

Demonstrate knowledge of the handling of seals on a fin fish farm

Level 3

Credits 7

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the legislative requirements for the protection and handling of seals on a fin fish farm; describe measures to take to prevent seals from entering fin fish farms; describe humane seal handling techniques; describe measures to take to prevent injury when handling seals; and take action to remove seals that have entered the fin fish farm.

Subfield Seafood

Domain Aquaculture

Status Registered

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Entry information Open.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Primary Industry Training Organisation

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0123

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 Definitions
company requirements refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures that are communicated in an oral or in written form. These requirements must include legislation and safety requirements and may include but are not limited to – manufacturer's procedures and industry codes of practice and standards;
company permit refers to the permit granted under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.
- 2 All work practices must meet documented company safety requirements. The documented company safety requirements must meet the obligations of the Health and Safety in Employment Act, 1992, and subsequent amendments.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Describe the legislative requirements for the protection and handling of seals on a fin fish farm.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The description includes an outline of the legislation controlling protection of mammals on a fin fish farm.
- Range Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, company permit.
- 1.2 The description includes the reasons for the legislative requirements being introduced, and who enforces the legislation.
- 1.3 The description includes what constitutes offences against the company permit, and the penalty structure and defences for offences committed.
- Range company, individual.

Element 2

Describe measures to take to prevent seals from entering fin fish farms.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The description outlines the requirements for preventing seals from entering a fin fish farm, in accordance with legislation and the company permit.
- 2.2 The description includes an outline of the use of anti-predator nets.
- Range height of nets above sea level; dimensions of anti-predator nets from grower nets; diving to check for dead fish and holes; repairing of holes in nets; maintenance of predator nets (antifouling and changing).
- 2.3 The description includes other methods used to deter seals from entering fin fish farms, and when those measures are used.
- Range acoustic deterrent device, tuna bombs, regular mortality retrieval, not feeding seals.

Element 3

Describe humane seal handling techniques.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The description outlines the handling requirements of seals in accordance with the company permit.
- 3.2 The description includes the seal handling procedures for situations encountered on a fin fish farm in accordance with company requirements.
- Range situations may include but are not limited to – walkways, pontoons, inside anti-predator nets, inside grower nets, while diving with seals;
seal handling procedures may include but is not limited to – shouting, herding, capturing with a net, prodding with a boat hook or dip net, baiting and setting a seal trap.
- 3.3 The description includes general seal handling rules.
- Range may include but is not limited to – keeping the animal calm, keeping quiet, being quick and positive, not pushing the animal in the chest, using blunt instruments for prodding, not injuring the animal, returning seals to open waters as soon as possible.
- 3.4 The description includes reporting procedures for seals found on a fin fish farm, in accordance with company requirements.
- Range may include but not limited to – when to report incidences, completing incidence reports, contacting Department of Conservation (DOC), individual seal identification tagging forms.

Element 4

Describe measures to take to prevent injury when handling seals.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 The description includes diseases and infections that can be transmitted to fin fish farm workers when handling seals.
- Range tuberculosis, pathogenic bacteria, seal finger.
- 4.2 The description includes measures to take to avoid transmission of disease and infections when handling seals.
- Range may include but is not limited to – measures to avoid bites and avoid scratches; use of hygienic work practices; wearing of rubber gloves; wearing a face mask; immediate treatment of bites and scratches.

4.3 The description includes the reporting procedures for injuries.

Range may include but is not limited to – company safety procedures, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) requirements, DOC requirements.

Element 5

Take action to remove seals that have entered the fin fish farm.

Performance criteria

5.1 Action to remove seals that have entered the fin fish farm is taken in accordance with legislative and company requirements.

Range may include but is not limited to – seals that have entered the walkway, pontoon, anti-predator net, grower net. Evidence is required for one situation.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

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Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation sitostandards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.