

## Non-Commercial Short-tailed Shearwater (Muttonbird) Season 2023

### Non-Commercial Harvesting - Licence requirements

Anyone wishing to harvest Short-tailed Shearwaters (muttonbirds) can do so only during the period of the annual gazetted open season for muttonbird.

A Hunting Licence for muttonbirds must be purchased prior to undertaking any harvesting. These licences can be obtained from any Service Tasmania shop or online at <https://hunting.nre.tas.gov.au/>.

A date of birth is required for all persons purchasing a licence. Full name and postal and/or residential addresses are also required.

### Where can you go to legally harvest Muttonbirds?

A number of muttonbird colonies are opened each year for non-commercial muttonbird harvesting. Details of muttonbird colonies that are expected to be open for harvest during the 2023 season are given on the reverse side of this sheet. Note that these details may change following muttonbird surveys undertaken prior to the season. Details of any changes will be made available online, via direct enquiry to Wildlife Services or from Service Tasmania shops.

### Regulations relating to harvesting

*Muttonbird harvesters must note:*

- Night-birding is prohibited ("night" is between 1 hour after sunset and 1 hour before sunrise).
- Use of pointed, sharpened, barbed or hook-shaped or sharpened implements is prohibited.
- Dogs may not be used.
- Interfering with, damaging or destroying burrows is prohibited.
- Licences are issued to one person only. The taking of Muttonbirds under another person's licence (including family members) is unlawful.

### Burrow damage

Muttonbirds use the same burrow year after year; please reduce damage by minimising the distance you travel in colonies and trying to avoid damaging burrows.

### Guidelines for the Humane Killing of Muttonbirds (Short-tailed Shearwater)

The *Animal Welfare Act 1993* prescribes penalties for persons who do not kill muttonbird chicks in a humane manner. It is your responsibility to kill any chicks harvested quickly and humanely.

The following methods have been approved as Animal Welfare Guidelines under s44B of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*. These guidelines provide instructions which, if followed, will ensure that the killing of muttonbirds is carried out in a way which ensures animals are killed as efficiently as possible with a minimum of suffering.

It is the responsibility of the harvester to use the method that will ensure a humane kill that does not cause unreasonable or unjustifiable pain or suffering to the chick.

The following method is recommended as suitable for use by more experienced muttonbirders, including those killing chicks for commercial or cultural purposes:

1. *Immediately upon removing the bird from the burrow, secure the head firmly between the index and middle fingers of one hand, just below the skull.*
2. *Secure the head in place with the thumb.*
3. *Raise the bird in a pendulum movement to a near vertical position (head now facing down).*
4. *In one fluid movement drop the bird (or allow the bird to fall) until it reaches a position just lower than horizontal (when the weight of the bird is felt), then snap the hand and wrist upwards and towards yourself (as when cracking a whip) while pressing the thumb firmly into position below the base of the skull.*

The following method is recommended as suitable for use by less experienced muttonbirders:

1. *Hold the bird by the feet, head down, in one hand.*
2. *Place the index and middle fingers of the other hand in the form of a V immediately behind the bird's skull.*
3. *Finally turn the bird's head upwards and away. This method immediately dislocates the neck and results in a quick, painless death.*

## 2023 Colonies Open for Non-Commercial Harvesting of Short-tailed Shearwaters (Muttonbirds)

Colony	Land Status	2023 Season dates*	Bag Limit*
<b>Hunter Group:</b>			
Harbour Islets Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Open Seasons Order	<b>1 April to 16 April 2023</b>
Petrels Game Reserve	Game Reserve	As above	As above
Ranger Point Rookery on Three Hummock Island State Reserve	State Reserve	" "	" "
Stack Island Game Reserve	Game Reserve	" "	" "
Bird Island Game Reserve	Game Reserve	" "	" "
Walkers Island	PRIVATE LAND	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Robbins Island	PRIVATE LAND	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
<b>King Island Group:</b>			
Badger Box	Conservation Area	Open Seasons Order	<b>1 April to 16 April 2023</b>
Barrier Creek	Conservation Area	As above	As above
Bold Head	Conservation Area & Private	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Boulder Point	State Reserve & Private	As above	" "
Catarique Point	Conservation Area	" "	" "
Fraser Bluff	Conservation Area	" "	" "
Grassy	PRIVATE LAND	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Naracoopa Beach	Crown – Leased	Order + Permission for access required from lessee.	" "
New Year Island Game Reserve	Game Reserve	Open Seasons Order	" "
Red Hut	Conservation Area & Private	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Rocky Point	State Reserve	Open Seasons Order	" "
Sandblow Point	Conservation Area	" "	" "
Seal Rocks State Reserve	State Reserve	" "	" "
Wash and Springs	Crown Reserve & Private	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Whistler Point	Conservation Area & Private	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
Wickham Lighthouse	PRIVATE LAND	Order + Permission for access required from land owner.	" "
<b>Furneaux Group:</b>			
Big Green Island East Kangaroo Island	Nature Reserve Nature Reserve	Harvesting under <b>Special Permit ONLY</b> . Permit from P&WS Whitemark, Flinders Island. Contact P&WS Whitemark on Ph: (03) 6359 2217 for details.	
Inner Sister Island Conservation Area Outer Sister Island Conservation Area	Conservation Area & Crown - Leased	Order + Permission for access required from lessee	<b>1 April to 16 April 2023</b>
Little Chalky Island	Conservation Area	Open Seasons Order	As above
Little Dog Island Game Reserve	Game Reserve & Private	Order + Permission for access required from land owner	" "
Little Green Island Conservation Area	Conservation Area & Private	" "	" "
Little Island	Conservation Area	Open Seasons Order	" "
Marriot Reef	Conservation Area	" "	" "
Pasco Islands	Conservation Area	" "	" "
Passage Island	Conservation Area - Leased	Order + Permission for access required from lessee	" "
Pelican Island	Crown Land	Open Seasons Order	" "
Prime Seal Island	Conservation Area- Leased	Order + Permission for access required from lessee	" "
Puncheon Island	PRIVATE LAND	Order + Permission for access required from land owner	" "
Roydon Island	Conservation Area	Open Seasons Order	" "
Sentinel Island	Conservation Area	" "	" "
<b>All West Coast colonies are CLOSED for harvesting during 2023</b>			

\*- Unless changed as per Nature Conservation (Open Seasons) Order 2004

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