

Black shag Māpunga

Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae



Conservation status

Regional | Threatened: Endangered
National | At Risk: Relict



Main threats

Disturbance, pollution

A bit about me...



Length:
80–88 cm



Weight:
2–2.4 kg



Range

Range:

Uses all habitats with enough water to fish in, both coastal and inland. Also found across Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.



Key Otago sites:

- Mata-au / Clutha River
- Te Nohoaka o Tukiaua / Sinclair Wetlands
- Karitane

New Zealand native

A large glossy-black cormorant with a yellow face, black feet and turquoise eyes. Breeding adults gain a shaggy crest and white flank patches. Juveniles have duller plumage and a whiter underside. Black shags were historically persecuted by fishermen, who believed they impacted trout numbers.

Similar birds:



Pied shag / kāruhiruhi



Otago shag / matapo