

Fur Seal Handling & Release and Crew Safety

To reduce risk:

- Do not connect line setting near large congregations of marine mammals

Handling Dead Marine Mammals:

- The entire body of any dead mammal must be returned to the sea,
- Mutilating or taking any part from the body of a marine mammal and keeping it is a serious offence in New Zealand.

Marking and Returning Dead Mammals:

Any marine mammal returned to the sea must be marked with twine. The purpose of this is to avoid the same animal being counted twice if its body is caught again.

(This can and does happen especially on other/ trawl fishing grounds. When marking a dead fur seal: simply use either a cable tie or twine fixed firmly behind the lower or upper jaw canine teeth prior to returning to the sea.



Handling Marine Mammals – Crew Health & Safety:

Fur seals carry a number of infectious bacteria that can be dangerous to humans. You must be very careful with regards to hygiene practices when handling live or dead animals to avoid contamination or infection.

Always:

- Wear waterproof gloves and waterproof protective clothing
- Avoid unnecessary contact with blood, urine or faeces or other body fluids
- If you are bitten or grazed you must wash and disinfect the wound immediately and treat with antibacterial ointment such as Betadine.
- After handling any animal wash your hands and forearms with soap or disinfectant, wash your deck and gear

Seal release and handling equipment:

- Gloves, bolt cutters, A line cutter and Optional- A dehooker

MPI 'NFPSR' Reporting Codes; Fur Seal – 'FUR'