Form 3: Initial environmental assessment and sensitive environments contingency plan

Regulation 11(c), Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects—Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013

How to use this form:
This form should be completed by organisations planning to carry out marine scientific research, prospecting, or exploration. It fulfils the initial environmental assessment and contingency plan requirements of Schedule 2 of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013.

This form must be provided to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) at least 5 working days before commencing the activity.

Note: Items marked in italics are non-compulsory fields; however, inclusion of this information will assist the EPA in processing this form.

Please note that this completed form, once received and processed by EPA, will be posted on the EPA website.

Submitting in hard copy:
If you wish to provide this form in hard copy, please post your completed form to: Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Wellington, 6140.

Submitting electronically:
If you wish to provide this form electronically, please email your form to: eez.compliance@epa.govt.nz

Any form submitted electronically should be attached to an email that sets out:
- The details of the person undertaking the permitted activity (the operator);
- The name of the person supplying the completed form; and
- A statement that the person is authorised to supply the form on behalf of the operator.

Note: there is an 8 MB limit on electronic files submitted via email.

All forms prescribed by the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013, as well as suggested templates for providing other information, may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.epa.govt.nz or requested by contacting us:

Private Bag 63002, Wellington, 6140
Email info@epa.govt.nz
Ph +64 4 916 2426
Fax +64 4 914 0433

New Zealand Government www.epa.govt.nz
Operation name:
Name used by operator to reference the activity described in this form:

Details of person undertaking permitted activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company name:</th>
<th>National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contact person:</td>
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General description of permitted activity

Type of activity: MPI funded marine scientific research to determine effects of bottom fishing on benthic communities.

Description of methods to be used to undertake the activity: Take 3 replicate grab samples (bite area ca 0.13 m², max bite depth 22 cm) at each of 30 sampling sites between Banks Peninsula and Timaru. At each sampling station, undertake 1 research-sled tow (sled opening ca.50 cm wide) x 100 m long to sample large organisms growing at the sediment surface.

Location of permitted activity

Co-ordinates of area where activity will be undertaken: The work will be undertaken between Banks Peninsula and Timaru, between ca.25 m depth and ca.125 m depth bounded by the corner coordinates (WGS84):

172.565990,-43.910439
172.991749,-44.309589
171.810932,-44.918292
171.378519,-44.492532

Description of the current state of the area and the surrounding environment, including any known sensitive environments:

Sandy, muddy and gravelly habitats, no known sensitive environments (known sensitive areas specifically avoided)

Description of the likely effects of the activity on the environment:

Minor: there will be 90 x 0.13 m³ grab samples of sediment, and 30 x 0.5 m wide x 200 m long research sled tows to collect seabed-surface living organisms.
Identification of sensitive environments

Describe any sensitive environments likely to exist in the area where the activity will be undertaken:

None known.

Contingency plan

Specify measures that could be taken to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on sensitive environments:

- **a) Can the activity be undertaken in another place?**
  
  Yes / No*
  
  **Explain:** The chosen area does not contain known sensitive habitats, and is fished by commercial trawling gear.

- **b) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that reduces the amount of contact with the seabed?**
  
  Yes / No*
  
  **Explain:** The purpose of the study is to sample animals living within or on the sediment surface to assess the effects of benthic effects of commercial fishing. The scale of the proposed sampling is considered very minor as compared with commercial fishing effects or disturbance from storms (shallow sites).

- **c) Can different methods be used in undertaking the activity to lessen its effects on the sensitive environment?**
  
  Yes / No*
  
  **Explain:** The sampling methods are designed to sample animals on or in the sediment surface. These coastal sediments are not considered sensitive.

- **d) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that lessens its effects in the sensitive environment?**
  
  Yes / No*
  
  **Explain:** The scale and number of samples is very small compared with the size of the area and expected effects of commercial fishing undertaken in the area.

* Select one

24 February 2014

**Signature of authorised contact person**

Name:

Title:

**Note:** A signature is not required for electronic (email) forms.