**Impact of bycatch on the population viability of common dolphins *(Delphinus delphis)* in New Zealand**

Fisheries bycatch is a global issue endangering numerous marine organisms, especially threatening many marine mammal populations. Small cetacean populations are particularly at risk because of their limited recovery capacity given their slow growth rate, late maturation, and low reproductive rate; and as these are important predators, their bycatch is a problem for the entire marine ecosystem. Common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) are the most frequently bycaught cetacean in New Zealand, with an estimated annual bycatch rate of at least 5% of their population size, though it may be up to 7 times higher. Here, we quantify the effect of bycatch on the common dolphin population in New Zealand through population viability analysis using a matrix-based demographic model. The model shows that if bycatch levels exceed 16% of the current estimated population size, which is likely the case, the population growth rate becomes negative resulting in population decline and eventual extinction.