

Former *Annual New Zealand Notice to Mariners, No. 16A*, published 1 July 2023 is cancelled. This is a repetition of the former Notice.

Authority: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

1. The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment can specify a non-interference zone around prospecting, exploration, or mining activities that are authorised under a permit granted under the *Crown Minerals Act 1991*.
2. It is an offence to enter a non-interference zone without reasonable excuse. A fine of up to \$10,000 may be imposed for doing so. Enforcement officers can:
 - (a) Arrest people entering, or attempting to enter, a zone;
 - (b) Prevent ships or people entering a zone;
 - (c) Stop and detain a ship in a zone; and
 - (d) Remove ships or people from a zone.
3. The zone is specified by a notice published in a fortnightly edition of *New Zealand Notices to Mariners*.
4. A notice will specify:
 - (a) The activity to which the non-interference zone relates;
 - (b) The locality of the activity;
 - (c) The area of the non-interference zone (which can be up to 500 metres from the outer edge of the structure or ship, or any attached equipment, to which the activities relates); and
 - (d) The time period for which the notice takes effect.
5. The non-interference zone can be applied within the territorial sea or the exclusive economic zone, or on or above the continental shelf.
6. The relevant sections of the *Crown Minerals Act 1991* are Sections 101A to 101C.
7. Under Section 101B(1) a person also commits an offence if the person intentionally damages or interferes with any structure or ship, or attached equipment, that is used in relation to offshore prospecting, exploration, or mining operations. A non-interference zone does not apply to this offence. An individual convicted of this offence is liable to imprisonment of up to 12 months or a fine of up to \$50,000; a company is liable for a fine of up to \$100,000.