

South Island – east coast

New prohibitions and other restrictions on set netting, drift netting and trawling come into force from **1 October 2008** to protect threatened Hector's and Maui's dolphins.

They affect recreational and commercial fishers on much of the **South Island's coast**, and much of the **upper North Island's west coast**. (They replace earlier measures to protect these dolphins)

There are also **existing set net prohibitions and other fishing restrictions** outside the affected areas.

Fishing rules vary from place to place. **Check the rules for the place where you fish – before you go fishing.** Go to **fish.govt.nz** or call **the nearest Ministry of Fisheries office.**

South Island east coast—from Cape Jackson in the Marlborough Sounds to Slope Point in the Catlins:

Set netting—commercial and recreational—is prohibited:

- offshore to four nautical miles
- in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, in Lyttelton Harbour, Akaroa Harbour, the bays around Banks Peninsula, and in Timaru Harbour
- with these variations:
 - for commercial fishers around the Kaikoura Canyon, set netting is prohibited offshore only to about one nautical mile
 - for commercial and recreational fishers, set netting for flatfish is allowed between 1 April and 30 September in a designated area of inner Queen Charlotte Sound, and around Banks Peninsula in designated areas of inner Lyttelton Harbour, inner Akaroa Harbour, inner Port Levy and inner Pigeon Bay—*provided* fishers use specified flatfish nets (except for commercial fishers in the Queen Charlotte Sound who are already restricted to bait nets)

There are existing set net prohibitions and restrictions on the South Island east coast that are not to protect dolphins including a prohibition in parts of Otago Harbour

Trawl gear is restricted

- offshore to two nautical miles—only trawl nets with defined low headline heights may be used

Harbours, estuaries, rivers, lakes, inlets and lagoons

Unless specified, the new prohibitions do not apply to these. Subject to any other fisheries restrictions, you can use set nets in these areas inside a straight line joining the natural entrance points of the waterway. These points are defined in some cases because they are not always clear.

Net definitions

A **set net** includes a gill net or other sort of net that acts by enmeshing, entrapping or entangling fish, but does not include a fyke net or hīnaki.

A specified **flatfish net** is a net that:

- is no more than 9 meshes deep; and
- has a monofilament diameter no more than 0.35 mm; and
- has a mesh size no less than 100mm; and
- is anchored at each end; and
- does not exceed a total length of 60 metres.

A **low headline height trawl net** means a trawl net that:

- has been manufactured or modified with the intention of having a net opening with a vertical height of no more than 1 metre; and
- is fitted with a device (for example a spreader bar, rope, or wire) that is no more than 1 metre long on the wing-end to constrain the wing-end height to below 1 metre; and
- has buoyancy on the headline that does not exceed 60 kg
- is not modified in any way or manner that would allow the vertical height of the net opening to exceed 1 metre.