

OCEANIC MANTA RAY'S OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Sightings and data collection guide

Oceanic manta rays are a globally endangered species. Currently the biggest threat to Aotearoa's manta rays is the lack of data. We simply don't know enough about these animals to protect them. By submitting your sightings to Manta Watch NZ, you are directly contributing to our national research and conservation efforts.

Submit your manta sightings, photos and videos by scanning the QR Code or visit our website www.mantawatchnz.org. Thank you for your support!

Oceanic Manta Ray
(*Mobula Birostris*)

Oceanic's are the world's largest species of ray and can reach up to 7 meters across and weigh up to 2 tonnes.

Largest brain of any fish, and highly intelligent.

DORSAL ID ZONE

Head or Dorsal Photo IDs
The colouration and shading of a manta ray's head, including the characteristic 'T' shape, are unique to each individual.

Cephalic or head fins help manta rays funnel prey into their mouths.

VENTRAL ID ZONE

Belly or Ventral Photo IDs
The marking or spots on a manta ray's belly are unique, much like a human fingerprint. These images are incredibly valuable, and the best way to photographically identify individual mantas.

The presence or absence of claspers determines manta ray gender. Males usually have two claspers, whilst females have standard pelvic fins.

Sightings
1994 - 2022



Key sighting information we need

1. Date and Time
2. Location (GSP position)
3. Images and Videos (High Resolution)
4. Photo ID Zones (heads and belly)

Bonus information – the more information you can share the more we can learn about your sighting

Water temperature
Associated wildlife



New Zealand manta season

The majority of manta sightings occur between **November to June**

Peak manta season – when you have the best chance to spot mantas is between December to March



Global conservation status

Endangered: population decreasing

How you can support our manta mahi

Scan here to submit your sightings and become a citizen scientist. Discover a new manta (not already in our ID Database) and you get to name them!

