



SEAFOOD
NEW ZEALAND

DEEPWATER TRAWL
HOKI
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES
2023-24

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DOCUMENT HISTORY	VERSION NO.	DATE
	V18.0	
- Removal of HSSAs (as agreed by hoki shareholders) - Replacing R Wells with B Steele-Mortimer as reporting contact. - Deepwater Group Ltd replaced with Seafood New Zealand – Deepwater Council	2022-23	June 2023
Minor edits to align it to OP on Deepwater InfoPortal, add new SNZ logo	2023-24	10 July 2024

\\DWG-FILE-SERVER\Deepwater Group\Operational Procedures\OP Manual 2023-24 & Ten Commandments\Hoki OP - published\Hoki OP 2023-24.docx

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

These Operational Procedures (OPs) stipulate the management measures agreed upon between hoki (HOK 1) quota owners, HOK 1 ACE owners and Fisheries New Zealand. They are monitored and administered by Seafood New Zealand - Deepwater Council (DWC).

In conjunction with these OPs, the DWC Hoki East/West Agreement supports improved management by administering and monitoring HOK 1 catch limits between the Eastern and Western stocks as agreed between quota owners, Fisheries New Zealand and the Minister of Fisheries.

The following matters underpin the agreement within the industry to these management procedures when operating in the hoki fisheries:

- The abundance of juvenile hoki on the Chatham Rise from recent strong recruitments needs to be managed to ensure that these strong year classes recruit into the adult hoki populations of both stocks.
- It has been agreed to further enhance measures to monitor and manage catches of juvenile hoki (i.e., hoki <55 cm).

These management measures may be modified in the future based on monitoring results and further information on the hoki stocks.

The overarching principle of this agreement is that collective adherence to these OPs will provide collective benefits to hoki rights holders (in both quota shares and ACE).

Disclaimer

Nothing in these procedures shall be interpreted to replace or override any of the requirements in the fisheries legislation or other regulations, including those for Health & Safety and Maritime Safety. Vessel operators are required to ensure that at all times, both they and their crew understand all regulations that are relevant to these fisheries and to the operating environment that they are in.

Purpose of these procedures

These OPs have been established to codify the management and monitoring of fishing effort for hoki:

- Within the Hoki Management Areas (HMAs) - no hoki target fishing
- Within the entire HOK 1 QMA - monitor and minimise catches of juvenile hoki.

HMAs are areas where there are relatively high abundances of juvenile hoki. For the purposes of these OPs, these are hoki <55 cm in total length.

All operators and vessels are required to monitor catches of hoki across the entire HOK 1 QMA (not just within the HMAs) and, as a matter of principle, all vessels must move from any area where catches of juvenile hoki (i.e., hoki <55 cm) comprise 20% or more of the hoki catch by number.

Catches of hoki must be recorded by East or West stock (Figure 1) and reported accurately.

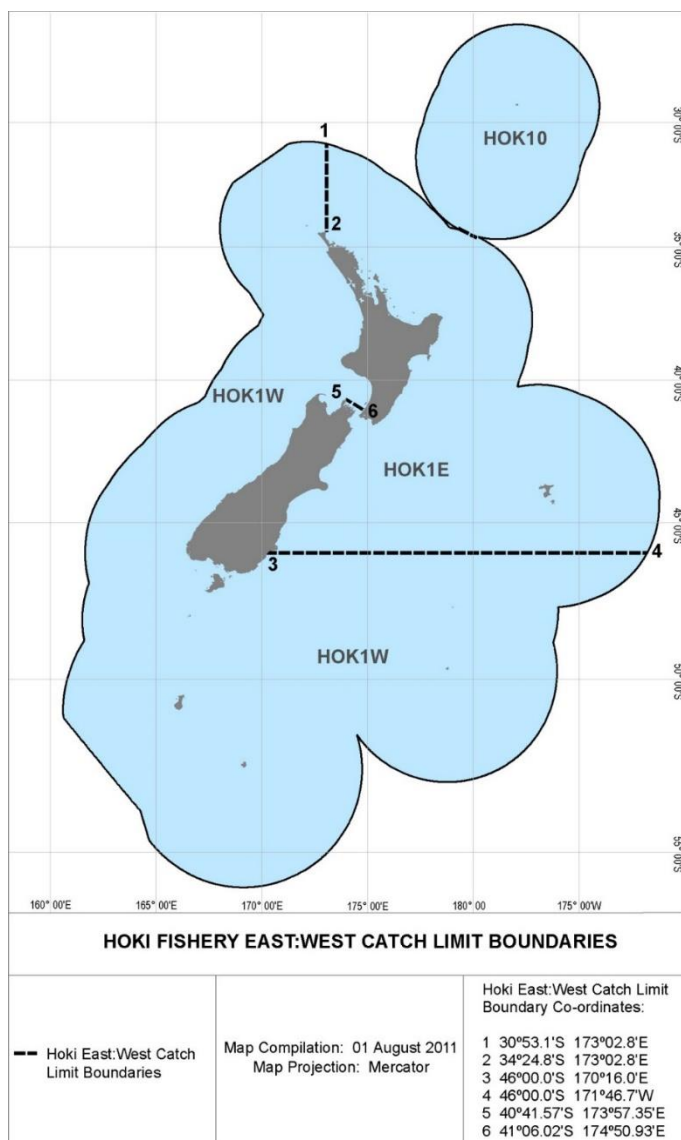


Figure 1: HOK 1 East and West Fisheries

Vessel operators will monitor and manage the operations of their vessels such that they meet the obligations set out here.

Operators must treat all HMA boundaries as they would treat boundaries for mandatory closures, such as by requiring their vessels to give effect to a buffer zone outside of the boundary so that fishing activity does not accidentally occur across it.

Objectives of these procedures

The objectives of these OPs are to:

- Maintain sustainable utilisation of the hoki fishery
- Manage the catch of juvenile hoki (i.e., hoki <55 cm)
- Ensure that all trawlers targeting hoki understand and meet these agreed requirements
- Allow for the monitoring of the fleet and individual company performances against the agreed management measures for the hoki fisheries and provide feedback to relevant parties.

Application of these procedures

These OPs apply to all vessels greater than 28 metres that target hoki or take hoki as bycatch.

Other key operational documents or rules and regulations

These Hoki OPs are to be used in conjunction with all other OPs, as well as all or any relevant laws and regulations pertaining to fisheries activities in New Zealand waters.

PART 2: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

Commitment to these procedures and the deed of management

All HOK 1 quota owners, ACE owners and owners or operators of vessels in the hoki fisheries (and any trawlers over 28 m in FMA 3 and 4) are required by DWC to adhere to these OPs.

This requirement is authorised under the Deepwater Fisheries Management Agreement (2005-06), which remains in force until it is revoked by the Parties.

Shareholders' obligations

Shareholders shall ensure that any user of their ACE is aware of these OPs and signs a written acknowledgement of their intention to abide by them prior to any fishing.

Vessel owners' and operators' obligations

All vessel owners and operators must:

- Ensure vessel managers are fully aware of and actively implement the provisions of these OPs
- Ensure that officers and crew of all trawlers targeting hoki or over 28 m LOA are aware of and act in accordance with the requirements of these OPs
- Take responsibility for corrective action should the vessel, captain or crew fail to observe the requirements of these OPs
- Ensure that all sub-area and species catches, as stipulated below, are recorded and able to be accessed by DWC as required
- Ensure that catches by East and West stocks are reported correctly via the FishServe ERS system
- AIS shall be active at all times and information shall be able to be viewed by all operators at all times when targeting hoki in FMA 3 north of latitude 45° S and all of FMA 4 and whenever in any HMA.
- To aid more representative deployment of Fisheries New Zealand observers in key areas operators will provide Fisheries New Zealand with 5 days' pre-sailing notification of intention to fish in FMA 3 north of latitude 45° S, and all of FMA 4.

Captains' obligations

All captains shall ensure that:

- Senior crew are familiar with and the vessel adheres to the provisions of these OPs

- Records required for monitoring and delivering on these OPs and HOK 1 East/West Agreement are collected and forwarded to their company
- All key crew members are fully briefed on the requirements of these OPs.

PART 3: HOKI MANAGEMENT AREAS (HMAs)

Fishing in HMAs

Trawlers greater than 28 m LOA are not permitted to target hoki inside any of the four HMAs.

This means that any tow (and subsequent catch) that starts, ends or occurs in part in an HMA (regardless of start/end positions) will be deemed to have occurred within the HMA.

Vessel operators will treat the HMA boundaries as they would a mandatory line and require their vessels to use a buffer to prevent accidental crossing into the HMAs while fishing.

Trawlers greater than 28 m LOA fishing within an HMA, targeting species other than hoki, and not carrying a Fisheries New Zealand observer on board are required to:

- Provide or allow access to the relevant electronic reporting (ERS), Fish Catch Reports, TCEPR or TCER data for all tows that are deemed to have occurred inside any HMA if and when requested by DWC.

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HMAs. Individual HMA maps and boundary coordinates are shown in the following sections.

- Cook Strait
- Canterbury Banks
- Mernoo
- Puysegur.

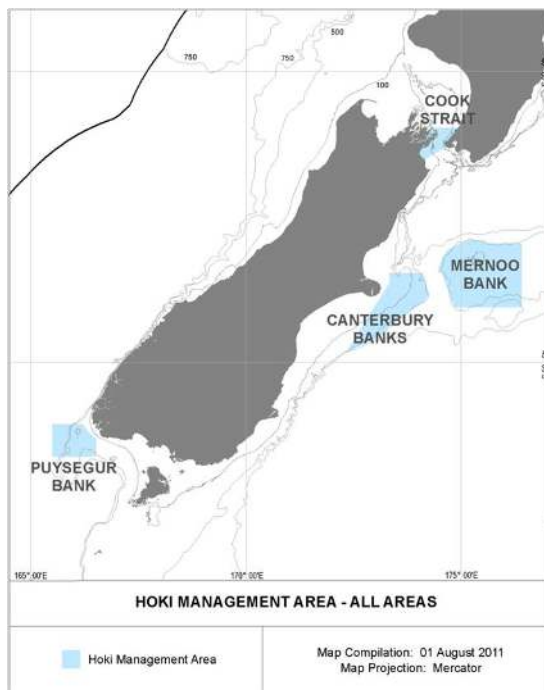


Figure 2: The Four Hoki Management Areas

Part 3A: Cook Strait HMA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HMA.

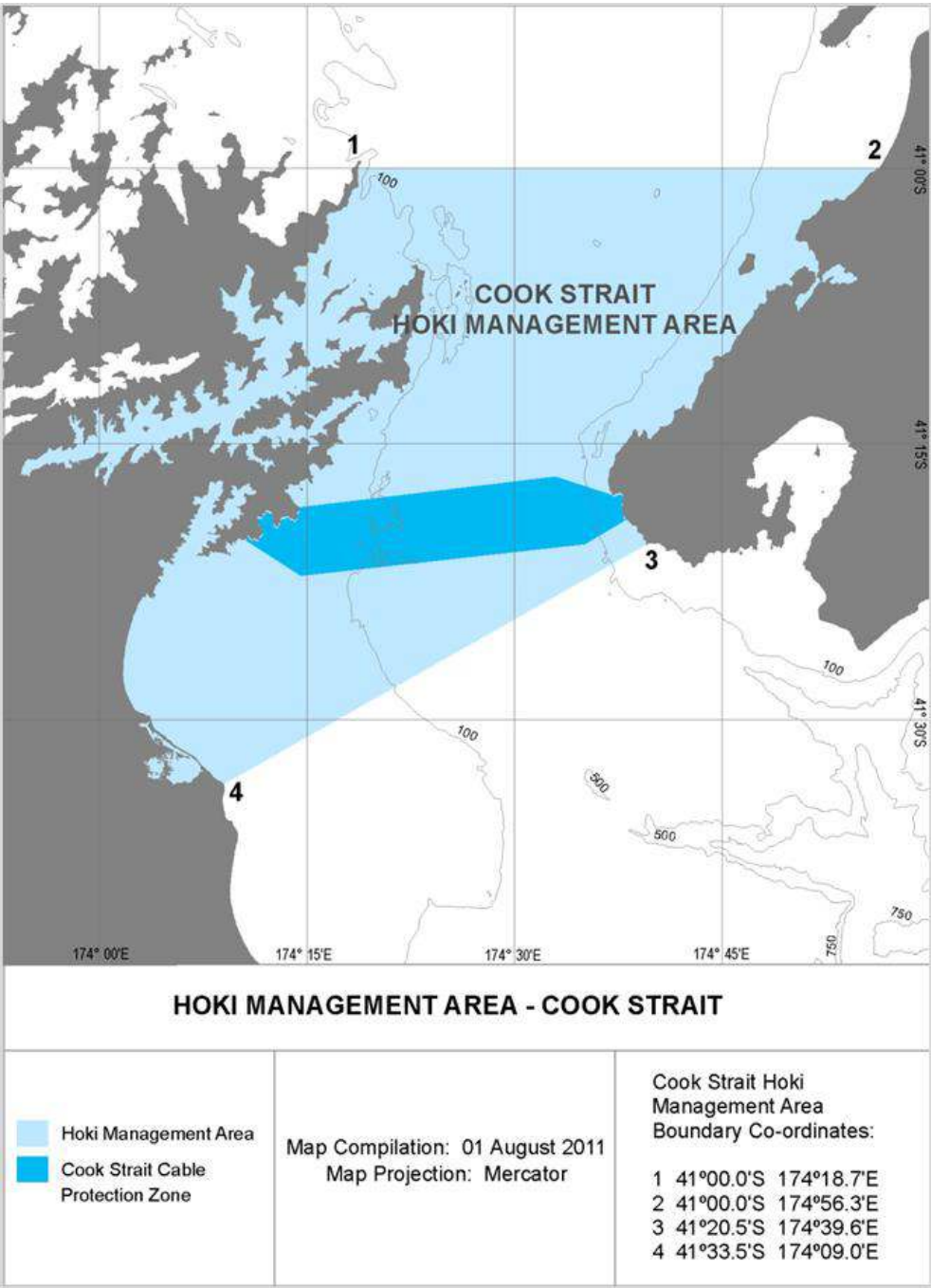


Figure 3: Cook Strait HMA

Part 3B: Canterbury Banks HMA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HMA.

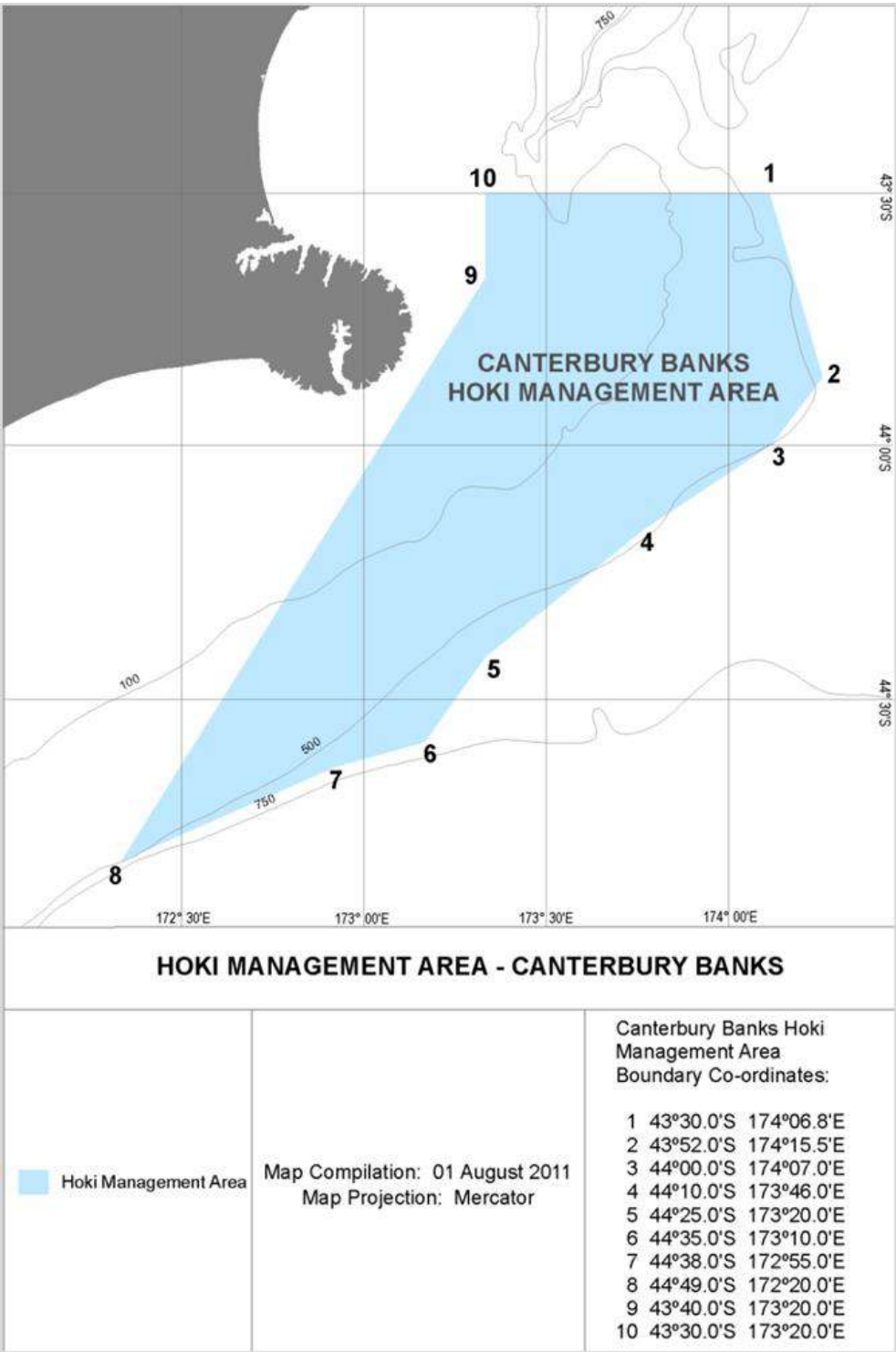


Figure 4: Canterbury Banks HMA

Part 3C: Mernoo Bank HMA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HMA.

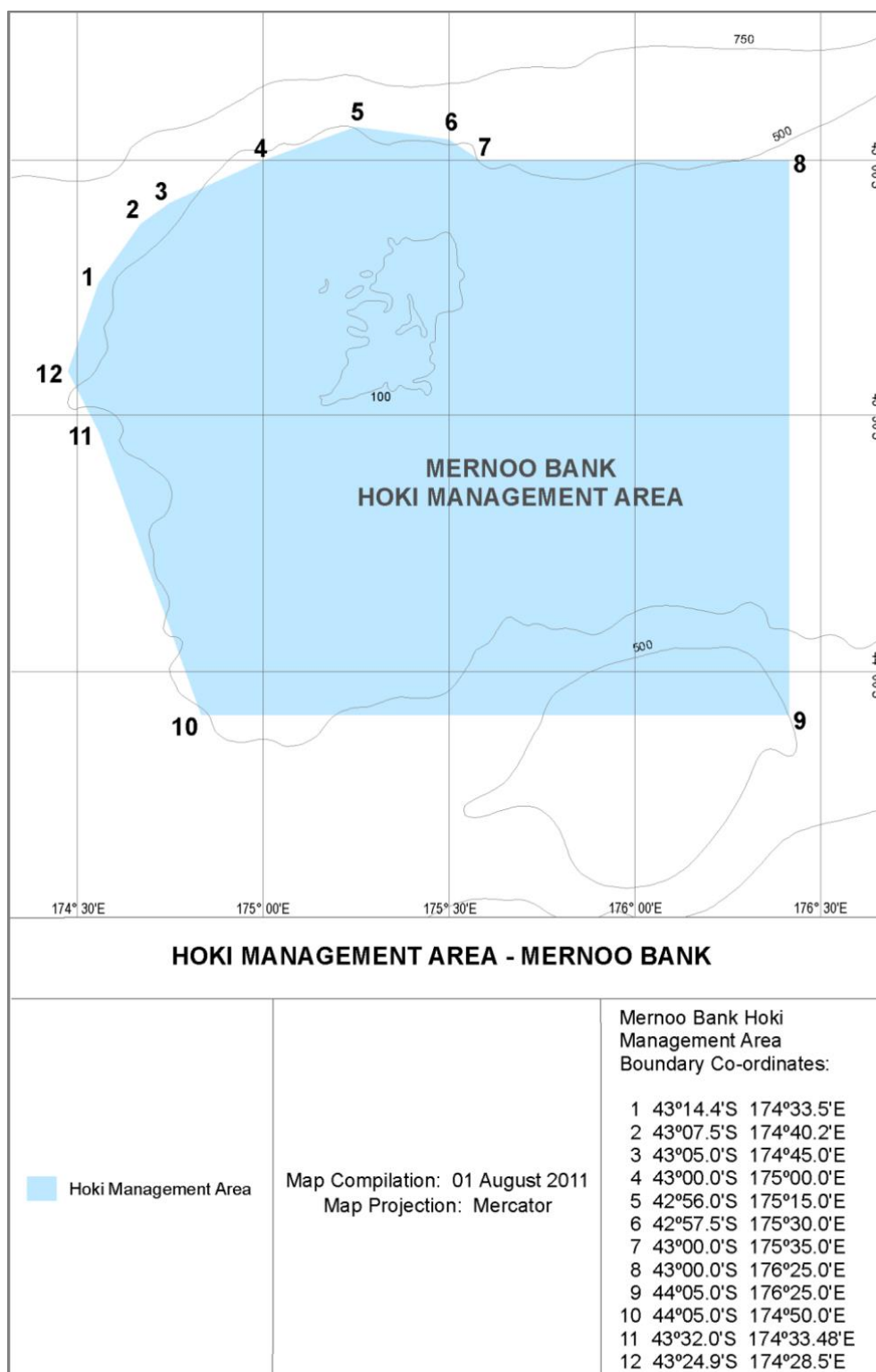


Figure 5: Mernoo Bank HMA

Part 3D: Puysegur Bank HMA

HOK 1 quota owners have agreed to the following HMA.

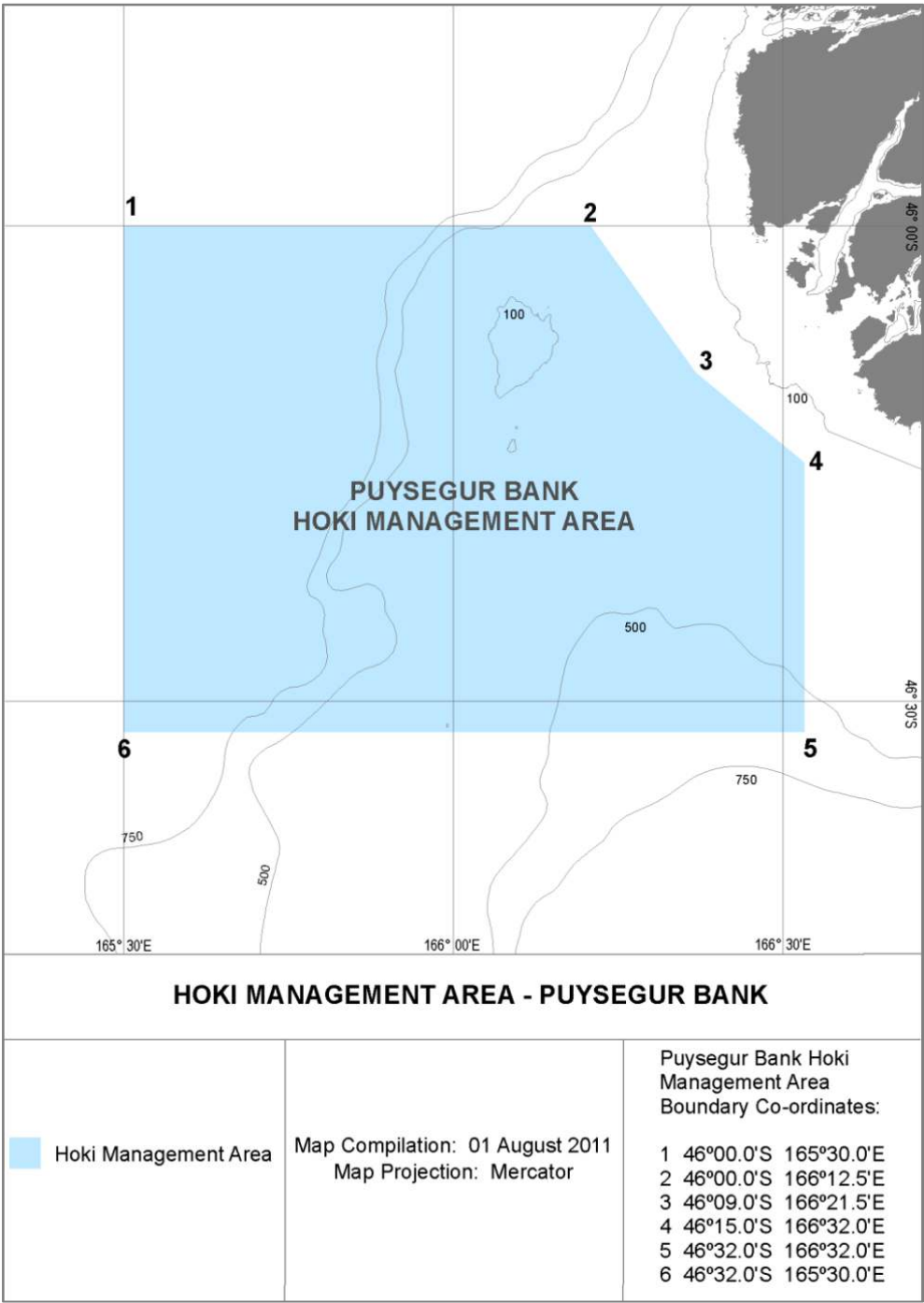


Figure 6: Puysegur Bank HMA