

# Our Critically Endangered New Zealand Dolphins

Suddenly they cheekily appear, surfing so eloquently and close. Our unique little dolphins have a beautiful, peaceful presence. Taonga, indigenous to Aotearoa. Maui's and Hector's Dolphins are our Kaitiaki, guardians and protectors of our souls. We are equally theirs. Yet the wairua in our waters is fading....

Maui's dolphins are so critically endangered they could go extinct at any moment. Hector's dolphin populations have dramatically declined over the past decade.

We can't afford to lose any more.

Scientists estimate 110-150 Hector's and Maui's dolphins are caught each year in gillnets by our inshore fisheries. Trawling and recreational gillnetting amplify the death toll even more. When snagged, nets are often cut loose and left to drift and kill for decades. Many of our ocean Taonga suffer.

A nationwide ban on set netting is urgent for our Maui's and Hector's to continue existing.

We can turn the tide in time to save them from being fished to extinction. They can rejuvenate to half their original population size by 2050 - only with complete protection. But we need to change to more sustainable and conscientious fishing practices now.

We will save a precious species and see a revival of our coastal ecosystems.

TIHEI MAURI ORA!

## Population Key\*

Maui's Dolphins/Popotu ■

Hector's Dolphins/Pahu ■

Population 1970 ■

Population 2007 ■

\*Data from NIWA and University of Otago.



Text DOLPHIN to 8080 and send a message to Helen Clark for just 20 cents. It requests that our dolphins be completely protected from gillnets and that observers be placed on trawlers. Thank you.

83% of New Zealander's support a set net ban to protect Maui's dolphins.

WWF, Colmar Brunton survey 2008

[www.music4mauis.org](http://www.music4mauis.org)