

these are the main catch. Many become food for seagulls before the nets are cleared. Other nets are not cleared every day, leaving even snapper and kahawai to rot.

At Goat Island Marine Reserve, near Leigh on the Rodney coast, it's not just the snapper that have increased in numbers. Non-line-targeted species have made a huge comeback with hundreds of silver

drummer, parore, red moki and butterfish — and of course, no nets.

Not only fish and dolphins succumb to nets. Gannets, shags and little blue penguins become entangled and drown in set nets.

The coastal ecosystem is fragile; remove just a small part and many other species suffer. Surely it is time we did something about set nets. After all, what is taken by

them will ultimately affect the catches of real fishermen sitting in boats, on beaches and on the rocks with a line in the water waiting for that tug of success.

— Underwater photo-journalists **JENNY AND TONY ENDERBY** are based at Leigh, near Warkworth in lower Northland.

For further information see Dawson, S and Slooten, E, *Down-under Dolphins, The Story of Hector's Dolphins*, Canterbury University Press, 1996.



TONY & JENNY ENDERBY

Marble fish get tangled in nets over kelp.



TONY & JENNY ENDERBY

Seahorses have no protection in New Zealand.

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