

# HAERE MAI TOHORĀ

Our tohorā/southern right whales are returning to mainland New Zealand. You can help scientists this winter by reporting all whale sightings from around our coastline, whether you see a tohorā or other type of whale. This will help increase knowledge of whale distribution and movements around the country.

## IT'S BEEN A LONG VOYAGE

Tohorā are making a comeback from whaling. It's been a long voyage but they are now venturing out of the safety of their sub-antarctic refuge and returning to our waters. We need to understand how and where they're coming back, so we can plan and take care of this recovering population. Please help us look out for them. No matter what part of our 15,000km coastline you are on, you have a chance of spotting a tohorā. We need your eyes!

## HOW TO REPORT A WHALE SIGHTING

Call 0800 DOCHOT (0800 362 468) or report online at [doc.govt.nz](https://doc.govt.nz)

Post your best photo, tag [@itsliveocean](https://twitter.com/itsliveocean) and let us know what you saw!

## RECORD THE DETAILS

**Include as much information as possible with your sighting:**

- Date, time and location (GPS coordinates if possible)
- Number of whales and calves
- The direction they were travelling
- Take photographs or video

## THE BEST PHOTOS

- Focus on identifying marks, the left side of the head and shots of the full length of the body
- For the tohorā, focus on the white patches on the head, lip line and white streaks on the body

## BE WHALE WISE AT SEA

**Check your distance**

- 50m away (or 200m if the whale is with a calf)
- Keep a 'no wake' speed within 300m

**Check your position**

- Always come from a direction that is parallel and slightly from the rear
- Don't circle whales, or obstruct them
- Don't box whales in (against the shore or other boats)
- If a whale moves towards you, slow down and stop or carefully manoeuvre out of the whale's path

**Be kind**

- Avoid loud or sudden noises
- Never cut through a group or separate mothers from calves
- Don't feed or swim with whales

## TOHORĀ - SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES

These slow-moving marine giants often chill out close to shore and have a curious, playful nature. Individuals can be identified by the unique pattern of callosities on their head.



Callosities on head



No dorsal fin, smooth back



Triangular, all-black tail

## PAIKEA - HUMPBACK WHALES

Paikea are well known for their spectacular breaching. Their tails are broad and have a unique black and white pattern, which allow individuals to be identified.



Grooves and knobs on head



Dorsal fin, hump with knuckles



Scalloped edge on tail

## PARĀOA - SPERM WHALES

Parāoa have wrinkly skin and a large square head that makes up around one third of their body length. They are purplish-brown or dark grey in colour.



Hump instead of dorsal fin



Arching back



Large triangular tail

## BLUE WHALES

The blue whale is the largest animal in the world and is usually seen alone or in pairs. The head is blue, but the back and sides usually appear a mottled bluish grey.



Mottled bluish grey back



Small dorsal fin



Wide triangular tail