



The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation permissions office listed below to discuss your application prior to completing the application forms. Please provide all information requested in as much detail as possible. Applicants will be advised if further information is required before this application can be processed by the Department.

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 swimming with marine mammals. (Note for the purposes of this application form, “swimming” includes snorkelling and diving.)

You can only apply to swim with marine mammals if either you apply in conjunction with an application for viewing from a sea-based vessel or a land-based vehicle, or you currently hold a permit for viewing from a sea-based vessel or a land-based vehicle.

- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing from a vessel at sea please also fill in Form 8a.
- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing which is land-based please also fill in Form 8b.

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 Advisor (Support)

Private Bag 4715

Christchurch Mail Centre

Christchurch 8140

Ph +64 3 371 3700

Email: permissionschristchurch@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 you 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)

Descend Ltd

B. Proposed operation

Species

Marine mammals you propose to swim with:

x all species of dolphins*

x New Zealand fur seals*

Excluding*:

Or

x the following specified species*

Generally present in Milford Sound are bottlenose dolphins, common dolphins, dusky dolphins and New Zealand fur seals.

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

Location information

Specific locations where swimming with marine mammals is proposed:

Area from Yates Point to the Southern Entrance of Bligh Sound, mainly in Milford Sound.

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

Trip details

Please complete relevant trip details on either Form 8a and/or 8b depending on whether swimming is undertaken from a vessel, from the shore, or both.

Frequency - proposed months of operation:

1 September – 31 May: Up to 4 trips per day between 2 vessels

1 June – 31 August: One trip per day

Frequency – number of swimming/diving trips per annum:

Daily frequency only

Frequency - number of swimming/diving trips per day:

We generally do 2 dives per trip per vessel. (4 dives per day)

C. Additional information

Please provide the following additional information. Where appropriate, please be specific for each class of marine mammal or for individual species.

Maximum number of swimmers in the water at any one time:

Maximum group size for vessel Pacific Runner is 7 divers plus 2 guides/ dive instructors.

Maximum group size for vessel Westbay is 10 divers plus 2 guides/ dive instructors.

Maximum time spent swimming per individual encounter with a marine mammal or group of marine mammals:

Our dives are up to 40 minutes long.

Maximum cumulative time spent swimming with marine mammals during a trip:

Vessel Based viewing: 10 minutes per individual encounter, with 30 minutes cumulative per trip; plus,

Swimming with: 60 minutes max cumulative, consisting of 2 x 30 minute max, or 1 x 60 min max encounter

I.e. when vessel moving, 10 min per encounter, 30 min max cumulative. When vessel stationary, 60 min max individual and cumulative.

So combined, 1.5 hours per trip

Maximum number of swim drops or attempts with the same individual marine mammal or group of marine mammals:

Maximum twice

Maximum total number of swim drops or attempts per trip:

4

How will swimmers enter the water and view marine mammals?

Divers/Snorkelers do a Deepwater entry off the back of the boat or Rollback over the sides as per standard diving practice. Viewing of mammals could either be while snorkelling on the surface or underwater utilizing scuba diving equipment

Position of boat relative to the location and movement of marine mammals:

As per Regulations slightly behind or to the side of mammals

Placement of swimmers relative to the location and movement of marine mammals:

As per Regulations parallel or slightly behind mammals

Minimum approach distance for swimmers to the water's edge where seals or sea lions are present on shore:

5 metres

Swimmer behaviour in the water:

Swimmers/ divers are briefed to stay around a specific area and are guided inwater by a dive instructor / guide.

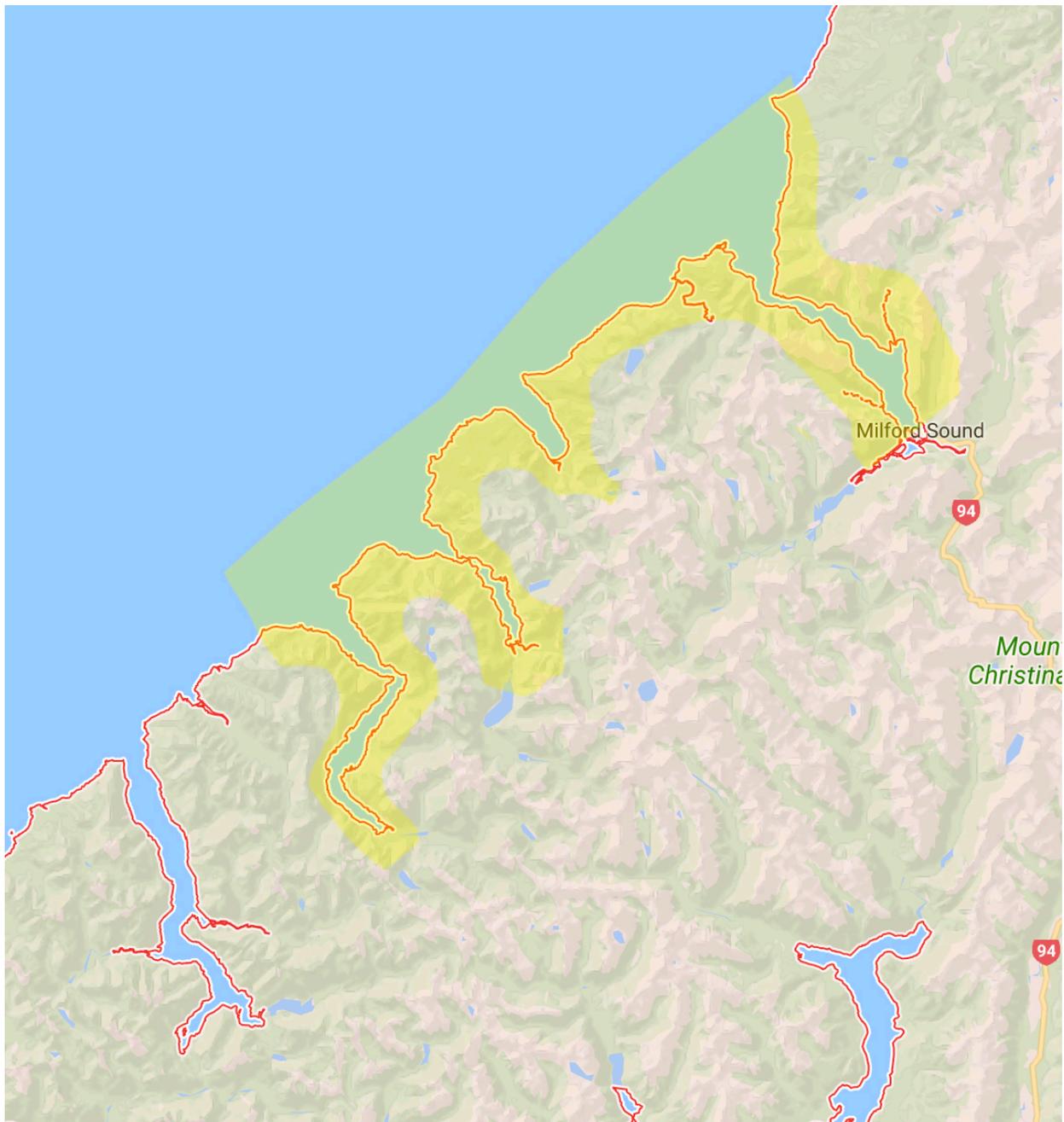
What actions will be taken should dolphin calves or seal pups be encountered:

No swim drops are initiated should dolphin calves or seal pups are present

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

- Listen to their body language, such as tailslapping etc, to stay well clear
- Follow regulations in regards to approach from side/parallel or slightly behind.

Area of operation:



Milford Sound Dive Sites:

Please find below a list of most frequently dived sites in Milford Sound. We choose the sites for the day, depending on weather, ability level and in-water conditions.

1. Anita Bay

GPS: 44-34.856S 167-47.326E

2. Greenstone Point

GPS: 44-35.560S 167-48.194E

3. Greenstone Bay

GPS: 44-36.226S 167-48.661E

4. Copper Point

GPS: 44-36.786S 167-51.011E

5. Sinbad Gully

GPS: 44-39.239S 167-53.879E

6. Harrison Cove

GPS: 44-37.633S 167-54.490E

7. Hole in the Wall

GPS: 44-37.109S 167-52.732E

8. The Drop-off / Walk the Dog

GPS: 44-36.001S 167-51.228E

9. The Chimneys/ Dale Point

GPS: 44-36.001S 167-49.195E

10. North Dale Point

GPS: 44-35.272S 167-49.152E

11. Penguin Cove

GPS: 44-36.02.77S 167-49.27.89E

12. Cray's Crack

13. Seal Rock

14. The Triangle

15. Bligh Sound

Bligh Sound marine reserve/ Clio Rocks