SBW 6I Operational Requirements for Sea Lions (2026)

Equipment

SLED Checks

- Full use of SLEDs is required at Campbell Island for sea lion risk mitigation
- If your SLEDs were used in the SQU 6T fishery, please have them re-checked at Motueka Nets Ltd or Hampidjan NZ Ltd (copies of SLED-Check certificates will be sent by them to Deepwater Council)
- If you had a SLED checked for SQU 6T but never deployed it this squid season, please advise us and re- supply the original SLED-Check certificate
- Ensure you sail with a minimum of two (2) certified SLEDs on board, three (3) is recommended.

DWC Operational Procedures

- Ensure captain and senior crew have access to DWC Operational Procedures manual via the Deepwater Info Portal and that pre departure checklists are completed

Actions

Sea Lion Risk Reduction and Monitoring Measures

- Deploy certified SLED for all Campbell Island tows and carry at least one spare on board
- Advise DWC, immediately when a SLED is damaged and replaced with your spare SLED
- Take two (2) clear photos of every dead animal (NZ fur seal and NZ sea lion) and email photo to DWC admin@deepwatergroup.org. Do not include crew or vessel ID in photos.
    - Whole animal and a clear close up of its head (side profile so we can see whiskers & ears)
    - Mark animal with twine/cable tie etc as per DWC MMOP
- Reduce the time gear is on the surface to an absolute minimum and do not shoot the gear when large numbers of animals are surrounding the vessel.
- Manage offal discharge as it may help reduce the number of marine mammals (and certainly seabirds) that are attracted to the vessel (livers and roe lost overboard from the processing deck are particularly attractive and have been observed to attract sea lions). It is paramount that all vessels continue to closely follow the offal management procedures detailed in their VMPs.
- Soaking the catch will increase risk as sea lions can dive to 500 m. Any practice or incident which results in increased time the gear is in the water or on the surface, will increase risk.
- Not undertaking full 180 degree turns back through the fish mark will reduce risk. Note that any turn undertaken with the gear above fishing depth will increase risk. Doors up turns (which may reduce risk on squid and jack mackerel fisheries when turning required), may increase risk in this fishery.

Trigger reports

- It is critical to report all captures to DWC immediately including photos. Submit triggers through the DW Info Portal and attach photos.