

## Pilot's Beach - Human Impact on Taiaroa Head Resource Sheet for Group Leaders

1. Karora/ Blue Penguins, Would they have been here when Maori or the Military were here or the Albatross were not present?
  - arrive before dark and keep to the road
  - when leaving, watch for penguins and let them go first
  - no camera flashes or direct torchlight on them
  - keep 5m away and don't disturb the burrows

Kekeno/ NZ fur seal and rapoka or whakahao/NZ sealion. Would seals have been this approachable during sealing times?

- do not surround them, don't block their escape route to the sea
- keep 2 to 3m away from seals and 5m away from sealions
- Keep quiet
- Never try to touch or stroke one

2. Flax has and had a variety of uses:

- Rope, kete and other baskets
- sandles, kakahu (cloaks) and other clothes
- the Maori only used the outer leaves, this was customary as part of their beliefs and protected the plant for future use.

Pikao was and is used in Tukuruku panels and decoratively in some kete. The dead pikao was a stunning yellow colour.

3. Blue penguins crawl under the fence to their burrows, the fence helps prevent human induced erosion and protects new plants.
4. Symbols on the sign represent the following information:
  - No Smoking or fires - the risk of fire spreading is high with dry grass, strong winds, and the closest fire service is in Portobello. The road may act as a fire break, if a fire started at Harrington Point.
  - No camping - noise and light would stress the penguins, toilets are not available, and this activity would increase the fire risk. Is camping allowed on any recreational reserve? Controlled by DCC land use issues in bylaws.
  - No dogs - they would scare the seals and kill penguins
5. Plastic rubbish may affect seabirds and other animals in the following ways:
  - mistaken it for food and eaten, possibly causing blockage and starvation
  - tangles around them (e.g. six-pack rings) causing strangulation or acts as an anchor causing them to starve or drown
6. People can frighten seals. The fence gives them a refuge and protects people from aggressive seals

7. The Department of Conservation built these nesting boxes to encourage these birds to nest in the area as there are limited natural sites available
8. The Armstrong disappearing gun.
9. Students may like to think about accessibility to transport of people and goods in the days before the Peninsula road, or about the safest place to be in case of enemy invasion.