Shark finning was banned on 1 October 2014, meaning that it is illegal to remove the fins from a shark and discard the body of the shark at sea. Under the ban, fishers are still able to land shark fins, however conditions apply depending on the species concerned. Detailed landing requirements can be found in the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001⁵ and in shark fin landing factsheets⁶. The review will include; compliance with landing, discarding, and reporting requirements, the effects of the ban on catch levels, and compliance with Schedule 6 release conditions.</p> <p>The review will incorporate data and feedback from Fisheries Officers, Fisheries Observers, and fishers. Fisheries New Zealand aims to present the fin ban review and a review of progress against actions and objectives outlined in the NPOA Sharks to the Shark Advisory Group in 2019.</p> <p>WCPFC will continue to work towards the development of a comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management. The HMS team will support the International Fisheries Management team in their work on developing this measure, to ensure that New Zealand's conservation and management measures are not undermined, and that New Zealand fulfils its international obligations.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements regarding sharks. ▪ Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders. ▪ Support the Shark Fin Ban Review. ▪ Contribute to the review of the NPOA Sharks. ▪ Advocate for and input into Pacific-wide stock assessment for key HMS sharks. ▪ Support International Fisheries Management in their work on developing comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measures at the WCPFC. | |
| Associated services from other teams and stakeholders | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science: manage research process and provide advice on shark management proposals. ▪ Compliance: provide advice on any shark management proposals. ▪ Legal: provide advice on any shark management proposals. ▪ Stakeholders: provide input into public consultation on shark management proposals. | |

⁴ Available here: <https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=165>

⁵ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2001/0253/latest/whole.html>

⁶ <https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/protection-and-response/sustainable-fisheries/managing-our-impact-on-marine-life/sharks/shark-fin-ban/>

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| BAU 2 | ENGAGE WITH FISHERIES STAKEHOLDERS |
| Overview | |
| <p>The HMS teams hosts and attends a number of annual and ad-hoc meetings throughout the year. Ad-hoc meetings include the likes of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Recreational Management Advisory Group, which meets to discuss the implementation of recreational management measures in the southern bluefin tuna fishery and to explore longer term management measures for this fishery.</p> <p>The HMS team will continue to strengthen engagement with tangata whenua, and ensure the opportunity for tangata whenua to provide input and participate in the management of HMS species occurs, through iwi fisheries forums.</p> <p>Greater engagement on issues related to the development of New Zealand positions at regional forums has been highlighted by stakeholders. The HMS and the international fisheries policy teams will make this engagement a particular focus of the coming year.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host two Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops. ▪ Host the Southern Bluefin Tuna Recreational Management Working Group. ▪ Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group. ▪ Arrange early and frequent engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders ahead of Regional Fisheries Management Organisation meetings. ▪ Facilitate meetings between the commercial purse seine sector and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. ▪ Attend the Tuna Management Association annual general meeting. ▪ Provide input into the Fisheries New Zealand newsletter. ▪ Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interests are affected, and attend Iwi Fisheries Forums when relevant. ▪ Use social media to engage with tangata whenua, stakeholders, and the general public. ▪ Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures, and inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational sector when relevant consultation papers have been released. ▪ Ensure that the National Fisheries Plan for HMS Fisheries, annual operational plans, and annual review reports are available on the Fisheries New Zealand website. | |
| Associated services from other teams | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science: participate in meetings and workshops as required, for example, Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops. ▪ Observer Services: participate in meetings and workshops as required, for example, Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops. ▪ Compliance: participate in meetings and workshops as required, for example, Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops. ▪ International Fisheries Policy: participate in meetings and workshops as required, for example, Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops. | |

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| BAU 3 | MONITOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES |
| Overview | |
| <p>The Observer Services team manages observer coverage for all New Zealand commercial fisheries, with the aim of achieving the planned coverage for each fishery. The HMS Team plans observer coverage to best represent the fisheries over area, time, target species, and operators.</p> <p>As required by CCSBT for southern bluefin tuna fisheries, 10% observer coverage of catch and effort is planned, with additional buffers for areas or times of high risk for seabird captures. This is used as the basis of the observer coverage plan for all HMS surface longline fisheries. Planned observer coverage for HMS fisheries in 2019/20 is detailed as an appendix to this plan.</p> <p>For 2019/20, observer coverage has been planned for the albacore tuna troll fishery for the first time in a number of years. This is due to very low coverage over recent years (between zero and one percent of effort).</p> <p>In some cases, limited resources, information, and communication with fleets compromises achieving the planned observer coverage. To improve fisher understanding of the observer programme, the HMS team and Observer Services will develop a 'one-pager' to circulate to vessels. The document will summarise the scope of the programme, the role of the observers, and the responsibility of operators when taking observers.</p> <p>For resourcing purposes, priority is given to new vessels entering the fishery, vessels not observed the previous year, high risk areas and times, and proportion of catch.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With Observer Services, develop an observer coverage 'one-pager' for the surface longline fleet. ▪ Plan observer coverage to provide representative coverage of the fisheries. ▪ Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage. ▪ Prioritise observer coverage to achieve the targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC. ▪ Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips. ▪ Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues. ▪ Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures. ▪ Monitor interactions with ecologically related species. ▪ Attend observer debriefs. | |
| Associated services from other teams | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observer Services: liaise with fishers to deliver planned observer coverage; liaise with Fisheries Management, Science, and Compliance to provide feedback on observer coverage. ▪ Science: lead improvements on observer data capture, liaise with observers on outcomes of coverage. ▪ Compliance: monitor commercial and non-commercial HMS fisheries; and follow up on items of interest identified through observer coverage. ▪ International Compliance: monitor foreign flagged HMS vessels. | |

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| BAU 4 | ENSURE HMS COMPLIANCE WITH MANAGEMENT MEASURES |
| Overview | |
| <p>Monitoring compliance with management measures occurs through observer coverage, in-port and at-sea inspections. As of 2019, electronic catch reporting and geospatial position reporting provides timely information on vessel activities, and will be able to assist Compliance in targeting their activities.</p> <p>The Observer Services team manages observer coverage, and the Compliance teams manage port inspections and at-sea and aerial patrols. Observed or suspected incidents of non-compliance are referred to the Compliance team for follow up.</p> <p>Aerial flights over the high seas and port inspections of international vessels (under Port State Measures) are coordinated by the Fisheries Compliance Liaison and Coordination Team in consultation with the International Team and HMS Fisheries Management.</p> <p>Based on obligations to CCSBT, New Zealand prohibits the importation of southern bluefin tuna unless it is accompanied by the appropriate catch documentation. The prohibition is administered as an order under the Customs and Excise Act 2018. The order will expire in September 2019. The HMS Team is working on introducing the import prohibition under the Fisheries Act 1996 to take effect once the order expires.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Move the import prohibitions for southern bluefin tuna from the Customs and Excise Act 2018 to the Fisheries Act 1996. ▪ Monitor compliance with management measures in commercial HMS fisheries. ▪ Administrate and monitor the Catch Documentation Scheme for southern bluefin tuna. ▪ Coordinate appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance. ▪ Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues. ▪ Raise awareness of issues at stakeholder meetings. ▪ Report compliance outcomes in the HMS Annual Review Report. ▪ Ensure High Seas Permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations. | |
| Associated services from other teams and stakeholders | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance: coordinate aerial and at sea patrols and conduct port inspections, follow up incidents of non-compliance and take enforcement action where appropriate; provide support and engagement in regional fisheries management organisations, multilateral and regional work; provide compliance advice as required; engage with fishers as required; and attend relevant stakeholder meetings held by the HMS team. ▪ Legal: provide compliance advice as required. ▪ Data Management team: liaise with HMS to collate and monitor the Catch Documentation Scheme electronic and paper reporting and any associated issues. ▪ Stakeholders: meet regulatory requirements for fishing; provide input and advice on how regulations could be improved; and raise awareness about potential issues. | |

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| BAU 5 | DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE HMS RESEARCH PLAN |
| Overview | |
| <p>Research projects planned to begin or continue in 2019/20 are outlined in detail in the appendix at the end of this document.</p> <p>There are also other research projects planned and already underway that are relevant to the HMS team. However, these are administered under different works streams or different departments, for example under the Department of Conservation's Conservation Services Program.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify research needs for HMS fisheries. ▪ Review proposed HMS research projects. ▪ Participate in the research planning process as required. ▪ Finalise and agree to the HMS Research Plan, including any proposals for industry-led research. ▪ Monitor 2019/20 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management. | |
| Associated services from other teams and stakeholders | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science: lead the research and assessment processes, including working group meetings. ▪ Contracts Management: manage HMS research contracts. ▪ Stakeholders: participate in HMS working group meetings to review HMS stock assessments and HMS research projects. | |

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| BAU 6 | CONTRIBUTE TO THE MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES' PACIFIC FISHERIES CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME |
| Overview | |
| <p>The Ministry for Primary Industries' Pacific fisheries capacity development programme, Te Pātuitanga Ahu Moana a Kiwa (Te Pātui), develops and delivers support to Pacific fisheries administrations.</p> <p>The programme was established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2011. This MOU has been renewed in 2014 and 2019. The current programme will run from 2019 to 2024.</p> <p>The HMS team is responsible for delivering fisheries management support and programming under Te Pātui, supporting programme objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved fisheries management legal and policy frameworks in Pacific fisheries administrations; • Pacific fisheries administrations are staffed by personnel with the requisite knowledge and skills to carry out their roles; and • Strengthened relationships and cooperation between New Zealand and Pacific Island countries' fisheries agencies that complement existing fisheries support in the region. <p>The HMS team delivers these objectives by drawing on a wide range of MPI fisheries expertise, and by maintaining strategic relationships with, for example, the Pacific Community (SPC) and Pacific Islands FFA. These regional relationships are intended to ensure a coordinated and targeted approach to the provision of capacity building resources across Pacific Island countries.</p> | |
| HMS Management Initiatives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope and deliver direct fisheries management support to Pacific Island countries including Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. ▪ Engage with SPC and FFA to enable coordinated delivery of programming. ▪ Provide advice and support to Pacific Island countries relating to fisheries management plans, cost recovery, and catch documentation. ▪ Develop programming and materials relating to data analysis and fisheries management. | |
| Associated services from other teams | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science: provide science advice on Pacific fisheries. ▪ Compliance: deliver fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance capacity development support to Pacific island countries. ▪ International Fisheries Management: coordinate implementation of Te Pātui. ▪ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: monitor and engage on Te Pātui implementation. | |

Work plan for the HMS team for 2019/20

| KFA 1 Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with seabirds | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds. Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions. Monitor the impact of recreational HMS fisheries on seabird populations. Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on issues at stakeholder meetings. Support Science and lead on policy proposals in 'identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds through CCSBT. Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions. Prioritise observer coverage in the east coast North Island fishery where antipodean albatrosses and black petrels have been captured. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on issues at stakeholder meetings. Monitor the impact of recreational HMS fisheries on seabird populations. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor seabird captures and seabird proxy measures using observer data and fisher reporting. Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures and the use of voluntary mitigation practices. Provide for and support the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate (such as the underwater bait setter). Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme. Support the Black Petrel Working Group. Use the existing cooperation Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds. When possible, support fisheries managers in the Pacific Islands to create sound governance arrangements in relation to minimising seabird mortality, including through the development of safe handling guidelines for seabirds. | | | |
| KFA 2 Contribute to international processes through regional fisheries management organisations | | | |
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend annual meetings of CCSBT. Arrange stakeholder meetings before and after meetings of CCSBT and WCPFC. Compile reports and ad-hoc papers to be submitted to annual meetings of CCSBT. Implement outcomes of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group, and support recommendations and advice going through the Extended Scientific Committee and to the Extended Commission. Lead intersessional work to update the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission reporting template. Draft a proposal to amend the CCSBT carry-forward resolution. Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure. Support International Fisheries Management with WCPFC work items, and Science on CCSBT and WCPFC work items, as and when required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend annual meetings of the CCSBT. Arrange stakeholder meetings before and after meetings of CCSBT and WCPFC. Compile reports and ad-hoc papers to be submitted to annual meetings of CCSBT. Implement outcomes of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group, and support recommendations and advice going through the Extended Scientific Committee and to the Extended Commission. Lead intersessional work to update the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission reporting template. Draft a proposal to amend the CCSBT carry-forward resolution. Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure. Support International Fisheries Management with WCPFC work items, and Science on CCSBT and WCPFC work items, as and when required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support International Fisheries Management with WCPFC items as and when required. Compile reports and ad-hoc papers to be submitted to annual meetings of CCSBT. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile reports and ad-hoc papers to be submitted to annual meetings of CCSBT. Arrange stakeholder meetings before and after meetings of CCSBT and WCPFC. |

| KFA 3 Strengthen management of non-commercial HMS fisheries | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers. Explore longer term recreational management measures for the southern bluefin tuna fishery Monitor the customary and recreational southern bluefin tuna fishery. Participate in the Marine Amateur Fishing Working Group. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold NZSFC and purse seine sector meeting. Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the customary and recreational southern bluefin tuna fishery. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Compliance on the implementation of the daily bag limit for the southern bluefin tuna recreational fishery. Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives. Build stronger relationships with tangata whenua, and recognise the importance of HMS fisheries to Maori. Monitor trends using landed catch from NZSFC records, tag and release data from the gamefish tagging database, information from charter vessel reporting, and catch per unit effort from logbook schemes. Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers. Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions and recognise the economic and inherent value of game fisheries to New Zealand. | | | |

| BAU 1 Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with sharks | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support International Fisheries Management in their work on developing a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure at WCPFC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements. Support International Fisheries Management in their work on developing comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure at WCPFC. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders. Support the Shark Fin Ban Review. Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Sharks 2013. Advocate for and input into Pacific-wide stock assessment for key HMS sharks. | | | |

| BAU 2 Engage fishery stakeholders | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host the Southern Bluefin Tuna Recreational Management Working Group. • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group. • Arrange earlier and more frequent engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholder ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Fish Plan Advisory Group meeting and the Longline Workshop. • Arrange earlier and more frequent engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings. • Attend the Tuna Management Association Annual General Meeting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group. • Facilitate meetings between the commercial purse seine sector and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Fish Plan Advisory Group meeting and the Longline Workshop. • Facilitate meetings between the commercial purse seine sector and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. • Arrange earlier and more frequent engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholder ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input into the Fisheries New Zealand newsletter. • Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interests are affected. • Liaise with tangata whenua and stakeholder representatives. • Use social media to engage with tangata whenua, stakeholders, and the general public. • Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures, and inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational sector when relevant consultation papers have been released. • Ensure that the National Fisheries Plan for HMS Fisheries, Annual Operational Plans, and Annual Review Reports are available on the Fisheries New Zealand website. | | | |

| BAU 3 Monitor commercial HMS fisheries | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Observer Services, develop an observer coverage 'one-pager' for the surface longline fleet. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Observer Services, develop an observer coverage 'one-pager' for the surface longline fleet. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan observer coverage to provide representation of the fisheries. • Plan observer coverage to achieve the targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan observer coverage to provide representation of the fisheries. • Plan observer coverage to achieve the targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage. • Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips. • Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues. • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures. • Monitor interactions with ecologically related species. • Attend observer de-briefs. | | | |

| BAU 4 Ensure HMS compliance with management measures | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move the import prohibitions for southern bluefin tuna from the Customs and Excise Act 2018 to the Fisheries Act 1996 (). • Ensure high seas permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of issues at stakeholder meetings. • Ensure high seas permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile a report of compliance outcomes in the Annual Review Report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of compliance issues at stakeholder meetings. • Compile a report of compliance outcomes in the Annual Review Report. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures. • Administrate and monitor the Catch Documentation Scheme for southern bluefin tuna. • Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance. • Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues. | | | |

| BAU 5 Develop and implement HMS Research Plan | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|--|
| Q1 (JUL-SEP) | Q2 (OCT-DEC) | Q3 (JAN-MAR) | Q4 (APR-JUN) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify research needs for HMS fisheries. • Review proposed research projects. • Participate in the research planning process as required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify research needs for HMS fisheries. • Review proposed research projects. • Participate in the research planning process as required. • Finalise and agree to the HMS Research Plan, including any proposals for industry-led research. |
| ALL QUARTERS | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor 2019/20 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management. | | | |

| BAU 6 Contribute to the implementation of Fisheries New Zealand's Memorandum of Understanding on Pacific capacity development |
|--|
| ALL QUARTERS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually assess required services with respect to total fishery costs. • Scope and deliver direct fisheries management support to Pacific island countries including Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia. • Engage with SPC and FFA to enable coordinated delivery of programming. • Provide advice and support to Pacific Island countries relating to fisheries management plans, cost recovery, catch documentation. • Develop programming and materials relating to data analysis and assessing fisheries management options. |

Appendix

PLANNED OBSERVER DAYS FOR HMS FISHERIES FOR 2019/20

HMS observer days are allocated to reflect the effort in the identified fishery groupings. The table below reflects the proportion of observer coverage in each target fleet. Observer days were allocated according to the days available for those target fisheries to achieve at least 10 percent coverage for surface longline fisheries, and the days then allocated to each month proportionally.

| | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | TOTAL DAYS |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Tuna longline ET – WCPFC | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | | 10 |
| BIG/SWO surface longline EC | | | 20 | | 20 | 30 | | 10 | 20 | 20 | 30 | | 150 |
| BIG/SWO surface longline WC | | | | | | | | | 45 | | 10 | | 55 |
| STN surface longline EC | 50 | 60 | 10 | | | | | | | | 20 | 20 | 160 |
| STN surface longline WC | 30 | 20 | | | | | | | 10 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 160 |
| ALB troll | | | | | | 10 | 30 | 15 | 15 | | | | 70 |
| TOTAL HMS | | | | | | | | | | | | | 605 |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| ALB | Albacore |
| BIG | Bigeye tuna |
| EC | East coast |
| ET | Out-of-zone |
| STN | Southern bluefin tuna |
| SWO | Swordfish |
| WC | West coast |
| WCPFC | Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission |

HMS COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

| Outcome | Specific Priorities |
|---|--|
| Integrity of the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone is maintained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial patrols are conducted • At-sea patrols are conducted • Breaches are followed-up |
| Compliance with regional fisheries management organisations measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High seas permits are in line with CCSBT and WCPFC requirements • Fishers are compliant with high seas permits |
| Compliance with the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine unload inspections are conducted • Fishers and Licenced Fish Receivers are compliant with southern bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme requirements |
| Surface longline fishery compliance with seabird mitigation regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are compliant with tori line requirements • Fishers are compliant with using two out of three mitigation measures (tori lines being one of those): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tori lines and night setting 2. Tori lines and line weighting • Line weighting is used according to the specifications • The use of hook shielding devices is monitored |
| Compliance with protected species rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers accurately report non-fish and protected species bycatch • Compliance assess and follow-up inaccurate reporting where necessary |
| Accurate reporting of shark catches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are compliant with landing of sharks and fins in the required ratios • Fishers are compliant with reporting of 6th Schedule releases and dead returns of sharks |
| High seas compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on mitigation on vessels boarded as part of Operation Nasse (especially for those vessels that have been fishing south of 30 degrees south) • Report on mitigation present on pelagic longline vessels during port inspections (especially for those vessels that have been fishing south of 30 degrees south) • Aerial patrols are conducted of vessels fishing south of 30 degrees south to detect the use of tori lines when vessels are day setting |

HMS RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 2019/20

List of HMS research projects as of May 2019

TABLE 1. PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS.

| Code | Title | Rationale |
|------------|---|---|
| HMS2019-01 | Data reports for NZ HMS fisheries | Annual data reports to the two relevant tuna RFMOs – CCSBT and WCPFC (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| STM2019-01 | Monitoring of STM including logbook programme | Ongoing, annual implementation of STM recreational monitoring programme including the implementation of the logbook programme (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| STM2019-02 | Characterisation of New Zealand commercial fisheries that catch striped marlin | Results will be used To improve the understanding of bycatch of striped marlin in the commercial surface longline fishery and contribute to the regional stock assessment (<i>once every 3-5 years</i>). |
| STN019-01 | Estimation of recreational harvest of Southern Bluefin Tuna in New Zealand | New Zealand is required to account for all sources of fishing mortality of southern bluefin, including recreational catches, when managing its allocation of the TAC (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| SWO2019-01 | Characterisation of the fishery for and analysis of catch per unit effort for swordfish from the commercial longline fishery in NZ waters | Concerns have arisen over the recent decline in commercial landings as well as the increased retention of small swordfish by the commercial fleet and information from NZ will contribute to the next regional stock assessment in 2022. (<i>once every 3-5 years</i>). |
| TAG2019-01 | Data management from gamefish tagging programme | Ongoing, annual programme that has been running for more than 40 years (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |

TABLE 2. CONTINUATION OF ONGOING PROJECTS.

| Code | Title | Rationale |
|------------|--|---|
| ALB2018-01 | Albacore catch sampling | Results will be used in 2021 assessment update (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| HMS2016-01 | Data reports for NZ HMS fisheries | Annual data reports to the two relevant tuna RFMOs – CCSBT and WCPFC (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| HMS2017-01 | Catch sampling of BIG, YFN, SWO, TOR | Catch sampling results are inputs to the stock assessments of these species by WCPFC. These species assessments will be updated over the next 3 years (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| SHA2017-01 | Shark fishery characterisation and indicators analysis | The most recent shark fishery characterisation and indicators analysis was conducted in 2012/13 and used as inputs to WCPFC analyses. The results of this proposed project will be used in the WCPFC update in 2019 (<i>as determined by WCPFC schedule</i>). |
| SKJ2018-01 | Characterisation of NZ skipjack fisheries | The skipjack fishery was last characterised in 2011. Information obtained from this characterisation is necessary to better inform management decisions based on the current status of the WCPO skipjack stock. (<i>as determined by WCPFC schedule</i>) |
| STM2016-01 | Monitoring of STM including logbook programme | Ongoing, annual implementation of STM recreational monitoring programme including the implementation of the logbook programme (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| STM2017-01 | CPUE analysis for STM recreational fishery | Catch and effort data for STM are one of the main data inputs for its assessment. This project will determine if data from the NZ recreational fishery are useful in the next assessment update in 2019 (<i>short-term, focused project</i>). |
| STN2018-01 | Annual catch-at-age of STN | Data used as inputs to stock assessments; the next update scheduled for 2020 (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |
| TAG2016-01 | Data management from gamefish tagging programme | Ongoing, annual programme that has been running for more than 40 years (<i>ongoing, annual</i>). |