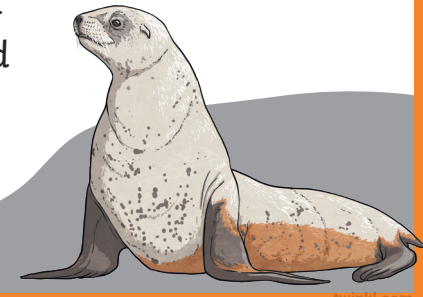


# New Zealand Seals and Sea Lions Fact Cards



## New Zealand Sea Lions

New Zealand sea lions are endemic to New Zealand and are one of the largest animals found in the country. They have blunt noses; male sea lions have a thick, brown coat of hair around their necks and shoulders giving them their name. They live on a diet of fish, squid, crustaceans, seabirds and other marine mammals. In turn, they are hunted by great white sharks. New Zealand sea lions can live for around 23 years. This species is classed as nationally vulnerable.



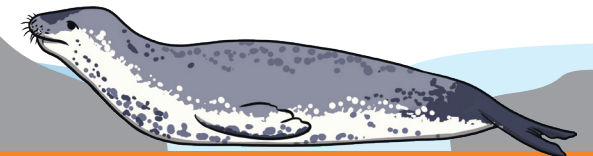
## New Zealand Fur Seals

New Zealand fur seals are a protected native species of seals in New Zealand. They are found around coastal areas of both the mainland and offshore islands. These seals have external ears and they are able to move their back flippers to help them move on land. They mainly feed on small fish and squid. Their breeding grounds are often rocky, coastal areas and these same areas may also be used for resting out of water. The outcrops of the rocks keep the pups protected from the males and also provide much needed shade for the pups. Males can weigh up to three times that of females.



## Leopard Seals

Leopard seals have long slender bodies with large front flippers. Their bodies are different shades of grey and they have dark grey or black spots. Leopard seals hunt krill, penguins and other birds, fish, other seals, squid and octopus. They are the only known seals to hunt and kill warm-blooded prey such as other seals. These seals frequent the waters surrounding penguin rookeries and are skilled at catching these for a meal. Male leopard seals can weigh up to 500kg.



## Southern Elephant Seals

Ranging in colour from dark grey (shortly after moulting) to a rusty brown colour, elephant seals are the largest seal species in the world. Male southern elephant seals have a trunk-like protrusion on their face which is a little like an elephant trunk. Elephant seals feed on squid, cuttlefish and large prey, such as sharks. They spend around 90% of their time at sea underwater and their dives can last for over 25 minutes. Southern elephant seals have been known to visit the coastlines of mainland New Zealand but mostly live around New Zealand's subantarctic islands.

