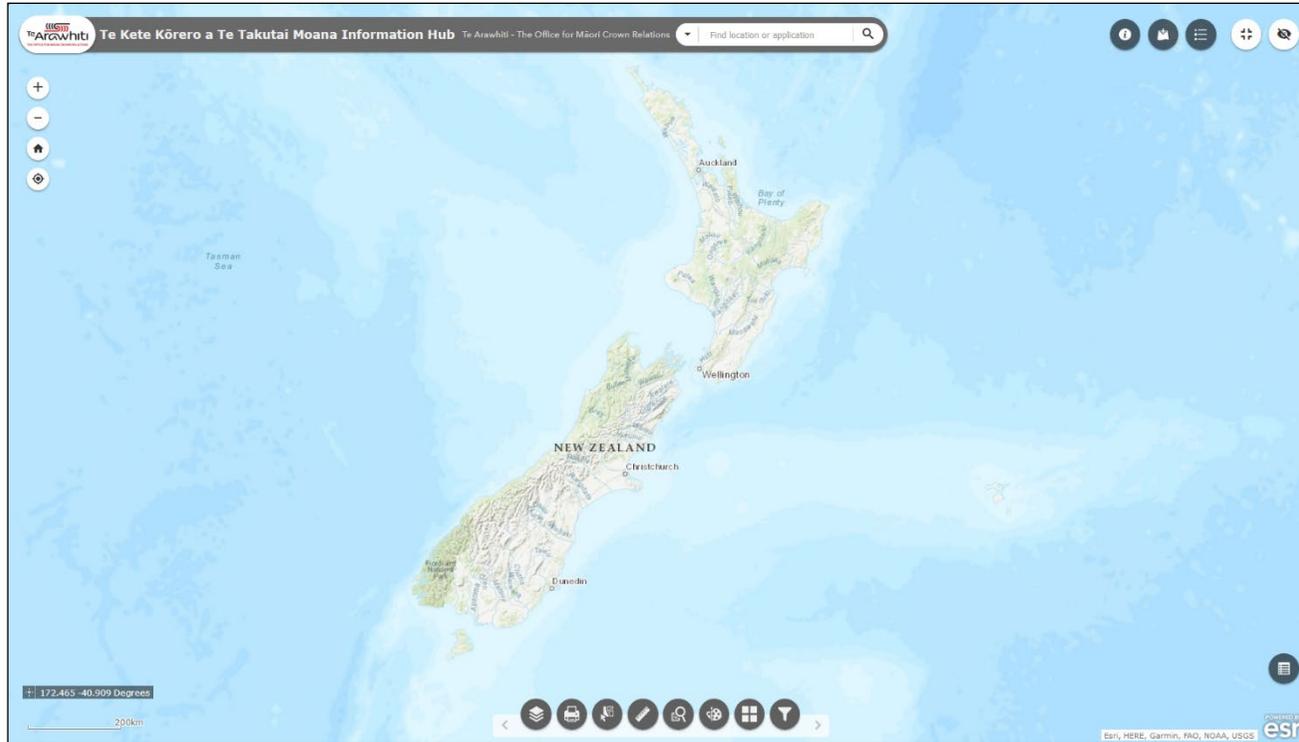


Te Kete Kōrero a Te Takutai Moana



Explainer: The Historic Permits and Licences Layer

This document provides an overview of the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer in Te Kete Kōrero a Te Takutai Moana.

Introduction

Te Arawhiti has collected information about historic licences and permits to occupy coastal areas of New Zealand issued by the Crown. Generally, licences and permits authorised the building of structures or allowed for specific activities. Common examples include the construction of a wharf or slipway, reclamation of tidal lands, or the granting of control over a stretch of coast to a local authority or harbour board. Licences and permits to occupy would usually be limited by time – often 14 or 21 years.

Permits and licences provide a rich source of information on approved activities in New Zealand's marine and coastal area from the 1870s to the 1990s. They provide information on how marine space has been utilised, who was involved, and details of the associated legal instruments. It should be noted, however, that sometimes licences were, for a variety of reasons, revoked soon after they were issued, or the intended project simply never commenced or, sometimes, remained incomplete.

Te Arawhiti has searched copies of the *New Zealand Government Gazette (Gazette)* for notices of Orders in Council authorising licences and permits to occupy marine space. The *Gazette* entries were matched to a digitised set of former Marine Department and Ministry of Transport master plans. While much of the paper record has been decimated by accidental fires or approved destruction over the years, some of the files associated with permits and licences to occupy remain available to researchers at Archives New Zealand or in the holdings of local authorities. Taken together, the gazettes, plans and files form a dataset that reveals central government authorities for use of the New Zealand marine and coastal area, from the mid-1870s to the passing of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

This dataset has been incorporated into Te Kete Kōrero a Te Takutai Moana as the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer, providing users with the location and nature of these authorities.

This dataset is indicative – it should not be viewed as an exhaustive list of every licence and permit issued in New Zealand's marine space.

What are the historic permits and licences?

'Historic permits and licences' refer to authorities granted by the central government under 'Harbours' legislation from the 1870s until the passing of the RMA. Prior to the 1870s it was the provincial governments which authorised use of marine space within their boundaries. Te Arawhiti has not yet collected data from the period 1840-1877 although we intend doing so soon.

Applications made by local authorities and the general public for permits and licences to occupy were recorded through the production of a marine plan, an Order in Council (usually

a notation, date and signature on the face of the relevant marine plan) and publication of a notice in the *Gazette*. Marine plans and *Gazette* notices, together with some file data, form the documentary basis of the dataset.

Most marine plans note the proposed structure or activity, include a map or diagram of the proposed location and, if applicable, the physical nature of the structure. *Gazette* notices provide the date of approval by Order in Council, a plan number and, for later gazettals, the Marine Department or Ministry of Transport file number. *Gazette* entries also provide details about the licence, such as the identity of the grantee(s) and the specific type of activity or occupation authorised. This information is available in the pop-up attribute tables available alongside each data point in the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer.

Why has the 'Historic Permits and Licences' data been collected?

The data is relevant to identifying historic activity in the marine and coastal area.

Furthermore, Section 19 of the Takutai Moana Act 2011 refers to a Government responsibility (by the Department of Conservation working with regional authorities) to remove all abandoned structures in the coastal marine area. This data assists identification of these structures, and their location and title history.

What are the limitations of the dataset?

The almost two thousand data points displayed on the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer represent approximately 53% of the licences and permits for which we have information. We have only displayed data on licences for which we have both the marine plans and *Gazette* notices. In some cases, the marine plans are missing or the *Gazette* notices for them are yet to be located. We expect to expand the existing dataset as information becomes available.

Unfortunately, fires in several repositories during the early and mid-twentieth century, and the transition of files between different agencies, has resulted in the loss of an unknown number of Marine Department plans. It is estimated by Te Arawhiti that approximately 70% of the total plans for the period 1878-1986 have survived.

The dataset does not include information for licences and permits issued prior to 1878. Between 1854 and 1877, licences and permits were issued and recorded by provincial governments. Prior to 1854 it is likely that approvals were made by Order in Council by successive Governors or Lieutenant Governors. It is intended to investigate, collect, and include relevant data in the existing dataset in the near future.

The coastal environment is dynamic and always changing. This often makes locating the sites to which historic permits and licences apply challenging. This is particularly difficult in high-density, urban environments where the shoreline has changed significantly since the marine plan was created.

The data presented here is therefore indicative and should be used as a starting point for further research.

What is the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer?

The 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer in Kōrero Takutai is a spatial representation of the dataset. It displays nearly two thousand data points across the marine and coastal area of New Zealand, each representing the approximate location of a structure or activity for which a permit or licence was granted.

The points are coloured according to the category of licence they represent:

- Blue denotes 'Public Wharves';
- Yellow denotes 'Occupation below Mean High Water Springs';
- Red denotes 'Granting of Control';
- Orange denotes 'Shellfish Gathering and Farming'; and
- Green denotes 'Reclamations'.

What does the information in the pop-up and attribute table mean?

When clicked on, each point displays a pop-up pane that lists information about the permit or licence represented by the point. This information is also displayed in the attribute table. The categories included in the pop-up are as follows:

- Historic Consent ID
 - Identifying number assigned to each data entry.
- Plan Number
 - The number given to the plan (or plans) when filed with the Marine Department.
- Region
 - The region in which the permit or licence was located.
- Location
 - The location of the permit or licence.
- Latitude and Longitude
 - Co-ordinates for the approximate site of the permit or licence.
- Type of Occupation or Activity
 - The type of structure authorised, or the nature of the licence granted (i.e. licence to use and occupy the foreshore, granting control of a part of the foreshore, defining harbour limits, reclamation, etc).
 - Public wharves also have a separate 'Activity Authorised' category.
- Grantee
 - The individual or organisation granted the licence or permit.
- NZ Gazette Year/Page

- This is the year and page number of the *Gazette* notice for the specific licence or permit. For example, '1954/81' refers to p. 81 of the 1954 *Gazette* (the page numbers for each year run across all the issues from a single year).
- Marine Department File Number
 - The code given to the marine plan when it was filed by the Marine Department. Not all points have an associated file number.
- Term or Length Approval
 - The length of time for which the permit or licence was approved.
- Legislation/Legislative Authority
 - The legislation under which the licence or permit was authorised. This category is only relevant to 'Shellfish Gathering' and 'Farming & Reclamation' entries.

Is there further information not available in the pop-up and attribute table?

Only the most important data categories were included in the pop-up and attribute table in Kōrero Takutai. However, further information was recorded about each permit and licence during data collection. Further data categories include:

- Comments
 - Any interesting information noted in the Gazette entry, such as if and when the authority was revoked.
- Renewal
 - Permits and licences were sometimes renewed several times. The same information as recorded for the original entry (i.e. those categories listed above) was recorded for any subsequent renewals.

All collected data is available in spreadsheet format through the [Kōrero Takutai page on the Te Arawhiti website](#). The data is organised by type of occupation or activity, alphabetically by region, and then chronologically by NZ Gazette Year/Page.

How have the permits and licences been mapped?

Creating a spatial representation of the 'Historic Permits and Licences' dataset involved examining the marine plans for clues about the location of the structure or activity being authorised. Most marine plans include geographical markers (e.g. road names, buildings, settlements, bridges, and islands) that allow for easy identification of permit location. Plans were compared with topographic maps and satellite imagery to locate the place names and topographic features shown on the plans. Coordinates for the location of the permit were then approximated based on this comparison.

The coordinates identified and used to georeference the permit locations are as accurate as the source material allowed (see below, 'What are the limitations of georeferencing?'). Once

complete, a quality assurance process was undertaken to check the accuracy of a sample of the data collected.

Some permit locations are represented with multiple data points. This is the case with most of the 'Granting of Control' licences (coloured red), which often granted authority over a stretch of coastline rather than a single, discreet location. In these cases, two points have been placed at either end of the authority area, indicating its general extent. Some 'Granting of Control' licences refer to multiple, separate areas of coast, in which case there are multiple sets of two points for the same Marine Department plan (e.g. MD16134 in Doubtless Bay, Northland, as shown in Figure 1).



Figure 1. Coordinates depicting the extent of three areas over which MD16134 in Doubtless bay, Northland.

There are also licences in other categories which have multiple data points on the map layer, such as those authorising separate but multiple structures all depicted on the same plan. Good examples of this are MD2294 at Whangaroa Harbour, Northland and MD12495 at the Motunau River Mouth, Canterbury.

There are some permit locations which are not situated within the boundaries of the marine and coastal area. These licences and permits are still relevant to use and occupation of the coastline, and so have been included in the layer. Examples include the numerous points along the Wairoa River in the Northern Kaipara Harbour. Most of these represent wharves at places like Dargaville, or further south around the towns of Te Kopuru and Aratapu. Despite being located further inland, it is reasonable to assume that many of them were used as points of access to coast further south in the Kaipara Harbour.

What are the limitations of georeferencing?

The locations provided in the 'Historic Permits and Licences' layer are indicative. The marine plans, especially the earlier ones, often lack geographic detail and precision. Such ambiguity in the source material means we cannot be sure that the locations provided are completely accurate.

Nevertheless, the permit locations provided in the layer are generally good indications of where, for example, the jetty in the plan was intended to be built, or the reclamation to take place. The marine plans and *Gazette* notices almost always provided enough information to narrow down the location of the licences to a distinct area of marine space, such as a specific bay or locality. The quality assurance process has further ensured the general accuracy of the data points.