

LIVE OCEAN

JONO RIDLER

SWIM 4 THE OCEAN



A CALL TO END BOTTOM TRAWLING

In partnership with Live Ocean Foundation, Jono Ridler swam the entire east coast of the North Island, igniting New Zealanders in the race for a healthy ocean, with a clear call to end bottom trawling.

This mission began on 5 January 2026 at Waikuku Beach, North Cape and was completed 90 days, 468 hours, 1,367km and 1,426,500 strokes later on 4 April in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington.

Ridler's swim ranks among the toughest endurance feats in the world, and it's expected to be ratified as the longest unassisted staged swim ever. No wetsuit - just togs, swim cap and goggles.

Through social media his effort reached over 7.2 million people, generating 35.4 million views, and independent media monitoring reported media reach of 390 million.

This feat of human endurance was backed by 73,647 supporters who signed the call for action.



AN

JONO RIDLER

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THE OCEAN
1000 MILE MISSION

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1000 MILE MISSION

A Call To End Bottom Trawling

73,647

SIGNATORIES

New Zealand is still bottom trawling seamounts in our own waters, and the only nation still bottom trawling seamounts in the South Pacific high seas.

It's time to stop being an outlier and protect the ocean's most vital habitats.

We're calling on the New Zealand Government to end bottom trawling on all seamounts – at home and in the high seas by the end of 2027 – and to activate a quick transition away from bottom trawling entirely.



New Zealand Parliament

Pāremata Aotearoa

Petition of Live Ocean: End bottom trawling

[Home](#) » [Parliamentary Business](#) » [Petitions](#)

Petition

• Published date: 24 Apr 2026 • [Metadata](#)

Petition request

That the House of Representatives prohibit bottom trawling on seamounts in New Zealand waters and the issuing of international fishing permits for New Zealand vessels that allow bottom trawling on seamounts in the high seas by 2027; and phase out other forms of bottom trawling in New Zealand; and note that 85,801 people have signed a similar online petition.

Petition reason

Bottom trawling drags heavy nets across the seafloor, destroying habitats, reducing biodiversity, and releasing stored carbon. Seamounts can be very slow to recover. New Zealand continues to permit this and is the only nation bottom trawling seamounts in the South Pacific high seas. In 2025, IUCN members called for urgent action, including phasing out bottom trawling on seamounts. We believe that ending this practice now is a practical step to safeguard ocean health for the future.

The Numbers

90

DAYS

1,367 km

SWUM

468^{hr} 23^{min}

OF SWIMMING

1,426,500

STROKES

8

COMMUNITY STOPOVER EVENTS

0

WETSUITS WORN

1

LEGEND

73,647

SIGNATURES

36,913

MESSAGES FOR JONO

35.4 million

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

7.2+ million

REACHED

390 million

REACHED THROUGH 408 MEDIA STORIES

27,340

LENGTHS OF AN OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

234

BANANAS EATEN





“

I want my generation to be the generation that says not ‘do you remember how good it used to be, but do you remember how bad it used to be?’

I hope that for everybody that was there, everybody watching from afar, and everybody who has supported us, that this is a moment that they remember for life and that it’s about a healthy ocean for a healthy future.

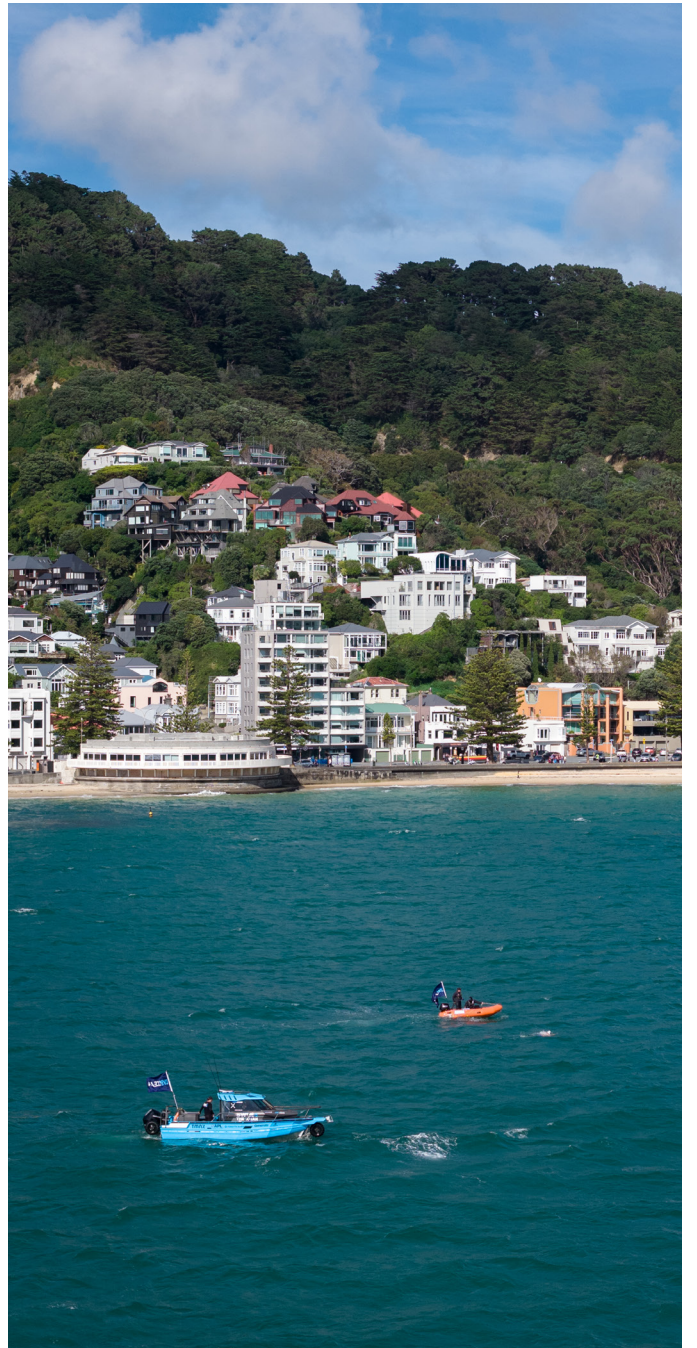
“

What Jono and the team have achieved is one of the greatest individual endurance feats of all time. He has brought the country together and reminded us of the extraordinary things New Zealanders can achieve when we put our minds to it.

For 90 days, Jono has shown us what courage, commitment and leadership looks like. Now, it's our turn as a nation to stand with him and support the kaupapa for a healthy ocean by joining the call to end bottom trawling.







Community Messages for Jono

“You are a fantastic kiwi with a good caring heart Jono an NZ is very proud of you as I am”

Diana R.

1 week ago

“Nice one 👍”

Clare S.

1 week ago

One-Time \$108.00 NZD donation by Lauren Pry...

Date

Mar 3, 2026, 7:11 AM

Comment

My 8 yr old son wants to donate all his sticker chart money to Jono ❤️

“Thank you for doing this for our planet Jono! Teo (10 years old)”

Teo P.

6 days ago



Nikii O'Callaghan · 27m

We tracked your swim in class today Jono. The kids were amazed you were in the water from the first bell to the last 🏊

Rm3 Selwyn School, Rotorua appreciate you and the team! 18 names signed ✅👏

Reply 2



“I 100% agree with this! Can't believe we need a petition to stop what is an obvious destruction of the sea floor and it's ecosystem, but hope the powers that be do the right thing now!”

Trish E.

1 day ago



Debbie Cuffe

In a world that is showing us greed, corruption and hate now is the norm, thank you Jono and crew for reminding me it's people like you that are the heroes and warriors we need in the world. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You are a legend. 🙏🌊🌻❤️

3h Like Reply



“Support sustainable and intelligent fishing. Ban bottom trawling which destroys habitats and ecosystems and catches everything in its path indiscriminately”

Omer S.

2 days ago

8h Like Reply Message Hide 2



Lewis Pugh · Follow

Keep it going Jono! Amazing effort.

19h Love Reply Hide 3



Jono Ridler

[Lewis Pugh](#) I have been, and continue to be, massively inspired by your efforts Lewis. I stand on the shoulders of giants like you! Thank you 🙏

7h Like Reply Message Hide 1

“Amazing mahi Jono, well done on your swim! I just saw you on 7 days. This is a cause a lot of us will and should, get behind! We need to protect te Taiao wherever we can!”

Krishna P.

7 days ago



Rick Zydenbos

At a time when there is so much negative news everywhere, I love seeing the updates from Jono and his amazing team. What you are doing daily and for the bigger long term picture is astounding! You're all Bloody Legends

1h Like Reply



Lucy Miller

Hi Jono, my name is Flo , and I'm 9 years old and I like what you are doing. I love snorkeling. Thank you for protecting our ocean 🌊🐠🐡🐙

1d Like Reply



“As David Attenborough said, the oceans are the "lifeblood of our home", they are crucial for our very survival. When we destroy their ecosystems, we set about our own destruction. The government cannot take this lightly.”

Caralyn K.

1 day ago



Izzy Fenwick · 2nd
 Chief Executive, New Zealand Climate Foundation

I have heard people talk about Jono in some remote corners of NZ this week.... If his goal was to raise awareness, it is working. Go Jono!

Like · 4 | Reply · 1 reply

“Thank you for everything you are doing Jono! Nā mātou te waimarie, I a koe! 🍷”

Manaia C. 2 days ago

“Love all the work you've done for our country. Hopefully we can make a difference so the future generations can experience all that our ocean has to offer”

Joshua P. 2 days ago

Jenny Rogerson

Thank you again for your frank honesty about how hard this epic swim is for you. Some of the other video clips make it look like you're doing it so easily & cheerfully. I'm glad to see you are also willing to balance that with the raw truth of your struggles at times. I'm so inspired watching your journey, as are countless others, & i hope you can use our good wishes to power you to the end of each day & journey.

23h Like Reply 12

Winifred Chambers · Follow
 13h ·

What a pleasure its been to host Jono Ridler and his team Swim 4 the Ocean. His passion for the wellbeing of our Ocean is the reason why he swam from the far north and will finish at Wellington where he will present parliament with the peoples petition so whanau get on the Swim 4 the Ocean page and add your name to stop the Trawling Fishing in New Zealand. At 2am this morning he was back in the water to complete his swim from Waipiro to Tokomaru Bay because the sea current etc on Tuesday played havoc with his progress. The weather and current conditions were favorable for today so he will complete today with a 6 hour bracket to Waima then come back to Te Ariuru for a rest spell then back in the water again at 2pm for his destination of Anaura Bay where he's expected to arrive around 8pm tonight, his 2 land crew with Gerry will wait for him and support group to arrive , they will be staying the night with the Ngata whanau overnight the contine onto Gisborne. Tukuna atu au nga mihi ki koutou katoa Ko Te Swim 4 the Ocean

ko te tumanako kia pai tou koutou haere, kia pai a Jono Ridler ki roto i te Moana-nui-a-kiwa tae noa ki Port Nicholson. Na Ihoa e tiaki e manaaki i a koutou katoa i nga wa katoa. Mauri Ora Mauri Tu

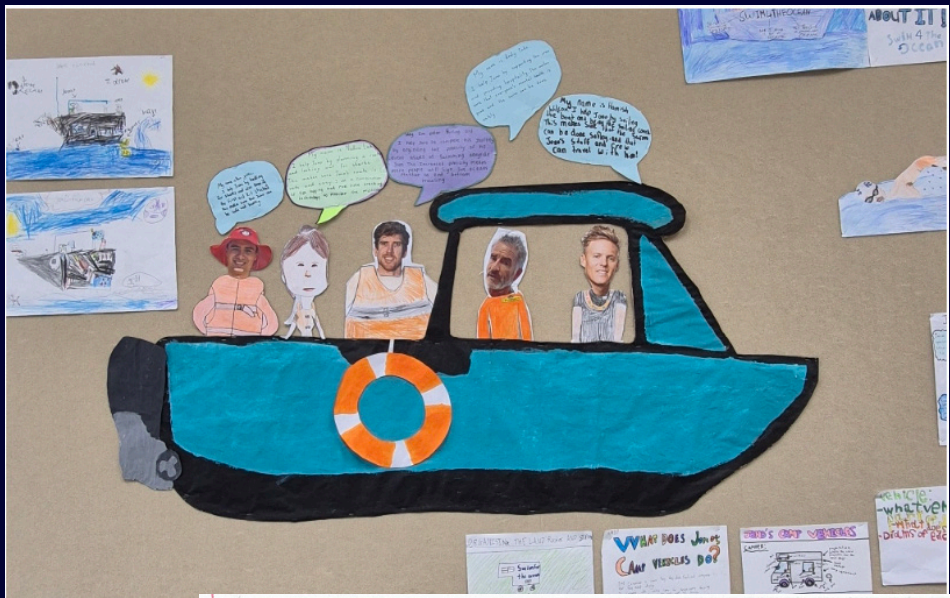


Here's all our 'giving' fund pocket money - we think you're AMAZING. You're a thousand times better at ocean swimming than our mum! From Alex and Marty H.

“Good on you for taking this stand .There are alternatives to bottom trawling and it is beyond me why bottom trawling is still allowed.”

DAVID A. 1 week ago

Go Jono, we came to the mariner in whangamata to see you come in tonight. My boys think you are the bravest dude ever. From the Rickus boys



SWIM 4 THE OCEAN
LIVE OCEAN
JONO RIDER



Dear Jono,

I would like to congratulate and thank you for helping us protect the ocean. I remember when I went to Goat Island when I was in year 6, and the most magnificent thing happened, a giant SNAPPER swam up to me!!! Right at that moment, I realised that the ocean is an amazing ecosystem with fishes and other animals gracefully swimming around. Believe me, I 100% SUPPORT you to do this petition, BOTTOM TRAWLING SHOULD BE ILLEGAL!!!

From Jimmy, Wentworth COLLEGE (Yr 8) ♥♥♥

Jellyfish
Octopus
No nets
Ocean
Swimming
Wonderful Swimmer
Ignite
Maritime
Shark Shield
fish
Open Sea
Restoring ecosystems

Thriving Sea
Healthy ocean
End bottom trawling
Over fishing
Coral reef
Entire east coast
Anemones
Night Swim





Dear jono,

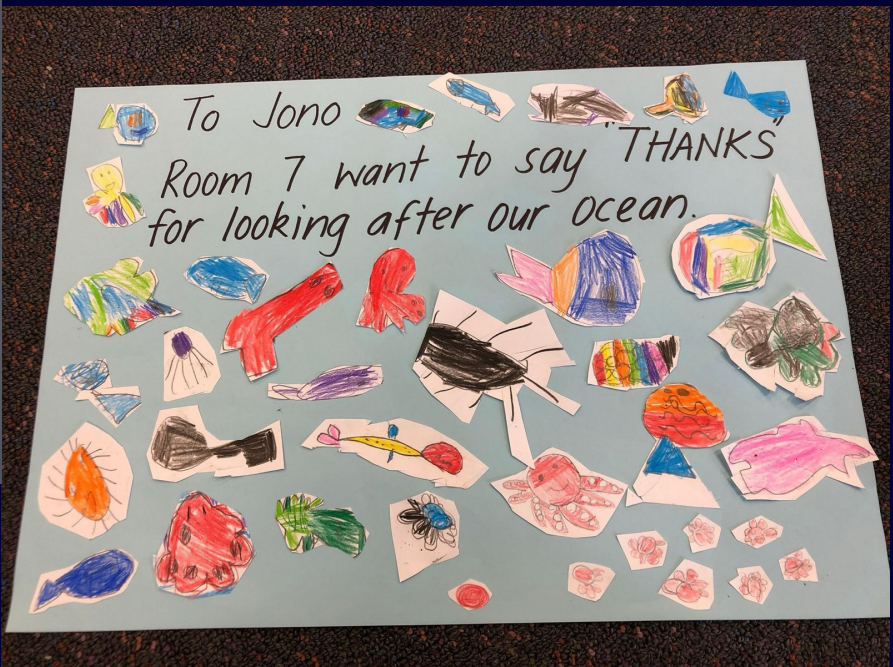
Today (1st of April) we heard your story in global perspective. We watched your videos and my whole class was inspired. Bottom trawling is being done in Orewa (near where I live).

When I was little and now I've always loved the environment. It's been my passion for years. I would love to swim with orcas. I hope your dream comes true with bottom bottom trawling.

from Hannah Sampson, & Lots of love.

In January 2026, Jono Ridler started an amazing journey. He would swim almost 10,000 miles (16,000 km)! From Auckland to Wellington, this will be a tough travel. But he isn't just doing this for the record, he is doing this for the ocean. Stopping bottom trawling, saving the ocean, and getting a record, Jono Ridler is truly a hero.

Friday/6th/March/Metaphors.



A huge thank you to everyone who backed Swim4TheOcean, from our whānau of swim sponsors whose support made the journey possible, to the incredible coastal communities who welcomed us with such manaakitanga. To the locals who opened their homes, offered warm showers, shared local knowledge, and lifted our spirits with words of encouragement, tēnā koutou for carrying this kaupapa alongside us.

To the 73,647 people who put their voice behind the call to end bottom trawling, ngā mihi nui for standing up for the ocean and helping ignite real change. This was a truly collective effort, powered by people who care deeply for the moana. We are grateful to each and every one of you who showed up, supported, and believed in what we are working towards together. A healthy ocean for a healthy future.

A special thanks to:

TMNZ



ARMSTRONG FOILS | BRITAIN WYNYARD | ECOFLOW STORE | GMTS GROUP | HIREPOOL |

ITM TUAKAU | MUSASHI | SAFETY AT SEA | SONY | SUNZAPPER | THE HONDA SHOP



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