

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Aranga Beach, south of Maunganui Bluff, to Pouto Peninsula

Summary:

The majority of this area is sandy beaches and sand dune, with large wetlands, freshwater and estuarine areas, that connect to the coast. The coast is made up of long sandy beaches with a high level of naturalness and little development.

The wetlands support Australasian bittern, banded rail, fernbird and spotless crane. There is one record of marsh crane from the Pouto dune system.

The coastline supports NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher, Caspian tern, white-fronted tern, pied shag and pied stilt. Little shag and little black shag occur on wetlands and beaches. Little blue penguin colonies are recorded along the coastline of Waipoua (HANZAB).

The west coast beaches are a strong-hold for NZ dotterel, with the birds breeding along this coast. Wrybill are seasonal visitors along the coast at Glinks Gully and south towards Pouto. White heron regularly visit Pouto Point and black-billed gull are recorded from the Pouto dune system. Reef heron have been recorded on the rocky coastline of the southern end of the Pouto Peninsula and NZ pied oystercatcher are recorded particularly around Pouto Point.

Threatened and At Risk bird species – Aranga Beach, south of Maunganui Bluff to Pouto Peninsula

<i>Species Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name - updated 2013</i>	<i>NZ threat classification</i>		<i>Site status / significance NB. Specific to site</i>
White heron	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Threatened	Nationally critical	Rare visitor
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Uncommon resident
Black-billed gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Rare visitor
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
Banded dotterel	<i>Charandrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon NZ migrant
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident, breeds; probable West Coast subpopulation
Wrybill	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon NZ migrant
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Relatively common resident
Banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At Risk	Declining	Relatively common resident
NZ pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare NZ migrant
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus h. leucocephalus</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident

Eastern bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon migrant
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Common resident, breeds
Marsh crake	<i>Porzana pusilla affinis</i>	At Risk	Relict	Rare resident
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon resident
Little black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon resident
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevisrostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon resident

Assessment of Ecological Significance for birds – Coast outside Harbours and Estuaries

		Bream Tail to Waipu Cove	Bream Bay	Bream Head to Taiharuru Head	Taiharuru Head to Cape Brett	Cape Wiwiki to Berghan Point	Cavalli, Stephenson and other Islands	Doubtless Bay, Rangaunu Bay, Great Exhibition Bay	Ohau Point to Scott Point	Scott Point to Maunganui Bluff	Aranga Beach to Pouto Peninsula	
Bream Tail to Waipu Cove Bird Values: Assessment of Ecological Significance												
Overall Ranking		Notes										
Representation	supports most taxa expected for habitat type		M	M-H	H	M-H	H	H	H	H	M	M
	large example of its type	1.	M-H	M-H	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Rarity and Distinctiveness	supports indigenous species threatened, at risk, or uncommon, nationally or within the relevant ecological scale		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
	supports species endemic to the Northland-Auckland region or at distributional limits within the Northland region		M	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
	distinctive of a naturally restricted occurrence		L	L	L	L	L	L-M	L	L	L	L
Diversity and Pattern	high diversity of indigenous ecosystem or habitat types		M	L	M	M	M-H	M	M	M-H	M	L
	high diversity of indigenous taxa		L-M	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	M-H	M	M-H	L-M	L-M
	its composition reflects the existence of diverse natural features or ecological gradients		M	L	M	M	M-H	M-H	M	M-H	M	L
	contains intact ecological sequences		M	M	M	M	M	M-H	M	M	M	M
Ecological Context	provides or contributes to ecological linkages, networks, buffering functions	?N/A	L-M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M-H	L-M	L-M
	supports the natural functioning of freshwater or coastal ecosystems	2. ?N/A										
	supports life stages of indigenous fauna		M-H	M-H	M-H	M-H	H	H	H	H	M-H	M-H

1. Arbitrary as partly based on size of area selected for assessment
2. All could be ranked high as the areas were considered as coastal zones with connections to adjoining estuarine or freshwater wetlands.

Coastal and offshore birds information notes and references

Site	Assessor	Date	Key references (see below)	Data reliability
Bream Tail to Waipu Cove	KH	Oct 2015	10, 14, 19	High
Bream Bay – except Waipu and Ruakaka estuaries	KH	Oct 2015	14	High
Bream Head to Taiharuru Head	KH	Oct 2015	9, 19	High
Taiharuru Head to Cape Brett, excluding estuaries (Taiharuru, Pataua, Horahora, Ngunguru, Matapouri, Whananaki, Whangaruru)	KH	Oct 2015	1	High
Cape Wiwiki to Berghan Point, excluding Whangaroa Harbour and Cavalli and Stephenson Islands	KH	Oct 2015	7, 22	High
Cavalli Island and Stephenson Islands	KH		7	High
Doubtless Bay, Rangaunu Bay, Great Exhibition Bay, excluding Rangaunu, Houhora and Parengarenga Harbours	KH	Oct 2015	4, 5	High
Ohau Point to Scott Point	KH	Oct 2015	2, 13	Moderately High
Scott Point to Maunganui Bluff	KH	Oct 2015	8, 13, 16	Moderately High
Aranga Beach to Pouto Peninsula	KH	Oct 2015	8, 21	High

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