



Protected Fish Species and Reporting Requirements for Non-Fish/Protected Species

The purposes of this fact sheet are to clarify the reporting requirements for all non-fish and protected species and to provide information on which fish species are protected under the Wildlife Act 1953.

Reporting requirements under electronic catch reporting

Under the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017, permit holders are required to complete a non-fish species or protected fish species (NFPS) catch report if any of the following are caught:

- Seabirds;
- Marine mammals;
- Marine reptiles (e.g. turtles);
- Protected fish species;
- Selected benthic organisms (corals, sponges and bryozoans).

All seabird captures must be reported regardless of whether the bird was taken as a direct result of an interaction with fishing gear (e.g. in a trawl net) or whether the interaction was independent of fishing gear (e.g. the bird landed on a vessel). Please note that in the case of the latter, the interaction only needs to be reported if the bird requires assistance to leave the vessel; do not report incidents where a bird simply lands on deck before flying away unassisted.

It is important to note that only three types of benthic (bottom-dwelling) organisms are required to be reported on NFPS reports: corals, sponges and bryozoans. Any other types that are captured should be reported on disposal reports. Fisheries New Zealand does not require recording of non-biogenic material such as rocks, wood or rubbish. However, we encourage the recording of unusual incidents via the “notes” field of fish catch or disposal reports.

A permit holder must:

- Complete an NFPS report for each incident where a type of non-fish species or protected fish species listed below is taken. A NIL report is NOT required.
- Where captures are the result of an interaction with fishing gear, please report all captures taken during a fishing event on a single

NFPS report. For example, if a trawl tow results in a seabird, a fur seal and some sponge being captured, report the three captures on a single NFPS report that is linked to the fish catch report (where the details of the specific trawl tow are recorded). The report must be completed within 8 hours of the fishing event ending.

- Where captures occur independently of fishing gear, report each incident on a separate NFPS report. For example, if a bird lands on deck during the morning and requires assistance getting off the vessel and the same thing happens in the afternoon, details should be recorded on two separate NFPS reports. The reports must be completed by the end of the day on which the incidents occur.
- Provide the completed report to FishServe before the close of the day on which it is completed.

Retaining protected species

Protected fish and non-fish species (i.e. seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles, and most corals) may only be retained if authorised by a DOC permit or a Fisheries New Zealand observer. It is illegal to interfere with any protected species, regardless of whether it is dead or alive, prior to returning it to the sea.

A full list of non-fish and protected fish species codes can be found in Parts 2A–2C of Schedule 2 of the current E-logbook Users Instructions and Codes circular, which is available on the digital monitoring resources section of the Fisheries New Zealand website (<https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/protection-and-response/sustainable-fisheries/strengthening-fisheries-management/fisheries-change-programme/digital-monitoring-resources/>). The high level requirements for completing NFPS reports are set out in regulation 8 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017.

Disclaimer

Nothing in this fact sheet should be read to preclude obligations for all current requirements. The purpose of this fact sheet is to achieve informed and assisted compliance.

The following are protected **fish** species.

Spinetail devil ray (*Mobula japonica*) MJA

Other names: Spinetail mobula, Japanese devilray

- » Disc is wider than its length, with pointed tips.
- » Head with prominent, fleshy extensions.
- » Mouth broad and on underside of head.
- » Dorsal fin with white tip.
- » Tail thin and equal to, or longer than, disc width. Usually with a stinging spine.
- » Bluish or purplish-black in colour.
- » Juveniles have two white crescents on shoulders.
- » Adults have white on underside with dark patches.
- » To at least 3.1m disc width.

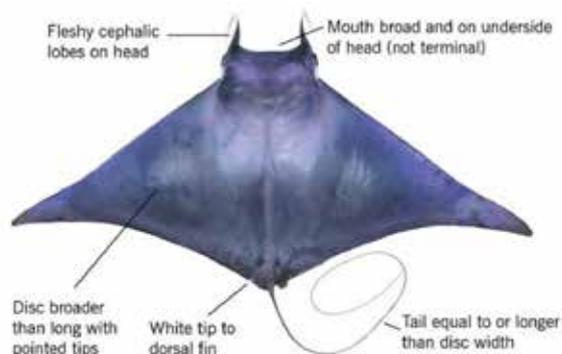


Photo by W. White, CSIRO

Manta ray (*Manta birostris*) RMB

Other names: Giant Manta

- » Disc is wider than its length, with pointed tips.
- » Head with prominent, fleshy extensions.
- » Mouth broad and at front of head.
- » Tail thin and shorter than disc width, usually with stinging spine.
- » Greyish-blue to greenish-brown in colour, with paler shoulder patches.
- » White underside, sometimes with grey or black patches behind the gills.
- » To at least 6.7m disc width.

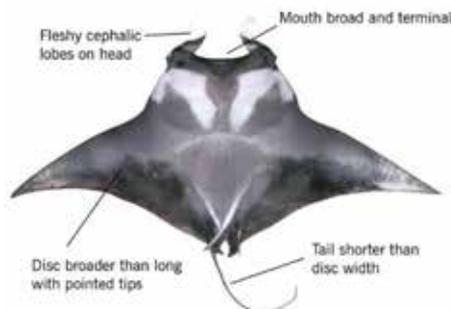


Photo by W. White, CSIRO

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) WSH

- » Unique colour pattern of white/pale yellow spots and stripes on a blue-grey to brown-grey background. Belly is white.
- » Dorsal fin triangular, upright, to 1.2m tall.
- » 3 strong ridges along each side.
- » Broad, flattened head, wide slit-like mouth, to 1.5m wide.
- » Usually 6-12m long, but up to 18m.
- » The upper fin of the juvenile's tail is larger than the lower.
- » Adult's tail becomes semi-lunate (crescent-shaped) and up to 3m tall.



Photo cropped and adjusted version of IMG 1023.JPG from user Zac Wolf in Wikimedia Commons.

Smalltooth sandtiger shark (*Odontaspis ferox*) ODO

Other names: Deepwater nurse shark, Herbts nurse shark

- » Large, bulky body with a long, bulbous, slightly flattened snout.
- » Medium grey to grey-brown above, fading to a white belly.
- » Juveniles are uniform in colour with darker fin margins.
- » Adults often exhibit dark spots or blotches that vary widely in pattern, size, and density.
- » The first dorsal fin is larger than the second and located closer to the pectoral fins than the pelvic fins.
- » The upper lobe of the caudal fin is much longer than the lower.
- » Up to 4.1m in length and weighing up to 300kg.



Illustration by Pat Tully

Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) BSK

Māori name: Reremai

- » Blue-grey to brown-grey above, paler below.
- » Large, rounded dorsal fin.
- » Vertical tail fin has notch on upper lobe.
- » Gill slits almost encircle the head.
- » Mouth extends under and behind the eyes.
- » Length is usually 6-9m (to at least 10m).
- » Cavernous jaw (up to 1m in width).
- » Small, hooked teeth (5-6mm).

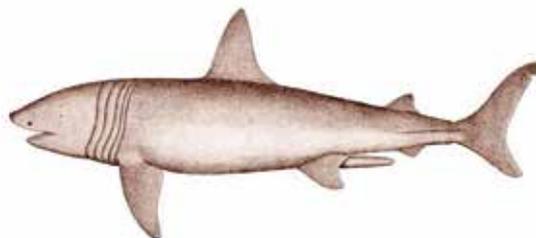


Illustration from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

White pointer shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) WPS

Other names: Great white shark, Great white, White pointer, White shark

- » It has a large conical-shaped snout with five gill slits on each side.
- » Broad triangular serrated teeth in both jaws.
- » The first dorsal fin is large, but the second is relatively small.
- » There is a strong keel (vertically flattened ridge) on the tail stock.
- » This shark has a dark-coloured dorsal area, usually dark grey, but sometimes black, bronze or blue and a white belly with very clear demarcation between colours.



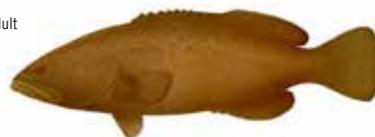
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Giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*) GGP

Other names: Giant Queensland grouper, Brindle bass, Brown spotted cod, Bumblebee grouper

- » Juveniles have a large blotched and banded pattern.
- » Adults become mottled and spotted to evenly dark grey or brownish.
- » Up to 3m in length and weigh up to 600kg.
- » Tail is rounded.
- » Large mouth.
- » Numerous small black spots on fins.

Adult



Juvenile



Illustrations by Pat Tully

Spotted black grouper (*Epinephelus daemeli*) SBG

Other names: Saddletail Grouper

- » The spotted black grouper reaches up to 2.0m.
- » It has strong markings on the body in bands, with spots over the body.
- » The fins are edged with black.



Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) OWS

- » Bronze-grey above, paler below.
- » Most fins have prominent white tips although small specimens (less than about 130cm) have black fin tips and black dorsal saddles.
- » The first dorsal fin, pectoral fins and caudal (tail) fins are broad and rounded.
- » Grows to at least 3m in length.
- » Upper teeth are triangular and serrated.
- » The upper lobe of the caudal (tail) fin is much longer than the lower lobe.

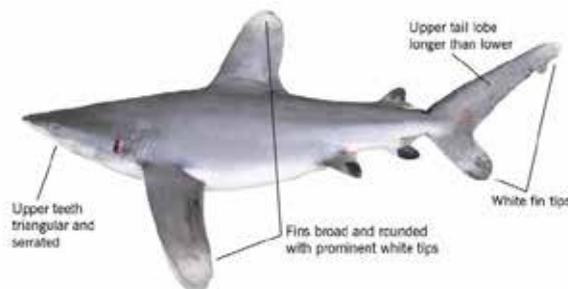


Photo by W. White, CSIRO