

The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation permissions office listed below to discuss your application prior to completing the application forms.

This form is to be used when applying for a new permit or the renewal of an existing permit, and where the proposed activity involves shore-based marine mammal viewing. This form is to be completed in conjunction with Applicant Information Form 8.

Note:

- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing which is vessel-based please also fill in Form 8a.
- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing which is aircraft-based please also fill in Form 8c.
- If your application also involves swimming with marine mammals please also fill in Form 8e.
- If you seek a minor amendment to a current permit (i.e. a new vehicle or a new staff member) please fill in the application Form 8f. If you seek an amendment that is more than minor please contact the office below.

Please complete this application form, providing all information requested in as much detail as possible. Attach **Form 8** and any other applicable forms and information, and send to permissions@doc.govt.nz.

Note:

- Under regulation 10 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992, the Department must determine whether or not the application is acceptable and may require the application to be amended. The Department will advise applicants if, and what, amendments are required before this application can be processed by the Department.
- If the application is approved, it is deemed to form part of the permit which is issued and must be complied with accordingly. Your application, therefore, must be clear, complete and accurate.

The Department will process the application and issue a permit if it is satisfied that the application meets all the requirements for granting a permit under the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.

A. Applicant name (as per Form 8)

Clearwater Wildlife Tours Limited

B. Proposed Operation

Species

Tick which species you are applying to view:

- Yes New Zealand fur seal
 Yes New Zealand sea lion
 Other please list:

* Please inform yourself as to the current list of moratoria and species or locations of concern prior to making your application.

Location information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Base of operation:

Dunedin City

Proposed area of operation:

Royal Albatross Colony to Cape Saunders Farm and return, Otago Peninsula, Dunedin.

Specific locations where contact with marine mammals is proposed:

Cape Saunders Farm cliff tops at Seal Point and Little Papanui Beach including sand dunes, Cape Saunders Farm, 35 Kaimata Road, Otago Peninsula

Proposed route to, along and across the shore:

Walking access to proposed areas as shown on the attached maps. All routes are dependent on where marine mammals are located so all options have been shown that are formed tracks to view or avoid MM locations.

You must attach a map of the proposed area of operation; it must clearly show the boundaries of the area, any specific locations where contact with marine mammals is likely, and expected routes.

Trip details (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Frequency - proposed months of operation:

January to December (12 months)

Frequency - number of trips per annum:

Approx 0 – 4 tours per day

Frequency - number of trips per day:

High Season (Mid Oct – Mid April) 0-4 tours per day so 0-728

Low Season (Mid April – Mid October) 0-2 tours per day so 0-364

Duration of trips:

3.5 hours from Royal Albatross Colony to Cape Saunders Farm and return to Albatross Colony

1.5 hours travelling to and from Cape Saunders Farm and 2 hours at Cape Saunders Farm.

Maximum number of vehicles operating at any one time:

2 Vans

Maximum number of passengers:

12 per van including the driver/guide

Vehicle Information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Vehicle 1. description:

Registration: QCF49

Make: HiAce

Model: Toyota

yes 4WD

Carrying Capacity: 11

Colour: White

Vehicle 2. description:

Registration: Yet to purchase

Make:

Model:

4WD/2WD

Carrying Capacity:

Colour:

Vehicle 3. description:

Registration:

Make:

Model:

4WD/2WD

Carrying Capacity:

Colour:

Drivers, guides and other relevant staff (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Please fill in for every staff member who may come into contact with marine mammals throughout the course of the proposed operation.

Full Name: Rachel Jane Kerr

Job Title: Operations Manager/Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?

Yes

No No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Rachel has had interactions with the marine mammals in

this area since her childhood and has good awareness and understanding of what is required to ensure that they are protected from any stress, disturbance or displacement. Additionally Rachel has guided many visitors to Cape Saunders Farm in and around the MM locations and is aware of the safety aspect around sealions often aggressive behaviours.

Full Name: To be advised

Job Title: Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?

Yes

No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals:

Full Name:

Job Title:

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?

Yes

No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals:

Full Name:

Job Title:

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?

Yes

No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals:

Proposed Term

You can apply for up to 10 years. However, in some situations a permit may be restricted to a shorter term for the purposes of the conservation, protection or management of marine mammals.

10 years

C. Additional information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Maximum time to be spent with marine mammals per individual encounter:

Maximum 10 minutes per animal

Maximum cumulative time for all encounters with marine mammals during trip:

Maximum 40 minutes per tour from 5 locations as shown on maps

Nature of the contact with marine mammals:

Yes Primary purpose

Secondary purpose

Vehicle approach route and orientation of approach relative to seals or sea lions:

Walking access only to areas containing marine mammals. Vehicles will not be heard or visible. See

attached maps

Position of vehicles relative to seals or sea lions, the shore and the sea while viewing:
More than 200m away from vehicle parking in all locations. Please see attached map

Distances to each species:

Seals and Sea lions

Once in close proximity of marine mammals (both seals and sea lions), we will maintain a minimum of 20m safe viewing distance between animals and humans.

We will not visit sites where sea lions are creching, based on DOC marine technical advice.

How groups of people will be managed in the vicinity of seals or sea lions in particular to manage noise and behaviour:

Before entering any area containing marine mammals, all group participants will be given verbal instruction and also written instruction (in several languages) around expected behaviour via a fact sheet. They will be guided around the area in a tight group and will keep noise to a bare minimum. See contents of proposed information below.

Kaimata Wildlife Tours information

The following information will be added as content on our website in the “How to prepare & What to expect” page, also contained in the hand out at the beginning of the tour and will be verbalised as a health and safety and expected behaviour precaution prior to engaging with any wildlife.

What to expect

Listening to your guides instructions and following the simple guidelines below will ensure that your group has the best wildlife viewing experience possible.

In the event that any group member fails to follow these instructions your guide will immediately move the group away from the area or the wildlife.

- Follow your guides instructions at all times
- No flash photography
- Stay behind your guide and within the group at all times. Do not wander off or fall behind.
- Do not stop to take photos when your group is moving from one area to another. Your guide will ensure there are plenty of photo opportunities at appropriate times and locations
- Keep noise to a quiet whisper or remain silent if the guide raises their hand to indicate stop
- Your guide will cease contact and move on if any wildlife or animal shows signs of being disturbed or alarmed by the presence of our tour

Behaviour around breeding colonies, nurseries and pups:

Seals with pups won't be approached closer than 30m. If a young pup is encountered during a walk the participants will move on quickly so as not to disturb the animals.

We will not visit sites where sea lions are creching, based on DOC marine technical advice.

We will not target or pursue viewing of mothers that have retired into dune areas to rest, sleep, feed or suckle pups. We will take extra care in mating and especially pupping season to not stress the animals by increased distances plus providing more education/warning to people.

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance of the marine mammals:

We will abide by the following guidelines ensuring all guides are educated and aware of the MM Act and regulations

- Give seals and sea lions space. Where practicable, stay at least 20m away;
- Avoid coming between fur seals and the sea;
- Do not disturb, harass or make loud noises near marine mammals;
- Cease contact if marine mammals show signs of being disturbed or alarmed; • Do not feed or throw any rubbish near marine mammals;
- The group viewing the animal will stay on one side so as not to surround the animal (maximum of half a circle);
- Avoid seals or sea lions with young pups
- Be aware of juvenile male sea lions who can be quite aggressive.

Keep noise to a bare minimum and avoid flash photography

How will you depart from the marine mammals?

Vehicle departure route and orientation of departure relative to seals or sea lions:

We will walk out of the area on formed tracks so vehicles will be some distance away so won't disturb or be visible to any marine mammals. See attached map

D. Educational material (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Below is an example of the educational material that will be form part of our tour. We are in the process of creating original content for our new website, brochures and information booklets. Additionally, we are creating a library of images to be used in all our marketing content.

New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*)

The New Zealand Fur Seal has been a conservation success story. In the 1880's it was hunted close to extinction but has made a dramatic recovery over the last few years. There are now healthy populations around the Otago Peninsula.

New Zealand Fur Seals, as the name suggests, have a very dense layer of secondary fur underneath the visible grey-brown guard hairs. Unlike sealions which rely on blubber to keep them warm, fur seals rely on their cosy secondary layer of dense fur.

Adult male fur seals can grow up to 2.5 metres and weigh up to 185 kg. The females are smaller, growing up to 1.5 metres and weighing 50kg.

Breeding occurs in November and December with large males defending breeding territories containing many females. Females reach sexual maturity at four years and usually have their first pup at five years. About eight

days after the birth of their pup, the female mates with the group's male. By August the pups are weaned and the females return to sea to feed until November.

Hooker's Sealion (*Phocarctos hookeri*)

Hooker's Sealions (New Zealand Sealions) are the rarest of the world's five species of sealion.

They are endemic to New Zealand and are making a comeback after being almost eliminated by Maori hunters before the arrival of Europeans. Colonies are now established on the Otago Peninsula and the Catlins.

Sealions are gregarious animals and enjoy each other's company. They are highly agile and dive to over 200 metres.

Adult male reach up to three metres in length, weigh up to 400 kg and can live to 25 years old. Females are smaller and generally lighter in colour.

APPENDIX 1

GUIDANCE INFORMATION FOR FILLING IN THE FORM

Location information

“Base of operation” -specify the location where passengers board the vehicle.

“Proposed area of operation” -provide a written description of the general extent of the operation where you will be likely to have contact with marine mammals – please specify the boundaries (e.g. key landmarks) and the location as it is generally known; e.g. Wellington coast or Wairarapa coast.

“Specific locations where contact with marine mammals is proposed” - you need to list any particular sites you will visit where marine mammals are known or expected to be encountered; e.g. Red Rocks, Ohau Stream waterfall, Point Kean, Barney’s Island, Adele Island.

Trip details

Clearly identify where there are seasonal differences in the trip details

Type and number of vehicles to be used

If you have more vehicles than the spaces provided please copy the fields and paste to the bottom of the table in the section.

Drivers, guides and other relevant staff

If you have more staff members than the spaces provided please copy the fields and paste to the bottom of the table in the section.

Additional information

Please be specific for each class of marine mammal or for individual species.

Maximum time spent with marine mammals per individual encounter:

“Encounter” means being less than 100 metres from a seal or sea lion.

Nature of the contact with marine mammals:

“Primary purpose” means the operation’s main focus is to seek out and encounter seals or sea lions e.g. seal encounter tours and trips to known seal colonies.

“Secondary purpose” means that viewing seals or sea lions is not the operation’s main focus but will still be viewed if encountered; e.g. certain scenic cruises, tourist bus trips.

Educational Material

Please briefly describe the educational aspects of the proposed operation and supply any proposed educational material, copies of brochures or information booklets as an attachment (note, these may be returned if requested).