

Member Country Profile - New Zealand

Organisations:	New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
Country Representatives:	Siobhan Quayle – General Manager, Climate, Land & Oceans Ben Moginie– Advisor, EEZ Applications
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<p>Regime Scope: The EPA manages the environmental effects of activities and existing structures in the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Continental Shelf, including prospecting for petroleum and minerals, seismic surveying and scientific research.</p>	
<p>Administering Agency/Arrangements:</p> <p>The Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 and its functions is administered by the Environmental Protection Authority.</p> <p>The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and its functions is administered by the Department for Conservation.</p> <p>The Maritime Transport Act and functions is administered by Maritime New Zealand.</p> <p>The Crown Minerals Act 1991 and its functions is administered by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.</p>	
<p>Legislation Type:</p> <p>Parliamentary Act: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (The EEZ Act) and regulations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Dumping and Discharge) Regulations 2015, • Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013 • Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – non-notified Activities) Regulations 2014 • Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Burial at Sea) Regulations 2015 • Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf <p>Parliamentary Act : Crown Minerals Act 1991</p> <p>Parliamentary Act: Marine Mammals Protections Act 1978</p> <p>Parliamentary Act: Maritime Transport Act 1994</p>	

Links to Relevant Legislation:

Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012

<http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM3955428.html?src=qs>

Marine Mammals Protections Act 1978

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1978/0080/latest/DLM251111.html>

Maritime Transport Act 1994

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1994/0104/76.0/DLM334660.html>

Crown Minerals Act

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0070/76.0/DLM242536.html>

Extent of Government Approval:

Operators require approvals from several government agencies in New Zealand.

[View the general roles of each agency for regulating offshore oil and gas activities.](#)

Permits for exploration and production of offshore petroleum resources are administered by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

Any operator wishing to undertake activities within the EEZ which are covered by the EEZ Act must apply for a marine consent from the EPA. The EPA Board is appointed by the Minister for the Environment.

Operators are permitted to undertake seismic surveying in the EEZ provided the operators comply with the Department of Conservation's *2013 Code of Conduct for Minimising Acoustic Disturbance to Marine Mammals from Seismic Surveying Operations*.

All offshore installations require an oil spill contingency plan approved by Maritime New Zealand and an emergency spill response plan approved by the EPA in order to operate.

Nature of Duties Imposed: Every person carrying out, or proposing to carry out, an activity in the exclusive economic zone or on the continental shelf has a general duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on the environment, and to provide sufficient training, supervision and resources for employees engaged in the activity to ensure compliance with the EEZ Act.

Physical Objects in the Regime: Māui gas field containing 2 platforms (Māui A and Māui B) connected via pipelines to onshore processing facilities; Kupe gas field containing 1 unmanned platform connected via pipelines to onshore processing facilities; Tui Area containing four horizontal wells flowing to a permanently moored Floating Production Storage & Offloading (FPSO) vessel and; Maari oil field containing 1 wellhead platform and 1 FPSO.

Assurance Mechanisms: Multi-agency inspection of offshore installations and activities including EPA inspectors concerned with the environmental aspects of regulation & control of activities.

Financial Basis: The EPA's activities relating to the EEZ are primarily cost-recovered from the operators of offshore installations, and marine consent applicants.

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Environmental Regulation Responsibilities: In relation to the EEZ and Continental Shelf Act, the EPA shall: Receive information about permitted activities; receive information about transitional arrangements and make rulings about the effects of changes to existing activities; receive, process, assess and decide on marine consent applications; undertake the monitoring and enforcement of activities in New Zealand's EEZ and Continental Shelf that are managed under the Act and its regulations; keep records and make information available, and; promote public awareness of the requirements of the Act.

Oil Spill Response: The EPA has no direct response functions, but requires oil spill contingency planning at activity consenting stage. Oil spill response is undertaken by Maritime New Zealand. Operators are required to submit for approval an oil spill contingency plan to Maritime New Zealand.

Transparency: Reporting and public notification for oil and gas production activities. The role of the EPA includes making information available and promoting public awareness of the requirements of the EEZ Act. The EPA website provides information about the administration of the EEZ Act and the work of the EPA.

Profile Date:

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