

# Codes of Practice and Guides

Seabirds, mammals & sharks



## Codes of Practice and Guides

There are a number of codes of practice and operational procedures that have been developed to assist seafood industry workers meet their legal obligations when managing and reporting interactions with protected species, seabirds, and marine mammals.

While these do not have the status of legislation, following these codes and guidelines is a good way to ensure you are complying with the law. Furthermore, if there is ever an issue, evidence of following these processes can be evidence of following industry practice and the use of “due diligence” to avoid breaching the relevant legal rule. This could help you establish a defence.

### Ten Golden Rules

#### Non-Fish Or Protected Fish Species (NFPS) Catch Reports

The Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 require reporting of all NFPS captures (dead or alive). It is an offence to fail to report.

All permit holders and skippers must know the law and file an NFPS catch report using their vessel's Electronic Reporting system.

Fisheries New Zealand Observers file their own NFPS catch reports, but this does NOT mean the vessel's obligation to report has been removed.

**Captures** means that the NFPS has become fixed, entangled, or trapped in such a way that it cannot move freely or free itself from any part of the fishing vessel.

**Deck strike** is where a bird collides with, or lands on a vessel or its superstructure, and is unable to leave the vessel of its own accord because it is injured or disoriented.

Treat all animals with respect and care (dead or alive).

Return all NFPS to the sea promptly and carefully unless required to be kept on board by a Fisheries New Zealand Observer.

Unauthorised retention or any further interference with protected wildlife is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953.

If unsure of the species name (NFPS code) use the generic codes provided.

E-logbook Users Instructions and Codes can be found here:

<https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/dmsdocument/37982-Fisheries-E-logbook-Users-Instructions-and-Codes-Circular-2019>



## Where do I find this information?

You can find various guides and information on the Ministry for Primary Industries/Fisheries New Zealand website, and also Seafood New Zealand, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand, the Deepwater Group Southern Seabird Solutions.

In particular you can find the following:

### Seabird Mitigation Standards:

Ministry for Primary Industries website, search for Reducing the Deaths of Seabirds.

**Link:** [www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries/protecting-marine-life/reducing-deaths-of-seabirds/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries/protecting-marine-life/reducing-deaths-of-seabirds/)

### Southern Seabird Solutions:

Southern Seabird Solutions is an innovative alliance between environmental, government and seafood industry organisations. Southern Seabird Solutions have a significant amount of resources available. **Website:** [catchfishnotbirds.nz](http://catchfishnotbirds.nz)

### Management of Sharks:

Ministry for Primary Industries website, search for Shark Finning Ban.

**Link:** [www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/3643-Landing-sharks-with-fins-attached](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/3643-Landing-sharks-with-fins-attached)

### Fisheries Inshore New Zealand

A number of operational procedures in respect of small vessel surface longliners, bottom longliners, coastal set netters and coastal trawlers can be found on the Fisheries Inshore New Zealand website, including operational procedures for seabirds, sharks, marine mammals and protected species.

**Website:** [inshore.co.nz](http://inshore.co.nz)

### Deepwater Group Operational Procedures

A number of operational procedures can be found on the Deepwater Group's website, including operational procedures for seabirds, sharks, marine mammals and protected species.

**Website:** [deepwatergroup.org](http://deepwatergroup.org)

## Examples of Codes of Practice and Guides

[www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/3643-Landing-sharks-with-fins-attached](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/3643-Landing-sharks-with-fins-attached)

[www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/38024/direct](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/38024/direct)

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[deepwatergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MMOP-Version-9-2.pdf](http://deepwatergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MMOP-Version-9-2.pdf)

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[www.catchfishnotbirds.nz](http://www.catchfishnotbirds.nz)