

PRESS RELEASE

May 18, 2026
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

Japan - New Zealand Bilateral Exercise

The JMSDF conducted a bilateral exercise with the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) as described below in order to strengthen cooperation to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

1. Objectives

- (1) To improve JMSDF’s tactical capabilities
- (2) To strengthen relationship with the RNZN

2. Date

May 17

3. Exercise Area

West of New Zealand

4. Participating Units

- (1) JMSDF: *JS KUMANO*
- (2) RNZN: *HMNZS TE MANA*

5. Type of Exercise

Tactical Maneuvering, COMMEX and PHOTOEX



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From the front, HMNZS *TE MANA*, JS *KUMANO*



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From the front, JS *KUMANO*, HMNZS *TE MANA*