



FACTSHEET

Kiwis want their Government to take action

In November 2007, WWF-New Zealand and students from Cardinal McKeefry School presented a petition to Government calling for Hector's and Maui's dolphins to be given total protection.

It was a day of symbols – 111 school children represented the 111 dolphins now estimated as the world's total Maui's population handed over the signatures.

More than 32,500 people backed WWF-New Zealand's Stop Their Extinction action – 25,016 signed an e-petition, while 7537 signed the paper petition presented to the Government.

The petitions called for all threats from human activity to be removed from any areas the dolphins' live.

On the day, WWF-New Zealand Executive Director, Chris Howe, said: 'We are facing a fork in the road for Hector's and Maui's dolphins. If we give them total protection they can recover. Failing to do so will mean that in 25 years – by the time the youngest amongst the children reach their 30th birthday – Maui's will effectively be extinct'.

One-and-a-half years later, we are still at that fork in the road.

The judicial review of the Minister of Fisheries' decision, initiated by the fishing industry, means the dolphins still face completely avoidable and unjustifiable threats.

The message to our politicians is even clearer and stronger:

- 32,553 people signed a petition asking for a total ban on set nets out to 22 kilometres, and a

total ban on trawl nets in waters shallower than 100 metres.

- 83% of people surveyed by Colmar Brunton in March 2008 want to ban set nets and trawl nets to help protect Hector's and Maui's dolphins.
- 53% of people surveyed by Colmar Brunton in February 2009, who said they buy fish, are less likely to buy fish caught in coastal waters because they know some of the fishing methods used also threaten Maui's dolphins with extinction.

It's time to take action.

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Further factsheets are available. They can be found at www.wwf.org.nz