

Former *Annual New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 16*, published 1 July 2025 is cancelled. This is a repetition of the former notice.

Authorities : Maritime New Zealand, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand

Main Areas of Activity

1. Petroleum exploration rigs and gas and oil production platforms may be encountered off the New Zealand coast. At present, the main areas of activity are off the North Island's West Coast. This area is designated by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a Precautionary Area.

Reference Charts: NZ 43, NZ 45, NZ 48, NZ 443, NZ 4432, NZ 14600 (INT 600), NZ 14601 (INT 601).

Precautionary Area

2. All ships should navigate with particular caution in order to reduce the risk of a maritime casualty and the resulting marine pollution. The Precautionary Area is defined by a line connecting the following geographical positions, the landward extent of which is determined by Mean High Water Springs (MHWS):
 - (a) The charted line of MHWS at approximately 38° 31'.00S., 174° 37'.80E.
 - (b) 39° 18'.50S., 173° 05'.00E.
 - (c) 39° 26'.00S., 173° 01'.00E.
 - (d) 40° 03'.00S., 173° 04'.00E.
 - (e) 40° 10'.00S., 173° 16'.00E.
 - (f) The charted line of MHWS at approximately 39° 53'.50S., 174° 54'.50E.

Navigational Hazards in Precautionary Area

3. The navigational hazards within the Precautionary Area comprise:
 - (a) Maui gas/condensate field westward of Cape Egmont: two manned platforms, with a subsea pipeline to shore;
 - (b) Pohokura gas field northward of Cape Egmont: unmanned production platform connected by subsea pipeline to onshore processing facilities;
 - (c) Maari oil field south-westward of Cape Egmont: normally unmanned oil production platform and manned Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO) serviced by offtake tankers;
 - (d) Tui oil field westward of Cape Egmont: subsea wells only (decommissioned in 2024); and
 - (e) Kupe gas/condensate field southwards of Cape Egmont: unmanned production platform with subsea pipeline to onshore processing facilities.

Legislation/Regulations

4. Each surface installation is protected by a 500 metre radius Safety Zone and a Protected Area for subsurface installations and pipelines. See *Annual New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 13*, paragraph 5 for relevant legislation.

For FPSOs, the baseline for the 500 metre Safety Zone is a circle described by the outer extent of movement around the mooring system (not including offtake tankers). Entry into these Safety Zones is prohibited to all except authorised vessels. A fine of up to NZ\$1,000 may be imposed for navigating within the Safety Zones.

The following regulations apply:

- (a) *Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1996*;
- (b) *Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection (Tui Area Development) Order 2007*;
- (c) *Continental Shelf (Maui A Safety Zone) Regulations 1975*;
- (d) *Continental Shelf (Maui B Safety Zone) Regulations 1991*;
- (e) *Continental Shelf (Pohokura Platform B Safety Zone) Regulations 2006*;
- (f) *Continental Shelf (Kupe Wellhead Platform Safety Zone) Regulations 2006*; and
- (g) *Continental Shelf (Maari Development Safety Zones) Regulations 2008*.

Keeping a Safe Margin of Distance

5. When navigating in the vicinity of production platforms and exploration rigs, an adequate safe margin of distance should be allowed. Where there is sufficient sea room, vessels should keep at least 5 nautical miles clear of these installations. Due allowance should always be given to prevailing weather conditions and the possibility of engine, steering or other mechanical failure.

Anchoring and Fishing in the Vicinity of the Permanent Installations is Prohibited

– For more information, see *New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 13*.

Importance of Keeping Charts Up-to-Date

6. The positions of the permanent oil and gas installations, submarine pipelines, together with the safety zones and prohibited anchoring and fishing areas, are shown on appropriate New Zealand charts. The positions of exploration rigs that change their location from time to time are promulgated in New Zealand Coastal Navigational Warnings and fortnightly editions of *New Zealand Notices to Mariners*. Mariners should ensure that their charts and navigational warning information is up-to-date at all times.