



## Application Form 8b Commercial Operations involving Marine Mammals Shore-based viewing activities

The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation permissions office listed below to discuss your application prior to completing the application forms.

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. This form is to be completed in conjunction with Applicant Information Form 8.

**Note:**

- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing which is vessel-based please also fill in Form 8a.
- If your application also involves marine mammal viewing which is aircraft-based please also fill in Form 8c.
- If your application also involves swimming with marine mammals please also fill in Form 8e.
- If you seek a minor amendment to a current permit (i.e. a new vehicle or a new staff member) please fill in the application Form 8f. If you seek an amendment that is more than minor please contact the office below.

Please complete this application form, providing all information requested in as much detail as possible. Attach **Form 8** and any other applicable forms and information, and send to [permissions@doc.govt.nz](mailto:permissions@doc.govt.nz).

**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.
- 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.

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.

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## A. Applicant name (as per Form 8)

Real Journeys Limited

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## B. Proposed Operation

### Species

Tick which species you are applying to view:

- New Zealand fur seal
- New Zealand sea lion
- Other please list:

Leopard seal, Elephant seal

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\* Please inform yourself as to the current list of moratoria and species or locations of concern prior to making your application.

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### Location information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Base of operation:

Company base of operation is Te Anau, and we have divisions based in Milford Sound/Piopirotahi, Manapouri (Deep Cove), Bluff and Halfmoon Bay, Rakiura.

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Proposed route to, along and across the shore:

It depends on the site and the state of the tide. The safest place to get passengers ashore from a tender craft. To access Broad Bay, often walk through from Disappointment Cove.

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**You must attach a map** of the proposed area of operation; it must clearly show the boundaries of the area, any specific locations where contact with marine mammals is likely and expected routes.

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### Trip details (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Maximum number of vehicles operating at any one time:

2

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<b>Fiordland Trip Details</b>	<b>Duration of Vessel Trips</b>	<b>Base of Operation</b>	<b>Proposed Area of Operation</b>	<b>Frequency – Proposed Months of Operation</b>	<b>Frequency – Number of Vessel Trips Per Annum</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Passengers</b>	<b>Maximum Number of trips per day</b>	<b>Specific Location Where Contact with Marine Mammals is Proposed</b>	<b>Duration at Location</b>
<b>Milford Wanderer / Milford Mariner</b>	1 night – 2 days	Freshwater Basin, Milford Sound Piopiotahi	Milford Sound Piopiotahi	Great Walk Season	247 trips	12 + 1	2 per day	Sandfly Point (PAC 14-06-02-14)	Under 4 hours
<b>Milford Wanderer - Fiordland Discovery Expeditions</b>	2 nights/3 (Doubtful Sound only)days – 6 nights/7 days	Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound/Patea	Doubtful Sound/Patea – Preservation Inlet and all the Fiords in between	Year round	60 trips/annum	14 + 1 guide (up to 36 pax)	3 trips/day	Deas Cove – Neck Cove Gut Hut Docherty's Landing Bay – Grono's Cove North Port Astronomers Point Anchor Island Pigeon Island Resolution Island Coal Island Isthmus Sound – Jane Cove Tawera Smelter South Port – Seek Cove Welcombe Bay Spit Island Beach Paddy Point (Steep to Is) Cromarty Te Oneroa Puysegur Landing Shed Puysegur Point	1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 4 hours 1 hour 4 hours 4 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 1 hour 4 hours

## Rakiura/Stewart Island Trip Details

	Duration of Vessel Trips	Base of Operation	Proposed Area of Operation	Frequency – Proposed Months of Operation	Frequency – Number of Vessel Trips Per Annum	Maximum Number of Passengers Per Group	Maximum Number of Trips Per Day	Specific Location Where Contact with Marine Mammals is Proposed	Duration at Location
<b>Milford Wanderer - Rakiura Discovery Expeditions</b>	4 night/5 days – 5 night/6 days	Halfmoon Bay	Port William to Port Pegasus	June, July & August	5 trips/annum	14 + 1 guide (up to 36 pax)	4 trips/day	Rakiura Track – Lee Bay to Port William	4 hours
								Rakiura Track – Fern Gully to Sawdust Bay	4 hours
								Ackers Point Track	4 hours
								Ulva Island to west end beach	4 hours
								Glory Cove Scenic Reserve (Kiwi) & Ocean Beach	4 hours
								Lowrys Beach – Glory Cove	4 – 8 hours
								Millars Beach – Whalers Base	4 hours
								Port Adventure	1 hour
								Disappointment Cove to Broad Bay	1 hour
								Small Craft Retreat	1 hour
								South Pegasus Hunters Hut	1 hour
			North Pegasus Hunters Hut					1 hour	
			Rakiura National Park			8 + 1 guide	4 trips per day (106 pax per year)	Mason Bay to Freshwater Hut	8 hours
<b>Ulva Island Explorer</b>	2 ½ -3 hours		Ulva Island	Year round	730 trips/annum	2 x 14 + 1 guide	4 trips/day	Sydney Cove Beach	1 hour
<b>Kiwi Viewing (Wild Kiwi Encounter)</b>	4 hours		Glory Cove Scenic Reserve & Ocean Beach	Year round	360 trips/annum		2 trips/day	Ocean Beach Glory Cove Scenic Reserve	2 hours
<b>Village &amp; Bays tour</b>	1.5 hours			Year round	730 trips/annum	14 + 1 guide	4 trips/day	Rakiura South District Council Reserves	Under 1 hour
<b>Tours to Rakiura Māori Land Trust Land (RMLT)</b>	Trips varying from 3 hour to 10 hours		RMLT Land, Glory Cove Scenic Reserve & Ocean Beach + The Neck Conservation Area	On PCL from Labour Weekend to 31 July (on RMLT land year-round)		29 + 1 guide		Lowers Beach to Ocean Beach & Glory Cove Scenic Reserve including Neck Conservation Area RMLT land	Trips varying from 1 hour to 8 hours

<b>Charters for schools &amp; cruise ships</b>		Halfmoon Bay	Ackers Point Scenic Reserve	1 Oct to 30 April for cruise ships & school year-round for school groups	10 trips/annum	30		Ackers Point Scenic Reserve	1 – 4 hours
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## Vehicle Information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Rakiura minibuses are as follows – regarding their colour – some are in the old SIE livery and others are being repainted / wrapped in Realnz livery – refer other two photos. All will eventually end up in Realnz livery.

NB we operate shuttle bus between Bluff & Invercargill so occasionally this Bluff Shuttle bus (Nissan Civilian) gets swapped over to Rakiura hence I have included this vehicle in the list.

### Vehicle 1. description:

Registration: BDT691	Make: Toyota
Model: Hiace	4WD/2WD
Carrying Capacity: 24	Colour:

### Vehicle 2. description:

Registration: CHW225	Make: Nissan
Model: Civilian Coach	4WD/2WD
Carrying Capacity: 24	Colour:

### Vehicle 3. description:

Registration: FQU505	Make: Mitsubishi
Model: Rosa	4WD/2WD
Carrying Capacity: 22	Colour:

### Vehicle 4. description:

Registration: LAC137	Make: Mitsubishi
Model: Fuso Rosa	4WD/2WD
Carrying Capacity: 22	Colour:

### Vehicle 5. description:

Registration: YF1512	Make: Toyota
Model: Hiace	4WD/2WD
Carrying Capacity: 12	Colour:

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## Drivers, guides and other relevant staff (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Please fill in for every staff member who may come into contact with marine mammals throughout the course of the proposed operation.

Full Name: Nicolas Richard Cameron Marshall	Job Title: Crew + Rakiura skipper
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?	No
If "yes", please provide details:	

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Nic has worked for Real Journeys since Sept 2014 and has worked in Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound, in the Southern Fiords and Rakiura accordingly Nic has a good amount of experience of working around marine mammals found in Fiordland and Stewart Island.

Full Name: Bevan Mudie

Job Title: Nature Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Bevan has worked for Real Journeys since 2009 hence Bevan has extensive experience of guiding visitors around marine mammals including managing encounters with sea lions in the Glory Cove Scenic Reserve

Full Name: Leah Rudin-Jones

Job Title: Senior Nature Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: In the 2000's Leah worked as crew and nature guide in Piopiotahi and Patea. Leah has worked as a Real Journeys Rakiura nature guide since 2010 therefore Leah has extensive experience of guiding visitors around marine mammals including managing encounters with sea lions in the Glory Cove Scenic Reserve.

Full Name: Mark Matthews

Job Title: Nature Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Newly recruited to work as a Rakiura nature guide so little experience. To commence work in October

Full Name: Jac Ochoa

Job Title: Nature Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Newly recruited to work as a Rakiura nature guide so little experience. To commence work in October

Full Name: John Vale

Job Title: Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

Relevant experience with marine mammals: John has worked for Real Journeys as a chef since 24.8.00. John has worked on the "Fiordland Navigator" and the "Milford Wanderer" on Discovery Expeditions during his tenure. John has worked solely on the "Milford Wanderer" for about the last eight years. Prior to this John only worked on the "Milford Wanderer" during the winter. When time permits John assists with guiding groups ashore and as a result John has a good knowledge of marine mammals.

Full Name: Gabriel Schwarz

Job Title: Nature Guide

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Gabriel has worked for Real Journeys since August 2019 as nature guide on the Milford Wanderer. Hence through his role he has had exposure to the most diverse range of Marine Mammals gaining significant experience of working around marine mammals including sea lions on Rakiura.

Full Name: Travis Hishon Job Title: Skipper (Milford Wanderer Mate)

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Travis has worked for Real Journeys since 2023 first as crew then qualifying as a skipper. Hence Travis has experience of working around marine mammals found in Fiordland since 2013.

Full Name: Bradley Simmons Job Title: Skipper (Milford Wanderer Mate)

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Brad has worked for Real Journeys since 2011 but for less than one year in the coastal marine environment but in his previous roles Brad gained a good understanding of managing vessel interactions with marine mammals.

Full Name: Deon Johnson Job Title: Skipper (Milford Wanderer relief skipper / mate)

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Deon has worked for Real Journeys since the early 2000's and is cleared to skipper all our Milford Sound vessels and all our Doubtful Sound and Stewart Island vessels hence Deon has a great deal of experience of working around marine mammals found in Fiordland and Stewart Island.

Full Name: Dean Gibb Job Title: Skipper (Milford Wanderer relief skipper / mate)

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Dean has worked in the area for Real Journeys since 31.08.03 and has a holiday house on Rakiura. Accordingly, Dean has extensive local knowledge of the area (Fiordland and Rakiura) including managing vessel interactions with marine mammals.

Full Name: Ashley Toovey Job Title: Milford Wanderer Crew

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals? No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Ashley has worked for Real Journeys since December 2023 therefore she has limited experience working around marine mammals.



Full Name: Frank Widmer

Job Title: Milford Wanderer Chef

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?  No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Frank has worked for Real Journeys since 2015 as a chef initially on the "Fiordland Navigator" in Doubtful Sound Patea and most recently on the Milford Wanderer and when time permits Frank assists with guiding groups ashore and as a result Frank has a good knowledge of marine mammals.

Full Name: Hilary Cant

Job Title: Milford Wanderer Crew

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?  No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Hilary has worked for Real Journeys since 2017 initially on the "Fiordland Navigator" in Doubtful Sound Patea and most recently on the Milford Wanderer. Accordingly, Hilary has a good knowledge of marine mammals.

Full Name: Emily Bevin

Job Title: Milford Wanderer Crew

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?  No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals: Emily has worked for Real Journeys since 2022 on the Milford Wanderer. Prior to this Emily worked for Rosco Milford Sound Kayaks as a kayak guide for nearly a decade as a result Emily has a good knowledge of marine mammals

Full Name:

Job Title:

Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?  Yes  
 No

If "yes", please provide details:

Relevant experience with marine mammals:

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## Proposed Term

You can apply for up to 10 years. However, in some situations a permit may be restricted to a shorter term for the purposes of the conservation, protection or management of marine mammals.

5 years

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## C. Additional information (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)

Maximum time to be spent with marine mammals per individual encounter:

10 minutes

Maximum cumulative time for all encounters with marine mammals during trip:

30 minutes

Nature of the contact with marine mammals:

Primary purpose

Secondary purpose

With respect to Wild Kiwi Encounter; this tour is undertaken after dark to increase the likelihood of viewing Kiwi. Undertaking this activity in the dark makes encounters with New Zealand Sea Lions problematic because typically the sea lions are not seen until the sea lions rush at the group in the dark. Or the sea lion can be on the track and for health and safety reasons it is impossible to maintain an appropriate distance from the sea lion when passing the animal. That is often the focus around sea lions is to avoid the encounter or get out of the way of the sea lion as fast as possible as having a sea lion moving around in the bush is not conducive to kiwi sightings.

Vehicle approach route and orientation of approach relative to seals or sea lions:

land based vehicles – Rosa's are utilised for village & Bays tour

Position of vehicles relative to seals or sea lions, the shore and the sea while viewing:

N/A – pax get out of vehicle to view marine mammals

Distances to each species:

At least 20 metres

As stated above, because the Wild Kiwi Encounter is undertaken in the dark the group can end up closer than 20 metres although we recognise that it is far from ideal to get closer than 20 metres.

How groups of people will be managed in the vicinity of seals or sea lions in particular to manage noise and behaviour:

Groups are advised to keep as quiet as possible. Groups are to stay together and not spread out.

Give seals and sea lions space and where practicable, stay at least 20 metres away. Avoid coming between the water and the marine mammal.

Never feed or attempt to touch seals or sea lions.

With respect to accessing the beaches on either side of the Neck Conservation Area, guides are to endeavour to avoid disruption of Hioho this may mean sea lions are not given as much space as would be preferable.

#### *Sea lion Encounter Procedure during Kiwi Viewing*

1. Once a sea lion is encountered stop the group and have everyone gather around.
2. Remind the group of correct behaviour around sea lions.

- Remain quiet.
  - Do not shine your torch on them.
  - Do not come between the sea lion and the sea as this is their means of escape.
  - If a sea lion does rush at the group remain calm and stand your ground, making yourself tall, the sea lion will eventually lose interest and turn away from you.
  - Let the guide deal with the sea lion, they know the best way to interact with these animals, so remain behind the guide at all times
  - If the sea lion does become aggressive move calmly off the beach while guide stays behind using the red backpack to create distance.
  - When passing a sea lion give it as much space as possible.
3. Tell group to turn all lights off.
  4. Proceed calmly and quietly around the sea lion, keeping as far away as possible. (Sometimes you may need move between it and the sea if they are closer to the sand dunes)
  5. Without aggravating the sea lion keep tabs on its behaviour by using a dim light aimed at the ground near it. You should just be able to see its behaviour whilst the group navigates around the sea lion.
  6. Once safely past the sea lion regroup and check everyone is well and accounted for.

*Emergency detour due to sea lion/tree blocking track*

1. Brief passengers on situation according to Sea lion Encounter procedure.
2. Assess situation if it is not possible to use main track (track at southern end of Ocean Beach) use Northern end track to return to the wharf.
3. Brief passengers about action taken and also about the difficulty of the track. The Northern track is steep in places and also has several stairs.
4. If this detour will take extra time notify the vessel by calling on channel 9.

Keep regular lookout for passengers and take breaks if passengers are struggling. Keep the vessel informed of your progress.

Behaviour around breeding colonies, nurseries and pups:

N/A – re Sea Lion nursery in Small Craft Inlet - Discovery Expeditions are undertaken during the winter months after breeding is over.

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

Where possible walk the group around the animal. Avoid coming between the water and the marine mammal. Not allow passengers to take photos using a camera flash. Keep passengers calm and quiet.

Special consideration will be given to fur seal mothers with young pups in the forest around

Luncheon Cove between the months of December and March, mothers with young pups will not be disturbed

### **How will you depart from the marine mammals?**

Vehicle departure route and orientation of departure relative to seals or sea lions:

No vehicles used to approach seals or sea lions only vessels – which remain 20 metres distant from seals and sea lions as per the above diagram. Vessels depart at no wake speed.

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## **D. Educational material (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed guidance)**



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## **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 waterfall, Point Kean, Barney’s Island, Adele Island.

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#### **Trip details**

Clearly identify where there are seasonal differences in the trip details

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#### **Type and number of vehicles to be used**

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

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#### **Drivers, guides and other relevant staff**

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

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#### **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.

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#### **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).