

THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING



You asked us about timeframes, regulatory agencies, what resource consents or other approvals are required, when the public get to have their say and about monitoring and management requirements after consenting.

The graphic below shows the responsibilities of central and local government agencies.

2 to 4 years	5 to 10 years	up to 40 years	indicative timeframes only
Assessment	Exploration	Production	Decommissioning
Prospecting Permits 	Exploration Permits 	Mining Permits 	Resource Consents [Territorial Sea] REGIONAL COUNCIL
Seismic Surveying  	Resource Consents [Territorial Sea] REGIONAL COUNCIL	Resource Consents [Territorial Sea] REGIONAL COUNCIL	Marine Consents [EEZ and Continental Shelf] 
	Marine Consents [EEZ and Continental Shelf] 	Marine Consents [EEZ and Continental Shelf] 	Safety Case WORKSAFE NEW ZEALAND
	Discharge Management Plan 	Discharge Management Plan 	
	Safety Case WORKSAFE NEW ZEALAND	Safety Case WORKSAFE NEW ZEALAND	
	Seismic Surveying  		



Your Voice

We will consult widely in preparation of our environmental consent applications

We will consult widely in preparation of an exploration drill consent, when we will seek for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [non-notified]. This will include undertaking Cultural and Environmental Impact Assessments. Other aspects may be publicly notified depending on what is proposed.

If the findings of the exploration stage warrant moving to production stage, a new round of wide ranging and full consultation with the community, affected parties and Iwi, will be required for the applications we will need to lodge with the EPA, Regional and/or District Councils [depending on the specific design of the production development eg a floating vessel, or a pipe-to-shore option]. Consultation will also inform the design of monitoring and management requirements for the life of the consent.

¹<https://www.nzpam.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/our-industry/factsheets/nz-offshore-waters.pdf>

WHO ARE THE AGENCIES AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Six government agencies and 16 regional councils carry out specific roles and responsibilities in managing petroleum and mineral exploration and production in New Zealand waters. They are:



NEW ZEALAND PETROLEUM & MINERALS

It manages the Government's oil, gas, mineral and coal resources in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991. It processes and monitors prospecting, exploration and mining permits. Before granting permits NZP&M assesses an operator's technical and financial capability, compliance history and undertakes a preliminary, high level assessment of an operator's capability and systems that are likely to be required to meet applicable health, safety and environmental legislation.



It is responsible for ensuring operators have plans in place to prevent spills of oil and to manage the emergency response if their work causes a spill of oil into the sea. For oil and gas work the emergency response plan needs to include how the operator would stem the flow of oil in the unlikely event of a well blowout. It is also responsible for maintaining New Zealand's oil spill response capability and preparedness, and for coordinating any major, national-level oil spill responses.



Ministry for the **Environment** *Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

It is responsible for developing environmental policy and administering the legislation and regulations applying to EEZ and territorial waters. This includes the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 [EEZ Act] and the Resource Management Act 1991 [RMA].



Environmental Protection Authority *Te Mana Rauhi Taiao*

It is responsible for managing the effects of specified restricted activities on the environment in the EEZ and CS under the EEZ Act. The EPA considers applications for marine consents, monitors compliance, carries out enforcement, and promotes public awareness of the requirements of the EEZ Act and associated regulations.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

They are responsible under the RMA for managing the effects of activities on the environment in territorial waters [0 to 12 nm offshore]. Resource consents are usually required under the RMA for petroleum and mineral activities. Some applications may be referred to the Environment Court or to Boards of Inquiry for an assessment and decision.



It is responsible for the rules that ensure that the oil 'stays in the pipe' and the risk of a well failure is as low as reasonably practical. It does this by accepting an operator's safety case and well operations' notice which ensures that a well is managed through its life cycle in relation to its design, construction, operation, maintenance, modification, suspension and abandonment. Worksafe includes the specialist High Hazards Unit.



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

It is responsible for protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953 and Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. It prepares and administers the guidelines for minimising disturbance to marine mammals from seismic survey, as well as seismic surveying regulations in marine mammal sanctuaries. Independent, qualified visual and acoustic monitoring professionals are required to be on board seismic surveying vessels to ensure that the survey follows the mitigation requirements specified in the Marine Mammal Impact Assessment [MMIA].

OTHER AGENCIES

Several other government agencies also have roles and responsibilities. For example, the Ministry for Primary Industries enforces standards of cleanliness for incoming vessels, rigs or equipment, including biofouling on ships' hulls.

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