



Measuring our  
progress in the  
open seas.

# Towards a deeper understanding

## A summary

DEEPWATER GROUP REPORT 2021





# Deepwater Group will continue to deliver on our vision to be trusted as the best managed deepwater fisheries in the world.

Annually, deepwater fisheries contribute some

**\$1,800m**

to New Zealand's economy and employ around 6,000 people.

Annually, we provide the world with an estimated

**700m**

servings of natural and nutritious seafood.

**89%**

of New Zealanders want to be confident that they are buying fish that are sustainably managed.

The assessment of New Zealand's Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management against the MSC Fisheries Standard puts New Zealand deepwater fisheries in the top 5% of World's Sustainable Fisheries.

Since the inception of the Deepwater Group in 2005, quota owners, along with the Government, have invested around

**\$300m**

into science and monitoring to inform the management of our deepwater fisheries.

Effective fisheries management decisions rely upon science-based information about each fish stock and the effects of fishing on the broader marine environment.

Minimising the environmental effects of deepwater fisheries is a key component of the QMS requirements, the National Deepwater Plan, Deepwater Group's strategic plan as well as being embedded in our vision.



Since 2005, science projects have improved harvesting efficiencies, reducing our environmental footprint.

Between 2005 and 2020

Annual harvest has remained steady at around

**350,000t**

With a

**47%** reduction in the number of large trawlers from 60 to 30

**38%** reduction in the number of tows for the main deepwater species from 45,139 to 28,144 tows

More than **95%** of trawl catch is used

**76%** increase in export value from deepwater fisheries from \$484m to \$850m

Since the establishment of DWG in 2005

**31%**

or 1.2m km<sup>2</sup> of New Zealand's seabed closed to trawling.

Although New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is one of the largest in the world, covering about fifteen times the area of New Zealand's landmass, annually we traverse just

**1.1%**

**92%**

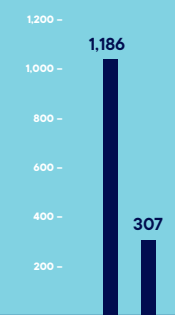
of New Zealand's seabed has never been trawled.

## Seabirds

The estimated annual number of albatross captured by deepwater trawlers since 2004-05 has been reduced by

**74%**

from 1,186 to 307 birds



The annual proportion of tows observed has trebled from 16% to around

**48%**

Maintaining fish stocks at sustainable levels is the essence of our strategic plan.

The default management target is to maintain the stock at a size of around

**40%**

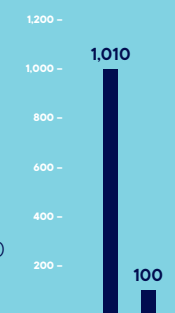
of what it would be if it remained unfished.

## Fur Seals

The estimated number of fur seals (from observer records) captured annually by deepwater trawlers has been reduced by more than

**90%**

from 1,010 to around 100

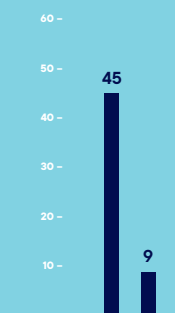


## Sea Lions

The estimated number of sea lions (from observer records) captured annually by deepwater trawlers has been reduced by around

**80%**

from 45 to 9



## Common Dolphins

The estimated number of common dolphins captured annually by deepwater trawlers has been reduced by more than

**99%**

from 85 to close to 0

