
A. Applicant name (as per Form 8)

Sentient Productions Limitedq

B. Proposed Filming Operation (please read Appendix 1)

Please tick the relevant boxes to help determine how the application will be assessed:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vessel to approach closer than 50 metres to a whale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person in the water to approach closer than 100 metres to a whale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel or person to approach closer than 200 metres to any female baleen or sperm whale that is accompanied by a calf or calves
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person in the water with juvenile dolphins
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approach (on foot, in the water, or in a vessel) closer than 20 metres to seals or sea lions on shore
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use an aircraft at an altitude below 150 metres (500 feet) above sea level, unless taking off or landing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use an aircraft closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to a marine mammal horizontally from a point directly above a marine mammal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use a drone or RPA* to film marine mammals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charter a vessel or aircraft, and/or hire a skipper or pilot to take the film crew to view or come into contact with any marine mammal.

*Note: RPA means a Remotely Piloted Aircraft as defined under Civil Aviation legislation.

Purpose, outputs and benefits of the proposed filming

Please note the purpose of the filming activity (advertisement, movie, documentary etc), and describe in detail the proposed filming activity.

The filming is for a documentary series called 'Sentient' for National Geographic and Disney+.

We would like to film pilot whales in two contexts, in the ocean carrying out normal behaviours, and during a stranding event. The aim of this series is to show that there is no sharp line that separates us the animal kingdom. 'Sentient' will take us inside the minds of those we share our planet will force us to re-think our place in nature and change how we treat all animals, domestic and wild.

Therefore, we hope that by seeing pilot whales, which are not frequently featured in natural history TV series, filmed in their natural environment and during a stranding event, the audience will be informed about their social bonds, which are even more important to them than those between humans, and emotionally connect with them.

Proposed term

When do you wish to begin and finish all filming?

Location information

Base of operation:

Auckland

Proposed area or areas of operation:

For oceanic filming:

We would like to film the pilot whales offshore to the east of North Island.

As per regulations, filming will not take place further than 12 nautical miles offshore from the North Island/Te Ika-a-Māui and Great Barrier Island/Aotea. Most filming is likely to be concentrated 8-12 nautical miles from shore, along the 200-meter depth contour line between Cape Brett and Great Barrier Island, particularly around Poor Knights Islands/Tawhiti Rahi, and Ninepin trench.

MAP:



Map of filming area. The solid black line represents 12 miles from land. The boat symbols represent ports which could be used in an emergency, and the close symbols represent hospitals.

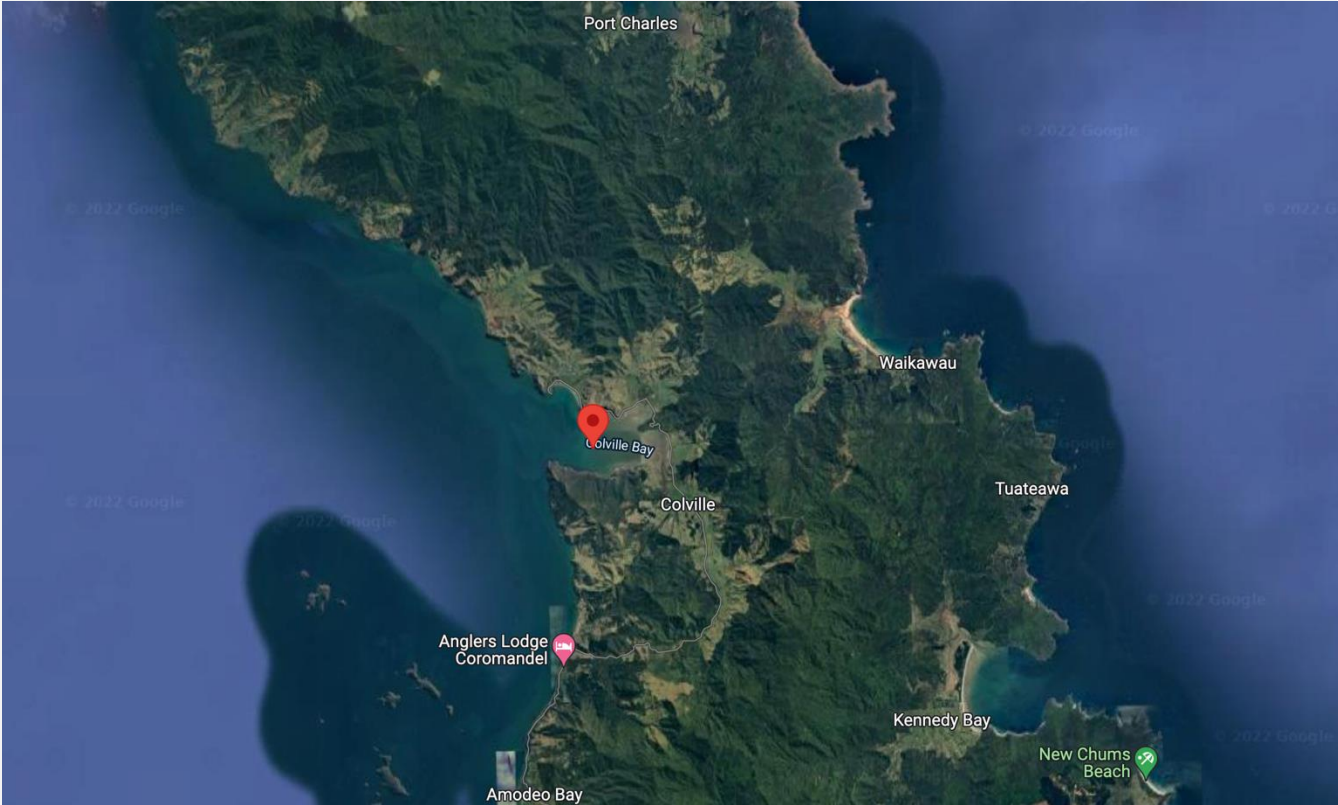
Specific locations where contact with marine mammals is proposed:

For stranding:

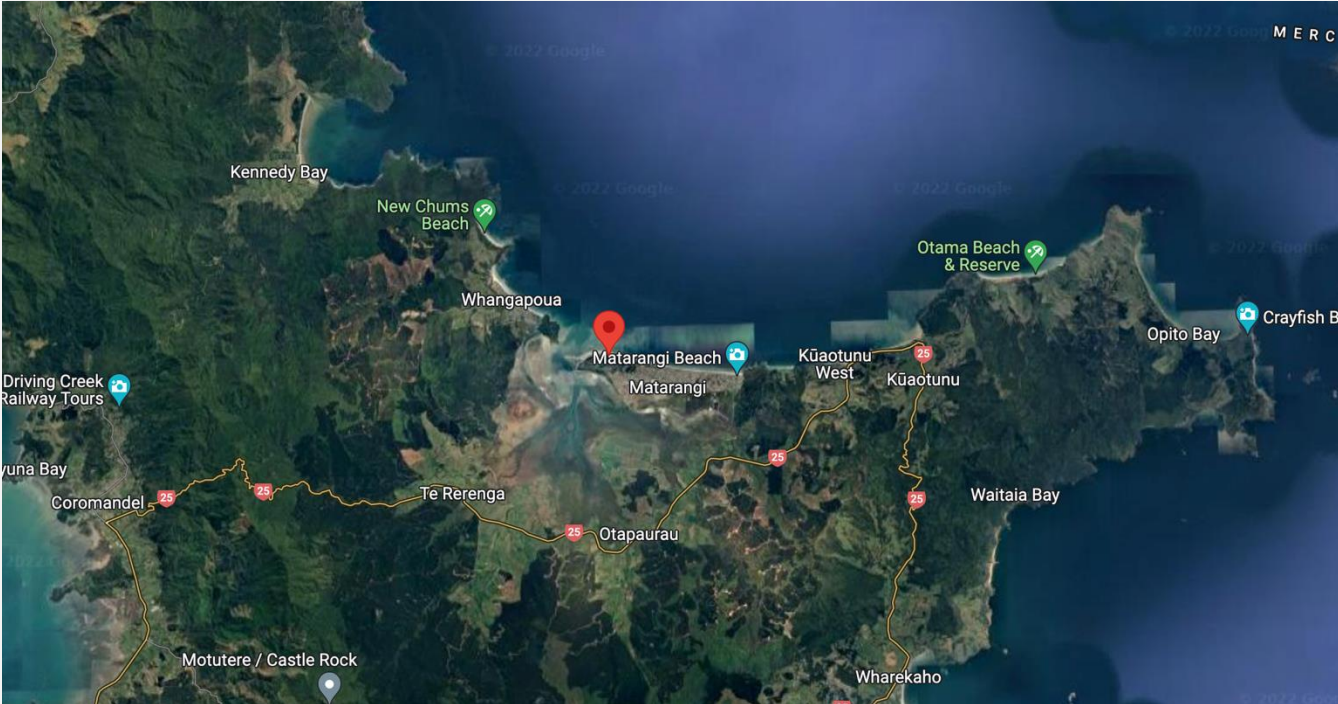
The location where a stranding is most likely to take place on South Island is Farewell Spit. We already have a marine mammal permit for this location. Permit: 97744-MAR

For North Island, there are several locations where strandings are most likely to occur. These locations are: Colville Bay and Matarangi Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula; Ohiwa Spit East End, Ohiwa Spit West End, and Ohope Spit in Ohiwa Harbour, on the Bay of Plenty; and finally in Northland and North Auckland, Karikari beach on Cape Karikari, Spirits Bay and Parengarenga harbour.

MAPS:
COLVILLE BAY



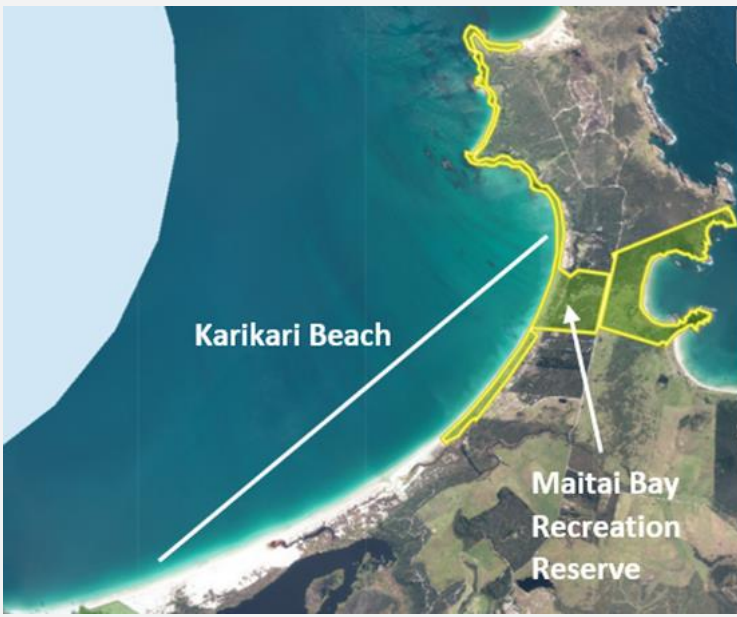
MATARANGI BEACH



OHIWA HARBOUR



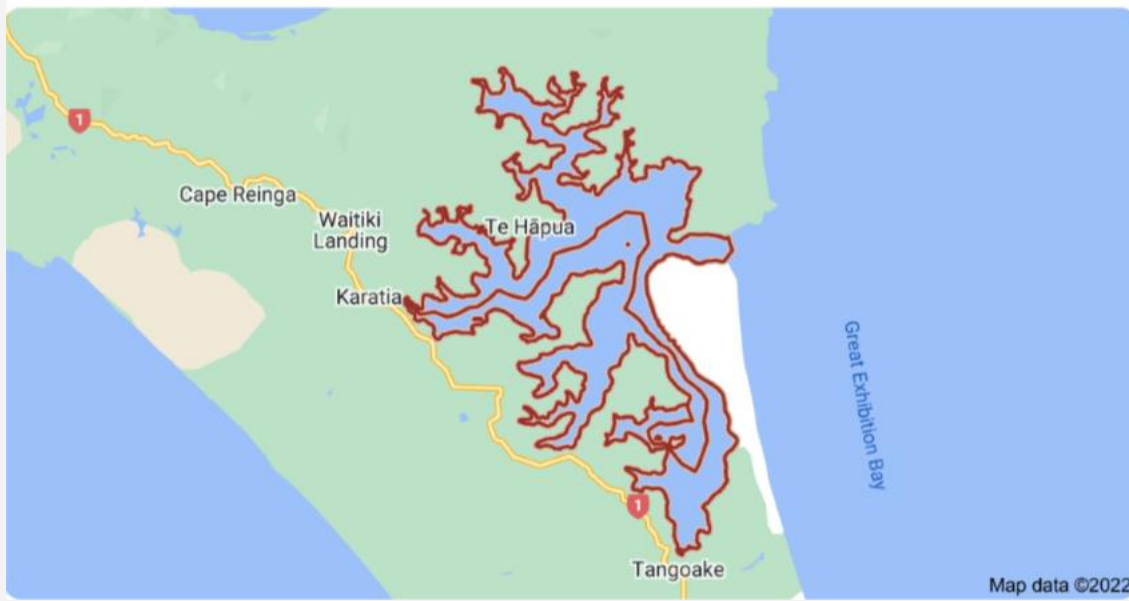
KARIKARI BEACH



SPIRITS BAY



PARENGARENGA HARBOUR



These locations are based on where strandings have taken place in recent years. Therefore they are not an exhaustive list of all the possible stranding locations in Aotearoa. If a stranding takes place outside of a location we have listed, we would like to seek to scramble permission. Therefore if permission can be extended to areas close to where we have listed (for instance, if a stranding location is within the Rohe of an Iwi we already have relationship with), this would be greatly appreciated.

Note: please provide a map showing proposed filming areas and specific locations

Species

Marine mammals you propose to encounter and film:

- all species of whales
- all species of dolphins
- all species of seals

Please specify the species you intend to target at each location

Long-finned pilot whales, *Globicephala melas*, including juveniles

Filming details

Please provide the following additional information where applicable. Please be thorough and include relevant information for each species of marine mammal. In particular, describe how you intend to mitigate any potential adverse effects on marine mammals.

Please list all species separately

When do you propose to undertake filming at each location?

(please be as specific as possible, including dates and times during the day)

Stranding dates: within Jan 2022 – March 2024, due to unpredictable nature of strandings. For oceanic filming, 1st-28th February 2023.

Maximum number of filming days at each location:

For the duration of the stranding (up to 4 days including travel). For the oceanic filming, this will be 28 days at sea including travel, if weather permits and the crew are able to find the whales.

Duration of each daily trip:

During Daylight hours

Maximum cumulative time with marine mammals during a day:

Stranding:

Drone filming will be limited to two hours per day. This will consist of several shorter drone flights of about 20 minutes each. Our crew will be in the water with the whales only when we are filming the re-floating attempts by the rescuers. We will limit this to a maximum of 2 hours per whale. The kayak (approach by vessel) will also only be used during re-floating attempts, we will also limit this to 2 hours per whale. We will not follow any whales which have been refloated, either on foot (wading), or by kayak, and will not be swimming. All time with the whales will be reduced at the request of Project Jonah or the DOC incident officer present.

Oceanic Filming:

For as long as the pilot whales permit. The crew will retreat at signs of distress.

How will you approach, film and depart from marine mammals using a vessel? Please list all species separately

Stranding:

Stranded pilot whales may be approached in a kayak during re-floating attempts. The kayak may be used where a refloating attempt is deeper than waist-height, so the crew cannot film with kit by wading. In these instances, the underwater shots we would like to get of pilot whales being rescued, may be filmed from the kayak using a polecam. The kayak may additionally be used to transport the camera operator between whales which are a large distance apart, and to put heavy filming kit onto, which cannot be hand-held for long periods of time. The kayak will be an Intex 2 person K2 Fishing Excursion Pro Kayak, which is inflatable.

Oceanic Filming:

The boat crew are experienced in finding and documenting long-finned pilot whales in the area, and will proceed to search in areas known to have high densities of the whales, using the *Manawanui's* bird's nest, acoustic tracking and a local sighting hotline. Once encountered, the crew will film the whales with a mixture of underwater filming and drone. To avoid disturbing the whales, a 7-person RIB (the *Rubberduck*) will be deployed from the *Manawanui*, and used by the dive crew to get closer to the whales. The *Rubberduck* is much more responsive than the *Manawanui*, and the whales don't mind being close to it.

Vessels will use no wake speed while approaching pilot whales, and will approach from the side or behind of the pod, never cutting in front of them or across their path.

Once the whales have been found, the crew will track them for as long as weather permits, within our pre-arranged filming window, and within compliance of all marine mammal filming regulations. The *Manawanui* is equipped with a hydrophone, which will allow the crew to keep track of the whales overnight, and which the boat crew will constantly man on a rota.

Underwater filming will be of a mixture of snorkel/freediving and open circuit SCUBA, and the underwater DOP and safety diver will use two sea scooters to keep up with the whales whilst they are on the move.

**How will you undertake underwater filming?
Please list all species separately**

Method (pole-cam, diver etc.)

Stranding:

The camera operator may be in waist-deep water with the whales, during the stranding rescue. The crew may also use a small kayak to help move efficiently around the scene. A pole-cam may be used to get under water shots. A drone will also be used.

Oceanic Filming:

Underwater filming will be of a mixture of snorkel/freediving and open circuit SCUBA, and the underwater DOP and safety diver will use two sea scooters to keep up with the whales whilst they are on the move. A drone will also be used.

Approaching marine mammals (vessel and/or land)

Stranding:

This will be by foot for completely stranded individuals, or by wading into the water for semi-submerged animals. Instructions from the marine mammal strandings rescue experts will be followed.

A 4x4 hired vehicle may be used to approach strandings on very large stretches of coast. This method has previously been deployed by Project Jonah. A PJ or DOC representative would have to be present in the vehicle. The vehicle will not approach closer than 20m.

Oceanic Filming:

Vessels will use no wake speed while approaching pilot whales, and will approach from the side or behind of the pod, never cutting in front of them or across their path.

Distances and filming position relative to each species

Stranding:

The camera operator may need to walk or wade close to the animals to get close ups and cutaways, so within 2m.

Oceanic Filming:

The Manawanui will be within 50m if the whales approach the boat. The Rubberduck will be less than 50m.

**How will you approach, film and depart from marine mammals using a drone?
Please list all species separately**

Filming over water

The drone pilot will launch the drone from a stable surface, and not approach the stranded pilot whales until the drone has reached transit height.

Approach speed

15 mph

Height above sea level during transit along the coast or across the sea

During transit the drone will remain 150m above sea level / beach level for stranded whales.

Height above sea level while filming marine mammals

To film our target species (long-finned pilot whales) the drone will approach from a height of 150m, then drop down to a minimum of 20m for the actual filming.

Orientation of approach

Where possible the drone will approach from the rear and parallel to the whales. In the case of stranded whales, their orientations will be mixed, so this will be attempted where possible.

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance

The pilot whales (in the water) will not be chased, herded or scattered. Any reaction to the drone will be interpreted as disturbance, upon which the drone will retreat to transit height.

Film Crew

Please fill in for every person that may come into contact with marine mammals throughout the course of the proposed filming. (Copy and paste details for additional crew)

Full Name:

Steve Hathaway

Job Title: Director of Photography

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:

Steve is an experienced UW DOP and diver. Over 1500 dives completed across more than 30 years, including in a wide range of ocean conditions. Exceptionally strong swimmer, trained PADI Rescue Diver and Emergency First Responder, and trained to administer O₂. Has been filming UW professionally for 13 years, predominantly in New Zealand and Australia, including for National Geographic and BBC productions, including *Blue Planet 2* and *Secrets of the Whales*. He has used a sea scooter on roughly 50 dives to date.

Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions: See above.

Full Name:

Jochen Zaeschmar

Job Title: Skipper and Scientific Advisor

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:

Jochen has been conducting continuous research on cetaceans (including pilot whales) for over 20 years, and has skippered research vessels in New Zealand and Hawaiian waters. He has been the designated skipper of vessels used for filming purposes of marine mammals under Department of Conservation permits on several occasions, and owns and operates his own ocean-going sailing vessel - which we are using for this shoot. Production has seen his skipper's licence and boat sea worthiness certificates. Qualifications: Commercial Skipper and Level 2 First Aid (NZQA 6401)

Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions: See above.

Full Name: Other crew members TBC

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:

Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:

Filming with a drone

Maximum number of drones operating at any one time:

1

Type and number of drones (Copy and paste details for additional drones)

Drone 1 description:

Location(s) of filming:

Model: Up to 25kg – likely a mavic pro.

Noise level: 71dB