

The Second Annual National
**Citizen Science
Cetacean Census**

19-20 June 2021

JOIN or form a spotting team at a coastal spot near you
Shifts of 2 hours+ is all you need to spare.

It's a great thing to be part of, as hundreds around
the country stand staring out to sea
wondering what they'll see.

Families and all welcome.

See if you can spot a whale or a dolphin!

Brought to you by
Cetacean Spotting New Zealand
[Census Roster Link](#)



Cetacean Spotting NZ

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Photo Julie Chandelier

The Annual Citizen Science Cetacean Census invites everyone to collect data about what's seen at sea, at the same time around the country every year.

Anyone can take part. Just choose a survey site at a high location to see as far out to sea as possible. Each year more data will be collected so that we can develop a better understanding of our cetacean community.

The timing of the survey coincides with the Southern Hemisphere Humpback whale migration peak. All cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and marine mammals (seals and sea lions) will be counted, including data on their species, number, location, and activity. The survey is co-ordinated nationally through the Cetacean Spotting NZ Facebook page.

What you do: In shifts of at least two hours, help spot whales and dolphins, using binoculars or the naked eye, and record data on the [google forms](#).

What you need to bring: Layers of clothing for warmth, wet weather gear, a portable seat if you have one! Binoculars, camera, food, and water (a thermos will be good), sunscreen, polarised sunglasses are best, and your cell phone.

What to look for: We cannot guarantee that you will see whales and dolphins. But Orca, Māui, Hector's, dusky and bottlenose dolphins are often seen in inshore waters. Whales and dolphins can be detected by water disturbance or splashes, blows or spouts, bodies or fins at the surface, the sudden emergence of dark fins sticking out of the water. Sometimes a whale will leap out of the water (breach) or slap its tail.

It is a good idea to study up on New Zealand whales and dolphins to help you on the day.

Health and Safety: You will be working at high points in the elements, the surface underfoot may be slippery. Take care and don't get too close to a cliff face. Please wear sturdy footwear and warm clothes with a good windbreaker. Please stay within any safety barriers and adhere to local safety warnings and precautions. Please take a First Aid kit if you are going anywhere remote. Always let people know where you are going and what time you're expected back.