

Fishy Business in Blueskin Bay

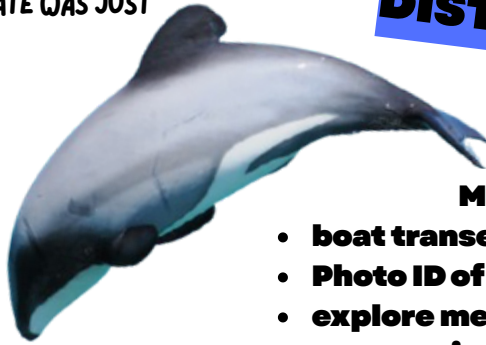
THE OTAGO POPULATION OF HECTOR'S
DOLPHINS IS

SMALL & UNDERSTUDIED

THE LAST POPULATION ESTIMATE WAS JUST
41 DOLPHINS!

**LINKING LIVING
DRIVERS TO DOLPHIN
DISTRIBUTION**

**During the summer, the dolphins
are found closer to shore. In
winter, they are more dispersed
offshore in unprotected areas**



Credit: Steve Dawson, 2025

METHODS:

- boat transect surveys
- Photo ID of dolphins
- explore methods for fish community

**we want to know if living factors - like
fish community - drive this seasonal
distribution change**



**DORSAL FIN NICKS & BODY
MARKINGS ARE USED TO ID
DOLPHINS!**



Credit: Will Rayment, 2025

Study objectives:

1. **Estimate abundance** of Hector's dolphins along the Otago coast using mark-recapture to investigate the population's status.
2. Determine the population's **distribution** and how it varies through space and time
3. Investigate the **fish community** of Blueskin Bay

knowing WHY a species goes WHERE can help guide conservation management decisions & identify key habitat areas to protect

