

Curio Bay & Waipapa Point Visitor Surveys 2006/07

AUGUST 2007

SOUTHLAND CONSERVANCY



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Curio Bay & Waipapa Point Visitor Surveys 2006/07

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Cover photograph - Greg Lind

IBSN 978-0-478-14291-4 (hardcopy)
IBSN 978-0-478-14292-1 (web PDF)

Published by
Department of Conservation
Southland Conservancy
P O Box 743
Invercargill

September 2007

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1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of two visitor surveys carried out in the Catlins during the 2006/2007 summer. It is divided into five sections. Section one contains general information about the Catlins area, the two study sites and summarises previous relevant research. Section two explains the survey method and section three summarise the key findings from both surveys. Section four discusses the findings while the final section gives recommendations for ongoing management and monitoring of the area.

1.1 THE CATLINS

Waipapa Point and Curio Bay (Fig. 1) are located in the Catlins region, a sparsely populated area in the extreme southeast of the South Island of New Zealand stretching from Kaka Point in the east to Fortrose in the west.

FIGURE 1: THE CATLINS (FROM HALL 2007).



The Catlins area is known for its rugged isolation and dramatic coastal scenery. It encompasses a rolling landscape with a mixture of native forest, shrublands waterfalls, farmland and rugged coastline (DOC 2000). Once characterised by the numerous sawmills that operated in the area (Buckingham & Hall-Jones 1985) the Catlins nowadays includes the largest area of native forest on the east coast of the South Island. Common tree species include rimu, kamahi, rata, and silver beech (DOC 2005).

Native wildlife species that are easily accessible for visitors include blue penguins, yellow eyed penguins (hoiho), hectors dolphins, fur seals (kekeno), sea lions (rapoka), elephant seals (ihupuku), mohua, white-fronted terns, royal spoonbills, herons and dotterels.

The area is traversed by the “Southern Scenic Route” and is popular for scenic driving amongst New Zealand and overseas visitors. There are many short forest walks from the road to beaches, streams, lakes, waterfalls, caves and blow holes. Recreation opportunities are suited to visitors with little time or outdoor experience, and activities are focused on short walks and access to coastal areas (DOC 2000). The most popular recreational activities are picnics, short coastal walks (including the Petrified Forest at Curio Bay), and wildlife viewing.

At present, recreational use is largely confined to the coastline because of limited access to the forests further inland (DOC 2000). Until recently, access to the area was more difficult as the main road through the Catlins from Balclutha was partly gravelled. Access to the area was improved in 2005 when the remaining section of this road was tar sealed. However, much of the 13 km alternative coastal route between Curio Bay and Fortrose, including the access roads to Waipapa Point and Slope Point remains unsealed. These improvements to the road are expected to encourage more people to visit the area.

Commercial use of the Catlins is also growing. There are around 20 operators with existing concessions to visit various sites in the area. Commercial activities include guided day walks, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation/eco-tours. Most activities take place at the more well-known tourist sites such as Curio Bay, Jacks Blowhole, Papatowai Scenic Reserve, Purakauni Falls Scenic Reserve, McLean Falls and Tautuku Bay Scenic Reserve.

Regional tourism forecasts for the Southland RTO (regional tourism organisation) predict a 4.3% increase in visitor numbers between 2006 and 2012 (Ministry of Tourism 2006b). While this is a modest increase compared to neighbouring areas (a 22.4% increase is expected in the Fiordland RTO over the same period (Ministry of Tourism 2006a)) the forecasts show that the profile of visitors to Southland will also gradually change. Currently international visitors undertake only 14.8% of visits to Southland however international day visits and international overnight visits are forecast to increase by 29.3% and 30.3% respectively over the six year period. The Catlins along with Stewart Island are areas where much of the increase in international visitors is likely to be focused. Curio Bay and Waipapa Point are the two most popular sites within the part of the Catlins that is administered by Southland Conservancy and are two sites that are likely to experience a growth in visitor numbers. These locations are discussed in more detail below.

1.1.1 Curio Bay

Curio Bay is situated on the Catlins coast, approximately 88 kilometres south-east of Invercargill and 7 kilometres south of Waikawa (Fig. 1). The Curio Bay area has a long history of Māori occupation dating back to the earliest Polynesian settlement of New Zealand. The area was later settled by Europeans in the 1850's and 1860's. More recently, Curio Bay has become a well established holiday and day trip venue for Southland and Otago residents (Burns 2006).

Curio Bay is one of the most visited sites in Murihiku Area, with an annual average of 31,400 visitors estimated to have accessed the rock platform between 2002 and 2007 (based on track counter readings). Visitors are attracted by the accessible wildlife viewing opportunities. Hector's dolphins, nesting yellow eyed penguins, sea lions and little blue penguins (kororā) are all present at Curio Bay or the adjacent Porpoise Bay. Visitors also come to Curio Bay to see the fossilised remains of an ancient forest that are exposed at low tide. This is one of the most extensive and least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossil forest in the world and stretches about 20 kilometres from Curio Bay south west to Slope Point. It has been recognised as an internationally important site as fossil forests of this age are rare worldwide (DOC 2000). A beach, scenic coastal headland and campground are additional attractions (Burns 2006).

With visitors have come concerns about impacts on biodiversity and other conservation values. There is anecdotal evidence of visitors removing pieces of fossilised wood from the petrified forest but the main concern is with impacts to Hector's dolphins and yellow eyed penguins.

Hector's dolphins frequently swim close to the shore during the summer months, often with calves and this behaviour can bring them into close contact with humans. Many visitors are tempted to swim close to the dolphins, and at times dolphins approach swimmers who are in their territory. There are concerns about the effects that this may have on the population's behaviour and breeding. The use of boats, jet skis and set nets in the area has also been a concern.

Yellow eyed penguins are thought to be particularly vulnerable to disturbance by visitors. They are very timid birds that will leave the area or freeze at the sight of humans (DOC 2002). At Curio Bay this may mean that animals delay coming ashore or returning to their nest if visitors are present within their usual landing zone. During chick rearing, the penguins forage at sea during the day and return in the evening to regurgitate meals for their young. McClung et. al. (2004) postulated that if a parent bird's return from sea was delayed during this period then the meal intended for the chick might be more digested and therefore smaller and/ or less nutritious. Over time this could result in lighter chicks at fledging and a lower survival rate. It is thought that populations of yellow eyed penguins could decline in the long term due to the presence of visitors. Their study of populations on the Otago Peninsula found that chicks at a site with a high number of tourists had significantly lower fledging weight than at a nearby beach that received no tourists. They noted however that there were other differences between sites, other than visitor numbers, that could also affect the birds.

Dogs are a particular concern in areas where penguins are found. Although dogs are banned from the rock platform at Curio Bay and required to be on a lead in the adjacent reserve area, there is still the potential for disturbance or predation, either from dogs roaming independently or through the actions of less responsible dog owners. Predation on chicks along with habitat destruction is thought to be the two greatest threats to yellow eyed penguin numbers nationally (McKinlay 2001). Blue penguins are also likely to be at risk at Porpoise Bay from dogs.

Managing impacts on wildlife and other issues around Curio Bay is complicated because responsibility is split between a number of different agencies and organisations. The fossil forest at Curio Bay is managed by the Department of Conservation as a scientific reserve while the adjacent Curio Bay Recreation Reserve is managed under the Reserves Act 1977 with control vested in the Southland District Council. Land uses on adjacent private land also have the potential to affect the experience or environment within the reserves. In 2002 the Southland District Council gave control of the campground and responsibility for the development of associated facilities to the South Catlins Development and Environmental Charitable Trust. In 2005 a commercial tourism operator was contracted by the trust to manage the campground (Burns 2006).

Some new facility developments are likely to take place at Curio Bay in the near future. A new viewing platform is due to be built in 2007 along with new interpretation panels and improved access. A visitor centre is also proposed for an area near the current camping ground.

1.1.2 Waipapa Point

Waipapa Point is a rocky outcrop situated 10 kilometres south east of the mouth of the Maitai River (Fig. 1). The area was the scene of New Zealand's worst civilian maritime disaster – the sinking of the 'SS Tararua' in 1881 (Bain 1991). A lighthouse built in 1884 in response to this tragedy was one of the last two wooden light houses built in New Zealand, and is of great historical significance. It is listed in the Coastal Plan and District Plan as a place of historic importance, and is registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The 'SS Tararua' wreck site is listed as a historic place in the Mainland Southland West Otago Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) (DOC 2000). The Tararua Acre Cemetery, administered by the Southland District Council, is located near the wreck site, and is the site where many of the victims of the disaster are buried.

In addition to its historical significance Waipapa Point also has significant biodiversity values. The area is known for the opportunity it provides for visitors to view New Zealand sea lions in their natural habitat. Sea lions (primarily males) are present in low numbers for most of the year at Waipapa Point (H. McConnell, DOC Marine Conservation Unit pers. comm) and can be found on the beach and among the coastal tussock. This species is endemic and has only recently started to re-colonise the New Zealand mainland after the sealing industry brought it close to extinction in the 1800's leaving only a small remnant population on the Auckland Islands (460 km south of the mainland).

The coastal areas at Waipapa Point also have significant ecological values (DOC 2000). There is a range of coastal vegetation, some of which is protected at Waipapa Beach and Waipapa Point. One of the key ecological features of the area is the extensive dune system and diversity of dune habitat which warrant consideration as a site of national importance (B. Rance, DOC Southland Conservancy pers. comm.).

There is currently little existing information about visitor use of the Waipapa Point area. Until recently it was believed to be a low use site however, following the installation of a vehicle counter at the entrance to the site in August 2004, it was discovered to be one of the most popular visitor sites in Murihiku Area. Visitor numbers are currently estimated to be around 33,000 per year (assuming an average of two visitors per vehicle based on onsite observations), with a peak over the summer months. Apart from wildlife viewing and historic appreciation, other popular activities include short walks and picnicking.

Waipapa Point is an area that has historically been relatively unmanaged. There are no formalised tracks and only minimal interpretation of the site is provided by the department. The interpretation that is present at Waipapa Point is somewhat inadequate and difficult to locate. For example, information regarding the SS Tararua wreck is situated some distance from the lighthouse where the majority of visitors go.

With the increasing popularity of the site, the current facilities are coming under pressure and impacts are becoming apparent. The natural dune systems and vegetation are being damaged by visitors choosing their own paths along the top of dunes and down to the beach and the coastal turfs beyond the lighthouse are under threat from 4WD vehicles. The access road is in poor condition and is not wide enough for buses and campervans while the parking is also inadequate. Visitors can be unaware of the second car park situated near the lighthouse and often park on the road edge when the top car park is full. This has caused damage in some places and the department has become concerned that the weight of a parked vehicle could cause the sandy ground to collapse.

As of July 2007 consultation is underway on a number of possible management upgrades to remedy this situation. Proposals include;

- Installing new toilets.
- Increasing the size of the car parking facilities.
- Widening the access road and adding retaining walls.
- Blocking off vehicle access to parts of the site.
- Removing the fence around the lighthouse
- Adding a boardwalk and viewing platform
- Adding a walking track from the Tararua wreck lookout to the lighthouse.
- Installing new interpretation panels.
- Improving disabled access.
- Adding a shelter and picnic area.

The upgrades are scheduled to be carried out in 2007/08 however discussions with the local community and other stakeholders on which of the proposals will be implemented are ongoing and at the time of writing no decisions have been made (John Sheridan, DOC Murihiku Area pers. comm.).

1.2 PREVIOUS RESEARCH

No previous studies have been undertaken by the department to guide the management of Waipapa Point and Curio Bay however there are four recent surveys that are relevant. In March 2007 a survey was carried out at Nugget Point, at the northern end of the Southern Scenic Route. 264 visitors were surveyed using a similar questionnaire to the ones used in this study (Hall 2007).

Between November 2003 and August 2004 1070 visitors to Southland were surveyed on behalf of Venture Southland by SGL Consulting Group to develop a statistical profile of visitors to Southland (SGL 2005).

Surveys have also been undertaken of visitor to the wider Catlins area. Between November 2000 and February 2001 Anne Pullar & Associates carried out a survey at Curio Bay for South Catlins Promotions Incorporated. 1161 visitors were surveyed at Curio Bay but the survey was not specific to that location. Instead respondents were asked about their travel movements around the Catlins and their impression of the area (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001). Despite this, the earlier survey allows for some limited comparisons of changes in visitor and visit characteristics over the past five years.

Finally, 677 visitors were surveyed between January and March 2003 by the University of Otago's Department of Tourism as part of the development of the Catlins Tourism Strategy (Lovelock, Boyd & Low 2004).

The results from the current study will be discussed in the context of these previous four studies.

The aim of the current surveys was to inform the planned upgrade work at the two sites, provide information for visitor and concession management, provide information for the future revision of the Mainland Southland West Otago Conservation Management Strategy and yield other information that would be of use to the department as well as the community and other stakeholders. The surveys were designed to provide up to date information about the characteristics of visitors, their reasons for visiting, satisfactions, perceptions of visitor impacts and the standard of current facilities, the range of activities undertaken and use of different sites in the wider Catlins area. The findings will contribute to the future management of the area and will enable managers and stakeholders to enhance and protect the visitor experience and ensure that future development is appropriate to the setting.

2 Methods

The survey was carried out over six days at Waipapa Point and five days at Curio Bay from the 5th - 21st December 2006. Respondents were approached by DOC staff at the end of their visit and every visitor over the age of 15 was asked to fill in a self completion questionnaire (see appendix 1 & 2) and return it onsite. A postal return option was available for visitors who were in a hurry. This method was also used for large commercial groups with the assistance of guides so as to minimise disruption to their tour. Surveyors were available to assist with any queries that respondents had but could not suggest answers to survey questions.

At Curio Bay visitors were surveyed in the car park at the beginning of the track to the fossil forest while at Waipapa Point visitors were mostly surveyed at the bottom car park with the surveyor roaming between the two car parks as required.

3 Results

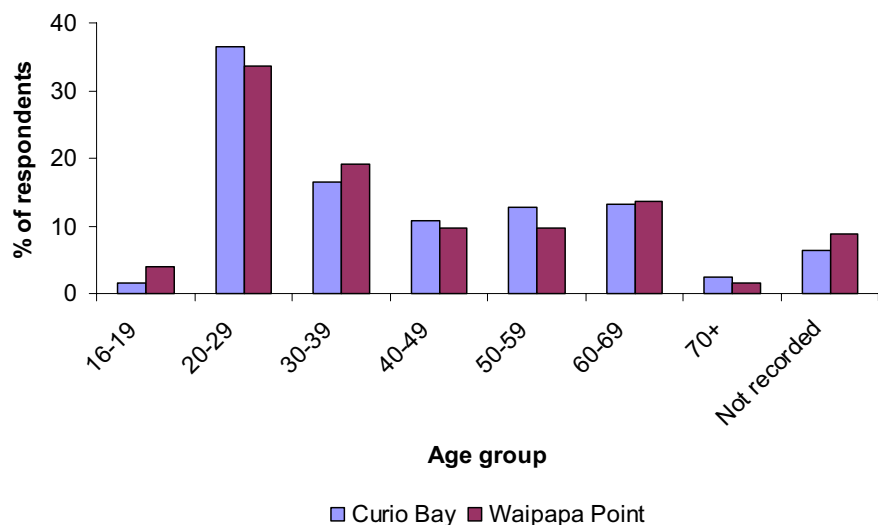
A total of 349 visitors were approached at Curio Bay and 205 surveys were completed including 52 postal returns. The overall response rate was 59%.

412 visitors were approached at Waipapa Point and 205 surveys were returned with 24 responses being postal returns. The response rate at Waipapa Point was 50%. Some difficulties were encountered in surveying at Waipapa Point because of the layout of the site, the greater area that needed to be covered and the fact that some visitors made their own way down to the beach from the top car park rather than taking the main track from near the lighthouse. A surveyor stationed at the road end could not always intercept visitors who stayed near the picnic area while a surveyor located in this area would have had to stop vehicles coming back from the road end. Visitor numbers did not always warrant having two surveyors onsite. This is unlikely to have had a significant effect on the survey results however.

The response rates at the two sites were lower than has been achieved in other surveys of day visitors and short stop travellers in Southland Conservancy. Surveys carried out at Key Summit, Gertrude Valley and the Milford Sound Foreshore in 2007 obtained response rates of between sixty nine and eighty five percent (Harbrow 2007). Typical reasons for refusing to be surveyed at Waipapa Point and Curio Bay were not speaking English, only wanting to fill in one per group or per couple and not having enough time. At both sites cold, windy weather, the length of the survey and the relatively short duration of visits may have contributed to the lower response rate.

3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

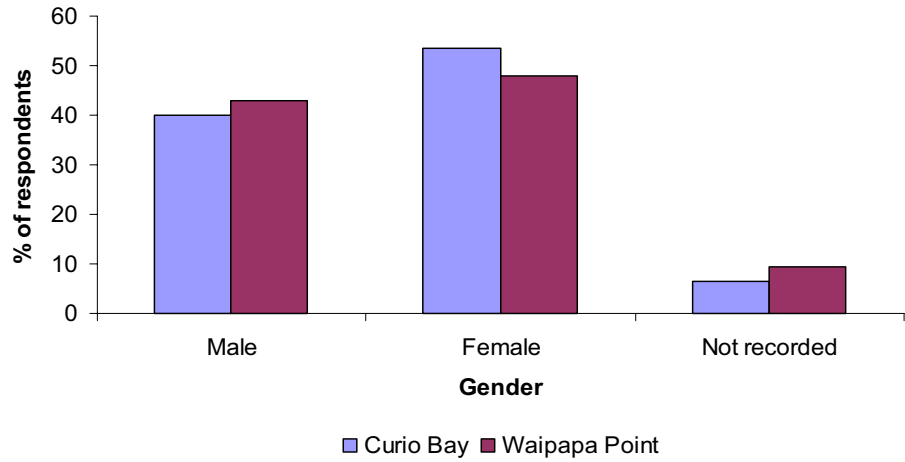
FIGURE 2: AGE



Both sites attracted similar types of visitors and 20-29 was the most common age group (Fig. 2).

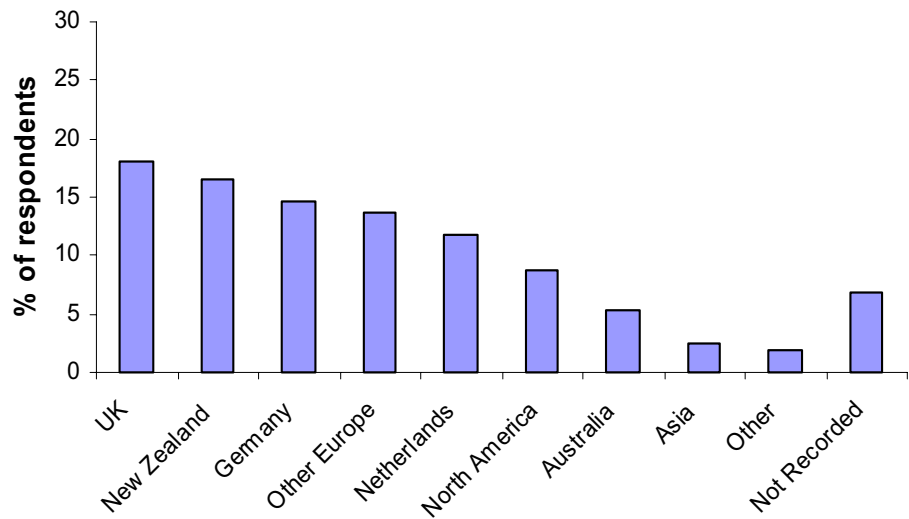
There were more female than male respondents at Curio Bay while at Waipapa Point there was an even split between male and female respondents (Fig. 3).

FIGURE 3: GENDER



Most respondents at Curio Bay came from the United Kingdom (18%), New Zealand (17%), Germany (15%) or the Netherlands (12%). A further 14% of visitors came from other European countries including Ireland, Switzerland and Belgium (Fig. 4).

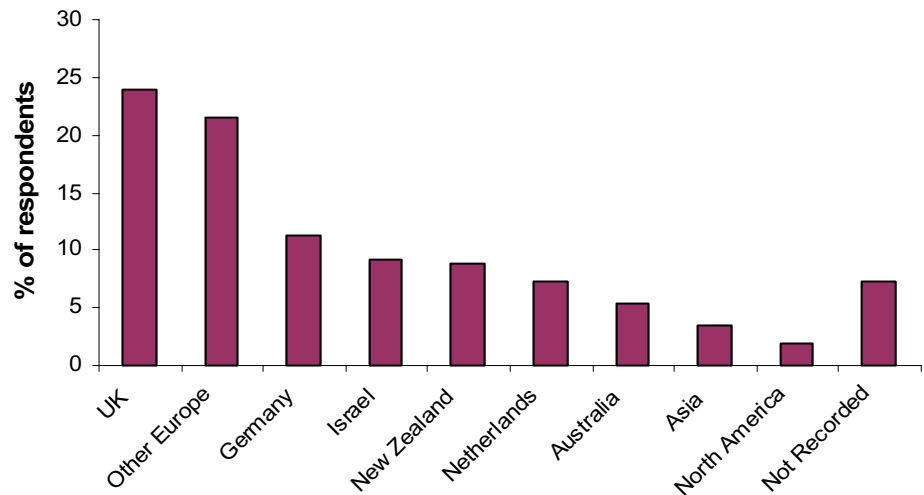
FIGURE 4: ORIGIN OF RESPONDENTS AT CURIO BAY



The United Kingdom (24%) was also the most common country of origin at Waipapa Point (Fig. 5) followed by Germany (11%) and Israel (9%). 22% of respondents were included in the “Other Europe” category which included respondents from Sweden, France, Belgium, Denmark and a variety of other countries. New Zealanders made up 9% of total respondents.

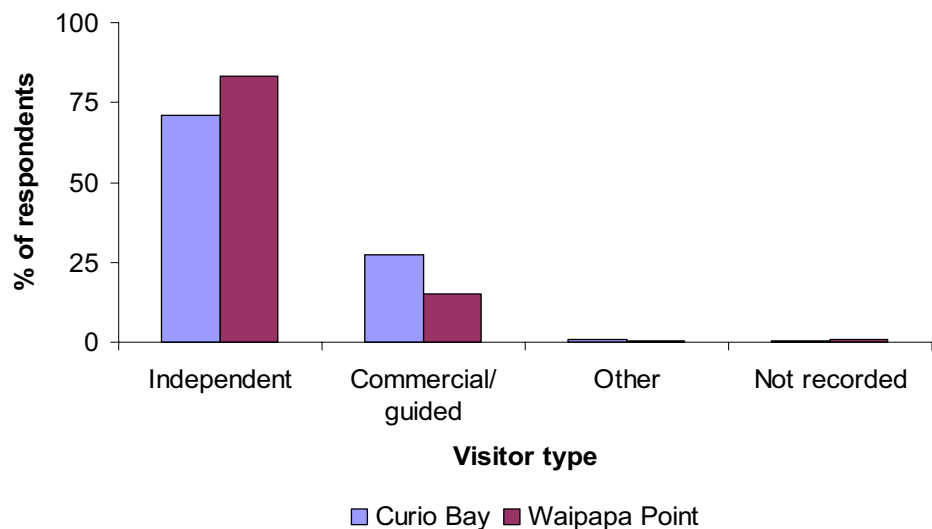
At both sites the majority of New Zealand respondents were from the North Island. Overall, 43% of respondents at Curio Bay and 49% of respondents at Waipapa Point came from countries where the main language is not English. Full nationality details are provided in appendix 3 and 4.

FIGURE 5: ORIGIN OF RESPONDENTS AT WAIPAPA POINT



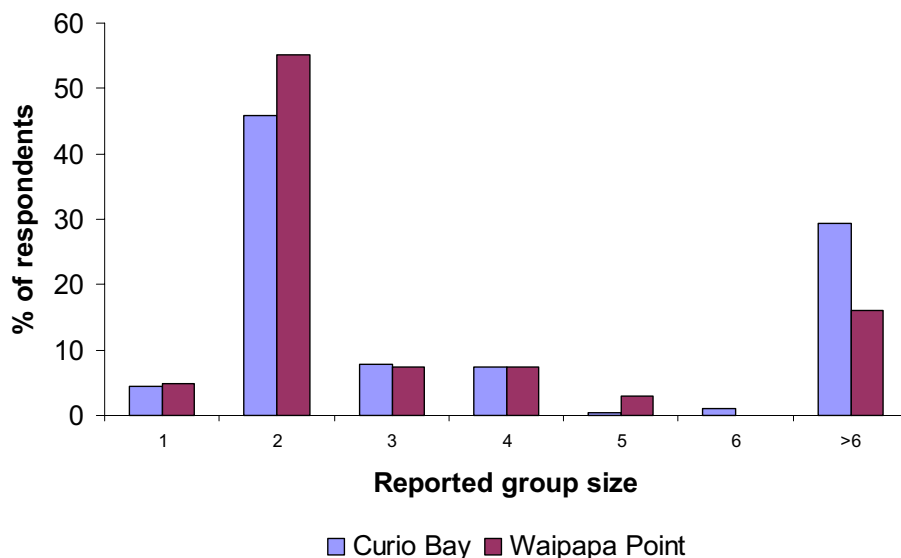
3.2 VISITOR AND GROUP CHARACTERISTICS

FIGURE 6: VISITOR TYPE



Both sites were dominated by independent visitors but at Curio Bay more respondents reported belonging to a commercial group than at Waipapa Point (Fig. 6). Two was the most common group size at both sites (Fig. 7). The maximum reported group size was 42 at Curio Bay and 18 at Waipapa Point.

FIGURE 7: GROUP SIZE



Most respondents were visiting the area for the first time. 96% of respondents at Waipapa Point and 90% of those at Curio Bay had not visited the area previously. New Zealanders were more likely to be repeat visitors than respondents from overseas. 35% of New Zealand respondents at Curio Bay were repeat visitors compared to 5% of respondents from overseas. At Waipapa Point 17% of New Zealanders were repeat visitors compared to 2% of respondents from overseas.

3.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF VISITOR'S JOURNEY

The majority of respondents at the two sites stayed for less than an hour (Fig. 8). Longer trips were less common at Waipapa Point than at Curio Bay where 7% of respondents were on a day trip greater than 5 hours and 9% were staying over night. Only 2% of respondents were undertaking such trips at Waipapa Point.

FIGURE 8: LENGTH OF VISIT

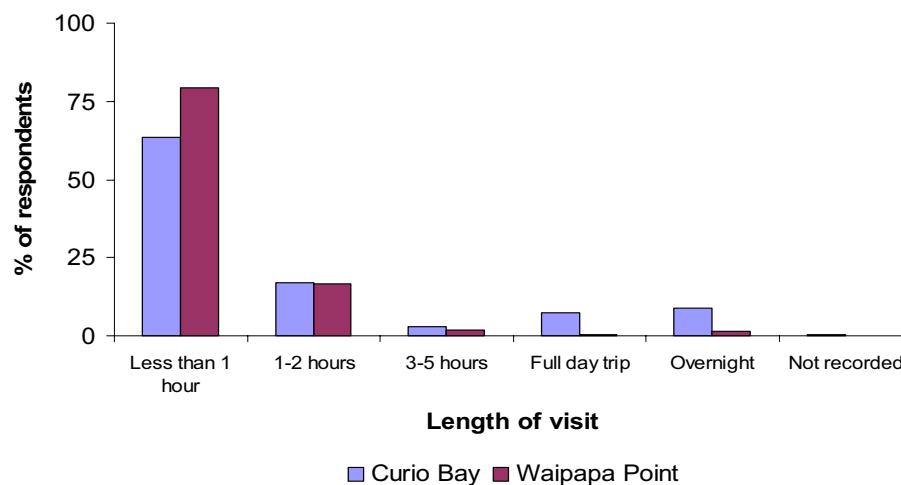
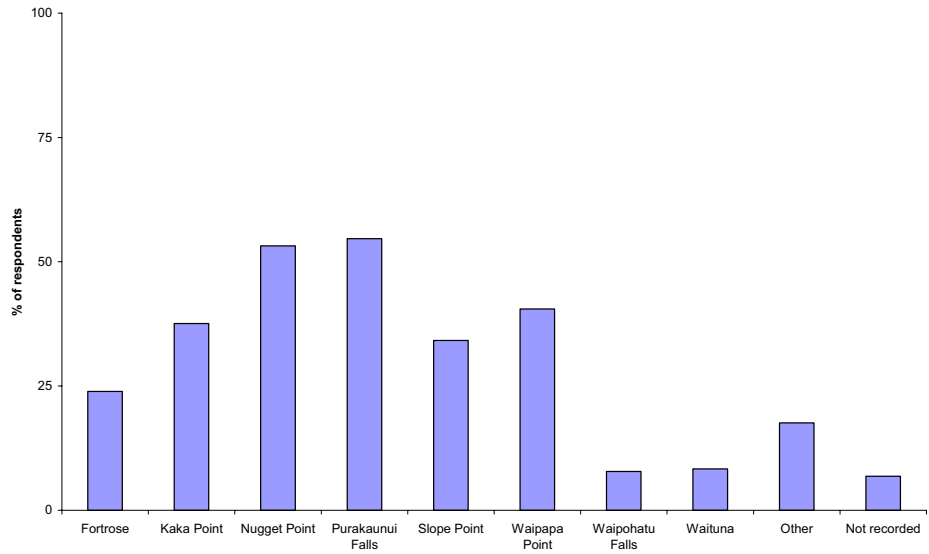
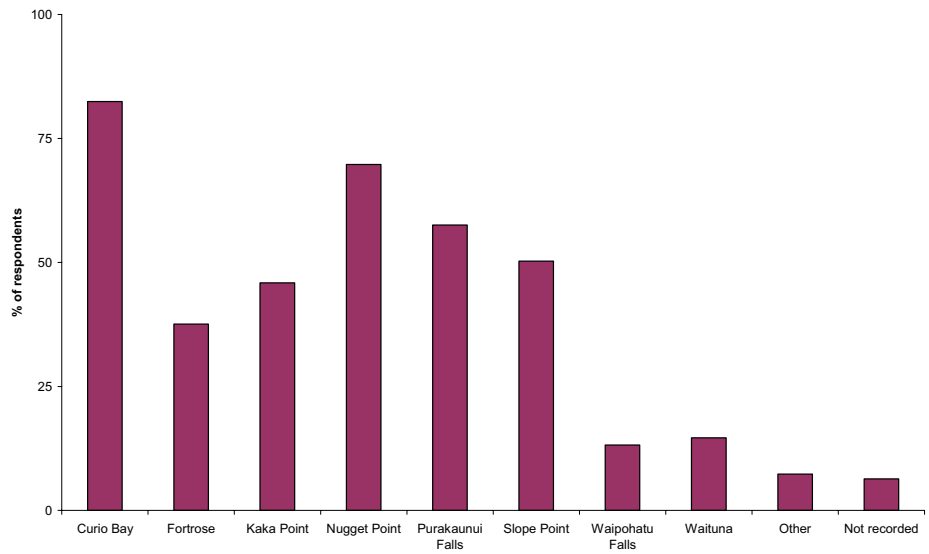


FIGURE 9: OTHER CATLINS SITES VISITED BY CURIO BAY RESPONDENTS



Most respondents at the two sites were visiting as part of a wider tour of the area. Purakaunui Falls (55%) and Nugget Point (53%) were the sites most commonly visited by respondents surveyed at Curio Bay (Fig. 9). Thirteen additional sites were mentioned and included in the “other” category. Cannibal Bay was the only one of these sites that was mentioned by more than 5% of respondents.

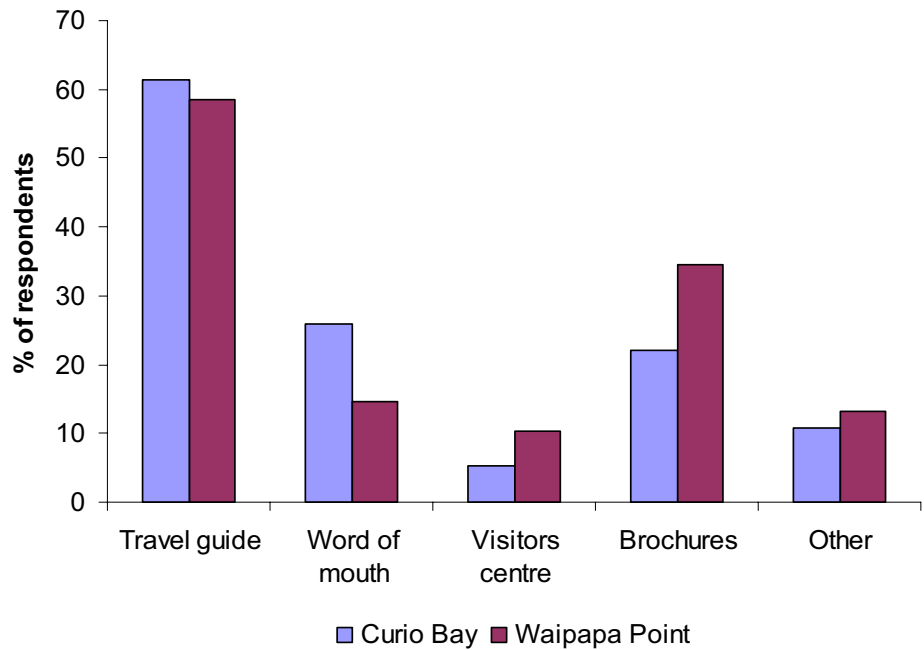
FIGURE 10: OTHER CATLINS SITES VISITED BY WAIPAPA POINT RESPONDENTS



82% of respondents at Waipapa Point also visited Curio Bay. Nugget Point (70%), Purakaunui Falls (58%), Slope Point (50%) and Kaka Point (46%) were other common responses (Fig. 10). The “other” category included ten additional sites, the most popular of which were Cathedral Caves and Tautuku Bay (both 3%). The full list of sites is presented in appendix 5.

3.4 INFORMATION SOURCES

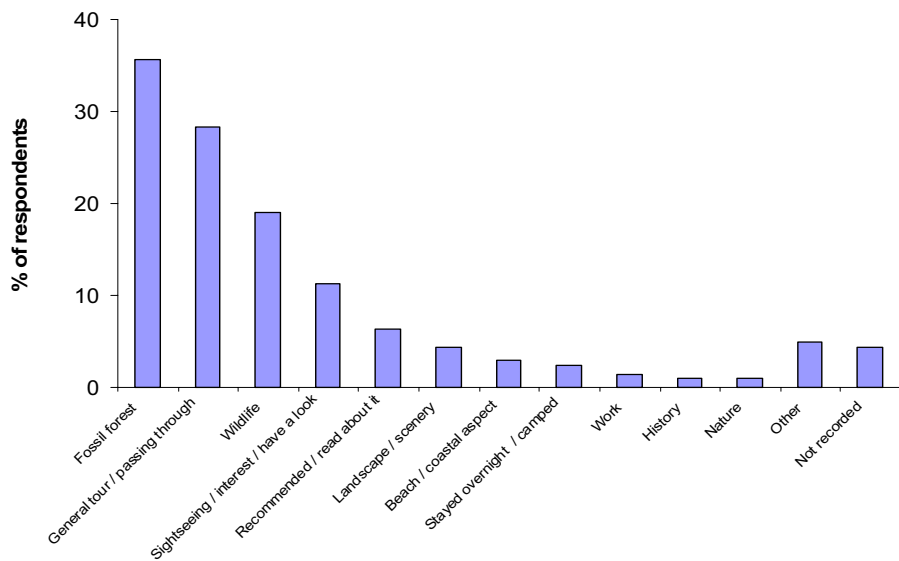
FIGURE 11: SOURCE OF INITIAL INFORMATION



Most respondents found out about the area through a travel guide (e.g. Lonely Planet) which reflects the high proportion of overseas visitors (Fig. 11). This figure may be inflated as some respondents may have thought it referred to their tour guide rather than to a guidebook. Brochures were an important information source at Waipapa Point while word of mouth was more important at Curio Bay.

3.5 REASONS FOR VISITING

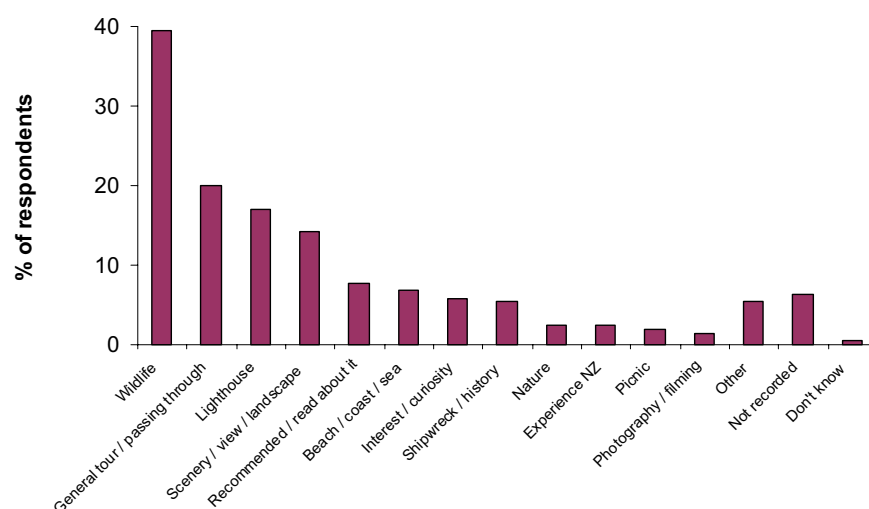
FIGURE 12: REASONS FOR VISITING CURIO BAY



Visiting the fossil forest (36%) was the most common reason given for visiting Curio Bay (Fig. 12). A significant number of respondents (28%) did not choose to specifically visit but instead visited because they were in the area, passing through or in the case of guided visitors because it was on their itinerary. Viewing wildlife (19%) was the third most common reason given. Of these, 41% mentioned wildlife in general, 39% dolphins, 39% penguins 13% sea lions and 3% seals. Other common reasons for visiting Curio Bay were interest or sightseeing (11%) and reading about the place or having it recommended to them by others (6%). 4% gave no reason for visiting.

At Waipapa Point viewing wildlife (40%) was the most common reason given for visiting (Fig. 13). Other significant reasons were; being on a general tour of the area or passing through (20%), viewing the lighthouse (17%) and scenery (14%).

FIGURE 13: REASONS FOR VISITING WAIPAPA POINT



In both questionnaires respondents could provide more than one answer. The full list of responses is provided in appendix 6.

3.6 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

At Curio Bay visiting the fossil forest (86%) was the most common activity undertaken followed by viewing wildlife (46%) and visiting Porpoise Bay (44%). Other activities included surfing, walking, visiting the shop and playing on the beach (Fig. 14).

The most popular activities at Waipapa Point were viewing wildlife (81%) and walking on the beach (77%). Activities in the other category included collecting paua, viewing the lighthouse, appreciating the landscape and photography (Fig. 15).

FIGURE 14: ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT CURIO BAY

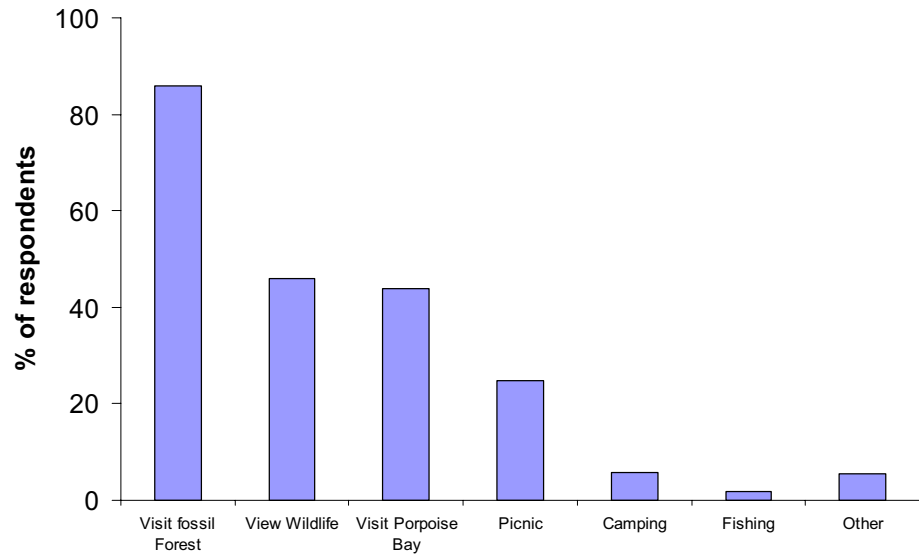
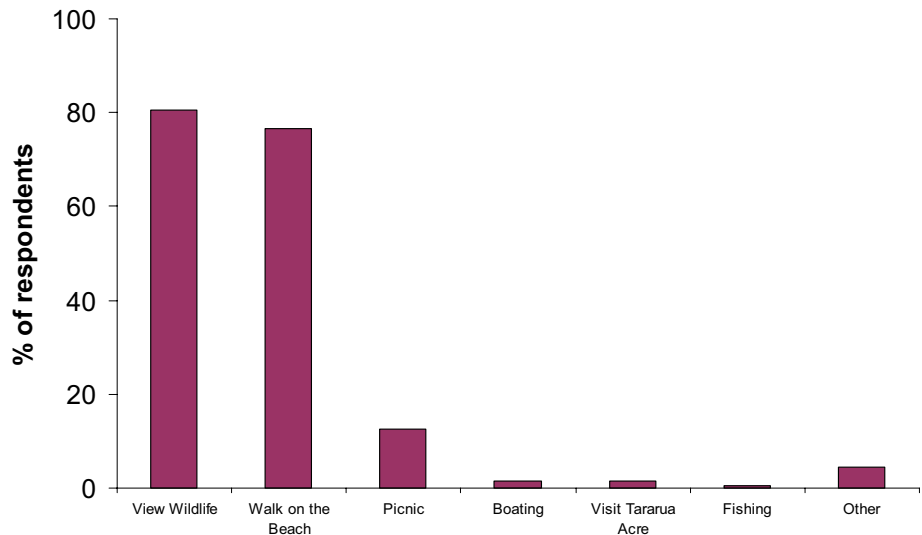


FIGURE 15: ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT WAIPAPA POINT



3.7 SATISFACTION & DISSATISFACTION

Four aspects of the experience at Curio Bay were major contributors to visitor satisfaction (Table 1). When asked what they liked the most about their visit, 36% of respondents mentioned the fossil forest. Wildlife was mentioned by 21% of respondents with just over half of these comments relating to penguins. Sea lions, orca, birds, dolphins and oystercatchers were also mentioned by a small number of respondents. 20% of respondents made general comments about scenery, views or the landscape. Various aspects of the coastal environment including the beach or coastline (10%), waves or sea views (8%) and the seaweed (5%) were also enjoyed by respondents. 5% of respondents didn't respond to the question and 2% indicated that they didn't know what they liked the most about their visit.

TABLE 1: MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECTS OF VISIT FOR RESPONDENTS AT CURIO BAY

Comment	% of respondents	Comment	% of respondents
Fossil forest	36	Wind	2
Wildlife	21	History	1
Scenery, landscape, views, beauty	20	Peace & quiet	1
Coast, beach	10	Remoteness, isolation	1
Sea, waves	8	Shop	1
Kelp, seaweed	5	Nature	1
Good weather	3	Warden, DOC staff	1
Everything	3	Wilderness	1
Non commercial, not touristy	3	Few people, solitude	1
Signs & interpretation	3	Other	9
Unspoilt, natural, undeveloped	3	Don't know	2
Accessible	2	Not recorded	5

Wildlife was the largest source of satisfaction for respondents at Waipapa Point (Table 2). Almost two thirds of the respondents indicated that this was the aspect of their visit that they had liked the most. These comments related almost exclusively to sea lions. The views, the experience of the coastal environment and the scenery were the other main sources of satisfaction. Comments are listed in appendix 7.

TABLE 2: MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECTS OF VISIT FOR RESPONDENTS AT WAIPAPA POINT

Comment	% of respondents
Wildlife	64
Sea / coast / beach	20
Scenery / landscape / views	15
Lighthouse	6
Wind / fresh air	6
Weather / sunshine	5
Peace & quiet	4
Shells	3
Unspoilt / wilderness	3
Sheep	1
Other	3
Not recorded / Nothing / don't know	5

Weather (26%) was by far the largest source of dissatisfaction for respondents at Curio Bay (Table 3). Failing to see wildlife was the next most common issue and was cited by 4% of respondents. Other issues raised were of only minor concern and many related to issues outside of the department's immediate control. Social impacts were barely mentioned by respondents. Issues included in the "other" category were raised by a single respondent on each occasion and included finding cigarette butts, hearing stories about car thefts, the survey itself, the presence of campervans and the subdivision being developed adjacent to the camp ground. A large number of respondents (41%) left the

question blank indicating that they had no concerns. A further 13% gave positive comments or said that there was nothing that they disliked, 2% indicated that they didn't know what they had liked the least and 1% commented on sites other than Curio Bay. A full list of comments is provided in appendix 8.

TABLE 3: LEAST ENJOYED ASPECTS OF VISIT AT CURIO BAY

Comment	% of respondents
Weather	26
No animals	4
Not enough time	2
Signs & information	2
Roads	1
Wildlife harassment	1
Shop	1
Penguins	1
Phone coverage	1
Facilities	1
Other	2
Not recorded	41
Nothing to dislike / positive comment	13
Don't know	2

TABLE 4: LEAST ENJOYED ASPECTS OF VISIT AT WAIPAPA POINT

Comment	% of respondents
Weather	12
Wildlife	5
Toilet	3
Sheep	3
Lighthouse	2
Road	2
Rubbish	1
Not spectacular	1
Behaviour around sea lions	1
Sandflies	1
Other	3
Nothing to dislike / positive comment	11
Not recorded	56

Few respondents indicated dissatisfaction with aspects of their visit to Waipapa Point (Table 4). 56% left the question blank and a further 11% made positive comments or indicated that there was nothing that they disliked. A number of issues were highlighted by the remaining respondents but none reached a level where they should be of concern to management. Windy and cold weather (12%) was the largest source of dissatisfaction followed by wildlife (5% i.e. not seeing sea lions, the smell). Other sources of dissatisfaction of interest to management were the standard of the toilet facilities, the presence and smell of sheep and sheep faeces, the appearance of

the lighthouse and the fence surrounding it, the standard of the access road, rubbish and the behaviour of visitors around sea lions.

3.8 FACILITIES

Visitors to both sites were asked to rate the standard of facilities from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent). At both sites significant numbers of respondents either indicated that they did not use the particular facility or gave no response. The toilets at both sites and the maps and brochures and picnic area at Waipapa Point were rated poorly by the remaining respondents (Fig. 16). Although respondents were given the option to provide additional comments few did so making it difficult to attribute a cause to any dissatisfaction with facilities.

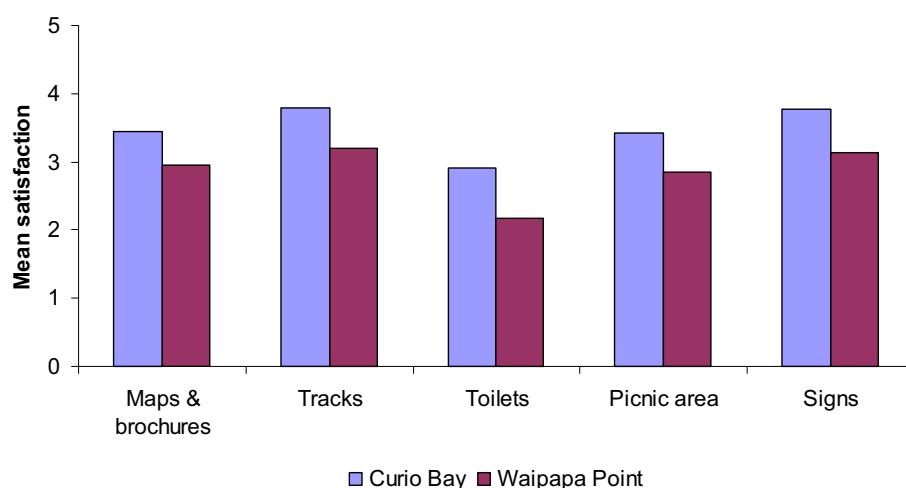
TABLE 5: SATISFACTION WITH FACILITIES AT CURIO BAY

	Maps & brochures (%)	Tracks (%)	Toilets (%)	Picnic area (%)	Signs (%)
Negative	10	5	14	3	9
Neutral	17	19	17	15	19
Positive	29	44	13	17	55
Did not use	35	23	47	54	8
Not recorded	9	10	9	11	9

TABLE 6: SATISFACTION WITH FACILITIES AT WAIPAPA POINT

	Maps & brochures (%)	Tracks (%)	Toilets (%)	Picnic area (%)	Signs (%)
Negative	15	11	27	12	16
Neutral	22	27	12	15	27
Positive	16	22	5	9	25
Did not use	33	27	44	48	19
Not recorded	14	13	12	16	13

FIGURE 16: MEAN SATISFACTION SCORES FOR SELECTED FACILITIES



Toilets were the most significant facility issue at Curio Bay (Table 5) and 14% of respondents rated them negatively. It is unclear if this was because the facility at the motor camp was inadequate or if this was because there was no facility near the rock platform. Three respondents provided additional

comments about the toilet facilities and mentioned inadequate signage and the fact that there was no soap.

10% of respondents rated the maps and brochures negatively but again the reasons were unclear. The brochures themselves could have been inadequate or respondents could have been expressing dissatisfaction because they never saw them.

Signs were noticed by over 90% of respondents and were generally rated very highly. 9% of respondents were dissatisfied with signage, but among the nine negative comments received, no single issue stood out. Respondents who provided comments wanted more general information about the area (including maps) or more specific information on the fossil forest or yellow eyed penguins.

Facilities at Waipapa Point were given a lower overall rating by respondents compared to those at Curio Bay and the standard of the toilet was a significant issue. 27% of all respondents rated the toilet as “poor” or “very poor” but when those who said that they did not use or see the facility were removed from the analysis this amounted to over 60% of the remaining respondents. Signs were rated negatively by 16% of respondents, maps and brochures by 15%, the picnic area by 12% and the tracks were rated negatively by 11% of respondents (Table 6).

31 respondents provided further comments about facilities at Waipapa Point. 8 respondents gave general comments suggesting that the current facilities were adequate or that further development was unnecessary. E.g.

“I like the almost untouched feel. As soon as you put in a picnic area, toilets, etc the 'feel' changes”

“Stay wild as it is”

“Very poor info / facilities - but I like that.”

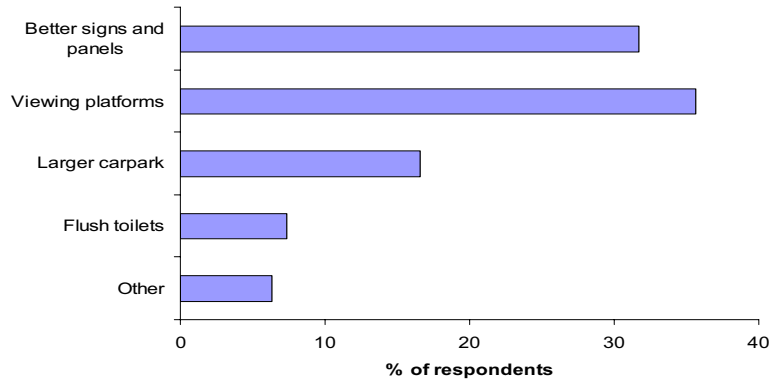
Signs were commented on by 7 respondents. Most of these respondents wanted more interpretation about points of interest. Concerns were also raised about inadequate directional signage on the road and additional signs cluttering the landscape.

Although toilets were the most significant facility issue at Waipapa point only 4 respondents commented on them and in each case different aspects were mentioned (not expecting a flush toilet at the site, the door blowing open in the wind, the potential for toilets to spoil the landscape and not knowing where the toilet was).

The five remaining comments relating to facilities covered track marking, the picnic area and access to the lighthouse.

In addition to satisfaction with the current facilities, visitors to Waipapa Point were asked about the sort of facilities that they would like to see there in the future (Fig. 17) and given the opportunity to provide comments (Table 7).

FIGURE 17: FACILITIES WANTED AT WAIPAPA POINT



The installation of viewing platforms was the most popular option and was supported by 36% of respondents while 32% wanted better signs and information panels. Respondents who commented on signs wanted better information about the shipwreck.

17% of respondents wanted a larger car park but only one commented that the car park had been full at the time of their visit.

The installation of flush toilets was supported by 7% of respondents. Comments relating to toilets were mixed. Some wanted flush toilets while others suggested that a composting toilet or a facility that was clean and tidy would be sufficient. One respondent complained that the toilet was “overrun by sheep.”

6% of respondents wanted to see other additional facilities provided including improvements to the road (4 respondents), a picnic area (3 respondents), a place to stop for coffee, a composting toilet, a fake shipwreck, gravel paths and the removal of the fence around the lighthouse (1 respondent each).

More than a third of the 66 comments suggested that nothing should be changed, or that there should be no or minimal development. Facility comments from the two sites are listed in appendix 9.

TABLE 7: COMMENTS ON FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AT WAIPAPA POINT

Comment	% of respondents
Not recorded	68
Don't develop, keep it the way it is, don't spoil it.	12
Positive comment not related to facilities	8
Nothing, nil, N/A	5
Toilet	3
Signs and interpretation	2
Negative comment not related to facilities	1
Access to lighthouse	1
Access road	<1
Car park full	<1
Flattened viewing area rather than viewing platform.	<1
Rubbish bins	<1
Shipwreck on beach	<1

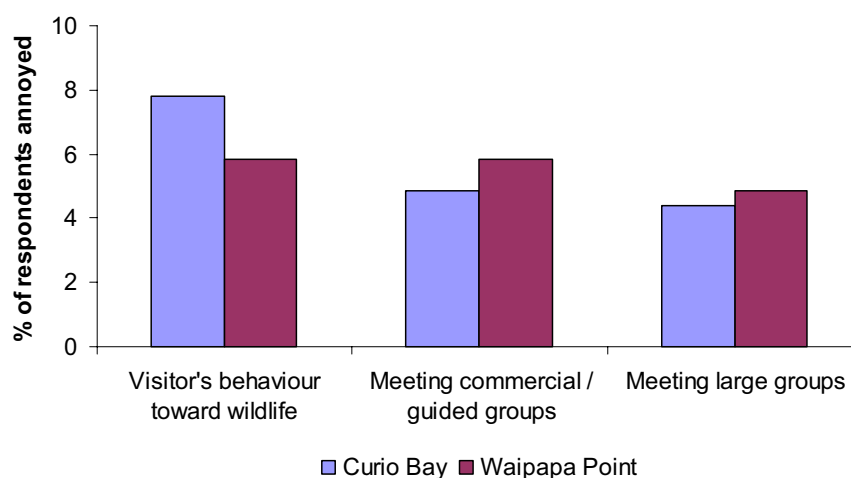
3.9 EFFECT OF OTHER VISITORS

TABLE 8: PERCEIVED CROWDING

	Crowded (%)	Not crowded (%)	Not recorded (%)
Curio Bay	25	69	6
Waipapa Point	17	75	9

Levels of reported crowding (scores > 2 on the 9 point crowding scale) were minimal at both sites (Table 8). 17% of respondents at Waipapa Point and 25% at Curio Bay felt some degree of crowding. Extreme crowding (scoring 8 or 9) was limited to a single respondent at Curio Bay.

FIGURE 18: IMPACT OF OTHER VISITORS



The proportion of visitors who were annoyed by the presence or behaviour of other visitors (Fig. 18) was also very low at both sites and most respondents did not notice the three sources of impact at all. Visitor's behaviour toward wildlife annoyed 8% of respondents at Curio Bay and 6% at Waipapa Point. While these levels of perceived impact on wildlife are low, any harassment of wildlife is a concern. Annoyance with large or commercial groups did not reach levels that should be of concern to management.

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment further but only a fraction did so. Of the 41 comments received at Curio Bay, 21 were positive (e.g. "quiet and peaceful", "very few people") and six said that they were themselves part of a large or guided group. A further 6 respondents commented that meeting large groups, commercial groups or more tourists generally was undesirable however only two of the six indicated that they were annoyed by this during their visit. 4 respondents commented on a variety of issues relating to wildlife (visitors talking loudly around penguins, the need for the "no dogs" rule to be reinforced, positive aspects of guided groups in relation to wildlife viewing). The remaining respondents gave comments that were not relevant to the question (e.g. relating to signage, or stating the time of their visit).

27 respondents provided additional comments at Waipapa Point. The most common comment (10 respondents) was that the area was quiet and that there were few people around. Three respondents indicated that they were themselves part of a guided group while two said that they had encountered large or commercial groups during their visit. A further 3 respondents suggested that they had enjoyed the absence of large groups during their visit or that they had encountered problems with them elsewhere. Four respondents commented on wildlife harassment of which three felt that other visitors had got too close to sea lions and one suggested that harassment of wildlife was worse at Curio Bay. The remaining comments were either not relevant to the question or indicated that respondents thought that there was no problem with other visitors at Waipapa Point. A list of comments from the two study sites is provided in appendix 10.

3.10 IMPORTANCE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

FIGURE 19: IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED TO FACILITIES AND ASPECTS OF THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT CURIO BAY

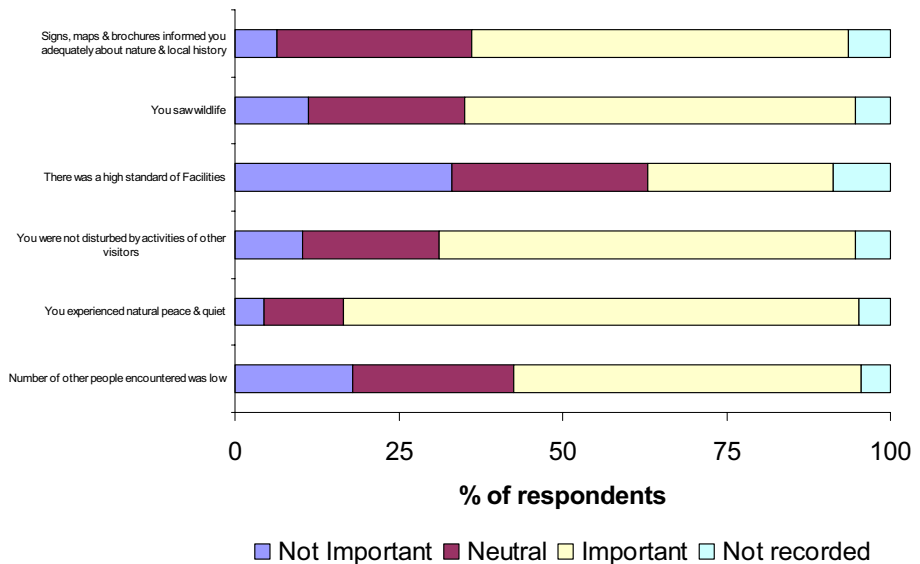
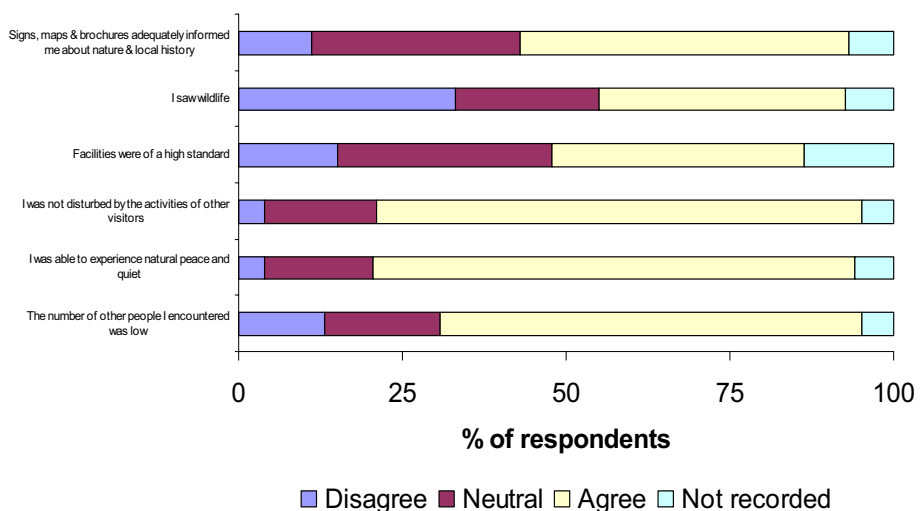


FIGURE 20: RESPONDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF EXPERIENCE AND FACILITIES AT CURIO BAY



The two most important issues (Fig. 19) to respondents at Curio Bay were being able to experience natural peace and quiet (79%) and not being disturbed by the activities of other visitors (63%). Most respondents felt that Curio Bay had delivered on these two aspects of the visitor experience (Fig. 20). Although respondents did not rate the facilities at Curio Bay as highly as most other aspects of their visit, only 28% felt that a high standard of facilities was important.

Most respondents thought that seeing wildlife at Curio Bay was important however a third indicated that this did not occur. Signs, maps and brochures also collectively failed to meet respondent's needs. Importance-performance analysis (Fig. 21) shows that these are areas where the department could improve its management.

FIGURE 21: IMPORTANCE-PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR CURIO BAY

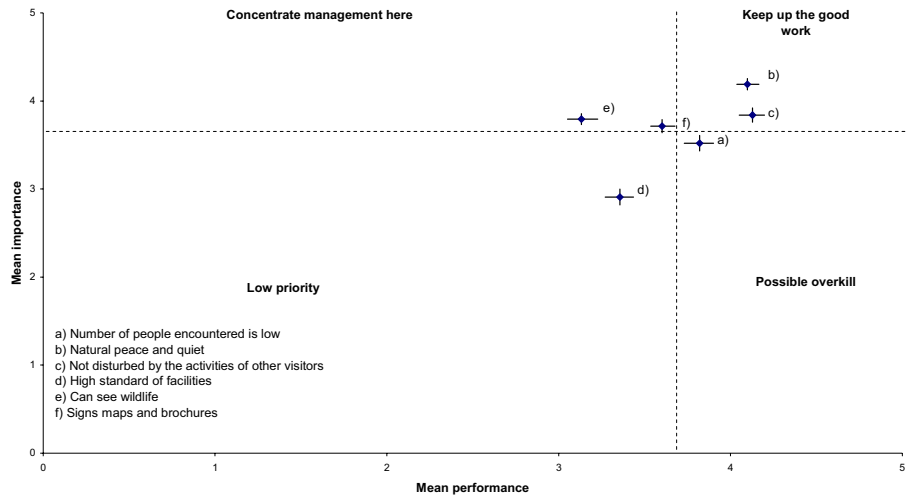
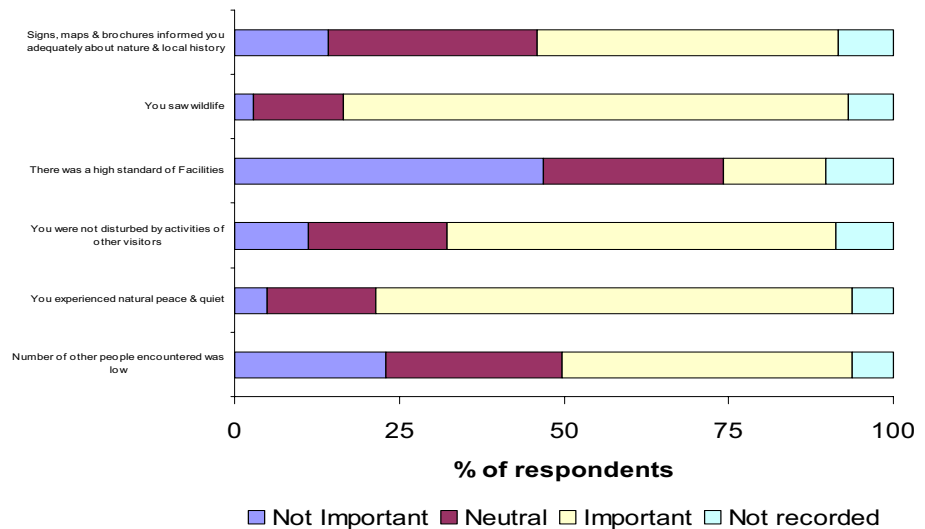
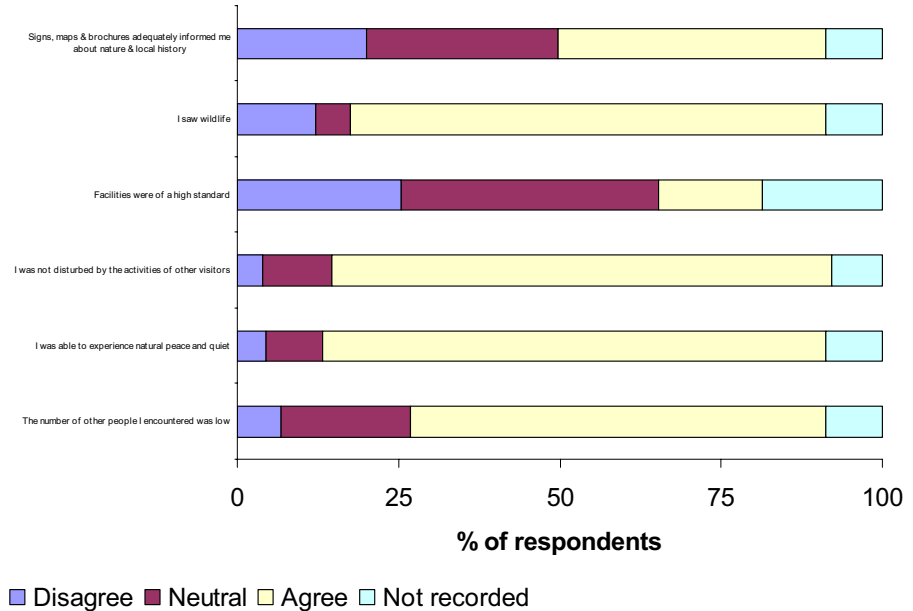


FIGURE 22: IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED TO FACILITIES AND ASPECTS OF THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT WAIPAPA POINT



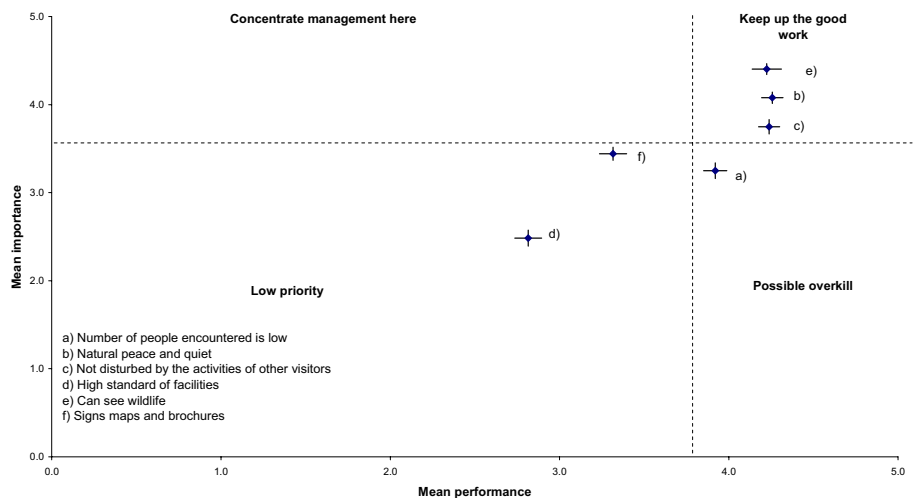
At Waipapa Point, three aspects of the visitor experience scored very highly (Fig. 23). 78% of respondents said that they were able to experience natural peace and quiet, the same number stated that they were not disturbed by the activities of other visitors and 74% said that they had seen wildlife. Seeing wildlife and experiencing peace and quiet were also the two most important aspects of the visitor experience (Fig. 22) with more than 70% of respondents indicating that this was important to them.

FIGURE 23: RESPONDENT'S ASSESSMENT OF EXPERIENCE AND FACILITIES AT WAIPAPA POINT



Like Curio Bay, the facilities at Waipapa Point were not rated highly by respondents. 25% said that the facilities were not of a high standard while 20% said that signs, maps and brochures did not adequately inform them about nature and local history. The standard of facilities is unlikely to be a significant source of visitor dissatisfaction however as only 16% of respondents said that having a high standard of visitor facilities at Waipapa Point was important.

FIGURE 24: IMPORTANCE-PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR WAIPAPA POINT



The relationship between importance and performance for the six issues (Fig. 24) indicates that none require the attention of management and that the department is delivering on the aspects that are of importance to visitors. Signs, maps and brochures are the only aspect of the experience that is close to being of concern.

3.11 RECOMMENDATION TO OTHER VISITORS

87% of respondents said that they would recommend Curio Bay to other visitors. When asked what they would tell people about Curio Bay general positive comments such as “nice place” were the most common (17%), followed by comments about fossils (16%), views and scenery (14%), further recommendations to visit such as “must see” or “go there” (12%) and comments about wildlife (11%). Respondents who didn’t recommend Curio Bay to others felt that it was boring and that there was little to see.

At Waipapa Point 88% of respondents said that they would recommend the site to others. Most respondents who made positive comments mentioned wildlife (37%), Scenery (19%) or made general positive comments (11%). Respondents who said they wouldn’t recommend it generally said that there was nothing there. Comments from both sites are listed in appendix 11.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

Respondents had a similar age distribution at both sites. Most respondents were aged under 40 with 20-29 being the most common age group. This is in line with other comparable surveys. Hall (2007) found that the 20-29 age group was the most common age group at Nugget Point and an earlier survey at Curio Bay (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001) found that visitors aged 21-30 were the most frequent with most being aged 40 or below.

Some underlying differences between New Zealand and overseas visitors may have been masked by the relatively small number of New Zealanders present. Lovelock et. al. (2004) found that age distribution of overseas visitors to the Catlins was bi-modal with both younger and older age groups represented while most visitors from New Zealand were aged over 40. In the current study most New Zealand respondents at Curio Bay were aged over 50 but insufficient numbers of visitors were surveyed at either site to detect a statistically significant difference.

Age has long been identified as the most important factor influencing participation in outdoor recreation (Booth & Peebles 1995). Active pursuits tend to attract young people while less active ones such as the opportunities available at Curio Bay and Waipapa Point attract a wider range of ages. Apart from the nature of the opportunity, other influences affecting age distribution are the younger age of the overseas backpacker market, the tendency for older people to have more time and resources to travel because of retirement or children having left the household and the costs of getting to a site or undertaking a particular activity as younger visitors tend to have lower incomes. Opportunities that are more suitable for children and families will also result in a different age distribution.

There were slightly more female than male respondents at Curio Bay while equal numbers of male and female visitors were surveyed at Waipapa Point. This is consistent with an earlier study at Curio Bay where 53% of respondents were female compared to 47% who were male (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001). Tourists to Southland generally are thought to be evenly split between male and female (SGL 2005).

Most respondents at the two sites were from overseas. The United Kingdom was the most common country of origin and visitors from Germany, the Netherlands and other European countries were also common at both sites. Israelis made up 9% of respondents at Waipapa Point but were not present in large numbers at Curio Bay. This is broadly similar to other comparable surveys (Hall 2007, SGL 2005, Anne Pullar & Associates 2001). Official tourism statistics for Southland show that 31% of international visitors are from the UK, Ireland or Nordic countries, 17% from the "rest of Europe" and 12% from North America (Ministry of Tourism 2006b). However they also state that 30% of overseas visitors are Australian. In this survey only 6-7% of international respondents at each site were Australian. Other surveys have recorded similar low numbers of Australian visitors. Only 6% of visitors surveyed at Southland

tourist sites in 2003/04 (SGL 2005) and at Curio Bay in 2001 (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001) were Australian. One explanation for this is that Australians may be more likely to be in Southland for business or to visit friends and relatives while other overseas visitors could be more likely to visit for a holiday and be present at tourist sites.

New Zealanders were in the minority at both Waipapa Point (9%) and Curio Bay (17%). In part this was due to the timing of the survey which took place in December just before the peak season for New Zealand visitors. Hall (2007) found that a quarter of respondents at Nugget Point in March of the following year were from New Zealand. Surveys that have been carried out in Southland or the Catlins over a period of several months have suggested that 30 - 40% of visitors are from New Zealand (SGL 2005, Lovelock et. al. 2004, Anne Pullar & Associates 2001).

Most New Zealand respondents in this survey were from the North Island and visitors from Southland made up only 1-2% of respondents. This may reflect the weather at the time of surveying and the time of year. In the 2001 survey most New Zealand respondents were from the South Island and Southlanders made up approximately 5% of the total sample (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001).

Respondents at Waipapa Point and Curio Bay were predominantly independent travellers and the most common group size was two. Similar results for group size have been obtained at Nugget Point (Hall 2007) and for visitors to Southland generally (SGL 2005). Respondents who arrived as part of a commercial or guided groups consisted mainly of bus tour groups, such as Stray Tours, Catlins Coaster, Bottom Bus, and Hiking New Zealand. More respondents reported belonging to a commercial group at Curio Bay (27%) than at Waipapa Point (15%). Apart from Hall (2007) who found that 5% of respondents at Nugget Point were part of a commercial or guided group, previous studies have not directly assessed commercial use. In the 2001 study at Curio Bay respondents were asked how they were travelling through the Catlins and 10% said that they were travelling by bus. This suggests that there has been an increase in commercial activity over the past 5 years.

At both sites over 90% of respondents were visiting for the first time. A similar proportion of first time visitors (89%) was found at Nugget Point (Hall 2007). Lovelock et. al. (2004) suggested that there was a strong repeat market amongst domestic visitors to the Catlins. In this study the small number of New Zealand respondents were much more likely to be making a repeat visit but this is probably due to overseas visitors lacking the opportunity to make repeat visits rather than being due to any characteristic of the Catlins.

Results from this study and Hall's (2007) study at Nugget Point indicate that most visitors are travelling the length of the Catlins. 63% of respondents surveyed at Nugget Point said that they would be visiting Curio Bay and 53% of respondents at Curio Bay said that they would be visiting Nugget Point. Most respondents at Curio Bay also said that they would visit Purakaunui Falls.

A large number of visitors are likely to be travelling the gravelled coastal route from Curio Bay to Fortrose. Waipapa Point and Slope Point were visited by 34% and 41% of respondents at Curio Bay respectively. If this percentage was constant all year round it would equate to approximately 10,700 visitors to Waipapa Point per year. This is much less than the estimate of 33,000 visitors indicated by the road counter. Visitors are not currently counted at Slope Point but the surveys suggest a rough estimate of between 12,900 and 16,600 visitors per year.

Apart from Fortrose, use of other sites within the part of the Catlins administered by Southland Conservancy appears to be low. Waipohatu and Waituna were each visited by 8% of respondents at Curio Bay but a slightly higher percentage (13-15%) of respondents at Waipapa Point.

Anne Pullar & Associate's (2001) previous survey at Curio Bay also asked respondents about other sites accessed during their visit to the Catlins. Lower percentages were recorded for individual sites because the study only asked about sites that had already been visited rather than asking about all sites that would be visited during their trip. The study found that Purakaunui Falls (18%) was the most commonly visited site and that Slope Point, The Nuggets, Waipapa Point, Cathedral Caves and McLean Falls had all been visited by more than 10% of respondents.

In this study, the majority of respondents at the two sites were visiting for less than an hour. Only 9% of respondents at Curio Bay and 2% of respondents at Waipapa Point said that they were staying overnight. Previous studies also indicate that only a small proportion of visitors stay at Curio Bay or nearby areas overnight (Table 9). Most visitors to the wider region do however opt to stay overnight at a location in the Catlins (Lovelock et. al. 2004). The low level of overnight use of the two study areas is likely to be because of their close proximity to Invercargill.

TABLE 9: USE OF LOCAL ACCOMMODATION BY VISITORS TO THE CATLINS (FROM ANNE PULLAR & ASSOCIATES 2001)

Location	Stayed previous night (%)	Will stay tonight (%)
Curio Bay / Porpoise Bay	11.5	3
Waikawa	4	3
Slope Point	2	1
Tokanui / Fortrose / Otara/ Haldane / Waipapa	3	1
Total	20.5	8

Most respondents first found out about the area from travel guides. Brochures were a significant source of initial information for respondents at Waipapa Point. At Curio Bay the number of respondents who indicated that they had received initial information through brochures was similar to the number who had found out about the site through word of mouth.

Visitor centres were not a significant source of prior information at either site. The nearest DOC visitor centre is at Owaka although the DOC office in Invercargill provides some visitor information. There are also a number of private information centres of various sorts in the area and there is an “i site” situated at the Invercargill Museum and Art Gallery.

Other relevant studies have disagreed on which information source is the more important for visitors out of guidebooks and word of mouth and results may depend on how the question is asked.

In Hall’s study (2007) most respondents at Nugget Point obtained initial information from guidebooks but 31% found out about the site through word of mouth.

Anne Pullar & Associates (2001) found that 36% of respondents at Curio Bay initially found out about the Catlins through word of mouth compared to 30% who found out through “Lonely Planet, travel guides or travel agents.” Lovelock et. al. (2004) found that a wide range of information sources was used to find out about the Catlins but international visitors preferred guidebooks while domestic visitors relied more on information from friends and family.

SGL (2005) found that 51% of visitors to Southland obtained information about places to visit and stay from friends, family and people met while travelling, 49% from guidebooks and 32% from brochures.

Wildlife was the most important reason for respondents choosing to visit Waipapa Point. It was also one of the main reasons for visiting Curio Bay but the fossil forest was the major draw card. A significant number of respondents did not consciously choose either of the sites but were instead passing through on a general tour of the area.

Previous studies have focused on reasons for visiting the Catlins as a whole rather than on specific sites, but wildlife appears to be the major motivation for visiting the area. 22% of visitors to Curio Bay in 2001 said that they had come to the Catlins “to experience birds, wildlife and natural features” (Anne Pullar & Associates 2001). Lovelock et. al. (2004) also found that the main motivation for visitors to come to the Catlins was to view wildlife.

This was reflected in the activities undertaken by respondents at the two sites. Viewing wildlife, visiting the fossil forest along with walking on the beaches at Porpoise Bay and Waipapa Point were the most popular activities. Other activities such as picnicking, camping, fishing, swimming, surfing and boating were only undertaken by a very small percentage of respondents. This may have been in part due to the weather and the timing of the survey in early summer. The survey at Waipapa Point indicated that very few people walked to the Tararua Acre

Wildlife was the major source of visitor satisfaction at Waipapa Point and was the second greatest source of satisfaction at Curio Bay. A small number of respondents (< 5%) at both sites were dissatisfied because they did not see wildlife and when directly asked about wildlife harassment 6-8% of respondents at each site indicated that this was a concern. This figure is indicative only. Respondents are unlikely to report their own harassment of penguins and nor will other visitors who are unaware of appropriate behaviour around wildlife. The presence of an observer or a camera is necessary to provide an objective assessment of the extent of the problem although both types of monitoring can potentially modify visitor behaviour. An experimental camera system has been installed at Curio Bay for this purpose but has not yielded useful data as yet.

At Curio Bay there is evidence of a gap between the degree of importance given to seeing wildlife by the average visitor and their actual experience. Most respondents indicated that seeing wildlife was important to them but a third of respondents said that this did not occur during their visit. It was not clear if this related to yellow eyed penguins or dolphins, although penguins were the species most commonly mentioned by respondents as a reason for visiting the site. This gap was not apparent at Waipapa Point where only 12% of respondents failed to see wildlife.

The difference between the two study sites may be due to the different species present. At Curio Bay yellow eyed penguins are the main wildlife draw card, however yellow eyed penguins tend to come and go from the rock platform at dawn and dusk and their level of activity is seasonal (Williams 1995). This makes them less visible to the general public who may not be aware of their behaviour. At Waipapa Point the main attraction is New Zealand sea lions. These animals are highly visible to visitors due to their size and their behaviour as they spend long periods of time resting on the beach. They can be viewed at Waipapa Point throughout the year.

The Department of Conservation has no ability to control the presence or absence of species at Curio Bay. While it can manage visitor's expectations directly by providing accurate information on its own signs and brochures, this may be insufficient on its own as the department does not appear to be a major source of pre-visit information for visitors. A more successful means of addressing the problem could be checking the accuracy of popular guidebooks such as Lonely Planet and providing publishers with information to pass on to their readers. This could either be in the form of detailed information about the best times for viewing wildlife or simply some appropriate words to dampen visitor's expectations of seeing particular species.

An assessment of the two most popular guide books showed some deficiencies. The Lonely Planet New Zealand Guidebook (Bain et. al. 2006) covers the two study sites only briefly. It makes no mention of sea lions at Waipapa Point or yellow eyed penguins at Curio Bay instead briefly mentioning the fossil forest, lighthouse and SS Tararua wreck. It mentions the presence of fur seals, Hector's dolphins, New Zealand sea lions and blue penguins at Porpoise Bay. Although it provides some information about harassment of Hector's dolphins it provides no information about appropriate behaviour around other species or on the best times and places to view them.

The less popular Rough Guide to New Zealand provides better information (Mudd, Whitfield & Harper 2006). It mentions the sea lions at Waipapa Point, yellow eyed penguins at Curio Bay and Hector's dolphins at Porpoise Bay but more importantly gives appropriate viewing distances and behaviour, best viewing times and informs readers of the consequences for wildlife if they are disturbed by visitors.

It is likely that the presence of a summer ranger who currently covers Curio Bay and Porpoise Bay is reducing the degree of wildlife harassment at these sites. The construction of a new, redesigned and enlarged viewing platform at Curio Bay in 2007 and a platform proposed for Waipapa Point may also assist people to view wildlife in an unobtrusive manner. However, because activities such as walking on the beach, viewing the fossil forest, the kelp, the shells and the waves are popular activities at these sites, in addition to the desire to get close to wildlife, visitors are not necessarily going to remain on the viewing platforms and wildlife disturbance will still be an ongoing issue.

At both Curio Bay and Waipapa Point respondents felt that it was important that they were not disturbed by the activities of other visitors while encountering a low number of visitors was less important. They rated their actual experience of these two aspects very highly. Levels of reported crowding were also very low. 25% of respondents at Curio Bay and 17% at Waipapa Point felt some degree of crowding indicating minimal crowding at both sites. In addition, only a small number of respondents were annoyed by meeting large or commercial groups. Collectively these results indicate that despite increases in tourist activity no management action is needed to control visitor numbers or commercial activity.

Although few respondents mentioned it as their main source of satisfaction, natural peace and quiet was another aspect of the visitor experience that was important at both sites. On average visitors rated their experience of peace and quiet very highly and fewer than 5% of respondents at each site said that they had been unable to experience it. Future development, especially at Curio Bay is the main threat to this important site value.

Very few negative aspects were uncovered by the two surveys. Weather was the largest source of dissatisfaction at both sites and apart from visitors failing to see wildlife at Curio Bay (mentioned above), other issues were of concern to only a small number of respondents.

Few respondents thought that the standard of facilities was high at either site however, this should not be a concern to management as respondents generally did not think that having a high standard of facilities was important. Many respondents enjoyed the fact that the sites (especially Waipapa Point) were relatively undeveloped and suggested that they be left that way. The toilet at Waipapa Point was the issue of most concern. Almost two thirds of respondents who indicated that they had used the facility rated it poorly. However, there was only limited support for installing a flush toilet. Signs, maps and brochures at Curio Bay were highlighted as an area that needed improvement in the Importance-Performance analysis.

The surveys indicate that there is little dissatisfaction with facilities at either site but this does not imply that the planned upgrades are unnecessary. The facilities at Waipapa Point are failing to cope with the current levels of visitation and were probably never designed for that level of use. Visitors are causing damage by taking multiple paths down to the beach, visitor flow around the site and parking is far from ideal and there are unacceptable impacts from vehicles occurring. At Curio Bay the current viewing platform is too small and is nearing the end of its life. Neither site has disabled access which is inappropriate for a high use, front country site on a major tourist route. Upgrades at both sites are therefore justified but the department should be cautious in developing facilities beyond those that are planned currently or that are not in keeping with the overall “low level of development” sought by visitors.

5 Recommendations

- 1) Monitoring should be replicated by 2011/12. Future monitoring should extend into the peak season in January and February.
- 2) Unless required to protect biodiversity values, no restrictions on visitor or concession numbers are considered necessary. The department is currently providing a high quality visitor experience with little evidence of visitor conflict.
- 3) The department should monitor the content of popular travel guides to ensure that it is accurate. The department should contact Lonely Planet and provide them with appropriate information to include in the next edition of their guide book.
- 4) Further development of facilities on DOC land at Curio Bay and Waipapa Point beyond the department's current proposals should be discouraged except where this is necessary to manage impacts or to comply with service standards.
- 5) Appreciation of wildlife and of the fossil forest are the two biggest draw cards for visitors to Curio Bay and Waipapa Point. Developments that restrict access to these should not be considered unless other methods of avoiding impacts are unsuccessful.
- 6) Scenery, landscapes, the interaction of land and sea (especially at Curio Bay) and the relatively undeveloped nature of Waipapa Point are important aspects of the experience at these sites. The department should advocate against any developments, including its own, that are likely to impinge on these values.

6 References

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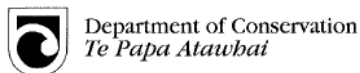
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Appendix 1 - Curio Bay Survey Form

Date

Curio Bay Survey 2006

This survey will help the Department of Conservation (DOC) manage Curio Bay. Your help in completing this form is greatly appreciated. All responses are anonymous.

1. How many times have you visited Curio Bay? (Tick ONE box)

1 (this is my first visit) 2 - 4 5 - 9 10 +

2. What other sites will you visit around the Catlins? (Tick all that apply)

Waipapa Point Slope Point Fortrose Nugget Point
Purakaunui Falls Waipohatu Waituna Kaka Point

Other _____

3. How long was your visit to Curio Bay? (Tick ONE box)

Less than 1 hour 1 - 2 hrs 3 - 5 hrs
Full day trip 1+ nights

4. Who are you visiting Curio Bay with? (Tick ONE box that best describes your group)

Independent Commercial / guided group
Recreational Club Other _____

5. How many people are in this group? (Including you and any guides) _____

6. How did you find out about Curio Bay? (Tick all that apply)

Travel Guide Visitors Centre Brochures
Word of mouth Other _____

7. What activities will you undertake on your visit to Curio Bay? (Tick all that apply)

Visit fossil forest Picnic View wildlife Other _____
Visit Porpoise Bay Fishing Camping

8. Why did you come to Curio Bay?

9. What have you liked the most about your visit to Curio Bay?

Please Turn Over

10. What have you liked **least** about your visit to Curio Bay?

11a. At Curio Bay, how **important** was it to you that...? (Circle ONE number **per line**)

	Not at all Important					Very Important
• The number of other people you encountered was low	1	2	3	4	5	
• You experienced natural peace & quiet	1	2	3	4	5	
• You were not disturbed by the activities of other visitors	1	2	3	4	5	
• There was a high standard of facilities	1	2	3	4	5	
• You saw wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	
• Signs, maps & brochures adequately informed me about nature & local history	1	2	3	4	5	

11b. How much do you **agree or disagree** that...? (Circle ONE number **per line**)

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	
• The number of other people I encountered was low	1	2	3	4	5
• I was able to experience natural peace & quiet on this visit	1	2	3	4	5
• I was not disturbed by the activities of other visitors on this visit	1	2	3	4	5
• The facilities I used on this visit were of a high standard	1	2	3	4	5
• I saw wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
• Signs, maps & brochures adequately informed me about nature & local history on this visit	1	2	3	4	5

12. Did you feel crowded at all during your visit to Curio Bay? (Circle ONE number)

Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Please Turn Over

13a. Did any of the following annoy you during your visit to Curio Bay? (tick ONE box per line)

	Did not notice this	Noticed this but it didn't annoy me	Noticed this and it annoyed me a little	Noticed this and it annoyed me a lot.
• Visitors' behaviour toward wildlife				
• Meeting commercial/ guided groups				
• Meeting large groups				

13b. Comment:

14a. What did you think about the services and facilities provided at Curio Bay? (Circle ONE number per line)

	Very Poor					Excellent	Did not use
• Maps and brochures	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Tracks	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Toilets	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Picnic Area	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Signs	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>

14b. Comment:

15a. Would you recommend Curio Bay to other people?

Yes No

15b. What would you tell them? _____

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself

16. Age (Tick ONE box)

- 16 - 19
- 20 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 - 69
- 70 +

17. Gender (Tick ONE box)

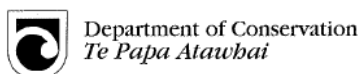
- Male
- Female

18a. Where do you normally live? _____

18b. If NZ, where do you live? _____

Thank you for your time

Appendix 2 – Waipapa Point Survey Form

Date

Waipapa Point Survey 2006

This survey will help the Department of Conservation (DOC) manage Waipapa Point. Your help in completing this form is greatly appreciated. All responses are anonymous.

1. How many times have you visited Waipapa Point? (Tick ONE box)

1 (this is my first visit) 2 - 4 5 - 9 10 +

2. What other sites will you visit around the Catlins? (Tick all that apply)

Curio Bay Slope Point Fortrose Nugget Point
Purakaunui Falls Waipohatu Waituna Kaka Point
Other _____

3. How long was your visit to Waipapa Point? (Tick ONE box)

Less than 1 hour 1 – 2 hrs 3 – 5 hrs
Full day trip 1+ nights

4. Who are you visiting Waipapa Point with? (Tick ONE box that best describes your group)

Independent Commercial / guided group
Recreational Club Other _____

5. How many people are in this group? (Including you and any guides) _____

6. How did you find out about Waipapa Point? (Tick all that apply)

Travel Guide Visitors Centre Brochures
Word of mouth Other _____

7. What activities will you undertake on your visit to Waipapa Point? (Tick all that apply)

Walk on beach Picnic Boating View wildlife
Swimming/ Surfing Fishing Visit Tararua Acre Other _____

8. Why did you come to Waipapa Point?

9. What have you liked the most about your visit to Waipapa Point?

Please Turn Over

10. What have you liked **least** about your visit to Waipapa Point?

11a. At Waipapa Point, how **important** was it to you that...? (Circle ONE number **per line**)

	Not at all important					Very important
• The number of other people you encountered was low	1	2	3	4	5	
• You experienced natural peace & quiet	1	2	3	4	5	
• You were not disturbed by the activities of other visitors	1	2	3	4	5	
• There was a high standard of facilities	1	2	3	4	5	
• You saw wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	
• Signs, maps & brochures adequately informed me about nature & local history	1	2	3	4	5	

11b. How much do you **agree or disagree** that...? (Circle ONE number **per line**)

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	
• The number of other people I encountered was low	1	2	3	4	5
• I was able to experience natural peace & quiet on this visit	1	2	3	4	5
• I was not disturbed by the activities of other visitors on this visit	1	2	3	4	5
• The facilities I used on this visit were of a high standard	1	2	3	4	5
• I saw wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
• Signs, maps & brochures adequately informed me about nature & local history on this visit	1	2	3	4	5

12a. What facilities do you want to see at Waipapa Point? (Tick all that apply)

- Better signs and information panels Viewing Platforms Larger Carpark
 Flush Toilets Other _____

12b. Comment:

13. Did you feel crowded at all during your visit to Waipapa Point? (Circle ONE number)

Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded		Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 9

Please Turn Over

14a. Did any of the following annoy you during your visit? (tick ONE box per line)

	Did not notice this	Noticed this but it didn't annoy me	Noticed this and it annoyed me a little	Noticed this and it annoyed me a lot.
• Visitors' behaviour toward wildlife				
• Meeting commercial/ guided groups				
• Meeting large groups				

14b. Comment:

15a. What did you think about the services and facilities provided at Waipapa Point? (Circle ONE number per line)

	Very Poor					Excellent	Did not use
• Maps and brochures	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Tracks	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Toilets	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Picnic Area	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>
• Signs	1	2	3	4	5		<input type="checkbox"/>

15b. Comment:

16a. Would you recommend Waipapa Point to other people?

Yes No

16b. What would you tell them? _____

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself

17. Age (Tick ONE box)

- 16 - 19
- 20 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 - 69
- 70 +

18. Gender (Tick ONE box)

- Male
- Female

19a. Where do you normally live? _____

19b. If NZ, where do you live? _____

Thank you for your time

Appendix 3 – Country of origin

TABLE 10: VISITOR'S COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Country	Curio Bay (%)	Waipapa Point (%)
Australia	5.4	5.4
Austria	0.5	
Belgium	2.0	2.9
Canada	1.5	0.5
China	0.5	
Czech Republic	0.5	1.0
Denmark		2.4
Europe	0.5	0.5
Finland	1.0	
France	1.5	3.9
Germany	14.6	11.2
Ireland	3.4	1.0
Israel	1.0	9.3
Italy		1.5
Japan	1.5	0.5
Netherlands	11.7	7.3
New Caledonia	0.5	
New Zealand	16.6	8.8
Norway	1.0	
Singapore		2.4
South Korea	0.5	
Spain		2.0
Sweden	1.0	4.3
Switzerland	2.4	1.5
Thailand		0.5
Tonga	0.5	
UK	18.0	23.9
USA	7.3	1.5
Not Recorded	6.8	7.3

Appendix 4 – Origin of New Zealand Visitors

TABLE 11: NEW ZEALAND VISITOR'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE

	Curio Bay Bay (count)	Waipapa Point (count)
Auckland	6	2
Christchurch	4	2
Curio Bay	1	
Dunedin	3	
Fielding	1	
Haldane	1	
Hamilton	1	
Hastings		3
Invercargill		3
Kawakawa	1	
Lower Hutt	1	
Mosgiel	1	
Nelson	2	
Paraparaumu		2
Piha	1	
Queenstown		2
Renwick	2	
Stewart Island	1	
Tauranga		2
Waikato		1
Waituna	1	
Wellington	6	1
Whakatane	1	

TABLE 12: NEW ZEALANDERS AS PERCENT OF TOTAL VISITORS

	Curio Bay (%)	Waipapa Point (%)
North Island	8.8	5.4
Southland	2.0	1.5
Other South Island	5.9	2.0
Total	16.7	8.8

Appendix 5 – Use of other sites in the Catlins.

TABLE 13: USE OF OTHER SITES IN THE CATLINS

	Curio Bay (%)	Waipapa Point (%)
Cannibal Bay*	5.9	1.0
Cathedral Caves*	3.9	2.9
Catlins River walk*	0.5	
Curio Bay	-	82.4
Fortrose	23.9	37.6
Jacks Blowhole*	2.4	2.0
Kaka Point	37.6	45.9
Lake Wilkie*	2.0	0.5
Matai Falls*	3.4	1.5
McLean Falls*	2.4	2.4
Niagara Falls*	1.5	
Nugget Point	53.2	69.8
Pai Campsite near Waituna*	0.5	
Papatowai*	0.5	
Pounawea*	0.5	2.0
Purakaunui Falls	54.6	57.6
Roaring Bay*		0.5
Slope Point	34.1	50.2
Surat Bay*	0.5	1.0
Tautuku Bay*	0.0	2.9
Waikawa*	0.5	
Waipapa Point	40.5	-
Waipohatu Falls	7.8	13.2
Waituna	8.3	14.6
Not recorded	6.8	6.3

* Denotes a site included in the “other” category.

Appendix 6 - Reasons for visiting

TABLE 14: REASONS FOR VISITING CURIO BAY

Form ID	Reason
1	To see the Fossil Forest
2	To see old forest
3	Interested
4	Mentioned in Lonely Planet guide and road atlas
5	Undertaking a trip through the Catlins on the way home
6	Experience the fossils
7	Sounded interesting from reading
8	To see the fossil trees
9	Just passing through
10	Fossil forest
11	Sounded interesting, in area
12	To see the fossil forest
13	Touring the Catlins
14	Travelling between Catlins and Stewart Island
15	Because we were told about it / internet
16	To view the fossilised forest and scenery
17	Interested in fossil forest and history
18	Experience the fossil forest
19	On tour
20	Part of the tour
21	On our travel group itinerary
23	Travelling up to Dunedin with Stray
24	Because its beautiful
25	Interest
26	Visiting the Catlins area and stayed overnight in Curio Bay
27	Its southern location and isolation
31	Fossil forest
32	Curiosity
33	We drove through scenic road
34	On our way through to the "southeast" point of NZ
35	Travelling to Dunedin from Invercargill
36	To see the petrified forest
37	We are touring around NZ by car and found Curio Bay to be an interesting stop in the Catlins. We also spent the night at the Waipapa Point B & B. Lovely.
38	Out of curiosity
39	Out of curiosity
41	Mentioned in Lonely Planet NZ guide and Hena Roadmap
42	Included in the tour
43	Travel group led us here
44	Curiosity
46	Curiosity
47	Curiosity
48	Just to have a quick look
49	Because it was part of my trip
51	Part of Tour
52	It is a unique and fascinating look at history
56	Fossil forest

57	Interest
58	Taking scenic route to Dunedin
59	On the way through
60	Am sightseeing and doing research for future writing
61	To see the fossils
62	Interested what a fossil forest would look like
63	On planned trip (Stray)
64	Stray bus stop
65	Because I wanted to see penguins!
66	To see dolphins and penguins hopefully!
68	Because of the dolphins and penguins
69	To check the area
73	Part of a guided tour
74	By a guided tour
75	By bus
76	Penguins / fossil forest
77	Travelling through NZ
80	Interesting
81	To see the petrified trees
82	Because of petrified forest and waterfalls / touring South Island, wanting to go more southward (former 3 visits we did not get to this point)
83	Exploring the coast heading down South: wanted to see petrified forest and wildlife
84	View wildlife, visit petrified forest
85	Part of the sites we wanted to visit on our 5 week tour through NZ
86	Visit fossil forest
87	Interest in nature and geology; part of NZ I haven't visited before (visited 1990/1996/2001/2003); lived Wellington 1985 -1993
88	Sightseeing - penguins
89	We come for holiday and for visit
90	Touring the area
91	Tourist visit
92	To see the fossils
93	Because was told it was interesting
94	To see fossil forest
95	Fossil forest and wildlife
96	To see petrified forest
97	Breakfast
98	Beautiful scenery
99	Fossil forest
100	Campsite - campervan
101	To see the dolphins
102	Curiosity
103	To see the fossil forest, dolphins and seal, sea lions
104	to compare with fossil forest in China
105	To see fossils and kelp
106	Driving south and thought it would be nice to see
107	To see the fossil forest and view wildlife
108	Told it was worth a visit and read about it
109	Travelling form Invercargill to Dunedin
110	Vacation
111	View wildlife and fossils
112	I'm travelling in South Island
113	Visit New Zealand

114	Fossil forest
115	To see the fossil forest
116	Primarily for the fossil forest
117	For work
118	To see the fossil forest
119	To see the fossil forest
120	It was part of our tour
121	To see the fossil forest
122	Part of NZ Hiking
123	I was told to drive the bus here
124	To see the forest / coast - spent night at Porpoise Bay
125	To stay in a crib by the beach and visit the bay and petrified forest
126	Bus
127	Made enthusiastic by travel guide
128	Personal interest
129	Interesting environment (animals and so on)
130	Interesting environment
131	Because it is on our route to Dunedin and sounded interesting
132	Made enthusiastic by travel guide
133	Interested in the fossils
134	Interest
135	See fossil forest
136	To see the fossil forest
137	Read about it and it sounded interesting
138	Fossil forest
139	To see the Jurassic fossilised forest
140	I wanted to view wildlife
141	To see the fossil forest and the coastline and wildlife
142	Its en route to our destination
143	To visit the fossil forest
144	Because it sounded interesting and different
145	Sounded great / looked great on the brochure - somewhere not too touristy
146	Interesting
147	To see the wildlife and nice beaches
148	Penguins, dolphins, sea lions are living there so came to see them
149	Nice scenic location
150	To see porpoises and petrified forest
151	En route to Bluff from Balclutha
152	Fossil forest
153	Didn't see rocks last time - tide in
154	Told it would be interesting by info centre
156	To look at fossil forest
157	To see dolphins and sea lions to (?)
158	Interest and its on my way
159	To escape from the cold mountains and see the petrified forest.
160	Holiday
161	Visit coastal village, bays, etc as part of pre paid tour
163	Unique opportunity to view large fossils in situ
164	To see the fossil forest
165	To see the fossil forest
166	Heading to Hilltop Backpackers at Papatowai, stopped on the way
167	To find penguins
168	Part of our tour

169	To find penguins
170	Petrified forest
171	To see the forest and look for dolphins
172	Because I'm interested in fossil forest
173	Fossil forest
174	To visit the petrified forest
175	Visit fossil forest
176	To view coastal beauty and wildlife
177	Just to visit (hopefully) penguins
178	Watching
179	To visit the fossilised forest
180	Fossil forest and wildlife
182	Fossil forest
183	Penguins
184	To see the forest, surf
185	View wildlife / nature
186	Visit the fossil forest
187	Watching and camping
188	To see the fossil forest
189	See fossil forest
190	Animal watching, landscape
191	Stray recommended it
192	Because I had to
193	To see dolphins and penguins
194	Interesting landscape, hoped to see penguins
195	It was planned in my journey
196	Stop on bus trip
197	Stray route
198	Stray
199	Why not? Let's guess
200	It's on the way
201	Part of the guided tour
202	Drove past it anyway
203	Bus stops here
205	On the tour
207	Dolphins, sea lions, penguins landscape
208	See dolphins and penguins
211	Because it was worth visiting
213	Take photos
215	For the forest and dolphins
216	Interest in geology and wildlife
219	Petrified forest is unique
221	Sightseeing
222	See petrified forest and hectors dolphins
223	(Sightseeing) It was part of our guided tour
224	To try and see dolphins, sea lions and penguins and the fossilised forest. We didn't see any wildlife except birds like oyster catchers and gulls
225	Trying to see dolphins
226	I am a guide

7 visitors gave no response

TABLE 15: REASONS FOR VISITING WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Reason
2	To see beautiful and wild nature
3	To visit the area and sea lions
4	I hope to see sea lions or other animals
5	Photography of coastline of NZ
6	Touring through the Catlins area
7	Tourist wild life viewing
9	Natural attraction
10	On my route
11	For seeing hookers sea lions
12	To have a look at the lighthouse and scenery and view sea lions
13	We are travelling through NZ
15	To surf but no surf at time of visit and to look at the wildlife
16	Brochures recommended
17	Wanted to watch some sea lions
18	On Catlins tour
19	To look at the view and wildlife
20	To surf and view the wildlife
21	To see the lighthouse and seals / sea lions!!
22	We are travelling through NZ from North to south. This is what we want to see
23	Our bus driver stopped here
26	View wildlife
27	To see sea lions
28	On way past
29	I travelled with Stray and we passed
30	To view sea lions
32	Just travelling in the Catlins to see the scenery and wildlife
33	I read about it and was curious. I thought it was going to be beautiful and it was.
34	Scenic route - history re: lighthouse
35	See the nature
36	Experiencing New Zealand
37	We love the sea and beaches, and wish to see the sea lions
38	Tourism / holiday point of interest
39	To have a look to this place and see sea lions
40	As it was part of the trip and to see the sea lions
41	To see the sea lions
46	Sightseeing beach and animals
47	Situation and wildlife
48	To view wildlife
49	To walk
50	To see NZ at its best
52	To show a journalist who wanted to see if it would be good for filming
53	Sea lions (my wife)
54	To observe wildlife
55	Curious
56	?
57	On Catlins map as a highlight
58	Part of our planned trip
59	To see it!!
60	To see the seals and sea lions
61	To see the seals
62	Southern most point we will visit in NZ

63	To see the seals
64	To see the seals and the views
65	Check out the wildlife and scenery
66	To see sea lions and wildlife
67	Because of the 1881 disaster and the sea lions
68	To see the lighthouse
69	Driving between invercargill and Dunedin - place of interest
70	Recommended by owner of Golden Cottage S/C Accommodation
71	The brochure said it was a nice spot
72	Nice views
73	Lighthouse
74	To see the lighthouse
75	Interest
76	Tourist - lighthouse
77	Cos it was mentioned in Lonely Planet
79	In the guide book
80	I like the sea lions
81	We love lighthouses and scenic
82	Watch the sea lions, see the lighthouse where the ship wreck happened in 1881
83	To see seals and sea lions (discretely)
84	The beach
86	Seals, scenery
87	It's the beach
88	Because it was in the way...
89	Clean and maintenance
90	Lighthouse / sea lions
91	Lighthouse from postcards
92	Part of a round trip of both North and South island
93	Seals
94	Lighthouse and sea lions - wildlife
96	Scenery and sea lions
97	The view
98	I am familiar with the northern Catlins but have not visited the southern part before
99	Holiday
100	Did not see lighthouse in 1999 due to sandstorm
101	Something to do
102	We are travelling from Invercargill - Dunedin today and thought we should stop off to look at the lighthouse etc.
104	See lighthouse and beach etc
105	Lighthouse
106	Because it was here
107	See the sea lions
108	Near Bluff/ Day trip to see wildlife/ coast
109	Good place to stop for a feed
110	For a picnic lunch
111	To see the sea lions and the lighthouse and also for the history of the shipping disaster
112	To see sea lions and as it seems to be a recommended stop on the Catlins
113	To see the sea lions
114	To see the sea lions
115	To see the sea lions
116	Travel writings
117	Animals, view, lighthouse

118	Lighthouse
120	To watch sea lions and see the lighthouse
121	Beautiful coast
126	Sea lions
127	Because my friend recommended
128	Catlins coaster guide tour
130	Because it was part of the tour
157	On our way to Dunedin - looked like an interesting stop and it was mentioned in the Lonely Planet
158	To see the lighthouse and maybe spot some wildlife
159	Guide book recommended for great view and seals
160	To see and know NZ
161	Part of Catlins trip
162	To see and know NZ
163	Wooden lighthouse and sea lions
164	I read about it in the travel guide
165	En route to Owaka to see friends
166	Lighthouse and sea lions
167	As part of the scenic Route
168	To see the seals and the great nature
169	To see and know NZ
171	To see wildlife
172	Seeing a few sea lions (family), lighthouse
173	Its included in the Catlins Coast Tour
174	To have a nice point of view for picnic
175	To see the lighthouse and picnic
176	It seems like very interesting place to see
177	Views and wildlife
178	To see the sea lions
179	To see some sea lions and seals
180	Historic place
183	Passing through - driving along southern scenic route towards Dunedin
184	Visit and walks on beach
185	Touring wildlife in New Zealand
186	Passing through, saw in lonely planet guide
187	Curiosity / longing to see the beauty of nature
188	From what I've read, it sounded like an interesting place
189	Sea lions
191	To see the magnificent views and the seals
192	Wildlife
193	To view the beach and resident sea lions
197	To view scenery and hopefully see sea lions!
198	Enjoy the nature and animals!
199	Curious about scenery and wildlife
200	To see the lighthouse and the beach
202	landscape and wildlife
203	Tour of Catlins
208	Beautiful place
209	To see the landscape and wildlife
210	To see the sea and it's inhabitants (inhabitants)
211	To view the incredible coastline and get up close to the seals etc
212	Costal views
213	For the views
214	Read about shipwreck and as part of Catlins tour

215	To see the seals
216	Holiday
217	Curiosity
218	As part of the scenic Route
219	Shipwreck / wildlife and lighthouse
220	Beauty, shipwreck, wildlife, lighthouse
222	Interest (travelling South Island)
223	Sounds interesting, seals and nature, rugged
224	To see it
225	To see the sea lions (if present) and to see the lighthouse
226	Views
228	To see the beautiful point of view
229	Visit lighthouse
230	Lighthouse and seals
231	Lighthouse - golden beach
232	Interest in this southern coast and the shipwreck history
233	On the way from Invercargill to Dunedin a nice short stop
235	The bus brought us here
236	The bus took us there
237	Because the bus took me there
238	To view the sea lions
239	Because it was part of tour
242	Our guide took us there
243	Our guide took us there
244	To see the scenery and wildlife
247	In transit and tour
248	My husband's choice: he loves lighthouses
249	To record lighthouse for magazine articles, website and DVD
251	Wanted to see parts of the Catlins
252	Historical Connection to the Tararua
253	See the sea lions
254	See the lighthouse
255	See the waves breaking against the rocks
256	Sea lions
257	Scenery, history and wildlife
258	To see the lighthouse
259	Make a break

13 visitors gave no response

Appendix 7 – Best aspects of experience

TABLE 16: BEST ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCE AT CURIO BAY

Form ID	Comment
1	Learning more about our wonderful environment - land, sea etc
2	Everything
3	Short visit but amazed by fossils
4	Fossil forest
5	Natural landscape - NZ at its best
6	To see the fossils. It was truly a great experience
7	Remoteness, non-commercial atmosphere
8	Fossil trees - really excellent
9	The stone forest
10	Fossil forest
11	Fossilised trees! 180 million years old!
12	Fossil trees. Exceptional quality of the fossil remains - better than many museum specimens
13	Unspoiled landscape
14	Fossilised forest
15	Finding the evidence, the sea and weed moving - general beauty
16	Informative signage, natural surrounding, pleasant day, spectacular scenery and protection of all species
17	Quiet and remote location, not a lot of people around 'natural'
18	Fossil forest
19	Porpoise Bay
20	The views, wildlife, weather, explanation on signs. Go DOC!!
21	The rugged coastline
23	Sea lions and the seaweed and shells
24	The sea
25	Fascination of historic site
26	Sunny. Clear day. Beautiful bay. Fossils very recognisable as trees and magic to think they are so old - felt I needed to be careful where I put my feet - not stepping on things
27	No clocks, no bossy signs. Good to have basic NZ. We would like to have had more information on history and wildlife. We did not have time to read about it before we come
31	Viewing the fossil forest
32	The beauty of the sheltered idyllic bay and the attraction of the surrounding countryside
33	The trees
34	Weather, nature miracles
35	Finding some tree stumps and the view
36	The penguins
37	Peace and quiet and the animal life
38	Weather and low tide
39	Picked the right time, beautiful
41	The fossil forest
42	Scenery is special, never seen something comparable
43	Beautiful scenery, pristine waters
44	The view on the fossil forest
46	Places time and life in perspective
47	Fascinating! Stoned trees!
48	How weird the wood looks and how its kept really well
49	The nice scenery

51	The fossil forest
52	Seeing the petrified wood everywhere
56	Fossil forest
57	Fossils
58	Scenery
59	Interesting seeing forests
60	Seeing the fossilised wood
61	All of it
62	The sea air
63	Beauty
64	The beach
65	The toilet (and all the thousands of penguins I saw)
66	Beautiful beach and bay
68	The view
69	Wilderness
73	Penguins
74	Penguins
75	The animals in their own surroundings
76	Penguins
77	Unique animals, sea lions coming out of sea, yellow-eyed penguins, country life, views, Cathedral Caves.
80	The fossils
81	The wilderness and a sense of prehistoric times while looking at the imprints of leaves and plants
82	Yet another landscape / combination of nature and farming. Wild / rugged coastline
83	Sceneries and petrified forest
84	Fossil forest
85	Don't know yet
86	The wild coast, the wind
87	The petrified forest including the terrific wind and ocean swell coming in AND; Not touristic (please NEVER allow shops, cafes here!!)
88	Seeing a penguin
89	Penguins
90	The sea
92	View, location
93	Beautiful
94	Fossil forest
95	Fossil forest, weather too bad, wildlife not there
96	Fossils and information
97	The hot DOC girls
99	Fossil forest
100	Scenic area - undeveloped area. Petrified forest
101	I saw orcas!
102	Unique landscape - dramatic
103	Fossil forest, orca's
105	Seeing the fossils and kelp
106	The beach - Porpoise Bay, beautiful and worth the visit
107	The scenery
108	The history of Gondwana and seeing the fossils
109	Visiting Slope Point and seeing wildlife
110	Nature
112	Now I think Slope Point is the most good
113	Petrified wood, birds, oystercatchers
114	The view including the impressive waves

115	The fossil forest
116	Seeing a whale and the forest
117	Weather and penguins and people at the shop
118	The view including the impressive waves
119	The forest and the kelp
120	The tree stumps and the information board
121	Seeing some quality nature, the fossil forest is awesome
122	The magnificent coastal areas
123	Hycients (?) crepes!
124	The wild coastal views
125	The fossil forest. The fact that you can just walk around it, that it hasn't been commercialised
126	Tranquillity
127	The sea
128	The ease of access plus lack of commercialisation
129	Everything
131	Viewing the fossilised trees
132	The sea and sea plants, the waves
133	Wandering on the fossil beds and watching the sea
135	Kelp and orca
136	The fossil forest, the kelp and seeing an orca. Probably the kelp the most.
137	The fossil forest
138	Fossil and the landscape
139	The glorious samples, both the tree sizes and the smaller rocks with fossilised fronds etc. The action of the waves on the kelp
140	I saw yellow eyed penguin
141	The fossil forest
142	Ocean views
143	The forest
144	The ruggedness
145	The natural beauty. The non touristy bit
146	Fossil forest
147	How it is secluded and well protected
148	Everything
149	Penguins and dolphins
150	Views of ocean
151	All
152	Penguin
153	Seeing the forest
154	Fossil history
155	The seagrass sweeping views
156	The penguins
157	Everything
158	The birds
159	Solitude
160	Countryside
161	Only stopped briefly so cannot truthfully comment
162	The fossil forest and the penguins and also the landscape
163	Unique opportunity to view large fossils in situ
164	Fossil forest and penguins
165	Saw penguins. Chat with Curio Bay warden
166	The fossilised wood was interesting, but seeing the two penguins was fantastic
167	Countryside views, sheep
168	Not here long enough to comment

169	Countryside views
170	that the area is natural and not over developed for the tourists
171	Seeing the fossilised forest to far
172	I could feel old history
173	Views and fossil forest and Sea lion
174	The forest and power of the sea combined together
175	Seen penguins, fossil forest
176	Access to site. Viewing penguins
177	Fossil forest
178	The coast, landscape, animals
179	To see penguins and also the fossil forest
180	Until now the fossil forest
182	Fossil forest
183	Seeing a penguin
184	Good preserved forest
185	Penguins and fossil forest
186	The penguins
187	Penguin
189	Getting back into the car (very windy)
190	Penguins, sea, coast
191	The sea lion
192	Reading the newspaper in the café
193	The big waves
194	The beach, the interesting formations of rocks
195	My walk on the beach
196	Beach
197	Beach
198	Beach
199	Landscape
200	The nice weather
201	Scenery
202	Sea lions
203	Beautiful views
205	Wind and waves
207	Sea lions, beautiful coastline
208	? (spend too less time to tell)
211	The overall view
212	The beach
213	You forget how beautiful this place is until you have been away and come back to visit
214	The beach, nice view
215	We just arrived
216	Petrified trunks and comments about formation
219	Stunning coastline, accessibility
221	Tide pools at fossil forest
222	Petrified forest
223	Landscape
224	The fossil tree was amazing and I liked the blowing wind and the giant seaweed
225	Due that there haven't been dolphins I liked the soft sand the most
226	Wildlife, coastal, underdeveloped, baches, remote, coastal podocarp temperate rainforest (what's left)

10 visitors gave no response.

TABLE 17: BEST ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCE AT WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
2	We are very interested by the sea lions. They are amazing.
3	Calm and nice place, sea lions very near.
4	The sea lions.
5	No crowds, peace, sunsets, sunrise, nice beach with lovely creatures.
6	Sea lions and bird life.
7	Scenery, sea lions and shore birds.
9	The natural aspect of the environment.
10	Seeing seals on the beach.
11	Seeing the coastline and the beautiful lions and I hope lion will bite a tourist because so many approach too close.
12	Quiet, scenic views.
13	The sea lions, the ? and the sand.
14	The sound of the sea combined with the bird songs.
15	Seeing the sea lions.
16	Wildlife.
17	The pure nature and the sea lions.
18	Birds.
19	The colours of the lighthouse against sea and sky.
21	Nice lighthouse and we saw some sea lions!!
22	The sea lions, very nice, the beach and the rocks and shells.
23	The sea.
26	The paua.
27	The cliffs.
29	The beach.
32	Sea lions.
33	The sea lions!!! In their right environment.
34	Seeing seals.
35	Sea lions.
36	Sea lions.
37	The sun!!
38	Peaceful place.
39	The view.
40	Being able to see the sea lions and also the scenery.
41	The sea lions.
46	Sea lions.
47	Wildlife / birds / beach / sunshine.
48	Looking at birds, seals / sea lions and marine life.
49	The seas and sea lions.
50	To be allowed to get so close to the wildlife and see them in their natural habitat.
52	Seeing the sea lion.
53	The sea.
54	The beach.
55	Wind.
56	Golden beach.
57	Scenery, 2 sea lions.
58	The peacefulness.
59	To include sea lions and pup.
60	Open air.
61	Beach.
62	Beautiful and unspoilt.
63	The seals.

64	Family of seals on beach.
65	Family of seals lying on the beach and being able to photograph them.
66	Rugged scenery.
67	Family of sea lions, father, mother and child.
68	The sea lions on the beach.
69	Rugged shoreline. Two seals on beach, lighthouse.
70	Seeing sea lions.
71	The big sea lion was nice.
72	The sea lions.
73	Sea lions.
74	The sea lions.
75	Wild seals.
76	Sea lions.
77	Saw a seal.
78	Sea lions.
79	Wildlife.
80	The sea lions.
81	We saw the Robbies and enjoyed the wind.
82	Wildlife, smell of salt sea, walk on the beach.
83	The above [seals & sea lions], its wilderness, unspoilt (no cafes etc).
86	Seals.
87	Sunshine and sea lions.
88	Nothing special.
89	The weather.
90	Sea lions.
91	The sea lions.
92	The unspoilt areas. Care taken of the areas and the people (most helpful and welcoming).
93	Seal and sea lions.
94	Beautiful scenery and the wildlife.
95	Sea lions.
96	Scenery and sea lions.
97	Sea lions.
98	The feeling of being on the end of the world! Seeing the lighthouse, sea lions, beauty and tranquillity.
99	We don't know that yet.
100	Seeing the sea lions. 4 plus a pup.
101	Wildlife.
102	Seals and lighthouse.
103	Watching the seals.
104	Most definitely to unexpectedly see sea lions (5) male / pup on beach.
105	Sea lions - unexpected but delightful.
106	Scenery and sea lions.
107	Different from other places.
108	Natural setting.
109	Pretty beach.
110	The beach.
111	The sea lions.
112	Seeing a sea lion.
113	Sea lions.
114	Seeing wildlife and NZ beaches.
115	The sea lions.
116	The sea scenery (rocks, shells, seashore and waves).
117	Wildlife.

118	The lighthouse.
120	Sea lions.
121	Sea lions.
124	Sea lions, paua mussels, beach.
126	Sea lions.
127	View.
128	Sea lions next to bus.
130	Watching the sea lions.
151	Shells and algae.
157	The sea lions!
158	Saw a sea lion.
159	The beach and the seals.
160	The sea.
161	Seals and quiet.
162	Da fauna marina.
163	Sleeping sea lion family and being right amongst the sheep.
165	Views
166	Watch sea lions on beach.
167	Nature.
168	The seals.
169	Sea lions and the sea.
171	View of a sea lions.
172	Viewing to the sea, sea lions for better distance from a hill (not so dangerous) I hope.
173	The sea lions.
174	All the sheep everywhere, so close to the sea and the lighthouse.
175	Chilled out place.
176	To see the wildlife not in zoo.
177	General views and sea lions.
178	The good weather.
179	The open space and the weather.
180	Nature.
182	The sea lions, the seals the beach, the lighthouse.
183	The big waves.
184	Beach walking.
185	The seals and lion.
186	Views.
187	Experiencing the sea/air/beach/seals.
188	Wildlife on the beach.
189	Seeing the sea lions.
190	The animals.
191	To see the magnificent views and the seals.
192	Sea lions.
193	Looking at the big sea lion resting on the beach.
197	Seeing the sea lion and finding paua shells.
198	To watch the wildlife.
199	Shells and sea lions.
200	The waves.
202	Peaceful place.
203	Fossil forest.
208	Seals.
209	Both (landscape and wildlife).
210	The sea, its animals and more so it's wonderful people, thank you from French Canada.
211	The views and the seals.

212	Beautiful beaches and local wildlife.
213	Sea lions.
214	Sea lions.
215	The seals.
216	All of it.
217	Seals and sea lions.
218	Seals and sea lions.
219	Sea lions.
220	Sea lions and seals.
221	Seals and birds and lighthouse.
222	Rough conditions and seals.
223	Seals and wind and dry weather.
224	Wildlife, golden sand.
225	The freshness of the wind and the view of the unspoilt coastline.
226	Fresh!! (Cold winds).
227	The scenery.
228	The point of view.
229	Scenery.
230	The wind.
231	The sea, the wind.
232	Sea, rocks.
233	Beach.
235	The seal.
236	The sea lions.
237	The lighthouse and the comedy toilet.
238	Sea lions.
239	Seeing the seals.
242	The lighthouse.
243	The wildlife and the lighthouse.
244	The coastline.
247	Scenery.
248	The ruggedness, the waves, the wind. Also delighted to see sea lions close up again.
249	The sun came out! Also the sea lions and breaking surf.
251	The wilderness of the area.
252	Meeting somebody connected with DOC.
253	The fact that I saw sea lions.
254	The panoramic and photogenic views.
255	The view.
256	The fact that I saw sea lions in the nature.
257	Wild sea and seeing seal lions and seals.
258	Beach.
259	Fresh wind.

10 visitors gave no response

Appendix 8 – Worst aspects of experience

TABLE 18: WORST ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCE AT CURIO BAY

Form ID	Comment
1	?
4	No mobile network coverage
13	Nil
15	Nothing was bad at all
17	Was a little difficult to understand what we were seeing
18	Not sure
19	N/A
20	The toilet at Waipapa point
21	N/A
23	Nothing
26	Wind!
31	More information on the forest, Illustrating examples of trees and logs, would have been welcome
32	Nothing
33	Wind
35	Roads into
36	Liked it all
38	Very interesting, no negative points
41	No mobile network coverage (no cell phones??)
43	Short stay
48	Nothing
51	Not seeing Dolphins!
52	I liked it all
57	Wind
59	Nothing
60	The Wind
61	All of it was great
63	The objectified woman on shop walls (tower). Not a prude but be equal show men too
64	Cold and no animals
65	There were no penguins or dolphins
66	The weather so far
68	There were no dolphins or penguins
69	No dolphins
75	Nothing
80	Wind
81	Because of extremely windy conditions I could not go out as far as I would have liked to!
83	Nothing really... Just wish I had more time!!
84	Wind!!
85	Don't know yet
86	?
87	N/A
88	The cold wind!
92	Cold Wind
93	Weather
94	Weather
95	Weather

96	The weather
97	The rain and wind
99	The cold wind!
100	Weather!!
101	Nugget point
102	N/A (survey)
103	Nugget point
105	Nothing
106	The weather
107	The weather
110	Roads
111	The weather
112	Fresh air, good view points
115	The wind
117	People harassing the penguins and not knowing that they are
120	No sun
121	It was all sweet as
123	The wind
124	No info on the seaweed
125	The rain
126	It was all good
129	Nothing
133	The wind! Cigarette butt on the rocks
135	Nothing
136	Nothing
137	This is the first stop so nothing yet
139	The southerly wind which has plagued us for days
141	I liked it all
142	Nothing
143	? Nothing
145	Gravel road
146	Wind
148	Too many people close to penguins, they really need privacy
149	Constant harassment of penguins on fossil forest
150	No Porpoises
162	The wind
163	Strong Winds!!
164	Nothing
165	The weather (a bit cold and windy)
167	The wind
168	The overpriced shop
169	The wind
171	Nothing - the wind
172	Coldness and windy
173	Wind
175	Lack of information about possibilities for visiting
178	Penguins
182	Windy
183	Wind
184	Stories about car thefts
186	None
187	Wind
189	Wind

190	Penguin
191	The cold weather, the toilet facilities
192	Cold and windy weather
193	Didn't see any dolphins or penguins
194	The storm
195	The wind
196	Weather
197	Weather
198	Wind
200	Less facilities
201	Weather - cold and windy
202	Stormy weather
203	The weather
205	Too short
207	Storm rain
208	The rain
214	Winds
221	No dolphins or seals seen
223	Not having enough time to stay longer
224	We didn't see any dolphins or sea lions or penguins
225	Not enough time to just sit there and look - well that's group travelling
226	Campervans, proposed subdivision

85 visitors gave no response.

TABLE 19: WORST ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCE AT WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
2	Sea lions and whole coast
5	Nothing
6	Nothing to dislike other than action of some people getting to close to sea lions
7	Stupid people approaching sea lions on the beach
10	Nothing
15	Its cold!! Got bitten by sandflies
18	Toilets
19	N/a
22	No comment
23	There was no sea lions at the time of visiting
26	No sea lions today. If there were a picnic area with tables etc. we could have relaxed and awaited the wildlife and enjoyed the view longer
27	The lighthouse was not so beautiful
28	No Sea lions
29	No Sea lions
32	Everything was nice
34	Nothing
35	N/a
36	No toilets
38	Nothing
40	Nothing
41	The smell of sea lions
47	Dirty loo
50	The toilet
52	State of Lighthouse (paint)
58	Nothing

59	Sandflies
60	The cold
62	Toilets
68	The smell of the sheep
70	Nothing
71	It was a bit windy
73	The fence around the lighthouse and how crappy the lighthouse was
75	Wind
77	Not that spectacular compared to other areas
84	Wind
86	Nothing
87	Wind
88	That there wasn't something special
98	Loved the whole experience
100	Sheep poo!
101	Weather
102	The sheep - not good for the dunes
105	The wind
107	The smell, haha!
109	The wind
110	The wind
111	The weather
117	Wildlife
120	Nothing (the wind)
121	Cold wind
128	Lighthouse needs restoration / new colour and fence around lighthouse
151	Short tour time
157	The road
161	Sheep
163	Old rotten toilet
165	The wind
166	None
167	N/a
172	A lot of sheep
173	The cold weather
175	Nothing
176	All was good
182	The access road
189	Sheep droppings everywhere
192	Nothing special
197	N/a liked everything
198	It's on small area
211	Nothing to dislike, it's beautiful
212	All good points
213	The wind
217	Nothing at all
220	More info on shipwreck would be nice
222	Litter
223	Rubbish
224	Cold
225	The unfortunate lack of sea lions which I was looking forward to seeing
226	Lighthouse
227	The wind

228	The weather!
235	The toilet
237	The wind
242	The weather
243	The weather
244	The weather was avg.
247	Wind
248	Nothing
251	The wind
253	Looking for them
254	The unsurfaced approach road
255	Nothing
256	Looking for them
257	Fast drivers on gravel road

113 visitors gave no response

Appendix 9 – Comments on facilities

TABLE 20: COMMENTS ON FACILITIES AT CURIO BAY

Form ID	Comment
1	Step high for elderly. Fossil Forest
5	A beautiful well set out spot seems to be maintaining the natural environment very well. A good example
12	More than adequate for our purposes
15	It is a well organised and, seemingly, well protected natural treasure
23	Only here for a short period so didn't use many facilities
26	Do not want or expect too many "civilised" signs
27	Refer to pg 1 [No bossy signs, would have liked to have more information on history and wildlife, did not have time to read about it before we came.]
38	At low tide very interesting
46	Keep it as natural as possible
52	The signs were a bit confusing. Also it might be more effective to directly state that its against the law to remove natural artefacts fro the area
60	Supply pamphlets about site of history and wildlife
62	It is not very hard to find and it is worth it
87	Too much wind to picnic
94	Possibly more detail regarding creation of fossil forest
97	Where are the dolphins
99	A little more info would be welcome, Toilets are not well sign posted
104	Stopped on our way to Dunedin, not as a purpose in itself
120	I liked the information boards at the top of the stairs
124	Nice spot
126	Low key is good
136	Thank you DOC
137	More signs or a map that tells you about specific fossils in the area
139	The DOC staff were very helpful
148	Penguins colony in nothing sighs (?). I hope there is good notice for penguins. They need them.
149	Terrible signage at Curio Bay fossil forest concerning yellow eyed penguins
153	Haven't seen above - very quiet visit
161	Only used toilets which were at the shop, which was very over priced
163	Fascinating place
166	The steps down and path were fine
173	Wonderful place
175	Missed information about spots to visit / of interest
191	There's no soap at the toilets, which is disgusting
192	No soap
203	Here too short to say something useful
219	Fine - don't need more
225	Excuse my writing while driving in a bus
226	The signage is good its really whether people read them, understand them or obey them

168 visitors gave no response

TABLE 21: COMMENTS ON FACILITIES AT WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
6	Adequate
15	Didn't know where the toilet was!
21	N/A
22	N/A
34	Would have liked more info on lighthouse and history and info on seals
60	No comment as above
68	Nil
75	Getting desperate now!
76	Lighthouse could be accessible
86	Whilst toilets are ideal at times the siting of these can sometimes spoil the location. Maps/signs can be educational
98	I like the almost untouched feel - as soon as you put in a picnic area, toilets, etc the 'feel' changes
105	All services appeared adequate, would not expect flush toilets here
107	The approach to Waipapa Point is not well signed
116	Stay wild as it is
117	Nothing
119	You don't always need heaps of signs in the landscape
163	Unmarked tracks don't bother me
164	More information for visitors? (more visitor centres, information!)
170	We were disappointed about the fact that the Owaka visitor centre was not available (in construction and no replacement)
174	None
175	Did not notice one, could be good to have few tables
177	Sorry we couldn't stay for a lot longer
185	Should be a sign from Fortrose showing the way to Waipapa point
187	(Very) poor info/facilities, but I like that
212	Good services and facilities
220	More info on wildlife - birds, seals, sea lions, rock formations would be nice
237	Actually the toilet wasn't that bad and made me laugh a lot, especially when the wind kept blowing the door open!
248	This sort of place DOESN'T NEED too many facilities and services. They would spoil it.
249	The place doesn't need anything more
252	Too cold and windy today for a picnic
257	Would have use walking tracks if they were signed

174 visitors gave no response

TABLE 22: VISITOR'S COMMENTS ON ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AT WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
2	We are two French people, and we enjoy to stay here, fascinating in South of the South Island
7	Please keep it natural and wild
12	Just passed by, but liked the spot, nice and quiet, good to come down!
13	We have been surprised how beautiful this area is.
21	N/A
22	Very nice place to spend a few quiet hours and enjoy nature and wildlife
30	Kind of like it the way it is
34	Lovely the way it is
37	I do not want you to do ANYTHING to the surroundings just a plain toilet
47	Having clean toilet is all that is needed
48	a very pleasant two hours visit
57	No other facilities
59	Department of Conservation Kate Roughan Ambushed us (we didn't mind really)
62	Doesn't need lots of facilities as this will spoil it
63	It is ok like it is
65	Flush toilets if possible
66	Signs and facilities were all adequate, more would detract
68	I think the toilet was overrun by sheep
69	Peaceful place
74	And garbage bin
75	I need the loo
77	Not sure it is worth investing here
81	A lovely place
82	About the ship wreck, too many civil facilities disturb the experience of nature and wildlife
87	Beautiful beach, but bad road
96	Facilities are not necessary
98	If possible without taking away from the natural feel of the area. Although I didn't go down on one beach because mini van of people there but found another quiet spot
100	Just don't spoil it!!
102	Needs info about shipwreck
105	We were not sure whether to visit Waipapa Point but were very pleased that we did because of the sea lions - 4 in all. Fantastic
107	N/A
109	Really enjoyed sea lions!!
110	Really enjoyed sea lions!!
113	Nothing
115	Nothing else please
116	Interesting wreck on the sand beach
117	Nothing
158	Better toilets but no flush toilet necessary
160	Nothing
162	Nothing
167	In case of rain it would be ideal to enter the lighthouse (but it did not rain)
168	It's a very nice and special place, so change nothing
169	None
171	Don't change anything!
174	Just simple and quiet! Beautiful
175	All Good, Too many sheep...hahaha baa baa! All good!
187	It is ok so

193	More info on the shipwreck nearby please.
197	What a beautiful place!
198	Nice Place
203	As low impact as possible
212	Very good
214	Not recorded
216	Great
217	I like mostly that it is a wild and peaceful spot, don't build anything here, please, no visitors centre or other facilities
218	Not recorded
220	No
226	Nil
232	Info about the shipwreck - type of boat, where exactly, why so many drowned, weather?
235	it was nice
236	Nothing else it its cool like that
237	It is what it is - the charm will be lost if you dress it up
248	This is a lovely rugged area - don't do it up or change it too much!!
249	Nothing extra - leave it wild, that's why we travel to these places
252	On the day the carpark was full. Levelled areas for viewing (not platforms). Closer access to lighthouse display of photos of news items re: Tararua disaster
257	Prefer you left as a wild place

139 visitors gave no response

Appendix 10 – Comments on wildlife harassment & the presence of other visitors

TABLE 23: COMMENTS ON WILDLIFE HARASSMENT AND OTHER VISITORS AT CURIO BAY

Form ID	Comment
1	Peaceful and quiet 11.30am
5	Not many people around
6	Everyone behaved well
8	If there had been lots of large parties I would not have enjoyed the visit so much
11	Came early - not many people here!
12	A large group might well have made it less pleasant
17	No large groups, quiet and peaceful
24	Very quiet
35	Very nice, just really windy
42	Really good atmosphere, nobody disturbed
44	Almost no other people
46	Would prefer less organised tour activity at such sites
49	I was in group so its normal that I saw lots of people
52	We were a group, but we tried to be unobtrusive
81	No groups were there when I arrived
87	Avoid large groups quickly one after the other in future as well!
98	I was on a commercial/guided group myself
107	No annoyance
111	I was here when the weather was good, that may be the reason why not many people were here.
119	More tourist is inevitable unfortunately
120	I was in the guided group
125	It would be nice to have a sign which described features you might look out for in the fossilised forest
126	Very few people here = no hassle!
138	Big groups (buses etc) always spoils the experience at least a little bit
139	Very few people here when we visited
142	Reinforce “no dogs”
149	Inadequate signage for YEP at Curio Bay fossil forest
159	Very quiet and peaceful
161	We only stopped briefly so met no other group
175	My visit was late in the afternoon (1730h)
176	None thank goodness
179	Between 1700 and 1800 hr
182	No
185	Some tourist are talking very loud seeing penguins
186	Some people were talking loud when they saw wildlife
189	We were the only visitors!
207	Own group was too big
216	Well kept and presented
219	Too few people - which is great

225	I was part of a guided group
226	I have in the past been annoyed by visitor's behaviour towards wildlife. Hiking NZ has a max # of 11 and our clients are very informed of the environmental care code and proper behaviour and distances around wildlife

164 visitors gave no response

TABLE 24: COMMENTS ON WILDLIFE HARASSMENT AND OTHER VISITORS AT WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
3	Only a few people here on this day
6	Large groups would probably be annoying - better to keep it small scale
15	No commercial/ guided groups were around at the time of visit
18	people not careful about sea lions
21	N/a
34	Didn't see any guided or large groups which was nice
66	I was not annoyed by any of the above
67	It was very quiet
68	The lack of large commercial groups was great
75	I still need the loo
77	None
91	Just a few people were here
100	DOC staff lovely
102	Some people get way to close to wildlife
105	Very few people encountered
107	The large groups came as we were leaving
110	No problems
112	One visitor got a bit close to the sea lion I thought, but probably not excessively so.
117	Nothing
171	I was in the only guided group which was on the beach
172	Visitors behaviour towards wildlife was seen more worse at Curio Bay
174	None
193	Shared the experience with a huge tour bus
203	Was in a guided commercial group
232	All fine
244	Was part of a group, quick visit though
257	No large groups when we there - but have found it difficult

178 visitors gave no response

Appendix 11 – What respondents would tell other people

TABLE 25: RESPONDENT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CURIO BAY

Form ID	Comment
1	Only place to see
2	To look for themselves
4	Encounter prehistorical monuments
5	I would only recommend it to the people I know will look after it
6	Very good place for visit. Well worth the trip
7	One of the more interesting sites in this area
8	An excellent site to see fossil trees
9	Go there!
10	Excellent
11	Interesting place to visit if in area
12	Good to visit if interested in fossils
13	Worth a visit
14	Unique natural site
15	Go there
17	Interesting and unusual spot to visit, off 'beaten track'
18	The fossil forest
19	Very beautiful area
20	Nice place to see
21	Lovely beach and surf
23	Its beautiful and peaceful
24	They have to come
25	Interesting
26	Go where no one else goes
27	It's a gem of a place
31	Unspoiled, quiet, should see this, interesting
32	Interesting beautiful spot
33	Place to go
34	Lots of wonders to see
35	It's a nice stop to break up the drive
36	Quiet and interesting place, cool penguins!
37	Great nature and wildlife, peace and quiet make it feel like it is a bit "off the beaten track"
38	Look out for the fossilised trunks
39	Worth a detour
41	Go to the fossil forest guys!
42	Can see the fossils of 180000000 years old trees! Wow!
43	Amazing location
44	That its not really special
47	Strange sight
48	To go and have a look at the trees
51	A pleasant, friendly, interesting and unspoilt place (and the pepper steak pies are great!)
52	It is a beautiful, easily accessible and awesome!
56	Fossil forest
57	Very amazing

59	Great views
60	Go see the fossil forest
62	About the fossil forest, it is nice
63	Very beautiful spot
64	Not so special
65	Boring and windy and no penguins
66	Lovely beautiful place
68	When good weather
69	Spectacular nature
73	Magnificent experience
74	You have to see this!
75	The silence
76	Come looking penguins
81	It's a wild place
82	Special/ remote/ natural / more the original NZ feeling
83	I'd say this part of the coast is a MUST SEE!!
84	Beautiful and peaceful area
85	Absolutely worthwhile
86	?
87	Non-touristic spoilt, interesting nature/ geology part of NZ
88	Good place to see penguins (if (lucky) and fossils)
91	Pick a fine day
92	Lovely view, educational value
94	Very interesting and good examples of fossils
95	Remote, fossil forest, chance to see wildlife
97	Have fun
98	Go there, the Catlins coast is beautiful
99	Outstanding area of interest
100	Peaceful location - petrified forest
101	Go to Porpoise Bay Head to see the wildlife
102	Unique location - worth seeing
103	Plan more than one day
104	Not interesting if you have no background
106	Very quiet and peaceful
107	Is worth a visit
109	Very Cool!
110	Nice Place
111	To come to see the fossils
112	Beautiful views. Strong windy
114	Nice place
116	Magical place to visit a fossil forest
117	What a beautiful place and people
118	Nice
119	Do go fascinating and wild scenery
120	It's fun having fun in a petrified forest
121	If you are in the area check it out
122	Fascinating fossils, coastal and wildlife and very peaceful
123	About the forest
124	Good views / interesting fossils / potential to see dolphins
125	The beach is gorgeous, the petrified forest is lovely
126	Very peaceful and unspoilt
129	Come and see it for your self, it's fantastic
131	Pleasant place off the beaten track

133	A great place to look at fossils and experience the south coast
134	A very interesting place
135	It's quite nice
136	To go and see it
138	Beautiful and quiet, not that touristy (yet)
139	An example of NZ natural beauty
140	Can see penguins and dolphins
141	About the fossil forest
142	Worth the stop
143	The fossil forest
144	Get here quickly
145	Don't miss it
146	Great piece of nature and great fossils
147	It is a great place to see wildlife of various times and get away from more populated spots
148	Untouched place
149	Nice place for viewing wildlife
150	They should stop here for a brief visit
152	Beautiful wildlife
154	Interesting history and beauty
157	Lovely place, quiet and relax
159	Chilly wind, come in Jan-Feb
162	You must see that...
163	"Worth a detour" to quote Michelin!
164	Interesting geology and wildlife
165	Great place to see penguin wild and see fossil forest
166	Great place, plus chance of seeing penguins
167	Nice place to see NZ
169	Nice view
170	Beautiful and natural and unique. Go at low tide
172	You can see old great view
173	Wonderful place
175	Penguins to see
177	Windy!
178	Very nice area
179	Penguins
180	Nice place if you are in the Catlins
182	About the fossil forest
183	You can see a penguin
184	Good chance to see wildlife
185	Great place to visit
186	Fascinating petrified forest and wildlife
187	Everything
189	About the forest and penguins
191	Bring camera to take pictures
192	It's cold, no wildlife, not much to see
193	Windy!
194	Lovely landscape, stay longer than only 30 min
195	This is only a beach
196	If the weather was good, maybe it would be better
197	Nice Beach
198	Nice views
201	You could see penguins and dolphins if lucky, great scenery
203	Looks nice

205	It's quite nice a bit windy, wear a hat
207	Nice place, no penguins
208	Maybe you're lucky and see dolphins and penguins
213	To visit a must see
214	Nice view
215	Less touristy than other parts of NZ and lots of bird
216	Beautiful place to stop
219	Fascinating - ensure low tide
221	Not a lot to see, but peaceful and pretty
222	Petrified forest good but worth a visit only if in the area already
223	Nice place to visit when you are on vacation in NZ
224	You don't see any dolphins etc. But the fossil forest is interesting
225	Take a warm jacket, take time and be patient
226	Depends who it is, but it is a treasure as is the whole of the Catlins

39 visitors gave no response.

TABLE 26: RESPONDENT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WAIPAPA POINT

Form ID	Comment
2	Yes very much! It's a beautiful, wild, and amazing place
3	Nice and quiet place, not overcrowded
4	Lose self
5	Great place, nature, wildlife,.. No crowds!!
6	Essential to visit
7	Excellent views, many species of birds and also seals
10	Quiet, abundant wildlife
12	Go there for a seal
13	How beautiful it is over here
14	I feel freedom and luck at this place
15	To come and see the wildlife and enjoy a peaceful walk
16	Great wildlife
19	Scenic and beautiful
20	Nice scenery and wildlife
21	Can see a nice lighthouse, nice scenery and sea lions
26	Nice for a short walk
27	The place was not so big - not so special
28	Nothing there
29	Nice coastline, beach and rocks
30	Not much to see really compared to other spots on this coastline
32	It is a nice place with sea lions
33	Go there... and if you're lucky you may see sea lions!
34	Remote, windy, chance to see wildlife and peaceful
37	Nice place, opportunity to see wildlife
38	Nice view and can see the sea lions
39	Nice view on the sea with sea lions. Nice lighthouse
40	That it's a beautiful piece of coastline
41	See the sea lions
47	Open space wild lonely feeling
48	Natural beauty and wildlife
49	You can see sea animals
50	An amazing natural place
52	Good place to see sea lion
53	Beautiful

54	Beautiful beach with a chance to observe sea lions and other wildlife
55	Nice surfing spot
57	Point of beauty
58	The quietness
60	Come to see the wildlife
61	Scenic
62	Beautiful and wild
63	You can see seals
64	Natural beauty and wildlife
65	About the natural beauty and the sea lions
66	Be prepared for weather conditions
67	Have a look
68	Great opportunity to see sea lions
69	Beautiful and natural beach
70	Worth the drive down the track
71	Nice look out, probably even nicer with good weather
72	About the sea lions
73	Look at the sea lions up close
74	Sea lions
75	Wild seals - Ace!
76	Sea lions on beach
78	Its nice
79	its nice
81	A quiet lovely place
82	Sea lions up close
83	To go there to see coastline / wildlife as it should be.(Sea lions are not what they will see at Napier, they're free)
84	Lovely place to stop and have picnic
86	Beautiful location and absolute peace
87	Nice and clean and sunny
88	Just if it is in their way...
90	Nice wildlife
91	Nice view
92	A must visit!!
94	Lovely scenery, beautiful beach and the seals
96	Nice place
97	Take a short walk there
98	As it used to be
100	Scruffy lighthouse, lovely beaches. A wow to see sea lions
102	Nice lighthouse, good view and seals
104	NZ is great and unspoilt
105	Sea lions are there
107	There are Sea lions
108	Wildlife / natural setting
109	Nice place to stop
110	Nice place
111	You should go there
112	Nice beach and a good chance of seeing sea lions
113	Beautiful
114	Lovely wildlife, natural beaches
116	Wilderness scenery
117	Opportunity to see wildlife like (seals..!)
118	Its well nice
119	Nice, but you don't need to go there

120	Go see the sea lions and sheeps
121	See the sealions
124	Beautiful and important
126	Go there
127	Beautiful
128	Few sea lions close by, if they haven't seen some before
130	About the sea lions
157	Go watch the sea lions, there just on the beach!
158	Nice spot and chance to see wildlife
159	Great beach and nice place to see seals
161	Go
163	Have a look at the sea lions!
165	Only if not windy
166	Look around beach for shells and sea lions
168	Nice place with all the sheeps, possibility to see seals
171	They can see wildlife
172	I see sea lions
174	Because its nice and quiet
177	Peaceful, beautiful, sea lions at close range
178	If lucky you can see sea lions!
179	Very quiet, open space with sea lions
182	Interesting point, wildlife
185	Beautiful wildlife
187	It's beautiful
188	That it's a nice quiet spot where you can view some wildlife and its natural setting
189	Go there, its cool!
190	It's an amazing place
191	I saw the seals and the magnificent views
192	About the wildlife
193	Nice place to see sea lions
197	About the natural beauty and wildlife
198	Nice place to start your trip in the Catlins
199	Nice scenery, kelp, wildlife, shells to see
200	Its nice
203	Great place to visit in tour of Catlins
208	Interesting and beautiful place
209	Beautiful views and a chance to see seals
211	Definitely visit here
212	Peaceful and relaxing days out
213	Wonderful place
215	Great wildlife
218	Go and take a chance to see wildlife
219	Unspoiled
220	Very beautiful and lots of wildlife
221	To come on a nice day (today was horrid weather)
222	Nice place, rough at times, seals
223	Its good and cold and windy
225	Its windy
227	Very wild
229	Wild scenery
230	Lighthouse, wind, no animals
232	Wild, wonderful scenery
233	Nice coastal spot

236	You can see wildlife there
237	Absolutely beautiful spot but need lots of clothes
238	Sea lions
239	Great place to spot wildlife
242	Nice view, nature and the sea
243	Nice to see the wildlife and the wild sea
244	Beautiful scenery and wildlife
248	Remote and unspoiled. Love it.
249	Wear warm clothes
253	To see sea lions
254	Beautiful quiet scenic stop
255	How stunning and peaceful it is
256	It's a great place
257	Good wild place with wildlife
258	nice place to see wildlife and beach

52 visitors gave no response