Application for commercial operations from a vessel to view and swim with marine mammals



Provide details of the education material (including the source of the material) and education aspects of your proposed operation.

Interactive displays on the vessel which play footage supplied from the New Zealand Natural History Unit in Dunedin.

A. Conservation, management, and the protection of marine mammals

State how your proposed operation is in the interests (advantage and benefit) of the conservation, management or protection of marine mammals?

Vessel viewing for scenic cruise passengers at Milford sound and as part of the cruise the wider details and explanations of flora and fauna of the Fiordland National Park including the marine environment.

B. Details of the proposed operation

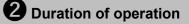
Proposed base and area of operation

Attach a map of the proposed area of operation. It must clearly show:

- Proposed base (vessel departure location) of operation
- Proposed area of operation showing the boundaries and where appropriate, the specific locations where contact with marine mammals are proposed.
- Proposed locations where swimming with marine mammals will take place (if applicable)

Record your map details in section 'Q Attachments'.

Map questions	Written description
Proposed base of operation	Freshwater Basin Milford Sound
Proposed area of operation	See map in appendix 2 (within the Harbour Limits) Milford Sound Internal Waters
Proposed locations for viewing contact with marine mammals	See map in appendix 2 (within the Harbour Limits) Milford Sound Internal Waters



Record the proposed duration of operation (months and years) is currently up to a maximum of three years.

10 years

3 Trip duration and frequency	
Duration of trips (in hours or days if multi-day trips) proposed	1 hour 45 minutes
Maximum number of trips proposed per day	6
Maximum number of trips proposed per year	1,500
Maximum number of vessels you propose to operate at any one time	2

Output Species of marine mammal you seek to view or come in contact with from a vessel

All species of whales (including orca and pilot whales)	
All species of seal	
All species of dolphins (excluding orca and pilot whales)	
Species specific encounters you seek to view and come in contact with from a vessel (list species)	As per Fiordland viewing limits described below

5 Proposed viewing or contact times with marine mammals

State the maximum time you will view or be in contact with each marine mammal (or group of mammals) you encounter per trip.

<u>Seals</u>

30 minutes at any location. Vessel Distance from Waters Edge: 20m

Milford Sound (Internal Waters)

No viewing of Humpback Whales, Southern Right Whales or Orca.

All other cetacean species: Maximum of 2 x 5-minute encounter per individual / group.

Milford Sound (Internal Waters).

Bottlenose Dolphins: Cumulative viewing time of 15 minutes

Internal waters defined in the map attached as appendix 1

C. Vessel type – motorised vessel(s)

Describe the vessel type you are going to use in your proposed operation.

If your operation involves two or more vessels, copy and paste the table below and complete for each vessel. Alternatively attach additional pages with the required information and record all attachments in section 'Q Attachments'.

Not applicable as only using manually propelled	
vessels	

Motorised vessel No. 1 description:

Vessel name	Milford Adventurer
Vessel make	
Vessel model	
Vessel size (length)	
Vessel colour	
Motive power	Twin GM Diesel
Construction and hull design	
Planing hull	
Displacement hull	
Normal cruising speed	
Maximum speed	
Maximum number of passengers	150
Describe any information you have on vessel noise levels (above and below water)	
How will the effects of vessel noise be mitigated?	

Motorised vessel No. 2 description:

Vessel name	Milford Explorer
Vessel make	Wave Master
Vessel model	
Vessel size (length)	20 M
Vessel colour	White and Blue

Motive power	Twin MTU
Construction and hull design	Aluminium
Planing hull	Х
Displacement hull	
Normal cruising speed	12 knots
Maximum speed	19 Knots
Maximum number of passengers	150
Describe any information you have on vessel noise levels (above and below water)	
How will the effects of vessel noise be mitigated?	

D. Background of proposed operator

State the applicant's experience operating with marine mammals (e.g. the number of years the company / business has been operating around marine mammals).	45 years within the Fiordland Area and marine environment
State the applicant's knowledge of operating within the local area, and of the sea and weather conditions (e.g. number of years' experience operating within the area).	Held marine tickets since 1968 and operated both fishing and tourist vessels in the local area over that time

Has the applicant been convicted of any offence involving the mistreatment of animals?

No	\checkmark
Yes	
If "yes", provide details	

Does the applicant have any current criminal charges pending before the court involving the mistreatment of animals?

No	\checkmark
Yes	
If "yes", provide details	

Does the Applicant agree to DOC undertaking a check of their criminal convictions or pending current criminal charges involving the mistreatment of animals?

Note: DOC may require the proposed operator to fill out and sign a form that allows DOC to receive their criminal conviction history to enable the Director-General of DOC to be satisfied that the proposed operator does not have convictions for offences involving the mistreatment of animals.

No	
Yes	Х

E. Background experience of individual staff members

Complete the table below for every staff member who may come into contact with marine mammals during the operation. If there are two or more staff members, copy and paste the table and complete for each staff member. Alternatively attach additional pages with the required information and record all attachments in section 'Q Attachments'.

Full Name: Peter Egerton	Job Title: Managing Director		
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? If "yes", please provide details:		□ No	
Relevant experience with marine mammals: `	Yes bound by Code of Practice		
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea	a conditions: Yes 45 years		
Full Name: Chris Cody	Job Title: Skipper		
Has this person had any convictions or prose other Act involving the mistreatment of anima If "yes", please provide details:		□ No	
Relevant experience with marine mammals: `	Yes bound by Code of Practice		
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea			
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea	a conditions. Tes 20 years		
Full Name: Craig Hind	Job Title: Skipper		
Has this person had any convictions or prose other Act involving the mistreatment of anima		□ No	
If "yes", please provide details:			
Relevant experience with marine mammals: `	Yes bound by Code of Practice		
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea	a conditions: Yes 4 years		
Full Name: Hamish Egerton	Job Title: Skipper		
Has this person had any convictions or prose other Act involving the mistreatment of anima	cutions for offences against the Act or any lls?	□ No	
If "yes", please provide details:			
Relevant experience with marine mammals: Yes bound by Code of Practice			
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions: yes 20 years			

Staff member

Full name Hamish John Egerton	Roger Lutzenburger
Job title: Skipper	
Job title: Guide Rodolphe Fanchette	🗆 Julia Huet
Job title: Other (state)	

If "yes", provide details

Does this person have any current criminal charges pending before the court involving the mistreatment of animals?

No	X
Yes	
If "yes", provide details:	

Does the staff member agree to DOC undertaking a check of their criminal convictions or pending current criminal charges involving the mistreatment of animals?

Note: DOC may require the staff member to fill out and sign a form that allows DOC to receive their criminal conviction history to enable the Director-General of DOC to be satisfied that they do not have convictions for offences involving the mistreatment of animals

No	
Yes	X

F. Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992

Tick the following boxes to confirm you will operate in accordance with each of the following behaviours as required under Part 3 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.	Tick
Marine mammals will not be disturbed or harassed	Х
Best endeavours will be used to operate the vessel in a way that the normal movement or behaviour of any marine mammal is not disrupted	Х
Contact with any marine mammal shall be abandoned at any stage if it becomes or shows signs of becoming disturbed or alarmed	Х
Marine mammals are not to be separated from a group of marine mammals, or caused to scatter	Х
Rubbish or food is not to be thrown near or around any marine mammal	Х
No person shall make any loud or disturbing noises around any whale, dolphins or seals	Х
No sudden or repeated changes in the speed or direction of the vessel shall be made except in the case of an emergency	Х

Where the vessel stops to enable the passengers to watch any marine mammal, the engines are to be either placed in neutral (<i>preferred</i>) or be switched off within a minute of the vessel stopping	Х
A person or vessel shall not cut off the path of a marine mammal or prevent a marine mammal from leaving the vicinity of the vessel	Х
The skipper of a vessel less than 300 metres from any marine mammal shall use his or her best endeavours to move the vessel at a constant slow speed no faster than the slowest marine mammal in the vicinity, or at idle or "no wake" speed	Х
When departing from the vicinity of any marine mammal, the vessel shall proceed slowly at idle or "no wake" speed until the vessel is at least 300 metres from the nearest marine mammal	Х
The vessel is not to approach within 300 metres of any whale, pod of dolphins or herd of seals for the purpose of enabling passengers to view, if the number of vessels or aircraft, already positioned to enable passengers to watch is three or more	Х
Where two or more vessels or aircraft approach an unaccompanied whale, dolphin or seal, the skipper concerned shall co-ordinate their approach and manoeuvres	Х

Whale specific behaviours Tick that you understand and will operate in accordance with each of the following species-specific behaviours as required under Part 3 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.	Tick
The vessel is not to approach within 50 metres of a whale	Х
If a whale approaches the vessel, the skipper of the vessel shall, wherever practicable: (i) manoeuvre the vessel so as to keep out of the path of the whale; and (ii) maintain a minimum distance of 50 metres from the whale	Х
The vessel is not to approach within 200 metres of any female baleen or sperm whale that is accompanied by a calf or calves	Х
The vessel shall approach a whale from a direction that is parallel and slightly to the rear	Х

Dolphin specific behaviours Tick that you understand and will operate in accordance with each of the following species-specific behaviours as required under Part 3 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.	Tick
The vessel may exceed idle or "no wake" speed in order to outdistance the dolphins but must increase speed gradually, and shall not exceed 10 knots within 300 metres of any dolphin	Х
The vessel is not to proceed through a pod of dolphins	Х
The vessel shall approach a dolphin or pod of dolphins from a direction that is parallel and slightly to the rear	Х

Swimming specific behaviours	Tick
Tick that you understand and will operate in accordance with each of the	
following species-specific behaviours as required under Part 3 of the	
Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.	

Swimmers will not be in the water with juvenile dolphins or a pod that includes juvenile dolphins	Х
An airhorn may be used to call swimmers back to the boat or to the shore	Х

G. Operational best practice based on recommended DOC guidelines

Tick that you understand and will comply with the following conditions relating to seals and sea lions specific behaviours	Tick
Not applicable as not applying to view seals and sea lions	X
When seals and sea lions are hauled out on shore or rocks, the vessel will remain 20m or more from water's edge	X
When seals and sea lions are hauled out on shore or rocks, swimmers will remain 5m or more from water's edge.	X

Tick that you understand and will comply with the following conditions relating to location specific best practice. You will have been given information on best practice recommendations when you contacted permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz prior to making your application. If any location specific best practices apply to your area of operation, attach the relevant schedule.	Tick
Not applicable as there is no location specific best practice	Χ
Location specific best practices for my area of operation are attached and recorded in section 'Q Attachments'	Χ
All proposed operations will be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidelines for the area of operation	Х

Tick that you understand and will comply with the following conditions relating to Manually propelled vessels e.g. kayaks and paddle boards practices.	Tick
Not applicable as not operating a manually propelled vessel	
Up to seven kayaks (or other manually propelled watercraft) are to be grouped closely together* for the purpose of viewing marine mammals *Manually propelled watercraft are to be within two paddle lengths of each other to form 'one distinct vessel'. No vessel (including a group of seven manually propelled vessels) shall approach closer than 300m to a marine mammal if there are already three vessels (including a group of seven manually propelled vessels) or aircraft, or both, present.	
Kayaks (or other manually propelled watercraft) are not to be banged, or paddles slapped against the water in the presence or marine mammals.	
No person shall touch a marine mammal	
No person is to chase a marine mammal, instead let the mammal approach the manually propelled watercraft	
Where practical the operator's guide is to remain between the clients and any seals or sea lions on shore	

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

H. Attachments

Attachments should only be used if there is:

- A specific question that requires an attachment e.g. map of the proposed base and area of operations
- Not enough space on the form to finish your answer
- Additional information that supports your answer
- An additional request you wish to make of DOC regarding the application.

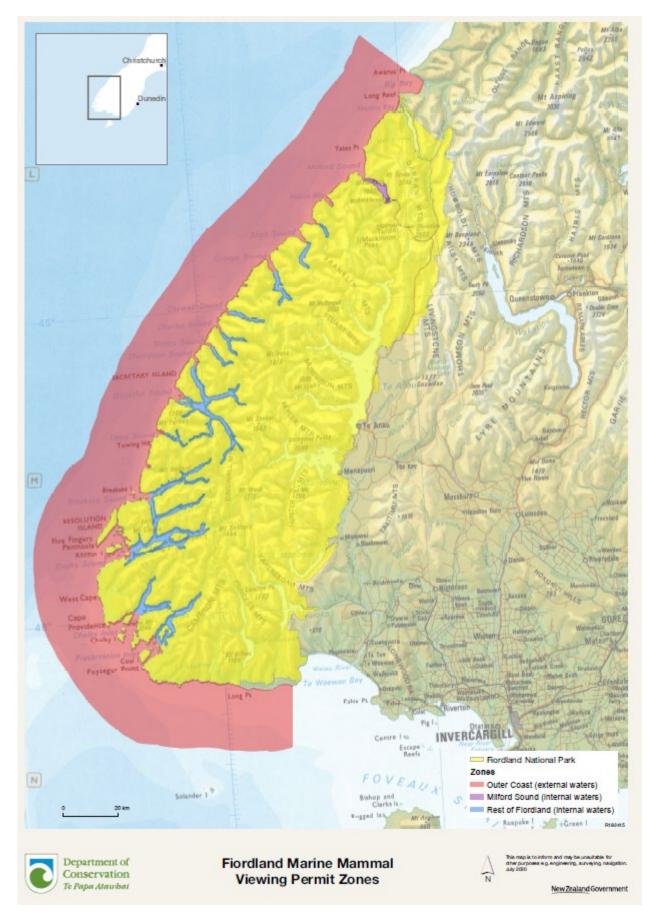
Label each document clearly and complete the table below.

Section of the application form the attachment relates to	Document title	Document format (e.g. Word, PDF, Excel, jpg etc.)	Description of attachment

I. Checklist

Application checklist	Tick which apply
I have completed all sections of this form relevant to my application and understand that the form will be returned to me if it is incomplete.	Х
I certify that the information provided in this application form and any attached additional forms and information is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct	Х
I have supplied a map with the departure location, boundaries of operation, expected tour routes of operation specific locations where viewing of marine mammals are likely, and if applicable specific location where swimming with marine mammals are likely as required in and section 'Q Attachments'.	X
I have appropriately recorded all attachments in section 'Q Attachments'.	x
I understand that in accordance with Regulation 10(2) of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992, this application shall form part of any permit issued and shall be complied with accordingly.	X

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

