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## Two New Offshore Taranaki Permits Granted To NZOG And FCE

**T**wo new permits have been granted in offshore Taranaki, both close to the coast, north and south of Cape Egmont. The largest permit, PEP 38472, which lies between the Maui and Kupe fields, has been granted to New Zealand Oil and Gas Ltd.

Eric Matthews, Exploration Manager for NZOG, said the company saw potential for Moki-type oil plays in the Miocene in the northern part of the block though there were also Kapuni Group prospects towards the south. He said there have not been any wells drilled in the block, essentially because it is a

geologically lower area than the Maui high. Nevertheless, several potential traps had been initially identified.

The other new permit, PEP 38474, in an area west of New Plymouth, has been awarded to Energy Exploration NZ Ltd, FCE's new permit-holding subsidiary. This covers an area of 1174 km<sup>2</sup> and touches the coast southwest of New Plymouth.

Texas-based independent Discovery Geo last month was granted an offshore permit, PEP 387222.