

The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation permissions office listed below to discuss the application prior to completing the application forms. Please provide all information requested in as much detail as possible. The Department will advise you if further information is required before this application can be processed by the Department.

This form is only to be used when the activity you wish to do:

- involves only filming of marine mammals; and
- has the potential to disturb, harass or harm any marine mammal; or
- would contravene any regulation in Part 3 of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992.

Please complete this application form, attach **Form 8** and any other applicable forms and information and send to [permissions@doc.govt.nz](mailto:permissions@doc.govt.nz).

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 and/or the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.

Note: If you intend to film marine mammals as part of a commercial operation for viewing marine mammals (for which you already have a permit) you do not need to apply for a filming permit in addition.

Note: if you intend to take paying passengers with you whilst filming marine mammals you must also complete the applicable forms below:

- 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 land-based please also fill in Form 8b.
- 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.

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

WSP Wild Water Productions Limited

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## B. Proposed Filming Operation (please read Appendix 1)

Please tick the relevant boxes to help determine how the application will be assessed:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel to approach closer than 50 metres to a whale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Person in the water to approach closer than 100 metres to a whale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel or person to approach closer than 200 metres to any female baleen or sperm whale that is accompanied by a calf or calves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Person in the water with juvenile dolphins
X	Approach (on foot, in the water, or in a vessel) closer than 20 metres to seals or sea lions on shore
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use an aircraft at an altitude below 150 metres (500 feet) above sea level, unless taking off or landing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use an aircraft closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to a marine mammal horizontally from a point directly above a marine mammal
X	Use a drone or RPA* to film marine mammals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charter a vessel or aircraft, and/or hire a skipper or pilot to take the film crew to view or come into contact with any marine mammal.

\*Note: RPA means a Remotely Piloted Aircraft as defined under Civil Aviation legislation.

### Purpose, outputs and benefits of the proposed filming

Please note the purpose of the filming activity (advertisement, movie, documentary etc), and describe in detail the proposed filming activity.

'Wild Water' (working title) is a new, landmark natural history series for Netflix, which explores unique behaviors of animals living in freshwater habitats. Fresh water is the lifeblood of our planet, but only 3% of the great water mass of our blue planet is fresh, and only 1% of that is accessible. Across five thrilling episodes, we will reveal the hidden kingdoms and charismatic creatures in our planet's most spectacular freshwater worlds.

WSP Wild Water Productions Limited has been set up as a project-specific company for the purposes of producing Wild Water and is fully owned and operated by **Wild Space Productions**.

The series is in production by WSP Wild Water Productions Limited and is Executive Produced by James Honeyborne, former BBC **Blue Planet II** Executive Producer. **Blue Planet II** broke all records in the UK as the most-watched wildlife documentary series for over 20 years. The 'Blue Planet effect' became part of the national climate change conversation, with the series creating an undeniable impact in many parts of the world. We hope our series will do something similar in championing freshwater and the creatures

that rely on these precious environments. We are excited to broadcast our series on the Netflix platform in 2025 to a global audience of over 220 million people.

As part of our series we are looking to film a heartwarming story of New Zealand Fur Seal pups, on the South Island of New Zealand who travel inland to waterfalls and/or freshwater rivers/streams to play while their parents go off to hunt. These freshwater 'creches' are the perfect places for the pups to develop swimming and social skills in a safe haven. It's a story that highlights the unique relationship between these animals and freshwater environments.

Our company ethos at Wild Space Productions is to **facilitate scientific research in conjunction with our filming**. Our aim is for our filming to help researchers understand more about the seals behaviour in these unusual freshwater environments and we will work directly with them to ensure our efforts are also assisting their own research in any way we can. These DOC scientists and advisors have been incredibly supportive of our inquiries so far, and we intend to collaborate with them throughout this process to ensure we are working with the pups in the least invasive way possible.

In July/Aug 2023, we filmed with the fur seal pups at Ohau Falls, near Kaikoura. Our plan was to be able to get an entire story within one season but, unfortunately, we didn't manage to get all the shots we needed during this shoot due to unforeseen weather events. On the second day we arrived in Kaikoura there was a massive storm for around 3 days. The river level rose quite high and it appeared to deter pups coming back up the stream to the pool. A couple of individuals returned, and we managed to film them on their journey up. But unfortunately, no pups returned all the way to the pool for the entire rest of the shoot. It means that while all the shots we got will work well, we really need some more shots to make the story work, and to showcase this incredible population of seals.

Our aim is to come back for **1-2 weeks** next year between **March 2024 to August 2024**. We would be a small crew of around **3 people on the ground**: a field director, a director of photography (DOP) and a local guide. As we have been before, we will be very efficient in our set up and have a good knowledge of the environment, location and animals.

We are in conversation with the iwi landowners of Ohau Falls about returning next year to get the shots we need: they have been very understanding and encouraging of our production so far, so we are positive that they will be happy for us to return next winter. We are also keen to get shots for the landowners of the location in its full beauty, which we had promised to them - but were unable to get this year due to the seal numbers.

Most of our filming will concentrate on **seal pups playing in and around the freshwater together** in Ohau Falls, both underwater and topside, with some additional filming along the coast from Kaikoura Peninsula to Okiwi Bay Beach. Our equipment would be minimal, we would be using a RED camera on a tripod and a handheld gimbal (DJI Ronin) to film from the banks of the freshwater pool. We will be using a small drone for aerial shots. For underwater shots, the camera operator would operate by standing in the water around hip height, with a camera in UW housing. For filming along the coast, the crew will be filming from land and by drone.

When filming the pups in Ohau Falls, we aim to be as minimally invasive as possible - generally we will aim to set ourselves up in one position on the banks and let the seals come to us once they are more comfortable with our presence. Our camera operator, local guide and field director are very experienced working with animals and have experience working with these exact animals in this exact location.

As a crew, we are incredibly mindful of our impact on the seals. If a seal shows any signs of this, we will move away/change our method of filming.

We understand the sensitivity of the locations and we won't name check them in our series. This will reduce the chance of a potential influx of tourists attempting to access the Falls or the beach locations to see the seals.

## Proposed term

When do you wish to begin and finish all filming?

1st March 2024 - 30th August 2024 - a 1 to 2 week filming period within this window.

## Location information

Base of operation:

**Ohau Falls**, near Kaikoura

Proposed area or areas of operation:

In the water of, and lands surrounding the Ohau Falls. As well as some shots with seals on the coastline nearby.

Specific locations where contact with marine mammals is proposed:

In the waters of, and lands surrounding the Ohau Falls are where the majority of filming will take place and where the majority of close contact with fur seal pups would be. Seals will also be encountered along the Kaikoura coast.

Note: please provide a map showing proposed filming areas and specific locations - **provided in 8d MAPS ATTACHEMENT**

## Species

Marine mammals you propose to encounter and film:

- all species of whales
- all species of dolphins
- all species of seals

Please specify the species you intend to target at each location

*Arctocephalus forsteri* (New Zealand Fur Seal)

## Filming details

Please provide the following additional information where applicable. Please be thorough and include relevant information for each species of marine mammal. In particular, describe how you intend to mitigate any potential adverse effects on marine mammals.

### Please list all species separately

When do you propose to undertake filming at each location?

(please be as specific as possible, including dates and times during the day)

1st March 2024 - 30th August 2024 - a 1 to 2 week filming period within this window.

We would be filming from around 8am to 6pm every day.

Maximum number of filming days at each location:

20 days

Duration of each daily trip:

10 hours

Maximum cumulative time with marine mammals during a day:

8 hours

**How will you approach, film and depart from marine mammals using a vessel?  
Please list all species separately**

Speeds when approaching and viewing marine mammals

N/A

Behaviour of vessel and orientation of approach relative to marine mammals

N/A

Position of vessels relative to marine mammals while viewing

Distance from vessel to marine mammals

N/A.

Distance to the water's edge (for seals or sea lions hauled out on shore)

N/A

Behaviour around calves or pups

N/A

Speed of departure

N/A

Behaviour of vessel and departure route relative to marine mammals

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance?

N/A

**How will you undertake underwater filming?  
Please list all species separately**

Method (pole-cam, diver etc.)

For the inland pool, the operator will film by standing in the water using a small camera in an underwater housing. We may also use underwater GoPros.

No underwater filming will take place on the beaches.

Approaching marine mammals (vessel and/or land)

If the operator is getting in the water, they will do so calmly and carefully so as not to spook the seal.

Distances and filming position relative to each species

5m minimum in the water - unless the seal swims towards the human.

**How will you approach and film marine mammals from the shore?**

Approach distances for vehicles and people to seals or sea lions

10m where possible, and letting the seals come closer but on occasion crew might have to be closer than 10m.

Filming position relative to seals or sea lions, the shore and the sea

We will aim to set ourselves up in one position and let the seals come to us once they are more comfortable with our presence. If they move away deliberately then we will not follow/chase them. If they charge or threaten, we will back away.

How film crew will be managed in the vicinity of seals or sea lions

Approaches on land will be quiet and calm. In order to not startle the animals - we will talk to the seals quietly and calmly, when we arrive, and as we work. We will never touch a seal, even if it comes close.

Particular behaviour around breeding colonies and nurseries

We will not get between mothers and their pups.

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance including from noise and people behaviour

We are using a very experienced crew that are very familiar with working in difficult environments and with a variety of animals.

**How will you approach, film and depart from marine mammals using an aircraft?**

**Please list all species separately**

Height above sea level during transit along the coast or across the sea

Height above sea level while filming marine mammals

Position and behaviour of aircraft relative to marine mammals - horizontal

Circling or other aircraft manoeuvres in the vicinity of marine mammals

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance

**How will you approach, film and depart from marine mammals using a drone?**

**Please list all species separately**

Filming over water

Ohau Falls & Kaikoura Coastline - we may film with a drone here.

Filming seals or sea lions on land

Ohau Falls & Kaikoura Coastline

Approach speed

TBC - would need to discuss with DOC and operator.

Height above sea level during transit along the coast or across the sea

TBC

Height above sea level while filming marine mammals

TBC

Orientation of approach

What other actions you will take to minimise disturbance

**Film Crew**

Please fill in for every person that may come into contact with marine mammals throughout the course of the proposed filming. (Copy and paste details for additional crew)

Full Name: Ava Magdalena  
Martinez-Lambert

Job Title: Assistant Producer/Field Director

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:

Ava’s background is grounded in human & animal science: she spent 4 years studying for her BSc in Neuroscience at the University of Leeds, England, which included a year abroad in Canada, focussing on Animal Behaviour modules at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia - a university pioneering in marine research.

Ava has experience producing and directing natural history shoots across the world with a variety of different animals, including green sea turtles in Cyprus, falcons in Guyana and Gray Whales in Washington, USA.

Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:

Ava was present on the previous Wild Space shoot in the area so is experienced working with these animals in this environment.

Full Name: Dominic John William West	Job Title: Director of Photography
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes please provide details:	
Relevant experience with marine mammals:	
Dom is an incredibly adaptable DOP, with experience operating in remote and tough conditions filming all kinds of wildlife. He has a wealth of experience filming marine mammals, from polar bears in the Arctic to Seals in the Antarctic.	
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:	
Dom is based in Sydney, Australia and has traveled around New Zealand's South island previously. Dom was present on the previous Wild Space shoot in the area so is experienced working with these animals in this environment.	

Full Name: Matthew Adam Goodman	Job Title: Local Guide & DOP
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes please provide details:	
Relevant experience with marine mammals:	
Mat is an experienced New Zealand based natural history DOP. He has worked filming a wide variety of different animals across the globe including Fur Seals	
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:	
Mat is local to the South Island of New Zealand. He has worked and filmed all over New Zealand and has filmed on the Kaikoura coastline many times, including in 2023 on Wild Space's previous shoot in the area.	

Full Name: Joanna Fiona Barwick	
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes please provide details:	
Relevant experience with marine mammals:	
Joanna has directed critically acclaimed and award-winning series for major, international broadcasters such as National Geographic, BBC, Disney+, Channel 4, ITV, and Netflix. Joanna has a wealth of experience directing natural history sequences around the world including many shoots based entirely on boats. She has traveled to every corner of the globe filming a wide variety of marine animals including cape fur seals, orcas, Humpback whales, gray whales and various species of dolphin.	
Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:	



Full Name: Melissa Hayley Williams	Job Title: Researcher
Has this person had any convictions or prosecutions for offences against the Act or any other Act involving the mistreatment of animals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes please provide details:	

Relevant experience with marine mammals:

Melissa has a MSci in Natural Sciences, with a particular focus on biology and geology. She is a qualified PADI Divemaster scuba diver with experience leading scientific dive surveys that list the underwater flora and fauna species that live around tropical coral reefs, including transient species of turtles, manta rays and dolphins.

Relevant knowledge of the local area and sea conditions:

Melissa spent a year living in Sydney, Australia and travelled to New Zealand's Kaikoura coast. Melissa was present on the previous Wild Space shoot in the area so is experienced working with these animals in this environment.

### C. Filming from vessels

Maximum number of vessels operating at any one time:

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#### Type and number of vessels (Copy and paste details for additional vessels)

##### Vessel 1 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Vessel name:	Make:
Model:	Size:
Motive power:	Construction and hull design:
Planing hull: <input type="checkbox"/>	Displacement hull: <input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum speed:	

##### Vessel 2 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Vessel name:	Vessel name:
Model:	Model:
Motive power:	Motive power:
Planing hull: <input type="checkbox"/>	Planing hull: <input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum speed:	Maximum speed:
Location of filming from vessel:	Location of filming from vessel:

##### Vessel 3 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Vessel name:	Vessel name:
Model:	Model:
Motive power:	Motive power:
Planing hull: <input type="checkbox"/>	Planing hull: <input type="checkbox"/>

Maximum speed:	Maximum speed:
Location of filming from vessel:	Location of filming from vessel:

## D. Filming from shore

Maximum number of vehicles at any one time within 50 metres of a seal or sea lion on shore:  
(not including vehicles parked in an official car park, slipway or public road)

### Type and number of vehicles (Copy and paste details for additional vehicles)

#### Vehicle 1 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:

#### Vehicle 2 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:

#### Vehicle 3 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:

## E. Filming from aircraft

Maximum number of aircraft operating at any one time:

### Type and number of aircraft (Copy and paste details for additional aircraft)

#### Aircraft 1 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:
Air service certificate number or other aviation document:	

#### Aircraft 2 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:
Air service certificate number or other aviation document:	

#### Aircraft 3 description:

Location(s) of filming:	
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Registration:	Make:
Model:	Carrying Capacity:
Air service certificate number or other aviation document:	

## Filming with a drone

Maximum number of drones operating at any one time:

1

## Type and number of drones (Copy and paste details for additional drones)

### Drone 1 description:

Location(s) of filming: Ohau Falls, Kaikoura Coastline

Model: DJI Inspire 2 or 3	Noise level: around 60 decibels of noise when hovering at a distance of approximately 1m away.
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### Drone 1 description:

Location(s) of filming: Ohau Falls, Kaikoura Coastline

Model: DJI Mavic 3 CINE	Noise level:
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## F. Other

Is there any further information you wish to supply in support of your application?