

South Island – west 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 west coast—from Farewell Spit Lighthouse in the north to Awarua Point north of Fiordland:

Recreational set netting is prohibited:

- offshore to two nautical miles

Commercial set netting is prohibited:

- offshore to two nautical miles between 1 December and 28 February

There are existing set net prohibitions and other restrictions on the South Island west coast that are not to protect dolphins—including a set net prohibition from Awarua Point on the west coast to Sand Hill Point on the south coast

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.