Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 15 - 17 May 2023

Wider rollout of on-board cameras in the New Zealand inshore fishing fleet

Fisheries New Zealand

SUMMARY

On 17 June 2021, New Zealand's Minister for Oceans and Fisheries announced that up to 300 inshore fishing vessels will be fitted with cameras by the end of 2024. This followed an initial proof of concept that saw cameras placed on vessels overlapping with habitat of Hector's and Māui dolphins off the south and east coast of the South Island and the west coast of the North Island respectively in 2019.

On 25 May 2022, the New Zealand government confirmed the details of the wider rollout:

1. Cameras will be installed on up to 300 vessels based on the fishing methods used, locations fished, and greatest risk posed to Antipodean albatross, Hector's and Māui dolphin, black petrel and hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin).
2. The installation sequence began in the second half of 2022 with trawl and set net vessels fishing off the west coast of the North Island.

The installation of on-board cameras will take about 24 months to complete.

All vessels using surface longline, bottom longline, purse seine and Danish seine fishing methods will have cameras installed. Additionally, trawl vessels less than or equal to 32 metres in length except those targeting scampi and set net vessels greater than or equal to 8 metres in length.

New Zealand sees data collected from cameras as a key part in making management decisions to ensure long-term health and resilience of our marine ecosystems.

Cameras have been used on commercial fishing vessels around the world for decades. We have learned a lot from overseas fisheries that are already using these systems. Utilising the data collected from these cameras will be the next step towards a more data-driven and responsive fisheries management system.

Further information: On-board cameras for commercial fishing vessels.