

TEN GOLDEN RULES FOR PURSE SEINE FISHING TO REDUCE RISK TO PROTECTED SPECIES

1. Ensure your vessel has onboard:
 - a. The vessel's Protected Species Risk Management Plan (PSRMP), and
 - b. The Purse Seine Operational Procedures.
 - c. Summary of regulations pertaining to the fishery.
2. Have a crew member (such as the bridge officer) on watch for the presence of protected species before setting of gear.
3. Do not set gear when marine mammals are at risk of capture.
4. Crew must be alert to and report to skipper if protected species are sighted in the net once set or during pursing.
5. Action must be taken to release protected species as soon as possible from the gear with vessel.
6. Vessel must be familiar with "backdown" method of releasing marine mammals.
7. Carry on board a sling or brailer for handling of large animals especially spine tailed devil rays.
8. Crew know and follow safe handling procedures for captured animals (dead or alive)– return protected species to sea quickly and treat with care.
9. Report all protected species captures by ERS or in the Nonfish Protected Species Catch Return (NFPSCR) logbook and send to FishServe. **It is illegal not to report.**
10. Report protected species trigger level captures to Liaison Officer. A trigger level is a capture level that actions a skipper in real time to try and increase mitigation to reduce ongoing risk of further captures. Please consult your Protected Species Vessel Risk Management Plan for relevant trigger levels.

For support phone your local Liaison Officer.