

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



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government

Is this the right application form for me?

This application form is for new and renewal applications for commercial operations from a vessel; including both powered vessels and manually propelled vessels (e.g. kayaks or paddle boards) to:

View marine mammals, including:

- All species of whales (including orca and pilot whales)
- All species of seal
- All species of dolphin (excluding orca and pilot whales).

Swim with:

- Adult dolphins (excluding orca and pilot whales)
- Seals.

Note: It is illegal to swim with whales (including orca and pilot whales).

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

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

² <https://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/privacy-and-security/>

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 permissions@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.

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.
- Become a DOC [Sustainable Marine Mammal Actions in Recreation and Tourism \(SMART\)](#) operator⁷.
- 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.

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>

⁷ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/smart-operator-programme/>

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.

Your application will also assist us in undertaking consultation with our Treaty Partners.

Once your application is approved it will form part of the permit that is issued to you.

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.

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.

⁸ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/interacting-with-marine-mammals/>

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 an 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.

⁹ Marine Mammals Protection Regulation 1992 section 11.

A. Applicant details

Legal status of applicant (tick)	☐ Individual (Go to ①)	
	☒ Registered company (Go to ②)	☐ Trust (Go to ②)
	☐ Incorporated society (Go to ②)	☐ Other (Go to ②)

①	Applicant name (individual)			
	Phone		Mobile phone	
	Email			
	Physical address		Postcode	
	Postal address (if different from above)		Postcode	

②	Applicant name (full name of registered company, trust, incorporated society or other)	JACKSON BAY CHARTERS LIMITED		
	Trading name (if different from applicant name)	JACKSON BAY CHARTERS		
	NZBN (To apply go to: https://www.nzbn.govt.nz)	9429052149528	Company, trust or incorporated society registration number	9252913
	Registered office of company or incorporated society (if applicable)	Registered Office DODD ZONE ACCOUNTING LTD, 51 Russell Street, Alexandra, Alexandra, 9320, New Zealand		
	Company phone		Company website	Jacksonbayc harters.co.nz
	Contact person and role	Murray Petrie Director/ Skipper		
	Phone		Mobile phone	
	Email			
Postal address		Postcode		

B. New or renewal (with a major amendment) 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 to renew an existing permit with a major amendment.	☐
Permit number	

C. 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.	
Murray and [REDACTED] spent 1.5 hours meeting with Rachel Norton and Don Neale (West Coast marine reserves ranger) from DOC on Thursday 11 th December 2025 at the Haast Doc office.	

D. Consistency with DOC's Conservation General Policy and statutory plans

Note: DOC's [Conservation General Policy](#)¹⁰ and statutory planning documents can have a direct impact on your application. For example the statutory planning documents may set the specific locations or number of landings allowed.

List the [DOC's statutory planning documents](#)¹¹ relevant to your application:

DOC Statutory Planning Documents Relevant to This Application

We have reviewed and will operate in accordance with all relevant statutory and policy documents listed below. Our operations will be small-scale and low-impact to marine mammals, with a strong emphasis on marine mammal safety, education of our patrons, and respect. Activities/encounters with marine mammals will be conducted conservatively, with careful vessel handling and active passenger education to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and to support DOC's conservation objectives.

1. Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

Provides the primary legal framework for the protection and conservation of all marine mammals in New Zealand waters, including controls on disturbance and commercial interactions.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1978/0080/latest/DLM25053.html>

2. Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992

Sets out the operational rules for marine mammal viewing, including permit requirements, vessel approach distances, speed restrictions, and behaviour around marine mammals.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1992/0322/latest/DLM164083.html>

3. Conservation Act 1987

Establishes the Department of Conservation and provides the overarching framework for managing natural and historic resources, including commercial activities that may affect conservation values.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html>

4. West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Provides regional direction for managing conservation lands and waters on the West Coast, including coastal and marine environments relevant to Jackson Bay.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/role/policies-and-plans/conservation-management-strategies/west-coast-tai-poutini/>

5. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS)

Sets national policy objectives and policies for the coastal environment, including protection of indigenous biodiversity and marine species.

<https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/national-policy-statements/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement/>

6. Species Threat Management Plans and Recovery Plans (as applicable)

Provides guidance for the protection and recovery of specific species likely to be encountered in the

¹⁰ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/conservation-general-policy/>

¹¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/statutory-plans/>

area, such as Fiordland crested penguins (tawaki) and New Zealand fur seals (kekeno).
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/threatened-species-recovery/>

7. DOC Marine Mammal Tourism Management Guidelines

Outlines best-practice standards for commercial marine mammal tourism, including education, safety, minimising disturbance, and respectful viewing.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/wildlife-watching/marine-mammals/marine-mammal-tourism/>

8. Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Recognises Ngāi Tahu cultural values, interests, and relationships with taonga species and places in South Westland.
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1998/0097/latest/DLM429090.html>

9. Wildlife Act 1953

Provides protection for wildlife species that may be encountered during operations and reinforces obligations to avoid disturbance or harm.
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1953/0031/latest/DLM277814.html>

10. Biosecurity Act 1993

Relevant to vessel operations, ensuring appropriate measures are taken to prevent the spread of marine pests and diseases.
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM314623.html>

11. DOC Concessions Policy and Application Guidance

Guides how commercial activities are assessed, authorised, and monitored by the Department of Conservation.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/role/policies-and-plans/concessions/>

Are you aware of any potential inconsistency your activity may have with DOC's Conservation General Policy or statutory planning documents?

No

☒

Yes

☐

If yes, explain why it is inconsistent with the statutory planning documents.

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 Applicants¹² prior to submitting this application?

No. Your application will not be processed. You need to speak to DOC before you can submit this application form. ¹³ 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	Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio
Name of individual you notified and sought views on your application	Chairman, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio/
Date /s of notification and views sought	18/12/2025 Initial notification and request for discussion 23/12/2025 - Phone conversation followed up by email to discuss whether there was any opposition to us operating out of Jackson Bay.
Form of notification and means of views given (e.g. email, meeting)/	Email notification requesting engagement and a phone discussion regarding the permit application and operational approach. Phone discussion to discuss views and guidance.
Outcome of consultation	Phone conversation and follow up email has been made to Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio outlining the proposed charter operations and permit application. We have had a phone discussion with to talk through the application, seek guidance, and ensure the proposal appropriately reflects Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles.

¹² 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.

¹³ It is a statutory requirement under section 62(3) to notify and seek the views of a Customary Marine Title Applicant on your application before it is lodged with the Department.

This has been cut from the follow up email with [REDACTED] *“It was helpful to discuss the marine mammal viewing permit and to hear that you support our philosophy. As we discussed, as long as we are well informed and actively educating others about marine mammal safety and respect, you are comfortable with our approach. We also noted your advice that this area sits more within DOC’s responsibilities.*

We also appreciate your guidance around Māori storytelling. If, in the future, we choose to share Māori stories relating to the coast and local history, we will ensure this is run past the appropriate people to maintain accuracy and respect for Māori culture.”

Note: As soon as reasonably practicable after you lodge your application with DOC, you are required to notify affected iwi, hapu or whanau. We recommend you speak to DOC about this requirement prior to lodging your application.

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 Maori) on your application. If you have already consulted with our Treaty Partners, DOC would like to know about it.

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	as above.
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.

Our marine mammal viewing operations recognises and respect the cultural values of **Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio** as tangata whenua of the South Westland rohe, and their enduring relationship with the coastal and marine environment.

During trips, we provide visitors with cultural interpretation that acknowledges Māori connections to the moana, including the principle of *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship) and the responsibility to care for marine mammals and their habitats. Marine mammals are discussed as taonga species, valued both culturally and environmentally, and as indicators of the health of the marine ecosystem within the Makaawhio rohe.

Where appropriate, interpretation includes reference to local place names, coastal history, and the long-standing relationship of Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio with the marine environment, helping visitors understand the cultural significance of the area alongside its natural values.

Our operations support these cultural values through:

- A precautionary and respectful approach to marine mammal viewing, operating in a manner that prioritises animal welfare and environmental protection.
- Clear passenger briefings that promote respectful behaviour and awareness of the cultural importance of marine mammals.
- Education that reinforces conservation outcomes aligned with the principles of *kaitiakitanga* and sustainable use.

We are open to ongoing engagement with **Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio**, Customary Marine Title applicants, and other interested stakeholders, and welcome guidance to ensure our cultural interpretation and operational practices continue to align with local values and expectations.

G. Consultation with interested stakeholders

Have you carried out any consultation with interested stakeholders?

No	☐
Yes	☐ 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	Westland Tourism; local business owners and residents; aviation operator; local government
Name of individual you consulted with	Representatives from Westland Tourism; [redacted] The Craypot); [redacted] (local residents); [redacted] (from Heliservices Haast); [redacted] (Mayor, Westland District Council). Local Police Officer [redacted] [redacted] We have also been in touch with the West Coast Penguin Trust regarding what to do when we encounter a deceased penguin. We have joined and attended one meeting with the Haast promotions group who have shared their support for our venture. Local support has been very positive.
Date of consultation	October-December 2025
Form of consultation (e.g. email, meeting)	In-person discussions, email correspondence, and phone conversations
Outcome of consultation*	Stakeholders were informed of our proposed charter operations, including sustainable fishing practices, transfers, scenic tours, and marine mammal protocols. Feedback was supportive. We met with the Westland Mayor in person, who was very supportive of the initiative. Local business owners (The Craypot) were pleased to see additional activities available for visitors to the area. Residents were supportive, with practical conditions noted regarding avoiding parking that could block driveways or damage roadside access; we will actively manage this. [redacted] has referred West Coast Emergency Management to us as a key local contact in the event of emergencies such as major earthquakes. We have assisted the police with search and rescue



operations, demonstrating a responsible presence in the community.

H. Educational material

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

1. Marine Mammal Viewing Guidelines (DOC) available laminated on board the vessel, brochures and posters
 - Title: *Marine Mammal Viewing Guidelines for New Zealand*
 - Purpose: Educating boat patrons on safe distances, speed limits, and behaviours when encountering whales, dolphins, and seals.
 - Includes: Species-specific guidance, no-go zones, and behavioural cues indicating stress in marine mammals.
 - Available: As printed brochures/posters.

[Sharing our coasts with marine mammals](#)

[Simple rules for boaties when interacting with whales and dolphins](#)

[Nga tamariki a Tinirau - Simple rules for interacting with marine mammals](#)

2. "Protect Hector's and Māui Dolphins" Booklet
 - Produced by: DOC and MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries)
 - Purpose: Highlights threats facing NZ's endemic dolphin species and provides guidance for fishers and boaters.
 - Includes: Maps of protection zones, gear restrictions, and best practices.
3. Laminated copy of A fishers guide: New Zealand seabirds on the boat. DOC.
 - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/resources/resources-for-fishers/csp-fishers-guide-to-nz-seabirds-2024.pdf>
4. We have purchased a set of Project Jonah, Whale ID flip cards [Whale ID Cards - Project Jonah](#) which are always on display and within reach on the boat.

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?

As a responsible and community-focused charter fishing operator in Jackson Bay, our business is committed to supporting the conservation, management, and protection of marine mammals in the region. We recognise the ecological significance of Jackson Bay as a diverse marine habitat and are proud to operate in a way that contributes positively to its long-term health and sustainability.

Our operation supports marine mammal conservation in the following ways:

1. Promoting Responsible Wildlife Interaction

We incorporate marine education into our charter experiences, informing guests about local species such as Hector's dolphins and New Zealand fur seals. We strictly follow all marine mammal viewing regulations, including distance and speed requirements, to ensure minimal disturbance to these protected animals.

2. Supporting Research and Monitoring

We will actively contribute to marine mammal monitoring by logging and reporting sightings to relevant authorities and researchers. This helps in tracking population trends and identifying critical habitats, contributing valuable data to conservation efforts.

3. Providing a Conservation-Focused Alternative

Our eco-conscious tourism model offers a sustainable alternative to more harmful or unregulated marine activities. We engage our guests and local community in conservation messaging, promoting stewardship of marine ecosystems.

4. Creating Economic Incentives for Protection

By valuing the presence of marine mammals as an asset that enhances the charter experience, our operation helps foster local economic support for their conservation. Our success depends on a healthy marine environment, which incentivises sustainable practices and long-term ecological care.

5. Minimising Environmental Impact

We are committed to sustainable fishing practices, including selective catch methods, proper waste management, and low-noise vessel operation. These efforts reduce bycatch and disturbance to marine mammals and help maintain balance in the ecosystem on which they depend on.

Through these practices, we aim to not only enjoy but also protect the unique marine environment of Jackson Bay for future generations. Our business model aligns with the values of the Department of Conservation and contributes meaningfully to marine mammal protection in New Zealand.

J. Details of the proposed operation

1 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	12 O'Leary Place, Neils Beach, South Westland
Proposed area of operation	Open Bay Islands to Cascade Point (Jackson Bay)
Proposed locations for viewing contact with marine mammals	Open Bay Islands to Cascade Point (Jackson Bay)
Proposed locations for swimming contact with marine mammals	Swimming with marine mammals will not be an option

2 Duration of operation

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

We will operate predominantly from November to April, with occasional trips throughout the remaining months. We would request this application for the maximum allowable time of 10 years from the date of approval

3 Trip duration and frequency

Duration of trips (in hours or days if multi-day trips) proposed

Daily from 2 hours to 8 hours.

Maximum number of trips proposed per day

3

Maximum number of vessels you propose to operate at any one time

1

4 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)

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.

Whales viewing or contact

Not applicable

☐

Individual viewing or contact time in minutes

5 - 20 minutes

Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes

20 minutes

Dolphins viewing or contact

Not applicable

☐

Individual viewing or contact time in minutes

20 minutes

Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes

20 minutes

Seals viewing or contact	
Not applicable	
Individual viewing or contact time in minutes	5 - 20 minutes
Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes	20 minutes

Specific species viewing or contact	
Not applicable	☐
Specific species viewing or contact (list species)	
Individual viewing or contact time in minutes	
Cumulative viewing or contact time per trip in minutes	

6 Species of marine mammal you seek to swim with from a vessel	
Not applicable as swimming won't take place	☒
All species of seal	☐
All species of dolphins (excluding orca and pilot whales)	☐
Specific species (list species) sought to swim with	

Swimming with dolphins	
Not applicable as swimming won't take place	☒
Individual encounter in minutes	
Cumulative encounter per trip in minutes	
Number of swim drops per trip	
Time spent in the water per swim drop per trip in minutes	
Cumulative time spent in the water per trip in minutes	

Swimming with seals	
Not applicable as swimming won't take place	☒
Individual encounter in minutes	
Cumulative encounter per trip in minutes	
Number of swim drops per trip	

Time spent in the water per swim drop per trip in minutes	
Cumulative time spent in the water per trip in minutes	

Swimming with specific species

Not applicable as swimming won't take place	✓
Swimming with specific species (list species)	
Individual encounter in minutes	
Cumulative encounter per trip in minutes	
Number of swim drops per trip	
Time spent in the water per swim drop per trip in minutes	
Cumulative time spent in the water per trip in minutes	

7 Swimming process of entering the water, boat position and encounter of calves and pups

How will swimmers enter the water?	NA
What will the position of boat be relative to the location and movement of marine mammals when swimmers enter the water?	
What will the placement of swimmers be relative to the location and movement of marine mammals?	
What actions will be taken should dolphin calves or seal pups be encountered?	

8 Cumulative encounter times of viewing/contact and swimming

Cumulative time spent in the water per trip in minutes	NA
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K. 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	OKAHU
Vessel make	Image
Vessel model	Cruisemaster
Vessel size (length)	10m
Vessel colour	White/ black
Motive power	Outboard
Construction and hull design	Alloy hardtop
Planing hull	✓
Displacement hull	✗
Normal cruising speed	16 Knots
Maximum speed	30 Knots
Maximum number of passengers	10
Describe any information you have on vessel noise levels (above and below water)	Twin Outboard Suzuki 325 QUIET OPERATION Suzuki outboards have long been noted for their quiet operation. In fact, they run so quietly that some users have thought the engine was switched off. To ensure this same level of quiet operation, The DF325A is fitted with a resonator on the intake manifold. Often overlooked as a noise source, air drawn into the intake manifold at high velocities can generate a harsh noise. Adding the resonator reduces such noise, keeping the engine operation exceptionally quiet. We have taken sound quality into consideration over the entire speed range and both skipper and passengers alike will be impressed with both the quietness and engine sound, especially when idling or trolling.
How will the effects of vessel noise be mitigated?	

Keep engine revs close to idle or 'no wake' when within close proximity to mammals.

L. Vessel type – manually propelled vessels (watercraft)

Describe the manually propelled vessel (watercraft) type and number of vessels you are going to use.

Not applicable as only using motorised vessels

✓ Only motorised vessel

Manually propelled vessel description

Single kayak

☐

Number of single kayaks

Double kayak

☐

Number of double kayaks

Paddle board

☐

Number of paddle boards

Other manually propelled vessels

☐

Type of other manually propelled vessel

Number of other manually propelled vessels

M. 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).

New operation, but applicant as had 30+ years around marine mammals recreationally

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).

20 years of experience

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

✓

N. 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'.

Staff member No. 1	
Full name	Murray Bruce Petrie
Job title: Skipper	☒
Job title: Guide	☐
Job title: Other (state)	☐

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

Does this person have any current criminal charges pending before the court involving the mistreatment of animals?	
No	☒
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	☒ This has already been completed for the Marine Transport Operator Plan for Jackson Bay Charters.

State the staff members knowledge of operating within the local area, and of the sea and weather conditions (e.g. number of years' experience operating within the area)	Murray Petrie has spent 20 years boating recreationally in the Jackson Bay area.
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Relevant Experience of staff member with marine mammals?

Experience operating around marine mammals in years	30 years recreationally
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Types of marine mammals the staff member has operated around?

Seals / sea lions	☒
Dolphins	☒
Whales	☒
Specific species	Great white sharks, Mako sharks, Sunfish, Broadbill swordfish, Fiordland crested penguin, Orca
List type of specific species	

Has the staff member has completed a [DOC SMART](#)¹⁴ course?

No	☐
Yes	☒

Staff member No. 2

Full name	
Job title: Skipper	
Job title: Guide	
Job title: Other (state)	☒ Crew/Owner

Has this person been convicted of any offence involving the mistreatment of animals?

No	☒
Yes	☐
If "yes", provide details	

¹⁴ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/smart-operator-programme/>

Does this person have any current criminal charges pending before the court involving the mistreatment of animals?	
No	☒
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	☒ This has already been completed for the Marine Transport Operator Plan for Jackson Bay Charters.

State the staff members knowledge of operating within the local area, and of the sea and weather conditions (e.g. number of years' experience operating within the area)	has spent 20 years boating recreationally in the Jackson Bay area.
---	--

Relevant Experience of staff member with marine mammals?	
Experience operating around marine mammals in years	20 years recreationally

Types of marine mammals the staff member has operated around?	
Seals / sea lions	☒
Dolphins	☒
Whales	☒
Specific species	Great white sharks, Mako sharks, Sunfish, Broadbill swordfish, Fiordland crested penguin, Orca
List type of specific species	

Has the staff member has completed a DOC SMART¹⁵ course?

¹⁵ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/smart-operator-programme/>

No	☐
Yes	☒

O. 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 the vessel 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	☒
No sudden or repeated changes in the speed or direction of the vessel shall be made except in the case of an emergency	☒
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	☒
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	☒
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	☒
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	☒
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	☒
Where two or more vessels or aircraft approach an unaccompanied whale, dolphin or seal, the skipper concerned shall co-ordinate their approach and manoeuvres	☒
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	✓
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	✓
The vessel is not to approach within 200 metres of any female baleen or sperm whale that is accompanied by a calf or calves	✓
The vessel shall approach a whale from a direction that is parallel and slightly to the rear	✓
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	✓
The vessel is not to proceed through a pod of dolphins	✓
The vessel shall approach a dolphin or pod of dolphins from a direction that is parallel and slightly to the rear	✓
Swimming 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
Swimmers will not be in the water with juvenile dolphins or a pod that includes juvenile dolphins	✓
An airhorn may be used to call swimmers back to the boat or to the shore	✓

P. 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 vessel will remain 20m or more from water's edge	✓
When seals and sea lions are hauled out on shore or rocks, swimmers will remain 5m or more from water's edge.	☐
Tick that you understand and will comply with the following conditions relating to location specific best practice. <i>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.</i>	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	✓

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 <i>*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.</i>	☐
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:

We will use our electric trolling motor rather than the main engines to avoid noise disturbance and also reduce the risk of drifting closer than our minimum approach distances

Q. 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>Maps of proposed operations areas * 4</i>	<i>Proposed base and area of operation</i>	<i>JPG</i>	<i>Map of proposed base and area with locations of where contact with marine mammals is proposed.</i>
<i><u>Charter operation guidelines</u></i>	<i>Educational Material</i>	<i>PDF</i>	<i>JBC operation guidelines</i>
<i><u>Tour operation guidelines</u></i>	<i>Educational Material</i>	<i>PDF</i>	<i>Educational material provided to clients undertaking marine mammal journey.</i>
	<i>Email</i>	<i>PDF</i>	<i>Email correspondence</i>

R. 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.	✓

S. 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:	

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)	Murray Petrie
Date	3-2-2026

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	