



# Permitted activities: Initial environmental assessment and sensitive environments contingency plan

*Form 3 of Schedule 5 of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013*

**How to use this form:** This form must be completed by organisations planning to carry out marine scientific research, prospecting or exploration in accordance with regulation 5 of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013 (PA Regulations 2013). This form fulfils the initial environmental assessment and contingency plan requirements of Schedule 2 of the PA Regulations 2013.

**Timeframe:** You must provide this form to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) at least 5 working days before starting the activity.

**Note:** Items marked in *italics* are not compulsory; however, including this information will help the EPA process the form.

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 the completed form in hard copy, post it to Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Wellington 6140.

**Submitting electronically:** If you wish to provide the completed form electronically, email it to [permitted.compliance@epa.govt.nz](mailto:permitted.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
- a statement that the person is authorised to supply the form on behalf of the operator.

Note: The EPA has an 8 MB limit on electronic files submitted by email.

You can find and download all forms prescribed by the PA Regulations 2013, as well as suggested templates for providing other information, on our website at [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz) or request them from us by contacting:

Environmental Protection Authority,  
Private Bag 63002, Wellington 6140  
Email [permitted.compliance@epa.govt.nz](mailto:permitted.compliance@epa.govt.nz)

Phone +64 4 916 2426  
Fax +64 4 914 0433

**Operation name:**

Name used by operator to reference the activity described in this form: SEA Cruise S290: Global Oceans

Activity code:

Code given to you by the EPA after submitting the pre-activity notice: SEAPA24

**Details of the person undertaking the permitted activity**

<b>Name of company, organisation or person:</b>	Sea Education Association		
<b>Contact person:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Phone number:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Mobile number:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Fax number:</b>	508-457-4673
<b>Physical address:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Postcode:</b>	02540
<b>Postal address (if different):</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Postcode:</b>	02543
<b>Email address:</b>	[REDACTED]		

**General description of the permitted activity****Type of activity:**

Marine scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alteration, extension or removal of a permitted marine structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prospecting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discharge of sediments from iron sand prospecting and exploration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Incidental discharge of sediments from phosphate nodule or placer gold prospecting and exploration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placement or removal of submarine cables	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discharge of sediments from seafloor massive sulphide prospecting and exploration	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Describe methods to be used to undertake the activity:**

Continuous underway measurements of: current magnitude and direction via ADCP; single-beam bathymetry; surface seawater temperature, salinity, CDOM fluorescence, transmissivity, and chlorophyll fluorescence via flow-thru system. Intermittent near-surface (top ~100 m) temperature, salinity and chlorophyll fluorescence profiles from towable CTD.

In-situ station-based work: upper water column CTD profiles; discrete water samples collected by Niskin bottle for chemical analysis (nitrate, phosphate, silicate, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll concentration, pH, total and carbonate alkalinity, and abundance of microplastic particles); surface and near-surface zooplankton biodiversity and abundance assessed by net tow (333um mesh); surface and near-surface phytoplankton biodiversity and abundance assessed by drifted phytoplankton net (63um mesh).

In addition to instrument-driven observation we will also conduct hourly visual surveys (0600-1800 hours) of marine debris, marine mammals, seabirds, fish and sea turtles. Enumeration of marine debris and fauna (e.g. seabirds, marine mammals, etc) will be augmented with aerial surveys using a drone equipped with a digital recording device (e.g. Phantom 3 or similar model ~ 400m range) where permissible.

**Location of permitted activity****Co-ordinates of area where activity will be undertaken:**

Set 1	35.74 S, 174.94 E
Set 2	34.56 S, 177.99 E
Set 3	39.03 S, 180.00 E
Set 4	42.51 S, 173.97 E
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have attached a shape or KML/KMZ file to a previous form

**Map**

(showing position of activity relative to the New Zealand coastline)



**Figure 1.** Proposed cruise track for S290.

\*\*Please note, our exact cruise track is weather dependent.

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**Describe the current state of the area and the surrounding environment, including any sensitive environments:**

All water column research will occur close to the cruise track indicated on Figure 1. Due to weather and safety conditions our cruise track is subject to change. We do not plan to sample or interact with any sensitive environments.

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**Describe the likely effects of the activity on the environment:**

Water column sampling activities focus on the upper water column and will not impact any sensitive environments. We will remove small volumes of seawater for chemical analysis and daily net tows will collect small zooplankton samples.

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**Identification of sensitive environments**

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

No sensitive environments have been identified in the proposed sampling areas nor were noted in response to the previously submitted EPA forms.

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**Contingency plan**

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

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**a) Can the activity be undertaken in another place?**

Yes  No

**Explain:** SEA's educational oceanographic activities take place on a sailing vessel and therefore are highly dependent on the variability of wind and weather, resulting in possible minor variations to the proposed cruise track. Our sailing objectives are primarily based on the needs of the

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	curriculum for the undergraduate research projects. We do not plan to sample or interact with any sensitive environments.
<b>b) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that reduces the amount of contact with the seabed?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>Explain:</b> There will be no contact with the seabed.
<b>c) Can different methods be used in undertaking the activity to lessen its effects on the sensitive environment?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>Explain:</b> Water column sampling activities focus on the upper water column and will not impact any sensitive environments. We will remove small volumes of seawater for chemical analysis and daily net tows will collect small zooplankton samples. We do not plan to sample or interact with any sensitive environments.
<b>d) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that lessens its effects on the sensitive environment?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>Explain:</b> We do not plan to sample or interact with any sensitive environments.

Signature of authorised contact person

Date 1/20/2020

Name: [REDACTED]

Title: [REDACTED]

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