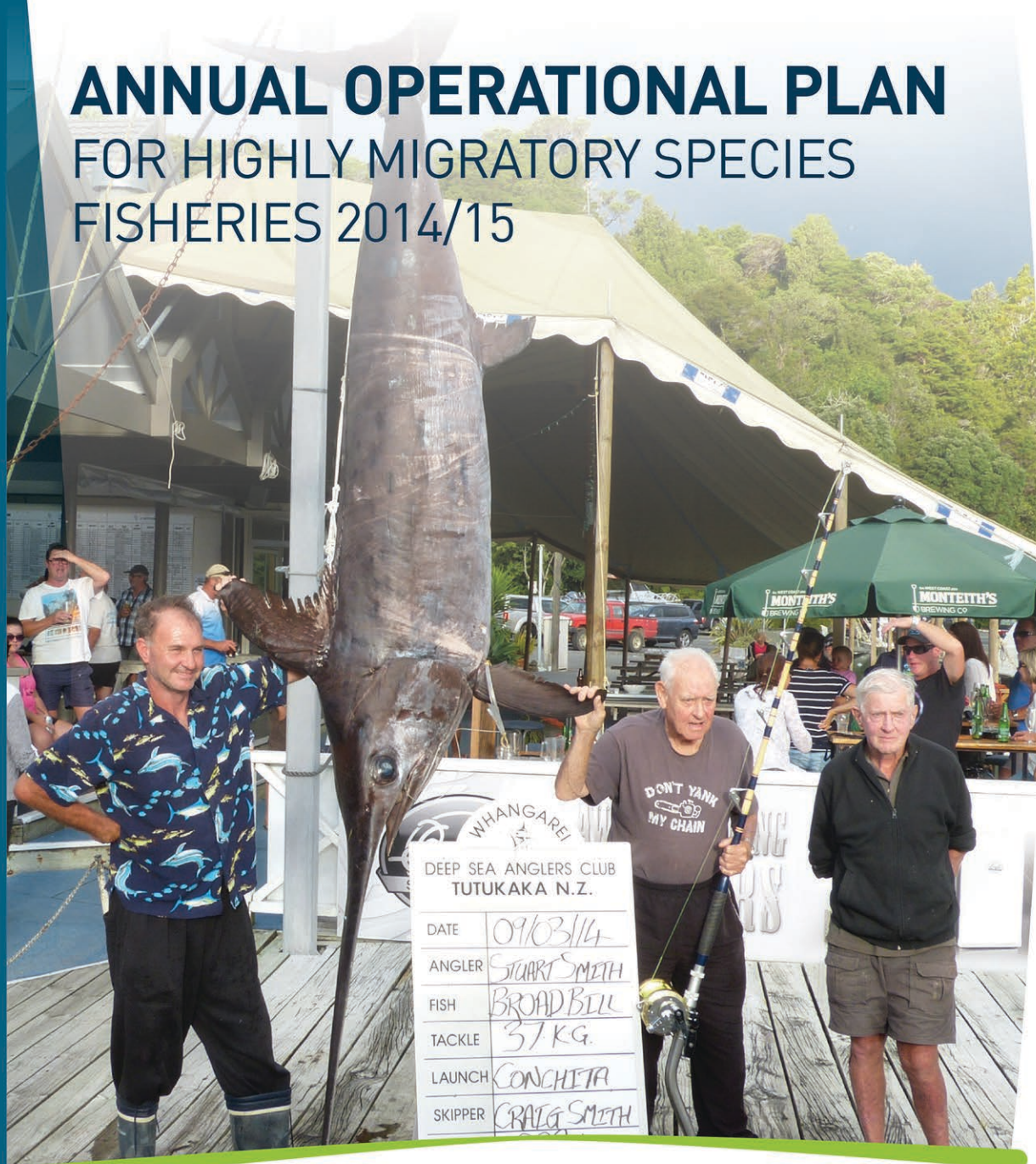




ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERIES 2014/15



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Front cover image: Angler Stuart Smith (85 years old) and his deck hand (84 years old), with the winning fish from the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's 2013-14 Old Man and the Sea Cup for the most meritorious catch. Stu has fished all his life and this is his first broadbill. (Photo credit John Holdsworth).

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1 Introduction

The National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species provides the framework for the management of fisheries for highly migratory species (HMS) in New Zealand fisheries waters for the five-year period 2010–2015, as well as providing a framework for New Zealand's advocacy for management of HMS in international fora. The national plan is supported by three fishery-specific chapters, covering management of large pelagic species, skipjack, and albacore.

Annual operational plans outline actions aimed at achieving the objectives in these plans. This annual operational plan describes the management approach for HMS fisheries for the July 2014 to June 2015 financial year. Many actions contribute to meeting more than one objective in the national fisheries plan for HMS; however, noting that the national plan covers a five-year period, actions have not been identified for the 2014–15 year to contribute to every objective in the national fisheries plan. Instead, key focus areas are identified, along with business as usual tasks. The services required for achieving the tasks are also outlined, including services required of Ministry for Primary Industries (the Ministry) business groups, and of stakeholders with an interest in the management of these fisheries.

The demand for management services is frequently greater than can be provided by the Ministry. Internal prioritisation may occur where needed to ensure sufficient resources to undertake not just the activities in the HMS annual operational plan, but also in annual operational plans for Deepwater, Inshore Finfish, Inshore Shellfish, and Freshwater. Engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders also provides opportunities to identify where these groups can provide needed or desired services.

2 Management and operational objectives for HMS fisheries

The HMS fisheries plan is designed to contribute towards the overall goal for New Zealand's fisheries that is laid out in the strategy document *Fisheries 2030 – New Zealanders maximising benefits from the use of fisheries within environmental limits*.¹ This goal is supported by outcomes that are grouped into Use Outcomes, Environment Outcomes, and the Governance Conditions that will be needed to ensure we can meet the outcomes.

2.1 FISHERIES 2030 OUTCOMES

Use Outcome: Fisheries resources are used in a manner that provides greatest overall economic, social, and cultural benefit

Environment Outcome: The capacity and integrity of the aquatic environment, habitats and species are sustained at levels that provide for future and current use.

Governance Conditions: Sound governance arrangements that are well specified, transparent, and which support cost-effective and accountable decision-making

¹ http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Fisheries+2030/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=PresentationU

The objectives in the HMS fisheries plan are grouped under these outcomes and governance conditions as follows.

2.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Use Outcome	1	Promote a viable and profitable tuna fishery in New Zealand
	2	Maintain / enhance world class gamefisheries in New Zealand fisheries waters
	3	Deliver fair opportunities for access to HMS fisheries
	4	Minimise wastage and promote humane treatment
	5	Maori interests (including customary, commercial, recreational and environmental) are enhanced

Environment Outcome	6	Maintain a sustainable fishery for HMS within environmental standards
	7	Implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, taking into account associated and dependent species
	8	Protect, maintain, and enhance fisheries habitat
	9	Allow for HMS aquaculture development while ensuring the ecosystem and wild fisheries are protected

Governance conditions	10	Recognise and provide for Deed of Settlement obligations
	11	Influence international fora and ensure New Zealand interests are taken into account
	12	Maintain an effective fisheries management regime

These objectives are relevant to the management of all HMS fisheries. More specific operational objectives that apply to the management of particular HMS fisheries are outlined in the relevant fisheries plan chapters (i.e. large pelagics, skipjack, and albacore troll fishery chapters). The actions outlined in the following sections are designed to meet both the overall management objectives and the fishery-specific operational objectives.

3 Management actions and services for 2014–15

3.1 KEY FOCUS AREAS

In implementing the HMS fisheries plan, the proposed key focus areas for 2014–15 are as follows:

Key focus area 1	<i>Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with seabirds</i>								
Contributes to management objective 7— Implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, taking into account associated and dependent species									
<p>Management tasks</p> <p>The National Plan of Action to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in New Zealand Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) sets out a long term objective, supporting high-level subsidiary objectives, and objectives to be met within the first five years. Annual operational plans, including this one for HMS fisheries, will incorporate more specific tasks to meet the objectives contained in the plan.</p> <p>The long term objective of the NPOA-Seabirds is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">New Zealand seabirds thrive without pressure from fishing related mortalities, New Zealand fishers avoid or mitigate against seabird captures and New Zealand fisheries are globally recognised as seabird friendly.</p> <p>The five-year objectives and actions proposed to meet them are:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Objective</th><th style="text-align: left;">Planned HMS actions for 2014-15</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Five year practical objectives</p> <p>a). All New Zealand commercial fishing vessels are shown to be implementing current best practice mitigation measures relevant to their area and fishery,</p> <p>b). 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b). New observation and monitoring methods, especially in relation to poorly observed fisheries, are researched, developed and implemented, and

c). Programmes of research to improve our understanding of and ability to mitigate seabird incidental mortality for at risk species are underway and key projects for very high risk species have been completed.

Five year international objectives:

In areas beyond the waters under New Zealand jurisdiction, relevant RFMOs and governments (and also relevant industry organisations, fishing companies and fishers) understand the potential risk posed to New Zealand seabirds from fishing activities for which they have responsibility and are taking actions to reduce that risk where it is likely to be high.

- Improve spatial and fleet representativeness of observer coverage (including reviewing past patterns of cross-fleet coverage and developing a plan for getting observers onto unobserved vessels);
- Monitor use of alternate monitoring methods, such as cameras, being trialled in other fisheries to determine applicability in HMS.
- Undertaking and communicating a global seabird risk assessment, including presenting results to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC); and
- Contributing to the workshop of CCSBT's Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group to be held in November 2014.

The risk assessment compares annual potential fatalities (based on observed captures, known seabird distributions, and multipliers for factors like unobserved mortalities) to potential biological removals (the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population). The current seabird risk assessment estimated 1,340 annual potential fatalities of seabirds in surface longline fisheries (95% confidence interval: 1,170 – 1,570).² Over 80% of the mean estimated annual potential fatalities were in small-vessel surface longline fisheries. Species with over 100 estimated fatalities included northern and southern Buller's albatross, New Zealand white-capped albatross, and Gibson's albatross. A revised version of the current risk assessment is underway, and will include better description of risk for separate HMS fishery components (including separately identifying swordfish and tuna fishery interactions with seabirds).

The NPOA-Seabirds identifies implementation of spatially and temporally representative at-sea data collection in inshore and some HMS fisheries as an area requiring further work.

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: hold seabird workshops, investigate means of increasing representativeness of monitoring, advocate for seabird protection through RFMOs, and liaise on other seabird tasks
- Science: lead research projects and provide advice as required on other tasks
- Compliance: monitor compliance with existing requirements and regularly report findings to fisheries managers
- Observer services: deliver planned observer coverage (see business as usual area 3)
- Data management: manage data submission process for CCSBT ecologically related species (ERS) data and WCPFC data
- Stakeholders: manage fishing activities to minimise interactions with seabirds; provide input and advice to improve mitigation measures where possible; participate in relevant trials of mitigation equipment; participate in fisher workshops; support efforts to improve representativeness of observer coverage.

² Estimation of annual fatalities was based on seabird captures reported by observers between the 2006–07 and 2010–11 fishing years. From these captures, the total observable captures were estimated (the number of seabird captures that would have been reported had an observer been on every fishing vessel). Not all seabirds that are killed are brought on-board vessels, and the observable captures were multiplied by a factor to account for these cryptic mortalities. The cryptic multiplier varied between 1.30 and 8.66, depending on fishing method and seabird species. Source: Richard and Abraham (2013) Risk of commercial fisheries to New Zealand seabird populations. New Zealand Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Report No. 109.

Key focus area 2	<i>Manage the interaction of HMS fisheries with sharks</i>		
Contributes to management objective 6— Maintain a sustainable fishery for HMS within environmental standards			
<p>Management tasks</p> <p>A revised National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA–Sharks) was adopted in January 2014. The purpose of the NPOA–Sharks is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To maintain the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations by recognising their role in marine ecosystems, ensuring that any utilisation of sharks is sustainable, and that New Zealand receives positive recognition internationally for its efforts in shark conservation and management.</p> <p>Goals and objectives guide management towards this purpose over the five-year term of the plan, including:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Goal</p> <p>Biodiversity and long-term viability of shark populations</p> <p>1. 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The target date for this review is December 2015, but work will likely take place during the 2014-15 period. • A work plan will be developed for objectives 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 (undertaking stock assessment for QMS stocks; managing fishing mortality for protected and/or high risk species; and identifying and conserving critical shark habitats respectively). • A summary of existing national and international research on mitigation of shark bycatch in surface longline fisheries is scheduled to be reported back in August 2014. • Consultation on options for banning shark finning in all New Zealand fisheries occurred in May and June 2014. Implementation of the preferred option will be on-going, with some (or all) fisheries to be covered from 1 October 2014. 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³ www.cites.org.

<p>Research and information</p> <p>6. Continuously improve the information available to conserve sharks and manage fisheries that impact on sharks, with prioritisation guided by the risk assessment framework.</p>	<p>listing does not mean a trade ban, but does place constraints on exports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will take the lead in investigating whether New Zealand will become a signatory to the CMS MOU on sharks. • New Zealand will continue to advocate for adoption of effective, risk-based shark management measures in relevant RFMOs including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). • Planned HMS research projects are HMS2014-02 (Age, growth and reproduction of mako sharks), and HMS2014-05 (Stable isotope analysis of highly migratory species to assess trophic linkages and spatial and temporal movement trends of HMS sharks). • Aquatic environment projects include: ENV2014-01 (NPOA-Sharks: comprehensive risk assessment), and ENV2014-02 (NPOA-Sharks: age and growth of selected at-risk species).
<p>Associated services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries management: implement Ministerial decisions on shark finning ban; liaise with industry and the Department of Conservation on CITES proposals; ensure fishers are aware of existing and any new regulatory requirements; review management based on risk assessment. • Science: manage research process and provide advice on any management proposals • Compliance: provide advice on any management proposals affecting compliance • Legal: provide advice on any management proposals • Stakeholders: provide input into consultation as required 	

<p>Key focus area 3</p>	<p><i>Improve understanding of the impact of out-of-zone fisheries on the availability of HMS in New Zealand</i></p>
<p>Contributes to management objective 2– Maintain/enhance world class gamefisheries in New Zealand fisheries waters</p> <p>Management objective 6: Maintain a sustainable fishery for HMS within environmental standards</p>	
<p>Management tasks</p> <p>New Zealand is on the margins of distribution for many HMS of interest to fishers, and the presence and availability of HMS in New Zealand waters can be affected by fishing outside of the New Zealand zone. For 2014–15, two species have been identified as requiring specific focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowfin tuna: New Zealand has advocated for research into potential causes for the notable decline in yellowfin catches in our waters, leading to on-going investigation into a possible range contraction. Results from additional modelling currently underway are due to be reported to the Sub Committee for South Pacific Tuna and Billfish in October 2014. Actions in 2014–15 will include communicating the results of this work to stakeholders; advocating for additional work as required; and considering how the outcomes of the work should be incorporated into advocacy for WCPFC management of the yellowfin fishery. Current emphasis has been on increasing FAD (fish aggregating device) restrictions which have been tightened up in the most recent revision of the Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas. • Striped marlin: In 2013 WCPFC’s scientific committee considered a paper 	

<p>identifying areas of high marlin catch concentration that could be subject to targeted management (noting that marlin is often caught as a non-target species). Overall the waters of Australia and the adjacent high seas represented a consistent hotspot for catches, with the waters of New Caledonia, Vanuatu, New Zealand, French Polynesia, and their adjacent high seas also important in some instances. New Zealand will support this on-going work, as well as considering any additional steps required in the lead-up to the next assessment scheduled for 2017 (including the need for management action).</p> <p>In addition, objective 2.1 of the national fisheries plan for HMS outlines a need for further review if recreational catch rates for marlin drop below the long-term mean for three consecutive seasons. This provision was triggered in 2013 (with low catch rates in 2010, 2011, and 2012). However, total recreational catch from NZFSC and for long term sport fishing clubs for 2012/13 was up from 2011/12 figures (close to the average in recent years); the mean weight of recreational marlin is trending up and the CPUE for 2012/13 was generally better than 2011/12. New Zealand will continue to keep an eye on recreational catch rates and size to ensure management is meeting the objectives.</p>	
<p>Associated services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries management: support science delegation, and incorporate outcomes of assessment into negotiating positions • Science: lead New Zealand delegation to WCPFC scientific committee, provide input into research as required, and encourage the scientific committee to adopt clear recommendations for future directions for yellowfin and striped marlin management and research • International: support science delegation, and incorporate outcomes of assessment into negotiating positions • Stakeholders: continue to provide information on availability of species of interest to the recreational sector (including anecdotally and through planned research such as the gamefish tagging programme and logbook scheme). 	
<p>Key focus area 4</p>	<p><i>Revise and update the National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species</i></p>
<p>Contributes to management objective 12—Maintain an effective fisheries management regime</p>	
<p>Management tasks</p> <p>The National Fisheries Plan for HMS was adopted by the then-Minister of Fisheries in 2010, and covers the period 2010 to 2015. As noted in the introductory sections, the plan sets goals and objectives for the management of HMS fisheries. An iterative, collaborative process was followed for developing the plan with the fisheries plan advisory group. It is proposed to likewise involve the fisheries plan advisory group in developing a fisheries plan for 2015–2020.</p>	
<p>Associated services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries management: work with the fisheries plan advisory group to update the fisheries plan • Compliance: provide input as required • International: provide input as required • Legal: provide input as required • Stakeholders: participate in revision of the fish plan through the fisheries plan advisory group process 	

3.2 BUSINESS AS USUAL AREAS

Management of HMS fisheries also includes a range of ‘business as usual’ (BAU) tasks, as outlined below. Many of these BAU tasks contribute to multiple fisheries plan objectives, so the individual objectives have not been specifically identified here. For example, BAU area 2 could contribute to objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 of the national fisheries plan (see section 2.2 for the objectives).

Business as usual area 1	<i>Review catch limits and management settings as required</i>
Such reviews could be required for a range of reasons to implement agreed domestic or international measures. No such reviews are planned for the 1 October 2014 sustainability round (aside from the shark finning ban discussed under Key Focus Area 2), but reviews could be required in 2015.	
Associated services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries management: run consultation and advice processes for any required sustainability or regulatory changes • Science: provide advice as required • Compliance: provide advice as required • Legal: provide legal advice on proposals • Registry/regulatory services: manage associated regulatory processes for implementing management decisions • Stakeholders: provide input and advice on proposed options 	

Business as usual area 2	<i>Contribute to international processes including meetings of CCSBT and WCPFC</i>
<p>CCSBT: Business as usual tasks include administering the catch documentation scheme; administering the authorised vessel list, including regular updates to ensure all vessels catching southern bluefin tuna are on the list of authorised vessels; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings. New Zealand is host to a number of CCSBT meetings in 2014, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a meeting of the scientific committee (01 – 06 September 2014) • the compliance committee meeting (9 – 11 October 2014) • the annual meeting of CCSBT (13 – 16 October 2014) and <p>An “Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group” meeting (4 – 6 November 2014) and a meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (March 2015) are also planned for Japan.</p> <p>WCPFC: WCPFC’s focus for 2014-15 will be on further development of the conservation and management measure for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin (while the existing measure covers up until 2017, the out years in the existing measure are conditional on on-going discussions, including on the disproportionate burden of the measure on small island developing countries).⁴ Work will also occur on revising the South Pacific albacore CMM and advancing rights based management (within EEZs) through a formal regional arrangement; work towards a more comprehensive shark CMM, ongoing development of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, strengthening transshipment,</p>	

⁴ The Scientific Committee (SC) meeting in August 2014 will present the new stock assessment results for these three key tuna species which will have a large bearing on the management recommendations of the SC and any decisions made at the Commission.

monitoring and reporting, and port state measures. Business as usual tasks include updating New Zealand vessels on WCPFC's record of fishing vessels as required; issuing and updating high seas permits as required to ensure New Zealand vessels fishing within the WCPFC area comply with all relevant measures; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings.

Meetings include:

- the scientific committee (6 – 14 August 2014)
- the technical and compliance committee (25 – 30 September 2014)
- the annual meeting of WCPFC (1 – 5 December 2014)

The Ministry is actively engaged with the Forum Fisheries Agency, a pan-Pacific fisheries body. FFA typically meets in advance of each of the WCPFC meetings, as well as at other times to plan its position on key agenda items.

New Zealand is also a member of Te Vaka Moana (TVM), a grouping of Polynesian countries with shared fisheries interests, particularly in the southern albacore and swordfish fisheries (as well as other WCPFC stocks). TVM typically meets in the margins of FFA and WCPFC meetings. Business as usual tasks for TVM include development and review of planning and management documents (see BAU area 7 below).

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: coordinate input into CCSBT and provide fisheries management input into WCPFC, FFA, and TVM; liaise with stakeholders to keep them informed on international management
- Science: lead input into scientific processes and provide additional scientific advice as required
- Compliance: provide compliance advice as required and attend relevant meetings e.g. TCC
- International: lead input into WCPFC, FFA, and TVM and provide advice as required for CCSBT; liaise with stakeholders to keep them informed on international management
- Data management: ensure timely submission of New Zealand's fisheries data as required under WCPFC and CCSBT agreements
- Stakeholders: provide input into New Zealand's negotiating positions as outlined in stakeholder consultation meetings/communications; participate in international meetings as part of the New Zealand delegation (following an approval process) or as meeting observers

Business as usual area 3	<i>Monitor commercial and non-commercial fisheries for HMS</i>
<p>Information on HMS fisheries is collected from a variety of sources, including commercial reporting (with semi-independent reporting on catches and landings), non-commercial reporting (for a limited number of recreational gamefisheries), observer monitoring, and scientific research.</p> <p>Observer data provides the most detailed quantification of catch on a set-by-set basis, and is used for a variety of purposes including as inputs into characterisations and stock assessment. New Zealand also has obligations to WCPFC and CCSBT to provide observer coverage, as follows:</p> <p>CCSBT– a target of 10% of catch and effort for each fishery component (i.e. the charter and domestic fleets)</p> <p>WCPFC– 100% coverage for purse seine vessels operating on the high seas between 20°</p>	

north and 20° south (observers are sourced from the regional observer programme); for other methods operating on the high seas, a minimum of 5% coverage sourced either from the regional observer programme or, if fishing is immediately adjacent to the New Zealand exclusive economic zone boundary, the national observer programme.

Planned observer coverage for HMS fisheries is outlined in appendix three. Priorities for domestic observer coverage for 2014–15 include:

- Meeting CCSBT observer standards;
- Collecting data to assess HMS shark conversion factors;
- Recording shark handling practices (including live status of returns), and processed states of retained catches; and
- Collecting data to enable better characterisation of risk factors that contribute to protected species captures.

Non-commercial fisheries are also monitored in a variety of ways. Recreational charter boats are subject to compulsory registration, activity reporting, and catch reporting for specified stocks including southern and Pacific bluefin tunas. Monitoring of recreational fisheries for HMS also occurs through voluntary reporting, including through the long-standing gamefish tagging programme, and through targeted logbook schemes.

Monitoring and management of information from these sources is coordinated through the HMS research plan (see BAU area 5).

Compliance monitoring is discussed further in BAU area 4.

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: liaise with observers on outcomes of coverage
- Science: lead improvements on observer data capture; liaise with observers on outcomes of coverage
- Compliance: monitor commercial and non-commercial fisheries for HMS as outlined under BAU 4, and follow up on items of interest identified through observer coverage
- Observer services: deliver planned observer coverage; liaise with fisheries management, science and compliance to provide feedback on observer coverage

Business as usual area 4	<i>HMS compliance</i>
<p>Work will continue on implementing the compliance strategy for HMS stocks. Key priority areas identified for 2014–15 are outlined in appendix one. Services and strategies identified in the compliance plan are grouped into compliance and fisheries management activities as follows.</p> <p>Compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At sea patrols • Aerial patrols • Multilateral/regional operations • Port inspections • Analysis • Engagement in RFMO work • Engaging with fishers <p>Fisheries management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly documenting requirements and disseminating information 	

- Ensuring robust systems are in place
- Engagement in RFMO work
- Applying appropriate monitoring and controls

International obligations include reviewing and responding to New Zealand's Draft Compliance Monitoring Report.⁵ The WCPFC Secretariat prepares a report for each member by 28 July 2014; members have one month to respond to these reports, which are then discussed at the Technical and Compliance Committee Meeting in September 2014. WCPFC is continuing to develop its MCS (monitoring, control and surveillance) framework. Work is anticipated in 2014 on development of a catch documentation scheme (CDS), as well as on-going reviews of existing measures.

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: lead input into CCSBT compliance, and the fisheries management tasks identified in the HMS compliance strategy; liaise on other compliance tasks
- Compliance: provide compliance advice as required; attend relevant meetings e.g. WCPFC's Technical and Compliance Committee; lead or support Ministry responses to specific compliance proposals or other relevant discussions (e.g. development and management of an MCS framework including VMS (vessel monitoring systems), vessel registration; IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing) vessel listing, transshipment controls etc); and additional compliance tasks as identified in the compliance strategy under the areas outlined above (patrols, port inspections, analysis etc).
- Legal: provide advice as required
- Stakeholders: meet regulatory requirements for fishing; provide input and advice on how regulations could be improved where appropriate

Business as usual area 5

Implement the HMS research plan

Research projects planned to implement the HMS research plan for 2014–15 are outlined in detail in appendix two, and include:

- Commercial catch sampling programme for highly migratory species;
- Age, growth and reproduction of mako sharks; and
- Stable isotope analysis of highly migratory species to assess trophic linkages and spatial and temporal movement trends of HMS sharks.

Additional research projects of relevance to HMS fisheries include:

- NPOA–Sharks: comprehensive risk assessment;
- NPOA–Sharks: age and growth of selected at-risk species;
- Update of level-2 seabird risk assessment;
- Reducing uncertainty in biological components of the risk assessments for at-risk seabird species; and
- Improving information on the distribution of key protected species.

Associated services:

- Research Advisory Group: develop research proposals to meet information needs for fisheries management (membership of this group is limited to technical experts).

⁵ <http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202013-02%20Compliance%20Monitoring%20Scheme.pdf>.

- Fisheries management: review research projects; participate in the Research Advisory Group as required
- Science: run the research process, including working group meetings; convene meetings of the Research Advisory Group as required
- Contracts management: manage research contracts
- Stakeholders: participate in working group meetings to review research projects.

Business as usual area 6	<i>Support environmental certification for the albacore fishery</i>
<p>The MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) has certified that the New Zealand troll fishery for albacore conforms to the requirements of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing. The certification report includes conditions and recommendations, which the Ministry will continue to work with industry to implement as appropriate. The current focus is working with neighbouring Pacific Island countries to develop target and limit reference points for the southern albacore stock, and advocating for the adoption of these reference points within the wider WCPFC (MSC Condition 1). The 9th Regular session of the WCPFC (December 2012) adopted a biomass-based limit reference point for South Pacific albacore⁶ with the agreement that further work would be carried out by the Scientific Committee on F-based (i.e. fishing mortality-based) reference points.⁷</p> <p>WCPFC10 decided to focus the next Management Objectives Workshop (MOW3) on skipjack. There has been some interest expressed in harvest strategies (i.e. reference points, indicators and harvest control rules) for albacore but due to workloads from the three major tropical tuna assessments, any consideration of albacore by the science provider will have to come after SC and prior to MOW3 and WCPFC11 (December 2014). New Zealand continues to co-operate with other countries in the fishery to further refine limit reference points and to adopt an appropriate target reference point for the South Pacific albacore sock. New Zealand Industry are currently preparing for the third annual audit of the New Zealand albacore tuna troll fishery.</p>	
<p>Associated services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuna Management Association of New Zealand: implement Client Action Plan for on-going certification • Fisheries management: work with Tuna Management Association to implement their Client Action Plan • Science: provide input into plan implementation as required • Other stakeholders: engage with the Tuna Management Association and the Ministry to provide input into the certification process 	

Business as usual area 7	<i>Contribute to implementation of the Ministry's Memorandum of Understanding on Pacific capacity development</i>
<p>The Ministry has a supporting role providing technical assistance to develop Pacific countries' fisheries management and MCS capacity, including through TVM. The Ministry has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of</p>	

⁶ The reference point is $20\%SB_{\text{recent}, F=0}$, where $SB_{\text{recent}, F=0}$ refers to the estimated average spawning biomass over a recent period in the absence of fishing.

⁷ F-based reference points are fishing mortality-based reference points. Advantages over biomass-based reference points include: i) biomass estimate updates require new stock assessments; ii) F levels are more directly controlled by management; and iii) F-based reference points are more robust to biological uncertainties.

Foreign Affairs and Trade (spanning Feb 2014 – May 2019) to deliver this work. TVM countries wish to sustainably develop their longline fisheries, and TVM is working on refining the collective development opportunities open to member countries. The initial priority species is albacore, but longer-term objectives will be established for all key tuna species as well as some others of recreational significance. Implementation of robust regional MCS arrangements is also of mutual interest and is supported by a specific multilateral agreement (Te Vaka Toa).

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: provide fisheries management advice on Pacific capacity building
- Science: provide science advice on Pacific capacity building
- Compliance: provide compliance advice on Pacific capacity building, especially through the Te Vaka Toa agreement on regional compliance
- International: coordinate implementation of the MOU
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: monitor and engage on MOU implementation

Business as usual area 8

Engage with fisheries stakeholders

Engagement with stakeholders with an interest in HMS fisheries occurs in a variety of ways and through various forums, including through:

- The fisheries plan advisory group, which has representatives of commercial, recreational, and customary fishers, and environmental groups, and typically meets twice yearly to provide input into the annual review report and the annual operational plan;
- Workshops with surface longline fishers, which occur two times a year;
- Recreational and iwi forums;
- A national environmental advisory group;
- Stakeholder consultation meetings held before and/or after key international meetings;
- Targeted meetings or workshops as required; and
- HMS pages on the fisheries website (<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/hms/>).

Targeted communications are also used to keep in touch with the sector, including a newsletter for surface longline fishers.

Statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996 occurs for changes to sustainability and regulatory measures.

Associated services:

- Fisheries management: engage with stakeholders with an interest in HMS fisheries
- Science: participate in meetings/workshops as required e.g. fish plan meetings and longline workshops
- Compliance: participate in meetings/workshops as required e.g. longline workshops

4 Work plan for 2014–15

HMS Management Actions & objectives they contribute to	Work Period			
	Q1 (JUL-SEP)	Q2 (OCT-DEC)	Q3 (JAN-MAR)	Q4 (APR-JUN)
KEY FOCUS AREAS				
1. Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with seabirds				
Management objective 7— Implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, taking into account associated and dependent species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird mitigation trials (line weighting and hook pods) and communication of results (on-going) • Improve spatial and fleet representativeness of observer coverage (on-going) • Improve compliance with existing mitigation measures (on-going) • Investigate electronic monitoring for monitoring mitigation use and effectiveness (on-going) • Update the surface longline Code of Practise to incorporate new mitigation requirements and guidelines on offal and waste bait disposal (industry-led) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss seabird mitigation and management as a standing item at surface longline workshops • Review past patterns of cross-fleet coverage and developing a plan for getting observers onto unobserved vessels • Contribute to the CCSBT Workshop on effectiveness of seabird mitigation measure Technical Group • Develop appropriate reduction targets for HMS fisheries (on-going; meeting by Nov 2014) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss seabird mitigation and management as a standing item at surface longline workshops • Undertake and communicate a global seabird risk assessment including presenting results to CCSBT and WCPFC
2. Manage the interaction of HMS fisheries with sharks				
Management objective 6— Maintain a sustainable fishery for HMS within environmental standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to non-detriment finding for porbeagle and hammerhead sharks (CITES) • Finalise shark finning regulations and liaise with fishers to ensure smooth implementation • Develop implementation and communication plan for the NPOA-Sharks (in collaboration with other internal teams, DOC, and Foreign Affairs) • Data collation for shark risk assessment • Communicate results of shark bycatch mitigation project to stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to liaise with fishers on shark finning regulations • Monitor reported and observed data on landings of sharks • Qualitative shark risk assessment expert panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on quantitative risk assessment • Preparatory work for CMS Sharks MOU meeting of signatories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin consideration of management categories and protection status of HMS sharks in light of risk assessment results • Preparatory work for CMS Sharks MOU meeting of signatories
3. Improve understanding of the impact of out-of-zone fisheries on the availability of HMS in New Zealand				
Management objective 3— Deliver fair opportunities for access to HMS fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support relevant analyses at the WCPFC scientific committee (6 – 14 August 2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going support for relevant scientific work and consideration of how to incorporate into management where required • Communicate results from Range Contraction research (due to be reported at the SC-SPTBF; October 2014) to stakeholders • Consider available information on marlin that might be influencing lower recreational catch rates in recent seasons 		

HMS Management Actions & objectives they contribute to	Work Period			
	Q1 (JUL-SEP)	Q2 (OCT-DEC)	Q3 (JAN-MAR)	Q4 (APR-JUN)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor recreational catch and catch rates of marlin 		
4. Revise and update the National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species				
Governance condition 12— Maintain an effective fisheries management regime		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare structure and process for revision of the HMS Fish Plan for consultation with FPAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft revised HMS Fish Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult on and finalise revised HMS Fish Plan
BUSINESS AS USUAL				
1. Review catch limits and management settings as required				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress agreed STN 2014 TAC increase 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider any proposals for 2015-16 year
2. Contribute to international processes including meetings of CCSBT and WCPFC				
	<p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific committee (6 – 14 August 2014) Technical and compliance committee (25-30 September 2014) <p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) (1-4 Jul 2014) Meetings in advance of science and TCC meetings <p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific committee: 1-6 Sep 2014 Monthly CDS reporting Updates to authorised vessel list as required On-going liaison with fishers and LFRs on CDS 	<p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting (1-5 December 2014) <p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-committee for South Pacific Tuna and Billfish (SC-SPTBF, October TBC) <p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance committee (9-11 Oct 2014) Annual meeting (13-16 Oct 2014) Monthly CDS reporting Updates to authorised vessel list as required Distribute tags and forms for CDS Workshop on effectiveness of seabird mitigation measures Technical Group (Nov 4 – 6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly CDS reporting Updates to authorised vessel list as required On-going liaison with fishers and LFRs on CDS Update high seas permits with any new conditions arising from RFMO meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly CDS reporting Updates to authorised vessel list as required On-going liaison with fishers and LFRs on CDS ERSWG meeting (May 2015) Issue revised high seas permits
3. Monitor commercial and non-commercial fisheries for HMS				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver planned observer coverage as outlined in appendix 3. Liaise regularly on outcomes of coverage and follow-up as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver planned observer coverage as outlined in appendix 3 Liaise regularly on outcomes of coverage and follow-up as required. Review past patterns of cross-fleet coverage and develop a plan for getting observers onto unobserved vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver planned observer coverage as outlined in appendix 3. Liaise regularly on outcomes of coverage and follow-up as required. Plan 2015-16 coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver planned observer coverage as outlined in appendix 3. Liaise regularly on outcomes of coverage and follow-up as required. Finalise 2015-16 coverage
4. HMS compliance				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for CCSBT compliance committee meeting (9-11 Oct 2014) and annual meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for the hosting of the CCSBT compliance committee meeting and annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement any outcomes of WCPFC and CCSBT meetings as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At-sea patrol (in zone) Monitored unloads of domestic vessels (focus

HMS Management Actions & objectives they contribute to	Work Period			
	Q1 (JUL-SEP)	Q2 (OCT-DEC)	Q3 (JAN-MAR)	Q4 (APR-JUN)
	(13-16 Oct 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and attend WCPFC technical and compliance committee (25-30 Sep 2014) and CDS working group (dates not yet confirmed) • At-sea patrol (out of zone) • Aerial patrols (on-going) • Monitored unloads of domestic vessels (focus southern bluefin tuna and sharks) • Discrepancy checking of fisher and LFR reporting • Input as required into the New Zealand Part 2 Country Report and resulting Compliance Monitoring Report for WCPFC 	meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCPFC annual meeting (1-5 Dec 2014) • Analysis and cross-checking of various data sources on fishing (in and out of zone) (on-going) • Ongoing work contributing to the development of a WCPFC CDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of HMS compliance strategy, including prioritisation of services for next financial year 	STN season) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contact with surface longline vessel operators to ensure they are familiar with HMS rules
5. Implement the HMS research plan				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014-15 research projects commence • Review long term HMS research plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries plan advisory group identifies information needs for HMS fisheries • Research advisory group develops potential research projects to meet identified needs • Research proposals developed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on proposed research proposals as part of cost recovery consultation
6. Support environmental certification for the albacore fishery				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support further development of target and limit reference points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise SC-SPTBF meeting (Oct) and management objectives workshop (Nov) to progress ALB management. • Advance albacore measure at WCPFC annual meeting (Dec) 		
7. Contribute to implementation of the Ministry's Memorandum of Understanding on Pacific capacity development				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Te Vaka Moana and FFA's SC-SPTBF to consider management approaches for Pacific fisheries (on-going) • Implement the MOU work plan (on-going) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit a new HMS team member to work on coastal fisheries management in the Pacific 		
8. Engage with fisheries stakeholders				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through iwi forum coordinators to keep them up to date with key HMS issues of relevance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with fish plan advisory group to discuss annual review report and research needs • Hold surface longline workshop • Meet before and/or after major meetings of the RFMOs to brief/de-brief on key issues and New Zealand position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish 'pelagic update' newsletter (1-2 x per year or as relevant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with fish plan advisory group to discuss annual operational plan • Provide information to iwi and recreational forums on planned HMS projects • Hold surface longline workshop

5 Appendices

5.1 HMS COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES FOR 2014–15

Outcome	Specific Priorities
Compliance with QMS rules for HMS ensured	<p>Specific attention addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine unload inspections • The risk of high-grading of southern bluefin tuna • Compliance with southern bluefin tuna catch documentation requirements • Appropriate conditions for s110 approvals⁸
Compliance input to New Zealand commitments to CCSBT, Te Vaka Toa, FFA and WCPFC is delivered	<p>Specific attention addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to annual meetings • Contributions to Te Vaka Toa initiatives
Accurate reporting of shark catches	<p>Specific attention addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with shark finning regulations • The reporting of 6th Schedule releases (especially if changes made conditions of release as part of shark finning regulations)⁹
Compliance with protected species rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full compliance with regulated seabird mitigation measures • Accurate non-fish bycatch reporting • Assessment and follow-up of observer reports
Compliance with RFMO measures	<p>Specific attention addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial awareness of the rules relating to fishing on the high seas for HMS
Integrity of the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone is maintained	<p>Specific attention addressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial and at-sea patrols • Compliance analysis and profiling

⁸ Section 110 of the Fisheries Act relates to conditions that can be applied to landings of fish taken in New Zealand waters that are landed elsewhere. In this case, it applies to conditions to be placed on vessels that fish for southern bluefin tuna under charter to a New Zealand company which lands the fish in Japan.

⁹ The 6th Schedule of the Fisheries Act lists species that may be returned to the sea under certain circumstances. HMS sharks (blue, porbeagle and mako sharks) may be returned to the sea if alive and considered likely to survive.

5.2 HMS RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR 2014–15

Project code	Title
HMS2014-01	Commercial catch sampling programme for highly migratory species
HMS2014-02	Age, growth and reproduction of mako sharks
HMS2014-05	Stable isotope analysis of highly migratory species to assess trophic linkages and spatial and temporal movement trends of HMS sharks
ENV2014-01	NPOA-Sharks: comprehensive risk assessment; and
ENV2014-02	NPOA-Sharks: age and growth of selected at-risk species
PRO2014-06	Update of level-2 seabird risk assessment
PRO2014-05	Reducing uncertainty in biological components of the risk assessments for at-risk seabird species
PRO2014-01	Improving information on the distribution of key protected species
Blue shaded projects are work required by the HMS Fisheries Plan but funded through other funding streams.	

5.3 PLANNED OBSERVER DAYS FOR HMS FISHERIES FOR 2014–15

HMS observer days are allocated to reflect the effort in the identified fishery groupings. The table below reflects the proportion of effort expended in each target fleet. Observer days were allocated according to the days available for those target fisheries to achieve 10% coverage for surface longline fisheries, and the days allocated to each month proportionally. Days were rounded up to a minimum of 5 days to accommodate the trip length.

	Monthly breakdown												
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
Tuna Charter (STN)										40	100	100	250
Domestic tuna longline - EC BIG/SWO	5	15	10	10	15	15	20	30	40	35	25	5	225
Domestic tuna longline - WC BIG/SWO	5	10	5				5	5	5	5	5		45
Domestic tuna longline - ET/WCPFC										5	5		10
Domestic purse seine - SKJ							25	25	20				70
Domestic purse seine - SKJ Super Seiner									30				30
Domestic tuna longline - EC STN	72	23									24	55	174
Domestic tuna longline - WC STN	14	14							21	21	21	21	112
SLL ET - WCPFC										5	5		10

EC – east coast; WC – west coast; STN – southern bluefin tuna; BIG – bigeye tuna; SWO – swordfish; ET – Out-of-zone; WCPFC – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Management Commission