

# Saving Our Sea Lions



## Homegrown

New Zealand sea lions are only found in NZ waters and are one of the rarest species of sea lion in the world.

12,000

## Total Population

Numbering only 12,000, New Zealand sea lions are a protected species.



12 nautical miles

## Live & Breed

NZ sea lions inhabit the Auckland Islands and Campbell Islands. They are also now settled and breeding on Stewart Island and on the mainland in Otago.

## Auckland Islands

NZ sea lions are protected by a full marine reserve extending out 12 nautical miles (22 kilometres).



## Squid Overlap

Squid fishing grounds overlap with some of the areas sea lions forage. Most arrow squid are harvested by deepwater trawlers fishing around the Snares Shelf, off southern New Zealand, and around the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands. This fishing occurs during the southern summer and autumn months.

## Exclusion Devices

In 1990 Sealord proposed using Exclusion Devices as used overseas and then worked with industry and scientists to develop devices that work specifically to help sea lions.



## Using the Technology

All Sealord and industry boats in the squid fishery and southern blue whiting fishery use sea lion exclusion devices (SLEDs) – a special attachment in the net that allows sea lions to escape. Watch this video to see how SLEDs work:

## Risk Management Plan

In recent years male sea lions have begun interacting with the southern blue whiting (SBW) winter seasonal fishing fleet. In 2013 there were 17 sea lion deaths. As a result new risk management plans have been implemented and sea lion exclusion devices (SLEDs) are now used on every vessel fishing for SBW near the Campbell Islands.

Fishing Depth  
For squid  
180m  
220m



25%

In 2014 disease killed 73 pups at the Sandy Bay breeding ground (25%). Disease is a key focus area for future conservation work.

