

# Some marine mammals you may encounter in the Bay of Islands

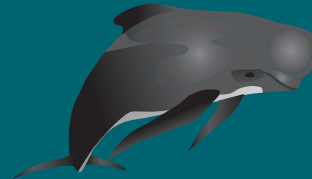
(Illustrations are not to scale)



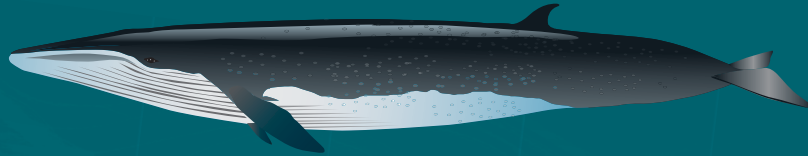
• **Common dolphin/aihe**  
*Delphinus delphis*  
Male: 1.7–2 m  
Female: 1.6–1.9 m



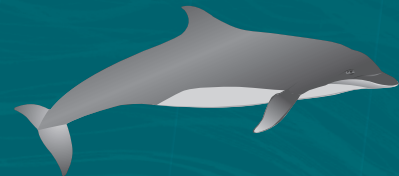
• **New Zealand fur seal/kekeno**  
*Arctocephalus forsteri*  
Male: 1.5–2.5 m  
Female: 1.4–1.5 m



• **Long-finned pilot whale/upokohue**  
*Giobicephala melas*  
Male: 4.1–6.3 m  
Female: 3.1–4.3 m



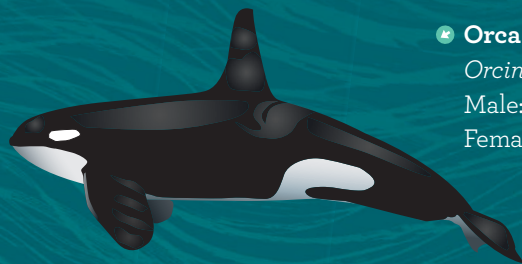
• **Bryde's whale**  
*Balaenoptera edeni*  
Male: 11.9–12 m  
Female: 12–13 m



• **Bottlenose dolphin/terehu**  
*Tursiops truncatus*  
Male: 2.4–3.8 m  
Female: 2.4–3.6 m



• **Orca (killer whale)/maki**  
*Orcinus orca*  
Male: 5–8.2 m  
Female: 4.6–7 m



• **Humpback whale/paikea**  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*  
Male: 11–14 m  
Female: 11–15 m

## Help look after all marine mammals

In the Bay of Islands

Our precious Taonga Species need our help



If you notice a marine mammal being harassed, severely injured or entangled, or in the event of any other conservation emergencies, phone **0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)**

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

For more sanctuary information, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/boi-mms](http://www.doc.govt.nz/boi-mms)



New Zealand Government

 Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

## The Bay of Islands is declared as a Marine Mammal Sanctuary under the Marine Mammal Protection Act 1978

The purpose of the Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary is to reduce known pressures on marine mammals, and give them the opportunity to visit the waters of the Bay of Islands safely. The sanctuary restrictions intend to protect all marine mammals from interactions with vessels and people, and the creation of safe zones give marine mammals designated areas of quiet. This gives them space to do their normal behaviours, including feeding and nursing, free from human distractions.

### It is your responsibility to know the rules.

**1. Every person commits an offence who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, is in the water within 300m of any marine mammal in the marine mammal sanctuary, including marine mammal safe zones.**

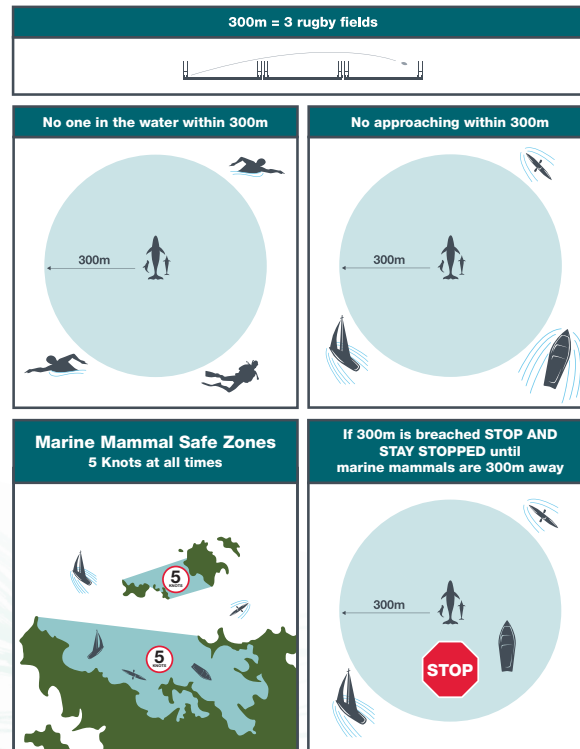
This means any person, or part of a person, in the water within boundaries of the Sanctuary, including but not exclusive to swimming, diving, wading, snorkelling, and surfing & stand-up paddle boarding (when not on your board).

When any part of a person is below the surface of the water in the boundary of the Sanctuary, they are in the water for the purposes of this restriction and should refrain from doing so within 300m of a marine mammal, without a lawful authority or reasonable excuse otherwise.



**2. Every person in charge of a vessel commits an offence who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, fails to ensure their vessel:**

- maintains a minimum 300m distance from any marine mammal in the marine mammal sanctuary, including marine mammal safe zones; or
- stops if the person in charge becomes aware of any marine mammal less than 300m distance in the marine mammal sanctuary, including marine mammal safe zones; or
- remains stopped until any marine mammal is more than 300m away in the marine mammal sanctuary, including marine mammal safe zones.



This restriction is in place to reduce marine mammals disturbance and ensure their safety and yours whilst enjoying the waters of Te Pēwhairangi / Bay of Islands. Approaching marine mammals

can disrupt core biological behaviours, such as feeding and resting, while also increasing the risk of collisions. Mothers and calves are most at risk, as calves spend more time at the surface, can be more inquisitive, rely on the whole group for help and need mum to focus on regular feeds without disturbance.

**3. Every person in charge of a vessel commits an offence who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, fails to ensure their vessel travels at 5 knots or slower while in a marine mammal safe zone.**

Creating consistently safe and quieter areas allows marine mammals to choose whether to go into an area or not. It gives them the option to choose an area that will be safer and quieter to behave as they would naturally.

Vessels that are all moving at a slower and consistent speed reduces noise but also gives the skipper more opportunity to spot marine mammals and act early and decisively.



It is a punishable offence to break the restrictions of the Sanctuary, the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992 or the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.

Penalties can include up to a \$800 infringement fee and maximum fine of \$1,600 if an infringement notice is issued for the alleged breach of the Sanctuary restrictions.

Prosecutions may be pursued that could lead to an imprisonment term not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

If you see someone breaking the restrictions of the Sanctuary you can report it using our hotline – 0800DOCHOT.