

New Zealand Fur Seal Study



WHAT TO BRING (FOR THE DAY)

Essentials

- Warm clothing
- Warm hat & gloves
- Hiking boots or strong shoes
- Food (lunch & snacks) for the day
- Drink, e.g. water (at least 1 litre)
- Wet weather gear (waterproof raincoat & pants)
- Sunscreen
- Something to carry your gear in (e.g. day pack)
- Work gloves

Optional

- Camera
- Music CD's

Who we work with

This project was initiated by the Department of Conservation; the aim being to provide regular and long term data on the population recovery of the New Zealand fur seal. This project is self-managed, so we do not typically work with any other volunteer groups whilst seal monitoring.

Where we're working

We monitor four fur seal colonies in the Greater Wellington region. The colonies are located at Cape Palliser, Honeycomb Rock, Red Rocks and Turakairae Head.

What we'll be doing and why

GVN volunteers make monthly counts of fur seals at each study site, noting the age and sex classes of the seals. Further studies examining the behavioural response of seals to humans may also be undertaken. Government agencies, such as DOC do not have the resources to undertake monitoring on a monthly basis, largely due to the remote nature of the sites and time involved in monitoring. Therefore the data we provide is vital as it provides information on the potential recovery of a once threatened species.

Timetable

Each seal colony is visited once a month. For some of the sites we split the group into two teams with each team visiting a separate site.

Travel times to the sites are (all one way);

Cape Palliser- 1hr 45 min
Honeycomb Rock- 2hr 15 min
Turakairae Head- 40 mins
Red Rocks- 40 mins

Health, Safety, Security, and Biosecurity

The habitat of the fur seals is fairly rocky and often slippery so good footwear is essential. The seals themselves also present a hazard as they can become aggressive if you get between them and the ocean.

Food & meals

You need to pack a lunch for this project

For more information

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Conservation/001~Plants-and-Animals/003~Marine-Mammals/NZ-Fur-Seal.asp>

TEAM GEAR NEEDED (FOR THE DAY)

Work equipment (from GVN office)

- Binoculars
- Clipboards
- Data sheets
- Stop watch
- Counter