

From: Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex=tcil.co.nz@mail18.suw17.mcsv.net> on behalf of Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex@tcil.co.nz>
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Weekly Situation Report

Oil and Gas Activism



Date: 22 October 2016

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Contact: [REDACTED]

Phone: ([REDACTED])

Threat Level

The assessed level of threat from issue-motivated group (IMG) activism and protest directed towards oil and gas Industry clients is currently assessed at MODERATE for onshore operations, and also MODERATE for offshore in relation to vessels engaged in industry related operations, particularly when in port.

This increase in the rating is in direct response to Greenpeace New Zealand on 14 October publicly announcing it was renewing its campaign to drive oil and gas companies out of New Zealand through a campaign of direct action and civil disobedience planned for this summer (see the explanation of Thompson+Clark's Threat Methodology at the end of this SitRep).

Explanation

This Situation Report (SitRep) summarizes recent relevant protests and activities by IMGs and activists opposed to operations both onshore and offshore by the Oil and Gas Industry over the past week. It looks at risks to current Industry operations and events, and at trends and developments both domestically and overseas (where relevant). It is based on open and public sources of information.

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Activist Announces Survey Ship on Site

21 October

The Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT) activist who has been monitoring the movements of the seismic survey vessel PGS Apollo off the west coast has advised other activists that the vessel is now on site in the survey area.

The activist states she knows this because she had tracked the vessel via AIS to a position northwest of Farewell Spit. She advised the other members of the group that, "PGS Australia Pty Ltd were granted a two year oil and gas Prospecting Permit (60102) on 17 August 2016. The permit covers 108097.091sqkm of ocean, almost the entire west coast of the North Island (minus existing permits). PGS Australia collect data about potential oil and gas deposits and sell it to oil companies."

Referring to the activists' belief that the operations of the survey vessel is a threat to marine mammals, most especially the critically endangered Maui's dolphins, the activist placed the following post on CJT's Facebook page on 21 October.

"Prayers for Maui Dolphins and other marine mammals! PGS Apollo looks to have finally entered the PGS Australia prospecting permit area this afternoon but is still a long way out of the zone PGS said they would be surveying.

"The seismic survey ship is escorted by the tug Searanger and supply ship Thor Alpha which will refuel the PGS Apollo every five weeks while it remains at sea.

"In mid November, when this survey is completed in the South Taranaki Bight, they will move to North Taranaki where they will undertake at least one other seismic survey."

Referring to the West Coast Marine Mammal Sanctuary, she said, "Critically endangered Maui Dolphins are supposed to be protected within this area that the NZ government has opened for seismic surveying. The Marine Mammal Sanctuary along the West Coast is supposed to protect the remaining Maui Dolphins from harm but their wellbeing and safety is at risk from seismic surveys in the area."



Oil and Gas a "Threat to Dolphins"

20 October

Greenpeace New Zealand is demanding further protection for Maui dolphins after the latest population estimate shows the number of the critically endangered dolphins has risen, while claiming petroleum exploration is threatening their survival.

The Maui survey, carried out by DoC, MPI, and researchers from Auckland and Oregon State Universities, estimates that there are now about 63 Maui left, an increase from the last estimate of 55 in a 2010-2011 survey. Until now, 'Save the 55' has been the catch phrase of the save the Maui dolphin movement.

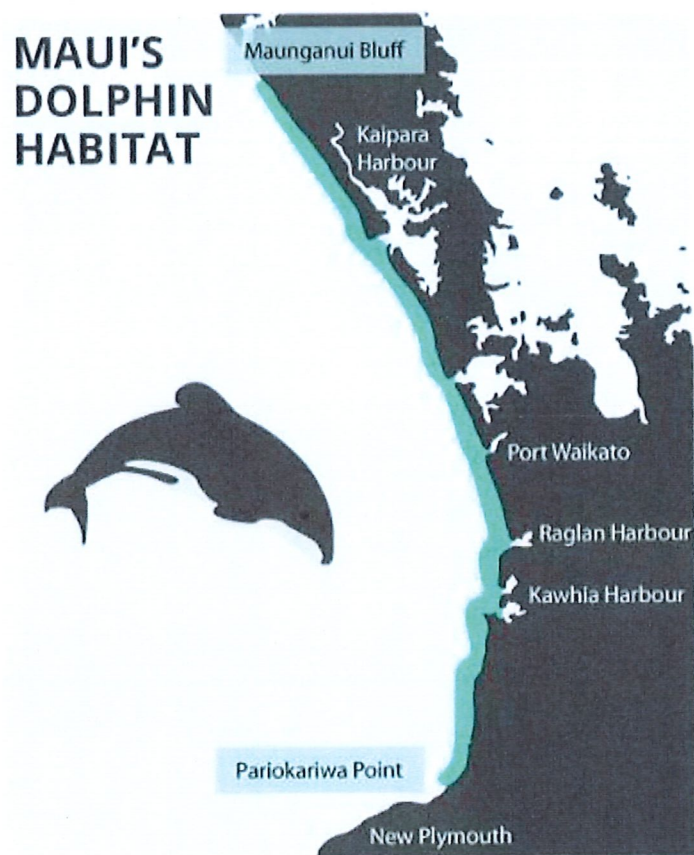
Greenpeace NZ says while it's encouraging that indications are that there has been a small increase in the population of the world's smallest and rarest dolphin, it does not change their critically endangered status.

It does, however, show that that the added protections that have been implemented over the years might be working, and must be continued, expanded and intensified, says Greenpeace NZ. This is especially pressing considering new and destructive human activities like seismic testing and seabed mining are now being planned and carried out in and around the Maui's habitat, it adds.

Greenpeace NZ says it is calling on the Government to extend the dolphin's marine mammal sanctuary refuge to cover their full habitat range, issue a ban on net fishing, seabed mining, petroleum exploration and drilling from within the sanctuary, and ban seismic testing from within 20 nautical miles of the sanctuary's boundary.

Greenpeace NZ says over 65,000 people have now signed Greenpeace's petition calling

on the government to implement stronger measures. Greenpeace says evidence suggests that Maui may be travelling outside of the area that is currently protected. Recent research shows Maui's cousins, Hector's dolphins, regularly travel outside of their normal habitat in winter, far away from safe waters. Greenpeace argues that if Maui are doing the same, then they could be in grave danger. Currently, their protected zone only covers where they are known to be in summer. Greenpeace's position is mirrored by the World Wide Fund for Nature NZ (WWF) which says the Government still needs to do "more than the minimum" to save the dolphin from the very real prospect of extinction. "Clearly the numbers are still extremely low," its spokesman said. "Maui dolphins need to be protected throughout their range from set netting, trawling and risky marine mining activities."



Norwegian Group Supports Protest

20 October

The President of the indigenous Sami Parliament of Norway arrived in the country this weekend, to engage with Maori communities who say they are opposed to exploration here by Norwegian oil company Statoil.

Last week, Statoil announced it was handing back two permits in the Reinga Basin, but is continuing a joint venture with Chevron, exploring a large area of ocean from the Napier coastline to Kaikoura.

Greenpeace NZ's Northland Climate Campaigner claims, "It is curious that within days of the Samediggi confirming their visit to Aotearoa, Statoil abruptly surrendered the Reinga Basin permits."

President Aili Keskitalo (see photo below) and the Samediggi delegation will be formally welcomed into the country on Monday, for their first engagement with Maori leaders from the Far North and followed by meetings in Northland, Gisborne and Waikato.

"Climate change is impacting people around the globe, notably for Sami who live near the Arctic circle. The expansion of fossil fuel production must stop and the faster we advance alternative energy solutions, the safer everyone's grandchildren will be," said Greenpeace's Northland Climate Campaigner in a press release prepared by his partner, a journalist with Te Hiku Media, Northland.

See this link for a Radio Te Hiku interview with this subject with Greenpeace's Northland Climate Campaigner. <http://tinyurl.com/gnwl7j5>



Greenpeace Rep Discusses Survey Ship

20 October

The Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT) activist who is monitoring and commenting on the movements of the seismic survey vessel PGS Apollo has discussed the vessel's movements via a series of public Facebook posts with Greenpeace New Zealand's National Coordinator of Volunteers, expressing her puzzlement over the vessel's behaviour and seeking her advice on what the ship might be doing.

One of the principle roles of the Coordinator is to train and organise Greenpeace volunteers willing to undertake protest action.

It seems that after detecting the PGS Apollo outside the survey zone, on 20 October, the CJT activist referred her screen shots of the vessel's movements to Greenpeace's Coordinator for advice on what she thinks the vessel might be doing.

Greenpeace's Coordinator has come back to the CJT activist with the comment, "testing equipment? calibrating? waiting for their support vessel? - it's anyone's guess..."

The CJT activist has responded by saying, "I think at least one of the two support vessels have been with it for a few days. I can only monitor the track of the ship briefly when I come online so can't see where it's been apart from the short track shown. This is where it was at 8:10 last night..."

The CJT activist has then sent Greenpeace's Coordinator a screenshot of the location of the Apollo's support vessels taken from AIS, which she described as the location of the "tug and special craft."

She has then gone on to post a screenshot of the Apollo located on AIS to the entire CJT Facebook group showing the vessel off Westport with the following comment, "The PGS Apollo appears to be conducting its seismic survey off the coast of Westport and far from the designated block near Farewell Spit. This was the position of the ship and support vessels at 1:35pm Tuesday 18 October."

She has then posted another image of the actual survey area, saying, "The green block is where PGS Apollo is supposed to be surveying until mid November."

Other CJT activists have come on line and added their comments. These are:

"That's quite a little bit outside their permit zone - fruckin frackers!"

"The Apollo was right out of range last night, in somebody else fishing permit zone. Does Maritime even monitor these frackers?"

"I guess an exploitation permit is permission to go where you please."

S41°48'14.68
E174°47'52.70
(-41.8041,
174.7980)

PGS APOLLO
Research/Survey
Vessel

Add to Fleet
Vessel Details

NZ NPL OFFSHORE
ATD: 2016-10- ETA: 2016-10-

Show Track Options

I WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST
OIL DRILLING THIS SUMMER.
ARE YOU IN?

I'm in - are you?

Statoil has pulled the plug on its Northland drilling but still plans on drilling the east coast - now is the time to redouble our efforts and push them out for good.
Greenpeace is calling for a summer of action on oil.

VIA GREENPEACE

Greenpeace - "We Will Push You Out"

18 October

With activist morale high following Statoil's announcement it was relinquishing its Reinga Basin exploration permits last week, Greenpeace NZ now says confidentially that is going to drive the company out of New Zealand completely.

Greenpeace is claiming credit for the permits being relinquished, claiming, "Although the company's representatives were quick to claim the move came as a result of the low a probability of finding oil there, the sudden exit follows years of protest by the Northland community."

Greenpeace says that earlier this year, "hundreds of people" used peaceful civil disobedience to block the doors of the annual petroleum conference by sitting in the way, and causing disruption. "The oil industry obviously felt the heat, because next year, the conference has been moved to New Plymouth," says Greenpeace's Northland Climate Campaigner and Maori liaison officer.

He says Statoil leaving Northland is "certainly a win for people power. It's a cause for celebration. But it's not over yet. No, our oily intruder still has its claws firmly sunken into our beautiful East Coast. You could say that right now, Statoil is halfway out the door. Now is the time to redouble our efforts and push them out for good." Activist Outlines anti-Statoil tactics

Greenpeace's campaigner goes onto explain in a blogpost addressed to Greenpeace supporters how he reckons Greenpeace forced Statoil to relinquish its exploratory permits for the Reinga Basin.

He says, "The first we heard of the Statoil exploration permit was when the Government announced it as part of their programme to support fossil fuel extraction by international oil companies.

"Inspired by the successful campaign by Te Whānau-ā-Apanui and Greenpeace to stop ultra deep oil drilling in the Raukumara basin off the East Cape, and the Anadarko operation off the coast of Taranaki, we immediately began organising in Northland.

"A series of public meetings were held across the region, from which a number of community based anti-oil drilling groups emerged in Kaitaia, Hokianga, and Whangarei. Meetings were held with the relevant local iwi authorities to establish their formal positions on the issue and to further analyse the business and activity of deep water drilling. As a result Ngati Kuri, Ngati Kahu and Te Rarawa declared their formal opposition to it," he claims.

He says over ten thousand fact sheets were produced and distributed at major events in the region, including Waitangi Day, and the Ngapuhi festival. And then further significant local community led organising began to occur.

Signs and billboards started appearing all over Northland. Local iwi media began

regular reporting on the issue, and a range of community meetings and events kicked off. This included hiko mobilisations, open-air concerts, hands across the sands events, banners on the beach and volatile public meetings with representatives of Statoil, he said.

He says the activists; strategy had a number of objectives:

1. Develop public awareness of the scope and nature of ultra deep water drilling.
2. Dispel the "myths and propaganda of the oil industry."
3. Withdraw the social license of Iwi and local communities.
4. Undermine international shareholder confidence amongst the owners of Statoil.
5. Initiate legal challenges to Statoil's activities through domestic jurisdictions within New Zealand and within Norway itself.
6. Internationalise the pressure on Statoil by aligning with other indigenous campaigns targeting Statoil.
7. Position NZ as one of the least desirable locations to conduct oil drilling.

Protest Activity

When Statoil began its seismic surveying of the permit area off the West Coast of Northland, their survey vessel was intercepted at sea by the ocean going waka hourua "Haunui" and told to "withdraw from tribal waters," he says.

He also says, that given a "mandate" by the Ahipara Komiti Takutaimoana marine protection group, he then led a small delegation of Northland Maori to Norway to engage with the local Sami indigenous people and to attend the annual Statoil shareholders meeting to "put the owners on notice that their investment in Aotearoa would be met by stiff resistance."

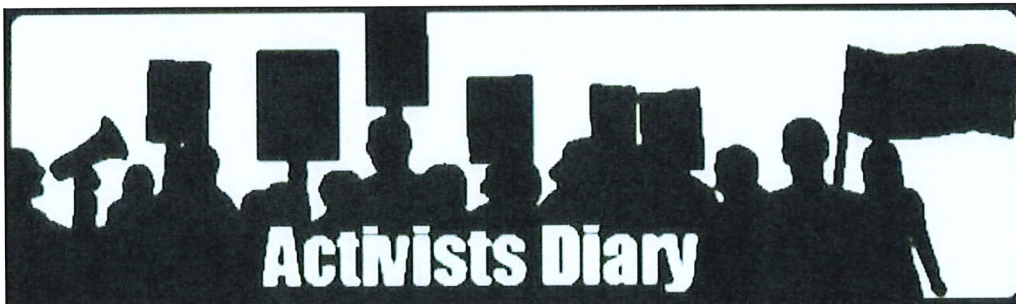
He claims by early 2016, "the perfect storm of negative operating conditions for Statoil that we had anticipated began to emerge."

- Social opposition within Aotearoa was steadily escalating.
- Maori and local body opposition was getting more strident.
- The Sami Parliament was expressing its concerns about Statoil directly to the company within Norway.
- The climate movement and public discourse was increasingly identifying fossil fuels as the main global contributor to climate change.

Greenpeace Getting Ready to Escalate

While he says Greenpeace is pleased with the support it got pushing for Statoil's withdrawal from the Far North. "It's not game over yet," he adds.

Statoil, in partnership with Chevron, are still prospecting in lower East Coast waters. "We remain fully engaged in continuing the campaign until every ultra deep-water exploration project is halted altogether. Rather than scaling down, we are about to significantly escalate our campaign this summer," he says.



Block Offer Christchurch Protest

02 November

The Christchurch issue motivated group Oil Free Otago plans a 'supportive' protest at the Christchurch City Council when it meets on 02 November to discuss its response to the 2017 Block Offer.

A majority of the councillors are known to be opposed to the Block Offer, and last year

the council formally expressed its opposition to the government when asked for feedback on the 2016 Block Offer. The council's response this year is likely to be the same.



Maui Dolphin Event

01 March 2017

The Wellington artist, photographer and Videographer behind this event has postponed it a couple of times but now says it is going ahead on 01 March at Kaiapara. It is being promoted as a music festival focussed on the preservation of the last surviving Maui Dolphins.



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Security Assessment	Threat Level & Colour Code	Required Response
1. Protest Action is unlikely.	LOW (Green)	Normal Routine Protective Security measures are applied appropriate to the individual & current circumstances.
2. Protest Action is possible.	MODERATE (Blue)	
3. Obstructive & Direct Action protest is feasible and may occur.	ELEVATED (Yellow)	Heightened Additional and sustainable Protective Security measures reflecting the broad nature of the threat combined with specific business & geographical vulnerabilities & judgements on acceptable risk.
4. Obstructive and illegal Direct Action protest is very likely to occur.	HIGH (Orange)	
5. Illegal or obstructive Direct Action protest to sabotage operations is imminent.	SEVERE (Red)	Exceptional Maximum Protective Security measures required to minimise vulnerabilities & risk.

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