



# Care for the Wild International

The Granary Tickfold Farm Kingsfold West Sussex RH12 3SE United Kingdom  
Tel: 01306 627900 Fax: 01306 627901 E-mail: [info@careforthewild.com](mailto:info@careforthewild.com) Web: [www.careforthewild.com](http://www.careforthewild.com)

Hon Phil Heatley  
Minister of Fisheries  
Parliament Office  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Email: [phil.heatley@national.org.nz](mailto:phil.heatley@national.org.nz)

19/05/2010

Dear Mr Heatley,

## **Recent deaths of Hector's dolphins through entanglement in fishing nets**

My name is Mark Jones, and I am Programmes Director at Care for the Wild International (CWI), a UK-based charity promoting the conservation and welfare of wildlife around the world. CWI has taken an active interest in the issue of protection of Hector's and Maui's dolphins from the impacts of coastal fishing, particularly set netting and trawling, for a number of years.

I wrote to you back in December 2009 urging you to increase the protected area for the critically endangered Maui's dolphin following the sighting of dolphins outside of the current protected area. I also wrote to your predecessor David Carter in March of this year, urging him to uphold and extend the current protection for Hector's and Maui's dolphins following the publication of Justice Mallon's findings from the Judicial Review of protection measures introduced by Jim Anderton in 2008. Copies of my two previous letters are enclosed.

It has been brought to our attention that three Hector's dolphin deaths, directly attributable to entanglement in fishing gear, have been recorded by the Department of Conservation in the past 12 months off the East coast of the South Island; two off Kaikoura (May and November 2009) and one north of Timaru (January 2010) (see <http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/forest-amp-bird-calls-action-over-hector039s-dolphin-deaths/5/49085>).

These reports clearly demonstrate the inadequacy of current protection measures, and in particular highlight the need for the Kaikoura Canyon fishing exemption to be urgently withdrawn. I raised this issue in my letter to David Carter in March, to which I have not yet received a reply.

In addition, CWI fully supports and endorses calls from Forest and Bird for more rapid public reporting of incidents involving Hector's and Maui's dolphins, and other endangered marine life, by the Department of Conservation. If the New Zealand

Government position on conservation issues is to be credible both within New Zealand and on the international stage, it must be seen as being transparent.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Jones', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

**Mark Jones**

**Programmes and Fundraising Director**

**Care for the Wild International, UK**

Tel: +44(0)1306 627900 Mob: +44(0)7947749475 Email: [mark@careforthewild.com](mailto:mark@careforthewild.com)

For and on behalf of Care for the Wild International