



New Zealand  
King Salmon

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS  
WILDLIFE  
IDENTIFICATION  
GUIDE

NZKS operates several Salmon Farms in the Marlborough Sounds. NZKS works continuously to manage and minimise our impact on marine mammals and sea birds within the surrounding environment. An important part of our social license is to monitor wildlife activity around our farms, of which there is an abundance. Reported sightings of a specific species like King Shag can help identify patterns and trends and improve the science-based knowledge around these species and their behaviours. Information captured will also support consent requirements and future consent applications. Mammals and seabirds are instinctively attracted to the farms for shelter and food. Our focus is on minimising the risks in our daily activities and on working in harmony.

This document will outline species that could visit our farms. Please use this document to help you identify any wildlife you are unsure of.

Please do your utmost **NOT** to interact with any wild mammal or seabird, but in an event where you need to interact with them please refer to our **NZKS Marine Mammal and Shark Management Plan** to identify the best course of action. In the event of a wild animal dying in and around our farm, notify your manager as soon as possible. He or she will report it to the Department of Conservation (DoC) and guide you on the next course of action.

Please report details of sightings or entanglements of these species to your manager:

- **ANY** stranded/in danger wildlife
- Tagged Fur seal
- Leopard seal
- Southern right whales
- Great white
- Basking sharks
- New Zealand King Shag

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## NEW ZEALAND FUR SEAL (KEKENO)



New Zealand Fur Seals, also known as Kekeno, are found around New Zealand and frequently observed in the Marlborough Sounds.

**Adult females:** length up to 1.5 m, weight 30-50 kg.

**Adult males:** length up to 2.5 m, weight 90-150 kg.

**Please report any sightings of TAGGED fur seal.**

## LEOPARD SEAL (POPOIANGORE)



Leopard Seals are easily identified by their long slim body and comparatively large fore flippers. The leopard seal's disproportionately large head, massive jaws, impressive teeth, and tremendous gape give it a snake-like appearance.

Not common to New Zealand water but have been seen in the past during autumn and winter.

**Adult females:** length up to 3.6 m, weight up to 500 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 3 m, weight up to 300 kg

**Please report any sightings of leopard seals.**

## KILLER WHALES (KĀKAHI)



Killer Whales/Orcas are well known and can be identified relatively easily by their distinctive black and white markings and very tall, prominent dorsal fin. Male dorsal fins reaching higher than a metre.

Orcas are typically encountered in family groups or pods. Pods are usually formed for life and can result in the development of unique dialects.

**Adult females:** length 7-9.5 m, weight up to 6 Tons

**Adult males:** length 7-9.5 m, weight up to 6 Tons

## HECTOR'S DOLPHINS (WAIUAU)



Hector's Dolphins are the only dolphins in New Zealand with a rounded black dorsal fin. Their bodies are a distinctive grey, with white and black markings and a short snout.

**Adult females:** length up to 1.5 m, weight 40-60 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 1.5 m, weight 40-60 kg

## DUSKY DOLPHINS (PĀPAHU)



Dusky Dolphins are short with a dark-coloured beak and dark grey-blue upper. They have a pale face and belly, with light blazes along the flank.

**Adult females:** length up to 1.9 m, weight up to 110 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 2.1 m, weight up to 130 kg

## BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS (TEREHU)



Bottlenose Dolphins have a relatively short beak and a hooked, prominent dorsal fin. They are dark or light grey on the back grading to white on the undersides, although their colour and shape can be variable.

**Adult females:** length 2.4-3.9 m, weight from 250 to 650 kg

**Adult males:** length 2.4-3.9 m, weight from 250 to 650 kg

## SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHINS (AIHE)



Short-Beaked Common Dolphins have a sleek body, dark upper and dorsal fin, tan or yellow sides, "hourglass" pattern, and a creamy or white belly.

**Adult females:** length 1.7-2.4 m, weight 70-110 kg

**Adult males:** length 1.7-2.4 m, weight 70-110 kg

## HUMPBACK WHALES (PAIKEA)



Humpback Whales have a small dorsal fin with a distinctive hump at the front, knobby protuberances on the head, the tip of the lower jaw, and the leading edge of extremely long flippers.

Their tail flukes are broad and have a unique black and white colour pattern, which allows individuals to be identified. They have a variable colour but are generally black with white on the underside and the flippers.

**Adult females:** length 11.5-15 m, weight 30-40 tonnes

**Adult males:** length 11.5-15 m, weight 30-40 tonnes

## SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES (RAITI WĒRA)



Southern Right Whales can be recognised easily by their strongly arched mouth, lack of dorsal fin, and V-shaped blowhole spray. Their head and lower jaw are covered with callosities; large, white, rough growths on the skin that are usually infested with parasitic worms, whale lice, and barnacles. The number and arrangement of these are unique to each animal, making it possible to identify individuals and track their movements.

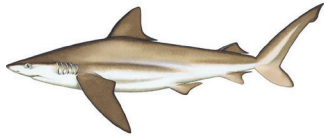
**Adult females:** length 11-18 m, weight 40-90 tonnes

**Adult males:** length 11-18 m, weight 40-90 tonnes

Please report any sightings of Southern right whales.



## BRONZE WHALER (NGENGERO)



Bronze Whalers have an upper tail lobe much longer than lower lobe, upper teeth triangular and hook-shaped with fine serrations, body coppery-brown above with a strong colour demarcation above the eye, oblique white stripe on the side, precaudal pit. Body coppery brown above with a strong colour demarcation above the eye, oblique white stripe on the side, creamy yellow belly.

**Adult females:** length up to 3.3 m, weight up to 300 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 3.3 m, weight up to 300 kg

## GREAT WHITE (MANGŌ TANIWHA)



Great White Sharks have a robust, large, conical snout. The upper and lower lobes on the tail fin are approximately the same size which are similar to some mackerel sharks. A great whites display countershading, by having a white underside and a grey dorsal area (sometimes in a brown or blue shade) that gives an overall mottled appearance.

**Adult females:** length up to 6 m, weight up to 2,200 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 5 m, weight up to 2000 kg

Please report any sightings of Great White Sharks

## BASKING SHARK (MANGŌ INAINA)



Basking Sharks are typically greyish brown but can range to slight grey or black on the dorsal surface, the ventral side is predominantly lighter than dorsal. The first dorsal fin is large, high, erect, and angular. The second dorsal is large but less than half the size of the first dorsal. The mouth is very large, can be over 1m wide. They have very small hook-like teeth.

**Adult females:** length up to 9 m, weight up to 10 tonnes

**Adult males:** length up to 9 m, weight up to 10 tonnes

Please report any sightings of Basking sharks

## COMMON THRESHER (MANGŌ RIPI)

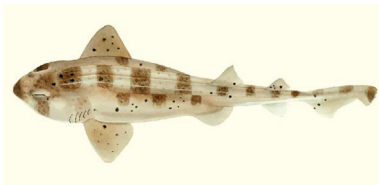


Thresher Sharks have a short head and a cone-shaped nose. Their mouth is generally small, and their teeth range in size from small to large. By far the largest of the three species are the common threshers.

**Adult females:** length up to 6 m, weight up to 500 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 6 m, weight up to 500 kg

## CARPET (MANGŌ WHĀRIKI)



Carpet Sharks have a thick body with a broad, flattened head and a capacious mouth. They are golden brown above with dark blotches and yellowish-white below.

**Adult females:** length up to 2m, weight up to 40kg

**Adult males:** length up to 2m, weight up to 40kg

## SCHOOL (TOPE)



School Sharks are small, shallow-bodied sharks with an elongated snout. Their large mouth is crescent-shaped and the teeth are of a similar size and shape in both jaws. School sharks are dark bluish grey on the upper (dorsal) surface and white on their bellies (ventral surface).

**Adult females:** length 1.35-1.75 m, weight up to 40 kg

**Adult males:** length 1.50-1.95 m, weight up to 40 kg

## MAKO (MAKŌ)



Mako Sharks are cylindrical in shape, with a vertically elongated tail. This species exhibits countershading, with brilliant metallic blue colouration dorsally and white ventrally. The line of demarcation between blue and white on the body is distinct. The underside of the snout and the area around the mouth are white.

**Adult females:** length up to 4 m, weight up to 400 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 3.5 m, weight up to 300 kg

## PORBEAGLE

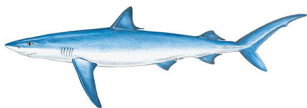


Porbeagle Sharks are grey above and white below, have a very stout midsection that tapers towards the long, pointed snout and the narrow base of the tail. They have large pectoral and first dorsal fins, tiny pelvic, second dorsal, and anal fins, and a crescent-shaped caudal fin. The most distinctive features of this species are their three-cusped teeth, the white blotch at the aft base of their first dorsal fin, and the two pairs of lateral keels on their tails.

**Adult females:** length up to 3 m, weight up to 230 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 2.5 m, weight up to 200 kg

## BLUE (MANGŌ AU POUNAMU)



Blue Sharks are light-bodied with long pectoral fins, the top of the body is deep blue, lighter on the sides, and the underside is white.

**Adult females:** length 2.2-3.3 m, weight 90-180 kg

**Adult males:** length 1.8-2.8 m, weight 30-60 kg

## RIG/SPOTTED DOGFISH (MANGŌ)

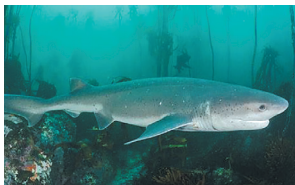


Rig/Spotted Dogfish are bronze or grey above, with a white belly and small white spots on their upper body and along the lateral line. They have flattened teeth arranged like paving stones to form grinding plates

**Adult females:** length up to 1.3 m, weight up to 20 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 1.3 m, weight up to 20 kg

## BROADSNOUTED SEVENGILL (TUATINI)



Sevengill Sharks have a large, thick body, with a broad head and blunt snout. The top jaw has jagged, cusped teeth and the bottom jaw has comb-shaped teeth. Their single dorsal fin is set far back along the spine towards the caudal fin and is behind the pelvic fins. Their upper caudal fin is much longer than the lower and is slightly notched near the tip. Their dorsal surface is silver-grey to brown to blend with the dark water and substrate when viewed from above. In counter to this, their ventral surface is very pale, blending with the sunlit water when viewed from below. The body and fins are covered in a scattering of small black & white spots.

**Adult females:** length up to 2.2 m, weight up to 60 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 1.5 m, weight up to 60 kg

## SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL (RĀPUNGA)



Southern Black-Backed Gulls are a large black-and-white gull with a white head and underparts, black back, yellow bill with a red spot near the tip, and pale green legs. Juveniles are dark mottled brown with black bill and legs; their plumage lightens with age until they molt into adult plumage at 3-years-old.

**Adult females:** length up to 0.6 m, wingspan up to 1.7 m and weigh up to 0.85 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 0.6 m, wingspan up to 1.7 m and weigh up to 1 kg

## PACIFIC GULL (RĀPUNGA)



Pacific Gulls are a very large black-backed gull with a massive yellow bill, broadly tipped with scarlet. The upper wings and wingtips are wholly black with a narrow white inner trailing edge, the tail is white with a broad black band near the end. The legs are yellow to orange-yellow.

**Adult females:** length up to 0.7 m, wingspan up to 1.6 m and weigh up to 1.1 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 0.7 m, wingspan up to 1.6 m and weigh up to 1.6 kg

## AUSTRALASIAN GANNET (TĀKUPU)



Australasian Gannets are a large, mostly coastal seabird with predominantly white plumage, long, pointed wings, a long neck, and slender body shape. The trailing edges of their wings and a varying proportion of their central tail feathers are black. The head is an intermediate mottled grey, with a dark bill. The birds gradually acquire more white in subsequent seasons until they reach maturity after five years.

**Adult females:** length 0.85-0.90 m, wingspan 1.7-2 m and weight up to 2.3 kg

**Adult males:** length 0.85-0.90 m, wingspan 1.7-2 m and weight up to 2.3 kg



## FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (PAKAHĀ)

Fluttering Shearwaters are a small dark-brown-and-white shearwater. A dark cap extends below the eye in a smudgy line to a partial collar, giving the head a dusky appearance. The upper-surfaces are uniformly dark grey-brown, including neck, wings, and tail.

**Adult females:** length up to 0.35 m, wingspan up to 0.9 m and weight up to 0.3 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 0.35 m, wingspan up to 0.9 m and weight up to 0.25 kg



## NEW ZEALAND KING SHAG (KAWAU PĀTEKETEKE)



New Zealand King Shags are black and white cormorant with pink feet. White patches on the wings appear as bars when the wings are folded. Yellow-orange swellings (caruncles) are found above the base of the bill. The grey gular pouch is reddish in the breeding season. A blue eye-ring indicates its kinship with the other blue-eyed shags.

**Adult females:** length up to 0.75 m, wingspan up to 1.3 m and weight up to 2.5 kg

**Adult males:** length up to 0.75 m, wingspan up to 1.3 m and weight up to 2.5 kg

## PIED SHAG (KĀRUHIRUHI)



Pied Shags are predominantly black on their back and the upper surface of the wings and white on the underside. A small yellow patch between the bill and the eye on each side of the head is likely to have been the reason for the historical common name. They have large webbed feet which they utilise to pursue fish underwater, steering with half-opened wings. The birds have a large hooked bill, green eyes with a blue eye-ring, and black legs and feet.

**Adult females:** length 0.65-0.85 m, wingspan 1.1-1.3m and weight up to 1.7 kg

**Adult males:** length 0.65-0.85 m, wingspan 1.1-1.3 m and weight up to 2.2 kg

## BLACK-BILLED GULL (TARĀPUNGA)



The head, body, and parts of the wings are white, with silvery grey on the saddle and wings, as well as a black edging on the wings. Easily mistaken for the Red-Billed Gull, the Black-Billed Gulls are distinguished by its black bill and are described as having a “more delicate appearance,” a “more buoyant and graceful” flight, and being “generally less noisy,” despite having a similar call.

**Adult females:** length 0.35–0.38 m, wingspan 0.81–0.96 m and weight up to 0.23kg

**Adult males:** length 0.35–0.38 m, wingspan 0.81–0.96 m and weight up to 0.23 kg

## RED-BILLED GULL (AKIAKI)



Red-Billed Gulls are a fairly small gull with an all-red bill, red eye-ring, red legs and feet, pale grey wings with black wingtips. The rest of the body and tail are white. The legs are also brown and there are brown spots on the grey wings.

**Adult females:** length 0.35–0.38 m, wingspan 0.81–0.96 m and weight up to 0.26kg

**Adult males:** length 0.35–0.38 m, wingspan 0.81–0.96 m and weight up to 0.26 kg

## LITTLE PENGUIN (KORORĀ)



The heads and upper parts of Little Penguins are blue, with slate-grey ear coverts fading to white underneath, from the chin to the belly. Their flippers are blue. The dark grey-black beak is 3–4 cm long, the irises pale silvery-grey or bluish-grey or hazel, and the feet pink above with black soles and webbing.

**Adult females:** length 0.30–0.33 m, weight up to 1.5 kg

**Adult males:** length 0.30–0.33 m, weight up to 1.5 kg

## REFERENCES

- <https://www.DOC.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/marine-mammals>
- <https://www.DOC.govt.nz/marinemammalsightings>
- <https://www.DOC.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/marine-mammals/whale-dolphin-sighting-report.pdf>
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- <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/>

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