

# Cetaceans of the Manukau Harbour

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# Manukau Harbour & Heads

- **No resident species**, but part of home range for:
  - Hector's dolphin
  - Bottlenose dolphin
  - Killer whales
- **Stranded species:**
  - Beaked whales (Cuvier's, dense-beaked & Gray's)
  - Common dolphin
  - Sperm whales
  - Hector's dolphin
- **Primarily odontocetes**
  - Presume a fish & elasmobranch diet when foraging in the Harbour

# Areas of use within the Harbour

Bottlenose dolphins & killer whales

Sperm whales

Hector's dolphins

+ recent strandings within Harbour

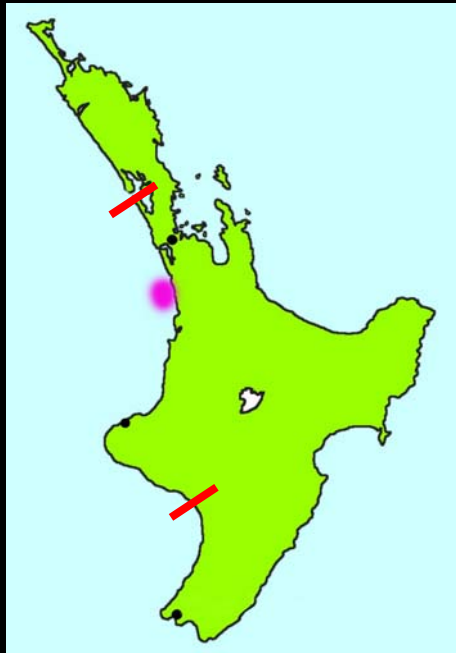


R. Constantine photo



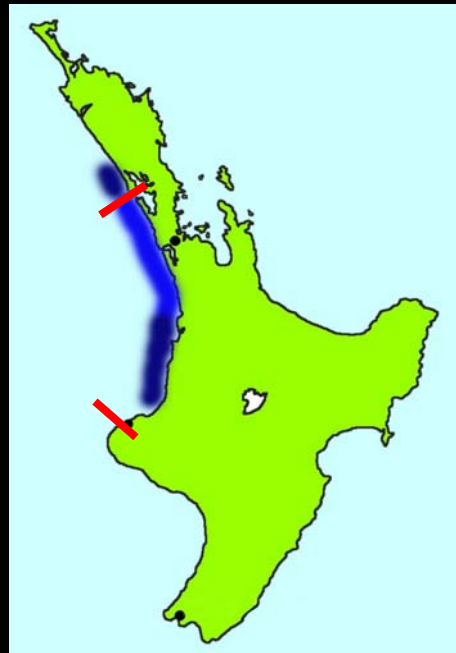
# Hector's dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus hectori maui*)

Dawson & Sooten  
(1988)



Boat-based coastal  
transects

Russell  
(1999)



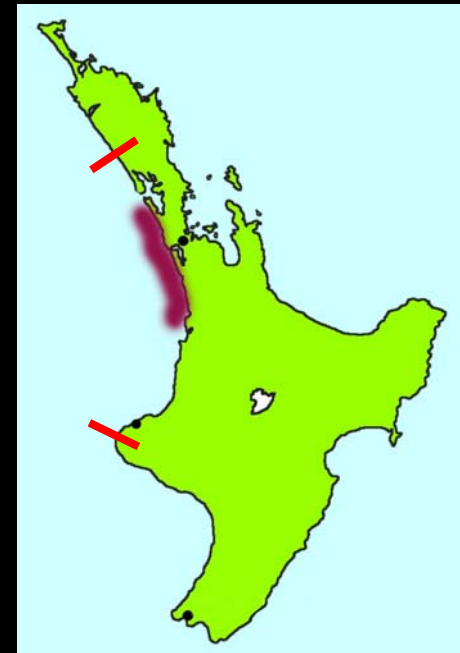
Boat-based  
surveys, sighting  
reports & stranding  
locations

Ferreira *et al.*  
(2003)



Aerial surveys

Sooten & Dawson  
(2005)



Aerial surveys

— Survey boundaries

Coloured patches indicate  
sighting distributions

# Current Hector's research

- **PODs** for acoustic detection
  - University of Otago
- **Land-based surveys**
  - DoC - Cornwallis
- **Aerial surveys** (on-going)
  - DoC & University of Otago
- **Molecular identification** (UoA)
  - biopsy samples
  - stranded animals
  - shark gut contents
- **Photo-identification**
  - 15-20% animals uniquely marked (UoA)



Photos: Kirsty Russell

Management plans still under discussion  
DoC & Ministry of Fisheries

# Wide ranging visitors

- **Bottlenose dolphins**

- Occasional reports
- Onehunga Wharf 2002
- 10 animals from Bay of Islands catalogue
- 1 photo-identified in Whangamata
- Opportunistic diet – fish & cephalopods

- **Killer whales**

- Occasional reports
- Wide ranging around NZ coastal waters
- Opportunistic diet – fish, cephalopods, elasmobranchs & some cetaceans

Thank you to:

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