

Seamen search continues

A search for two missing Taranaki fishermen is continuing.

Leslie Roy Styles (51) and his son Barry Peter Styles (22) New Plymouth, were last seen on their fishing vessel Arohanui at 9.30am on Tuesday. They were about nine nautical miles north of New Plymouth.

Senior Sergeant Alvin Burr, New Plymouth, said an air search from Awakino to Cape Egmont would be made this afternoon. Conditions at sea — southwesterly winds from 20 to 25 knots and a 3.5m swell — were far too rough for boats to be put out.

He said there was hope early today that sea conditions would improve, but the break never came.

Shell BP Todd's vessels travelling to and from rigs off the Taranaki coast are also on the lookout for any sign of the missing vessel, Mr Burr said.

Meanwhile, a fund aimed at assisting the search has been launched in Taranaki by Mike Boaler, Wanganui, and Bill Perry, New Plymouth.

They said a number of friends and relatives of the pair are frustrated at not being able to do anything to help.

"Contributing to the fund is one way they can help," they said.