

TEN GOLDEN RULES

FOR SETNET FISHING TO SAVE PROTECTED SPECIES

- 1. Ensure your vessel has onboard the current Coastal Setnet Operational Procedures (OPs), a Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP), a map of setnet prohibition areas** and that you and your crew are familiar with the regulations and reporting requirements.
- 2. Avoid setting nets in the vicinity of significant seabird colonies and foraging areas** (consider time and season) for the region you fish, and where seabird and/or marine mammal activity is particularly high.
- 3. Ensure that stalling does not occur** while the nets are set (i.e. minimise the time the net sits at the surface).
- 4. Avoid excessive soak time** (only soak as long as needed to maximise catch value) and ensure you are aware of maximum soak time outlined in the regulations.
- 5. Ensure your setnets do not cover more than one quarter of a channel, bay, inlet, etc,** as required by the regulations.
- 6. No discharging of offal or fish waste immediately before or during setting** and remove all stickers as practicable from the net prior to each shot.
- 7. While hauling, either hold or batch discharge offal and fish waste.** Return live fish (meeting the legal requirements) to the sea as quickly as practicably possible.
- 8. While ensuring safe operating standards, minimise additional and unnecessary lighting** so as not to attract or disorientate seabirds, especially while sheltering or at anchor.
- 9. Ensure you and your crew are familiar with and follow safe animal handling procedures and protocol** (see DOC Handling and Release Guide). Record and report any bird band numbers to bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz.
- 10. Report all protected species captures by ERS and notify your local Liaison Officer (same day) when protected species captures reach a Trigger point.** The Trigger points are outlined in your PSRMP. Assess the event and when necessary implement further risk reduction.

For support phone your local Liaison Officer