

Impact Assessment Guidance

An impact assessment should:

- (a) describe the activity to be undertaken; and
- (b) describe the current state of the area where it is proposed that the activity will be undertaken and the environment surrounding the area; and
- (c) identify the actual and potential effects of the activity on the environment and existing interests (including cumulative effects and effects that may occur in New Zealand territory or the high seas); and
- (d) identify persons whose existing interests are likely to be adversely affected by the activity; and
- (e) describe any consultation undertaken with persons described in paragraph (d) and specify those who have given written approval to the activity; and
- (f) include copies of any written approvals to the activity; and
- (g) specify any possible alternative locations for, or methods for undertaking, the activity that may avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effects; and
- (h) specify the measures that the operator intends to take to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects identified.

An impact assessment should contain the above information in:

- (a) such detail as corresponds to the scale and significance of the effects that the activity may have on the environment and existing interests; and
- (b) sufficient detail to enable the Environmental Protection Authority and persons whose existing interests are or may be affected to understand the nature of the activity and its effects on the environment and existing interests.

An impact assessment follows the guidance in (c) and (d) if the Environmental Protection Authority is satisfied that a reasonable effort has been made to identify the matters described in those paragraphs.

The measures that should be specified under (h) include any measures required by another marine management regime and any measures required by the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 that may have the effect of avoiding, remedying, or mitigating the adverse effects of the activity on the environment.

For the purposes of this guidance, the meaning of the word **effect** includes:

- (a) any positive or adverse effect; and
- (b) any temporary or permanent effect; and
- (c) any past, present, or future effect; and
- (d) any cumulative effect that arises over time or in combination with other effects;
and
- (e) any potential effect of high probability; and
- (f) any potential effect of low probability that has a high potential impact.

Clauses (a) to (d) apply regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect.