Application Form 8b
Commercial Shore-Based Operations involving Marine Mammals

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government

Is this the right application form for me?

This form is to be used when applying for a new permit or the renewal of an existing permit, and where the proposed activity involves shore-based marine mammal viewing.

View marine mammals, including:

- New Zealand fur seal
- New Zealand sea lion
- Other species

Update staff member and vessel

If you have a permit for a commercial operation to interact with marine mammals complete Application Form 8f Commercial Operations involving Marine Mammals Update staff member, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft[1] to apply for:

- Any new staff member – driver, guide or other staff member – who will have contact with marine mammals as part of your commercial operation; or
- Any new vehicle which will be used to undertake your permit.

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

How do I complete this application form?

- If you are applying for a **new permit** e-mail permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz for a pre-application meeting before lodging your application. There is location, species and treaty partner consultation information that the Department of Conservation (DOC) needs to make you aware of.
- Complete all sections of this form.
    - If your application involves Vessel-based marine mammal viewing, please also fill in Form https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/marine-mammal-permits/vessel-based-activity-marine-mammal-permit-form-8a.doc 8a.
    - If your application involves aircraft-based marine mammal viewing, please also fill in Form 8c.
    - If your application involves swimming with marine mammals, please also fill in Form 8e.
- DOC encourages electronic applications (e.g. email a typed Word document), rather than handwritten applications. Electronic applications are easier to read and less likely to be returned to you for clarification.

[1] https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/marine-mammal-permits/update-staff-member-8f.doc

- If you require extra space, attach or include extra documents and label them according to the relevant section. Record all attachments in Section 'Q Attachments'**.**

Personal and sensitive information (e.g. criminal convictions or criminal charges pending before the court relating to the mistreatment of animals) will be managed by DOC confidentially. For further information check DOC's privacy and security statements[2].

Have you considered DOC's Conservation General Policy and statutory planning documents?

Your permit must not be inconsistent with DOC's Conservation General Policy[3] and relevant statutory planning documents[4], as they set out how DOC and our Treaty partners manage public conservation land. Statutory planning documents can have a direct impact on your application, with conservation management strategies identifying where human interactions with marine mammals should be managed to avoid or minimise adverse effects on populations and individuals.

Have you undertaken Treaty Partner consultation?

DOC has a responsibility to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and may consult with our Treaty Partners about your permit application.

Contact permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz for further information about consultation.

Have you undertaken Customary Marine Title consultation?

If you are applying for a new permit to view marine mammals, under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011, you must:

- Notify the Customary Marine Title Applicants about your application.
- Seek the views of the Customary Marine Title Applicants.

To identify the Customary Marine Title Applicants relevant to your application, please visit Te Tari Whakatau - Applications

Have you confirmed that your activity does not fall within a moratorium?

A moratorium is a temporary suspension that restricts the viewing of marine mammals in specific areas or for certain species. It prohibits the start of new activities as well as increases to existing permitted activities. To determine whether your application is affected by a moratorium, it is recommended that you contact permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz.

If you need some help, where do you get more information?

- Check the DOC interacting with marine mammals[5]. This page includes information on the types of permits available, fees, reporting, and processing timeframes.
- Read sharing our coasts with marine mammals[6].

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[2] https://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/privacy-and-security/
[3] https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/conservation-general-policy/
[4] https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/statutory-plans/
[5] https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/interacting-with-marine-mammals/
[6] https://www.doc.govt.nz/sharingcoasts

- Become a DOC Sustainable Marine Mammal Actions in Recreation and Tourism (SMART) operator[7].
- Arrange a pre-application meeting (either face to face or over the phone) by contacting the Christchurch Permissions team permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz.

How do I submit my application?

Email your completed application, and any attachments (recorded in section 'Q Attachments') to: permissions@doc.govt.nz

What happens next?

Your application will be assessed by DOC. If it is complete, DOC will begin processing the application.

If it is incomplete or requires amendment it will be returned to you for you to amend and incorporate the matters that DOC has specified in writing.

Why does DOC ask for this information?

The questions in this application form are designed to cover the requirements set out in DOC's conservation legislation. Your answers allow us to assess:

- The details of your proposed operation against the requirements in sections 6 and 7 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.
- The effects of your proposed operation (including proposed encounter times with marine mammals) and your proposed methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.
- Your qualifications and resources (e.g. vessel, skills and experience) to adequately conduct the proposed operation in marine areas.
- The educational material you will be using in your proposed operation.

Note:

- Under regulation 10 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992, the Department must determine whether or not the application is acceptable and may require the application to be amended. The Department will advise applicants if, and what, amendments are required before this application can be processed by the Department.
- The Department will process the application and issue a permit if it is satisfied that the application meets all the requirements for granting a permit under the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.
- If the application is approved, it is deemed to form part of the permit which is issued and must be complied with accordingly. Your application, therefore, must be clear, complete and accurate.
- Your application will also assist us in undertaking consultation with our Treaty Partners.
- Your creditworthiness is a factor in determining whether DOC should extend credit to you and set up a DOC customer accounts receivable credit account. To make this assessment DOC will supply your information to a credit checking agency.

[7] https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/smart-operator-programme/

Note: Information collected by DOC will be supplied to a debt collection agency in the event of non-payment of fees.

What fees will I pay?

You may be required to pay a processing fee for this application regardless of whether a permit is granted or not. You may request an estimate of the processing fees after your application has been submitted. If you request an estimate, DOC may require you to pay the reasonable costs of the estimate prior to it being prepared. DOC will not process your application until the estimate has been provided to you. In addition, if you are granted a permit you may be required to pay annual research or management fees. These fees are listed on the interacting with marine mammals[8] page of the DOC website.

If you are applying for a new permit, see information in the 'Will my application be publicly notified?' section below.

DOC will invoice your processing fee after your application has been considered. If your application is large or complex, DOC may undertake billing at intervals periodically during processing until a decision has been made on your application. If you withdraw your application DOC will invoice you for the costs incurred up to that point.

Will my application be publicly advertised?

Your application will be **publicly advertised**[9] on the DOC website and appropriate newspapers if:

- the application is for a new permit
- the application is for a renewal of a permit and the renewal is not substantially the same as the existing permit
- or the application is a major amendment to an existing permit.

Publicly advertising may increase the time and cost of processing of your application.

If you believe public advertising may be required for your application email: permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz to arrange a pre-application meeting.

What does an approved DOC permit include / require?

A permit approved by DOC (in accordance with section 10(2) Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992):

- Includes your 'Application for commercial operations from a vessel to view and swim with marine mammals'.
- Requires you to comply with all the information supplied in your 'Application for commercial operations from a vessel to view and swim with marine mammals'.

Note: It is a condition of this permit that DOC retains the right to suspend or revoke this permit, or restrict the operation authorised by the permit, where the information on which the permit was granted contained material inaccuracies.

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[8] https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/interacting-with-marine-mammals/
[9] Marine Mammals Protection Regulation 1992 section 11.

A. Applicant details

Legal status of applicant (tick)	☐ **Individual** (Go to ❶)			
	✓ **Registered company** (Go to ❷)		☐ **Trust** (Go to ❷)	
	☐ **Incorporated society** (Go to ❷)		☐ **Other** (Go to ❷)	

❶	**Applicant name (individual)**				
	Phone		**Mobile phone**		
	Email				
	Physical address		**Postcode**		
	Postal address (if different from above)		**Postcode**		

❷	**Applicant name (full name of registered company, trust, incorporated society or other)**	Heritage Expeditions (2018) Ltd		
	Trading name (if different from applicant name)			
	NZBN (To apply go to: https://www.nzbn.govt.nz)	9429046722225	**Company, trust or incorporated society registration number**	
	Registered office of company or incorporated society (if applicable)	Anthem Partners Ltd, 58a Grove Road, Addington, Christchurch 8011		
	Company phone	[redacted]	**Company website**	www.heritage-expeditions.com
	Contact person and role	Nathan Russ – Director of Operations		
	Phone		**Mobile phone**	[redacted]
	Email	nathan@heritage-expeditions.com		
	Postal address	PO Box 7218, Christchurch	**Postcode**	8240

B. New or renewal of an existing permit

I am applying for a new permit. **You need to have a pre-application meeting with DOC** before you submit this application as there are location restrictions and consultation requirements that you need to be aware of. E-mail permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz.	✓
I am applying for a like-for-like renewal of an existing permit	☐
I am applying to renew an existing permit with a major amendment[10].	☐
Permit number	

C. Activities applied for

Please fill in all the forms that are applicable. Please tick below the forms that have been completed and attach with this from. Please note that even if you are applying for a renewal of an existing permit, these forms are a necessary requirement of the application process and must be filled out in full.

ACTIVITY	**FORM**	✓
Vessel Based Viewing	8a	✓
Land Based Viewing	8b	✓
Aircraft Based Viewing	8c	☐
Filming only	8d	☐
Swimming with marine mammals	8e	☐

D. Pre-application meeting

Have you had a pre-application meeting with a DOC Permissions Advisor?

No **If your application is for a new permit your application will not be processed without a pre-application meeting** as there are location restrictions and consultation requirements that you need to be aware of**.** E-mail permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz	☐
Yes	✓
If yes, state when and who with.	
Pip Fox and Lynn Hansberry – 10 April 2026 Nicci Mardle – 20 April 2026, 23 April 2026	

[10] Marine Mammals Protection Regulation 1992 section 11.

E. Consultation undertaken under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

Have you notified and sought the views of the relevant Customary Marine Title Applicants[11] prior to submitting this application?

Note:

- You are required to notify affected iwi, hapu or whanau even if you have previously held a permit. We recommend you speak to DOC about this requirement prior to lodging your application.
- You may submit an application before receiving communication from Customary Marine Title applicants.

No. **Your application will not be processed**. You need to speak to DOC before you can submit this application form.[12] E-mail permissionschristchurch@doc.govt.nz	☐
Yes	☐

If yes, supply details for each Customary Marine Title Applicant you have consulted with. Copy and paste the table below and complete for each Customary Marine Title Applicant. Record all attachments in section 'Q Attachments'.

Attachments may include:

- Additional pages with the required information
- Any written response to your notification from the Customary Marine Title Applicant.

Customary Marine Title Applicant notified	
Name of individual you notified and sought views on your application	
Date /s of notification and views sought	
Form of notification and means of views given (e.g. email, meeting)	
Outcome of consultation	

[11] A "Customary Marine Title Applicant" is a person or group who has applied for recognition of customary marine title either under section 95 or sections 100 and 103 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 in an area to which your application relates and where no customary marine title order or agreement applies.
[12] It is a statutory requirement under section 62(3) to notify and seek the views of a Customary Marine Title Application on your application before it is lodged with the Department.

F. Consultation undertaken with Treaty Partners

DOC has a statutory obligation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. This often requires consultation with our Treaty Partner (iwi/hapū/whānau of local Māori) on your application. If you have already consulted with our Treaty Partners, DOC would like to know about it.

Please refer to material attached to this application titled Supporting Information for Applications (associated with the guided walking application)

Have you carried out any consultation with Treaty Partners?

No	☐
Yes	✓

If yes, supply details for each Treaty Partner you have consulted with. Copy and paste the table below and complete for each Treaty Partner. Record all attachments in section 'Q Attachments' including:

- Additional pages with any required information.
- The written response to your consultation with Treaty Partners.

Whānau/hapū/iwi consulted with	
Name of individual you consulted with	
Date of consultation	
Form of consultation (e.g. email, meeting)	
Outcome of consultation*	

Provide details of any cultural interpretation or activities that you are providing to support the cultural values of the Treaty Partners, Customary Marine Title Applicants or other interested stakeholders.

G. Consultation with interested stakeholders

Have you carried out any consultation with interested stakeholders?

No	✓
Yes	☐

If yes, supply details for each Interested Stakeholder you have consulted with. Copy and paste the table below and complete for each Interested Stakeholder. Record all attachments in section 'Q Attachments' including:

- Additional pages with any required information
- The written response to your consultation with Interested Stakeholders.

Other interested stakeholders consulted with e.g. Conservation Boards or community groups	
Name of individual you consulted with	
Date of consultation	
Form of consultation (e.g. email, meeting)	
Outcome of consultation*	

H. Educational material

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

Education is a core component of Heritage Expeditions' operational philosophy of "conservation through education," which has underpinned the company's expedition programmes for more than 40 years. The proposed marine mammal viewing operations throughout Fiordland, Rakiura, the Subantarctic Islands, Tasman and Marlborough, the Kermadec Islands and the Chatham Islands are specifically designed to foster a deeper understanding of New Zealand's marine mammals, marine ecosystems and conservation challenges through immersive, carefully managed educational experiences.

Educational content is delivered throughout the visitor journey both onboard vessels and during shore-based or zodiac activities. This includes formal presentations, guided interpretation, informal discussions, wildlife briefings and educational materials provided before and during voyages.

Educational material used within the operation is sourced from a combination of:

- Department of Conservation publications and guidance material including “Sharing out coasts with Marine Mammals” and “Nga Tamariki a Tinirau/Simple rules for interaction with Marine Mammals”;
- Our own information provided to passengers;
- An extensive library on board that includes many books that reference marine mammals and wildlife
- onboard expedition experts, naturalists and specialist guides, particularly on our larger vessels;
- long-standing operational knowledge developed through more than four decades of expedition operations in remote marine environments.

Interpretation and educational content includes:

- marine mammal ecology and behaviour;
- species identification and life history;
- migration patterns and breeding ecology;
- threats facing marine mammals, including climate change, marine pollution, plastics, fisheries interactions and habitat degradation;
- New Zealand’s marine protection framework and marine mammal regulations;
- the ecological significance of Fiordland, Rakiura, the Subantarctic Islands, Kermadec Islands and Chatham Islands;
- biosecurity and responsible visitor behaviour;
- the importance of precautionary wildlife interactions and low-impact tourism.

Heritage Expeditions utilises experienced expedition leaders, lecturers, naturalists and guides with expertise in marine ecology, ornithology, conservation management, natural history and environmental interpretation. Educational programmes are tailored to the region being visited and are designed to ensure visitors gain an informed appreciation of the environmental and conservation values of the areas they are experiencing.

The trips involve educational presentations, re-caps from the day, workshops or even structured debates while in transit or during the evenings. Real time interpretation of what the passengers are seeing and experiencing while on zodiac cruises as well as while the ship is cruising.

Attached, the Heritage Expeditions Pre-departure Information for Antarctica and Subantarctic Islands provide an example of information that is provided to passengers on the Subantarctic and Antarctic cruises before they arrive on the vessel and is reinforced during the journey. It includes information about the marine mammals and the expected behaviours when interacting with marine mammals, while at sea and while on land. It includes the IAATO Operational Procedure for Watching Whales. This is like the information provided through briefings and in-situ activities with marine mammals at other sites around New Zealand.

Appendix Nine includes a description of zodiac operations, including how operators interact around marine mammals. This is used as a guide to train zodiac drivers with. This is also used to provide information to our passengers.

The expedition model provides visitors with direct exposure to remote marine environments and wildlife in a highly managed and educational setting. Marine mammal encounters are undertaken in a manner that prioritises animal welfare, minimises disturbance and reinforces respectful wildlife viewing behaviour at all times.

A key outcome of the proposed operation is the development of long-term conservation awareness and stewardship amongst visitors. Encounters with whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions in their natural habitats create powerful and enduring connections with the marine environment. Through these experiences, visitors leave with an increased understanding of the vulnerability and importance of marine ecosystems, and the role individuals and communities can play in supporting marine conservation initiatives and protected species management.

Heritage Expeditions also has a long history of supporting wider conservation and scientific initiatives associated with the regions in which it operates, including research support, conservation advocacy, biosecurity awareness and public education regarding remote island and marine ecosystems. The educational aspects of the proposed operation therefore extend beyond tourism and contribute directly to broader marine conservation outcomes and public understanding of New Zealand’s marine environment.

I. 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?

Heritage Expeditions operates under a long-standing philosophy of "conservation through education," with more than 40 years of expedition experience in some of the world's most remote and environmentally sensitive marine environments, including the New Zealand Subantarctic Islands, Fiordland, Rakiura and the Southern Ocean.

The proposed marine mammal viewing operations throughout the New Zealand coastline are strongly aligned with the conservation and protection objectives of the Department of Conservation and the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.

Heritage Expeditions' operations contribute positively to marine mammal conservation in the following ways:

- fostering a strong conservation ethic amongst visitors through onboard interpretation, expert guiding and direct education about marine mammal ecology, threats and protection measures;
- increasing public awareness and support for marine conservation and protected species management in remote parts of New Zealand rarely experienced by most New Zealanders or international visitors;
- operating under a low-volume, expedition-style model with small, guided groups, controlled vessel interactions and highly supervised visitor experiences designed to minimise disturbance to marine mammals;
- utilising experienced expedition leaders, skippers and guides trained in marine mammal approach protocols, species behaviour, wildlife disturbance avoidance and environmental compliance;
- maintaining robust operational procedures that prioritise animal welfare and precautionary decision-making, including withdrawal from interactions where marine mammals display signs of disturbance or altered behaviour;
- contributing to broader conservation outcomes through long-standing support for scientific research, conservation advocacy, biosecurity management and public education across the Subantarctic and Southern Ocean regions;
- promoting stewardship of marine ecosystems by connecting visitors with the ecological, cultural and conservation significance of New Zealand's marine environments.

Heritage Expeditions has an established history of operating responsibly within highly sensitive wildlife environments, including internationally recognised conservation areas and marine reserves, with a strong compliance record and no known history of significant marine mammal-related enforcement issues.

J. Details of the proposed operation

❶ Proposed base and area of operation

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

- Proposed area of operation
- Boundaries of the area
- Any specific locations where contact with marine mammals is likely
- Expected routes

Record your map details in section 'Q Attachments'.

Map questions	Written description

Proposed base of operation	The vessels depart primarily from Bluff but do access other ports and places depending on the trip being offered.
Proposed area of operation	This is associated with the guided walking application being sought at the same time. It is expected that marine mammals could be interacted with at any of the sites listed below, though with more purposeful interaction at some places as indicated: • Subantarctic Islands Auckland and Campbell Island/Ihupuku. The sealion colonies on these Islands are purposefully visited. • Fiordland National Park • Rakiura/Stewart Island • Catlins • Chatham Islands • Kermadec Islands • Tasman and Nelson/Marlborough regions
Proposed locations for viewing contact with marine mammals	There is potential for contact with marine mammals at any of these locations. More specifics are provided in the Supporting Information for the Applications.
Proposed route to, along and across the shore	Please refer to the Supporting Information for the Applications.

❷ Term of operation

Record the proposed term of operation (months and years) Permits may not be issued for a term longer than 10 years	Ten years and all months of the year. Some trips are seasonal.

Note, in the context of this application a trip is defined as a scheduled voyage run by Heritage Expeditions. The trips can vary between 5-14 days. Information on the trips offered can be found on New Zealand Cruises | Heritage Expeditions. This may also include independent charters.

❸ Trip duration and frequency

Duration of trips proposed	The trips as defined vary from 5-14 days
Maximum number of trips proposed per day	Each vessel will only be in the same location for 1-2 days per trip.
Maximum number of trips proposed per annum	Please refer Appendix One to the Supporting Information for Applications.
Maximum number of vehicles you propose to operate at any one time	Visitors access the sites on foot once leaving zodiacs or other ancillary vessels. Please refer to

	the application for vessel based marine mammal viewing.
Maximum number of passengers per trip	This can vary depending on the size of the zodiac or tender; or whether they are landing from kayaks. Zodiac/tender group sizes can vary from 6-12 depending on the ancillary vessel being used. There will be varying numbers of parties going ashore. The number of these is dependent on vessel size - larger vessels (140 pax) or 18-36 for the smaller vessels, plus guides.
Vehicle approach route and orientation of approach relative to seals or sea lions	Please refer to Appendix Nine of the Supporting Information for Applications - Description of zodiac operations.
Position of vehicles relative to seals or sea lions, the shore and the sea while viewing	Vessels are placed in safe locations onshore, directly away from any seals or sea lions; or return to the main vessel.
Maximum number of passengers	For Heritage Adventurer (or Heritage Discoverer) – 140 plus guides. For Heritage Explorer – 18 plus guides. For the new smaller vessel 36 passengers plus guides.
How groups of people will be managed in the vicinity of seals or sea lions in particular to manage noise and behaviour	Please refer to Attachment – Heritage Expeditions Pre-departure Information – Antarctica and Subantarctic Islands. This document is pre-departure information provided to visitors going on the Subantarctic and Antarctic. It includes information around understanding behaviour around fur seals and leopard seals. The content explains how Heritage Expedition manages behaviours around these marine mammals. Our guides educate and enforce this behaviour regardless of what trips are being offered around New Zealand where we interact with marine mammals. Appendix Nine of the Supporting Information for Applications - Description of zodiac operations is also relevant. Appendix Ten outlines the training provided to Heritage Expeditions staff regarding interaction with marine mammals.
Behaviour around breeding colonies, nurseries and pups	As above.
What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance of the marine mammals	As above.
Vehicle departure route and orientation of departure relative to seals or sea lions	Please refer to Appendix Nine of the Supporting Information for Applications - Description of zodiac operations.

❹ Species of marine mammal you seek to view or come in contact with from land	
New Zealand fur seal	✓
New Zealand sea lion	✓
Other (please list)	✓ Leopard Seal
Nature of contact with marine mammals	✓ Secondary purpose Interactions will be secondary to guided walking operations.

❺ 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.	
New Zealand fur seal viewing or contact	
Not applicable	☐
Individual viewing or contact time in minutes	30 minutes
Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes	30-90 minutes. This is dependent on how often NZ fur seal are seen ashore in one trip as defined above. They may be seen ashore in multiple sites.

New Zealand sea lion viewing or contact	
Not applicable	☐
Individual viewing or contact time in minutes	30 minutes
Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes	30 minutes

Other viewing or contact	
Not applicable	☐
Individual viewing or contact time in minutes	Leopard seal 15 minutes
Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes	Leopard seal 15 minutes

K. Vehicle information – (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

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

It is expected that all marine mammal viewing interactions on land will be on foot and accessed via vessels that pull up on shore. Other forms of vehicles will not be directly interacting with

marine mammals. Please refer to the application for vessel based marine mammal viewing for the vessels used to access shorelines.

Vehicle 1 description:	
Registration	
Make	
Model	
2WD/4WD	
Colour	
Carrying Capacity	

Vehicle 2 description:	
Registration	
Make	
Model	
2WD/4WD	
Colour	
Carrying Capacity	

L. 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).	Heritage Expeditions has been running expeditions which encounter marine mammals for over 30 years. Areas they have operated in include the entire NZ coastline, the NZ Subantarctic Islands, Ross Sea Antarctica, Kermadec Islands, Melanesia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Russian Far East (from Kuril Islands in south to Wrangle Island in the north). Their experience with operating around marine mammals is extensive. Heritage Expeditions was founded on conservation principles – wishing to gain public awareness and advocacy for the protection of the unique wildlife of and environments that they travel to. To this end, their interactions with all wildlife, including marine mammals, are respectful and with the least disturbance possible.

	They have supported many scientific studies on marine mammals over the years, assisting by reporting sightings, data gathering and logistical support. The scientists who have undertaken these studies have also been onboard our expeditions as staff members, in educational roles for the passengers.
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).	Heritage Expeditions has been running expeditions to the NZ Subantarctic Islands, Fiordland/Te Rua-o-te-moko, Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Chatham Islands/ Wharekauri/Rēkohu for over 30 years. Heritage Expeditions is still a family owned and operated business, founded by Rodney and Shirley Russ. Their sons, Nathan and Aaron Russ, have now taken over the ownership. Therefore, decades of experience and knowledge of weather, sea, wildlife and environment in these areas can be provided to all staff or crew who are running their voyages.

Has the applicant been convicted of any offence involving the mistreatment of animals?	
No	✓
Yes	☐
If "yes", provide details	

Does the applicant have any current criminal charges pending before the court involving the mistreatment of animals?	
No	✓
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	✓

M. 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. 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'.

Please refer to the information submitted on the vessel based marine mammal viewing permit application.

N. 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	✓
Best endeavours will be used to operate vehicles in a way that the normal movement or behaviour of any marine mammal is not disrupted	✓
Contact with any marine mammal shall be abandoned at any stage if it becomes or shows signs of becoming disturbed or alarmed	✓
Marine mammals are not to be separated from a group of marine mammals, or caused to scatter	✓
Rubbish or food is not to be thrown near or around any marine mammal	✓
No person shall make any loud or disturbing noises around any whale, dolphins or seals	✓
Vehicles must remain above the mean high water spring tide mark and shall not approach within 50 metres of a marine mammal unless in an official carpark or on a public or private slipway or on a public road	✓
No person or vehicle shall cut off the path of a marine mammal or prevent a marine mammal from leaving the vicinity of any person or vehicle	✓

O. 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	☐
When seals and sea lions are hauled out on shore or rocks, the vehicle and people will remain 20m or more from animals	✓

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	☐
Location specific best practices for my area of operation are attached and recorded in section 'Q Attachments'	☐
All proposed operations will be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidelines for the area of operation	✓

P. 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

Sections F, G, H, I J, and K	Covering Letter and Supporting Information for Applications	Word and PDF	Includes the following:
			• Heritage Expeditions conservation story
			• Description of activities being sought
			• Reasons for a global 10 year marine mammal viewing permit, with less burdensome administration
			• Marine Mammal viewing permit – a different approach
			• Engagement with iwi
			• Summary of decisions sought
			• Appendices:
			  ○ One - Guided walking locations and activity levels
			  ○ Two – Maps of locations
			  ○ Five – Biosecurity measures used by Heritage Expeditions
			  ○ Six – Proposed conditions for marine mammal viewing permit
			  ○ Seven – Description of Heritage Adventurer Operations
			  ○ Eight - Description of Heritage Explorer Operations

Section of the application form the attachment relates to	Document title	Document format (e.g. Word, PDF, Excel, jpg etc.)	Description of attachment
			○ Nine – Description of Zodiac Operations ○ Ten – Marine Mammal Competency Training Models
Section H	Letter – Murihiku Regeneration	PDF	Iwi consultation support letter
Section H	Letter – Sir Tipene O'Regan ONZ	PDF	Iwi consultation support letter
Section J and K	Heritage Expeditions – Pre-departure Information for Antarctica and Subantarctic Islands	PDF	Outlines how Heritage Expeditions manages biosecurity and wildlife management in the Subantarctic Islands. It is applicable to other places proposed.
Section M	Heritage Explorer – Staff List	Excel	Lists relevant staff members for marine mammal viewing interactions and summarised relevant experience.
Section M	Heritage Adventurer – Staff List	Excel	Lists relevant staff members for marine mammal viewing interactions and summarised relevant experience.
Section M	Heritage Explorer – Relevant Staff Role Descriptions	Word	Outlines the key roles relevant to marine mammal viewing interactions.
Section M	Heritage Adventurer – Relevant Staff Role Descriptions	Word	Outlines the key roles relevant to marine mammal viewing interactions.

Q. 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.	✓
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..	✓
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'.	✓
I have appropriately recorded all attachments in section 'Q Attachments'.	✓
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.	✓

R. Terms and conditions for a credit account with the Department of Conservation

Have you held an account with the Department of Conservation before?	**Tick**
No	☐
Yes	✓
If "yes", under what name:	Heritage Expeditions (2018) Ltd

In ticking this checklist and placing your name below you are acknowledging that you have read and agreed to these terms and conditions for an account with the Department of Conservation

Terms and Conditions	**Tick**
I/We agree that the Department of Conservation can provide my/our details to the Department's credit checking agency to enable it to conduct a full credit check.	✓
I/We agree that any change which affects the trading address, legal entity, structure of management or control of the applicant's company (as detailed in this application) will be notified in writing to the Department of Conservation within 7 days of that change becoming effective.	✓
I/We agree to notify the Department of Conservation of any disputed charges within 14 days of the date of the invoice.	✓
I/We agree to fully pay the Department of Conservation for any invoice received on or before the due date.	✓
I/We agree to pay all costs incurred (including interest, legal costs and debt recovery fees) to recover any money owing on this account.	✓
I/We agree that the credit account provided by the Department of Conservation may be withdrawn by the Department of Conservation, if any terms and conditions (as above) of the credit account are not met.	✓

I/We agree that the Department of Conservation can provide my details to the Department's debt collection agency in the event of non-payment of payable fees.	✓

Applicant Name/s (of authorised person/s)	Nathan Russ	**Date**	22/06/26

Email your completed application, and any attachments (e.g. recorded in section 'Q Attachments') to: permissions@doc.govt.nz

For Department of Conservation use			
Credit check completed			
Comments :			
Signed:		**Name**	
Approved (Tier 4 manager or above)		**Name**	

APPENDIX 1

GUIDANCE INFORMATION FOR FILLING IN THE FORM

Location information

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

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

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

Trip details

Clearly identify where there are seasonal differences in the trip details

Type and number of vehicles to be used

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

Drivers, guides and other relevant staff

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

Additional information

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

Maximum time spent with marine mammals per individual encounter:
“Encounter” means being less than 100 metres from a seal or sea lion.

Nature of the contact with marine mammals:

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

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

Educational Material

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