

The development of reporting forms for reporting ERS data in New Zealand fisheries

**Ministry of Fisheries
New Zealand**

Abstract

An example of an ERS data reporting form for fishers, currently under development for New Zealand national fisheries, is attached. Reporting will be of non-fish and protected species bycatch, and is linked to catch-effort log-book returns.

Summary

New Zealand is developing new reporting forms and requirements for fishers to report non-fish and protected species bycatch in its national fisheries. Legislative review is in process to enable the implementation of the new reporting requirements and is expected to be completed during 2007.

The draft form on which fishers would report any catches of seabirds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and other protected marine fauna is appended (Figure 1). Its use is linked to fisher catch-effort log-book reporting for all fishing methods (including trawling, longlining, set netting, purse seining etc). Fishers are required to report event-by-event catch-effort information during longline fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna. Fishers will be required to indicate whether or not they caught non-fish or protected species for each event. When a positive result (capture) is indicated, the fishers will be required to complete a Non-Fish / Protected Species Catch Return (appended). Detailed explanatory notes will accompany this Catch Return, but are not included here as these are currently undergoing revisions.

Reporting of non-fish and protected species is required at species level where the species of bycatch is known to the fisher, under the Wildlife Act 1953 in New Zealand. Where the species is not known, a group code (e.g. turtle, seal and albatross) can be used in fisheries returns. These group codes are described in the Non-Fish / Protected Species Guide "Which code to use". The appended form and guide were developed with input from government officials, fishing industry representatives, scientists working on fisheries and bycatch and non-governmental groups.

This system has been designed, recognising that non-fish and protected species captures are rare events – yet provides data on the occurrence of captures (positive / negative) linked to all catch effort log-book information. Fishers' time filling in forms for non-fish or protected species captures is limited to only positive capture events, when more information is required about the identification and condition of the animals caught. The level of detail of reporting is limited to that which fishers can reasonably be expected to know (species level for some groups such as seals, family level for birds and reptiles). This way, it is anticipated that accurate, but course-grained data will be collected, as misidentifications of bycatch species will be avoided.

Non-fish / Protected Species Catch Return

NPC 1234567

1. Complete **separate returns** for each fishing trip where non-fish / protected species incidental catch occurs.
2. Non-fish / protected species include: corals, sponges, bryozoans, seabirds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and protected fish (see explanatory notes for a detailed list of species).
3. **Non-fish / Protected species incidental catch**
Complete a **separate row** for each non-fish / protected species caught in a fishing event.

Date tow / set began (dd/mm/yy)	Time tow / set began (24-hr clock)	Form number from catch effort return	Species code	Estimated weight of corals, sponges or bryozoans (kg)	Seabirds /Mammals /Reptiles / Protected fish		
					Number alive, uninjured	Number alive, injured	Number dead
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
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/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			
/ /	:			.0kg			

Use additional pages if you run out of space to record non-fish / protected species incidental catch from this trip.

4. Enter a cross in **one** of the circles to show the MFish catch effort form type used during the trip.

TCEPR CELR LCER TLCER NCELR Other → If other, enter the form type

5. Permit holder and vessel details

Name of permit holder

Client number of permit holder

Name of vessel

Registration number of vessel

I declare that the information I have given on this return is correct and complete, and that I have read and understood the explanatory notes supplied with this return.

Signature of permit holder or authorised person

Date signed / / 20

Send completed returns to PO Box 297, Wellington (NZ).

Figure 1: Draft Non-fish/Protected species catch return for New Zealand fisheries.