



West Coast Blue Penguin Trust 2012 census

Thank you so much for volunteering to help with the blue penguin census.

This is a Coast wide census with volunteers heading out from Karamea to Haast and beyond. While not scientific, the census provides valuable information about trends in blue penguin numbers and presence/absence. This year can you also please note the number of banded dotterels and variable (black) oystercatchers that you see. Don't bother looking for their footprints – we are interested in actual bird sightings.

Enjoy the walk and remember to watch out for the waves and any seals. Tell someone where you are going and if any issues arise or you need help from the Trust feel free to contact Inger on 03 755 8600 or 021 370 1876.

Winter census timing

This years census will take place between Wednesday 1 and Sunday 5 August. Low tides are between 3.38am and 7.10am over these days.

Early morning (preferably 6-8am) for footprint count on sandy beaches

Evening (after dusk) for penguin count on rocky shores

- If you have a sandy foreshore counting footprints during early morning as or soon after penguins return to sea is the best time
- If you have a rocky or pebble foreshore then the evening, after dusk, would be better. Penguins are nervous when arriving at night – noise and torches will scare them off. Keep lights low and shaded and sit still.
- Repeat the observation two or more times if you can, this increases the value of the data
- Take care to ensure you are counting blue penguin footprints and not other birds (info and example on next page)

Blue penguin prints



Blue penguin prints are slightly rounded, there are claw marks and sign of webbing between toes at base. Toes are much wider but the footprint is narrower than other shore birds like oystercatchers or sea gulls. The footprints generally run in a relatively straight line, from the dunes to the sea, whereas other birds will be wandering around.



Banded Dotterel

(Dotterels may have a russet and/or black band on chest)



Variable black Oystercatcher

Please keep an eye out for banded dotterels and variable (black) oystercatchers and make a note of how many you see on the form.

West Coast Blue Penguin Trust 2012 Census Form

Location _____

Names of surveyors _____

Date _____ Time (circle one) : AM PM

Sea conditions (circle one) : CALM MODERATE ROUGH

Rain (circle one) : NIL LIGHT HEAVY

Cloud cover (circle one) : CLEAR PARTLY CLOUDY OVERCAST

Shoreline (circle one) : SANDY STONY ROCKY

Vegetation : BUSH OPEN LAND

Number of penguin prints _____

Number of penguins observed _____

Time of first penguin call if heard _____

Number of Dotterels seen _____

Number of Oystercatchers seen _____

Any other information _____

Volunteer safety form

Thanks so much for volunteering your time to help the West Coast blue penguins. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable time in the field.

HAZARD	HOW TO CONTROL OR ELIMINATE	IMPORTANT GEAR TO CARRY
Adverse weather	Know the forecast Recognise and respond to hypothermia	Carry and wear suitable clothing / wet weather gear
Coastal environment hazards	Know the tide times, ensure travel along coast during safe tide times Seek knowledge of coastal hazards, quick-sand near river mouths, bluffs etc. Don't travel alone where such hazards exist.	Appropriate sturdy footwear 1 st aid kit
Fur seals	Scan area before proceeding Walk on inland side of fur seals Do not proceed if too many seals	1 st aid kit
Bush	Select suitable path Watch for natural hazards like bluffs and slippery tree roots	Map & compass if necessary Torch if at night
Farmland hazards	Talk to farmer about specific hazards Be wary of stock, dogs and electric fences	

Always leave your intentions with someone reliable and plan what they will do if you fail to return on time.

Please return your form to the West Coast Blue Penguin Trust, 231 Revell Street, Hokitika 7810 or info@bluepenguin.org.nz

Thanks again for your help, have a great trip, be safe and we hope you see lots of signs of penguins.