

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Ohau Point (North Head Parengarenga Harbour) to Scott Point on the west coast.

Summary:

The area comprises sandy beaches, stream mouths and other wetlands backed by dunes, remnant forest, shrublands and gumlands..

Australasian bittern, fernbird, banded rail and spotless crane, black shag, little black shag, pied shag and little shag occur in wetland areas and around lake or vegetated margins.

Marsh crane have been recorded at Paranoa Swamp.

Along the coastline and beaches, northern NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher, Caspian tern, red-billed gull, blue penguin, banded dotterel and white-fronted tern are present. NZ dotterel breed on Te Werahi beach and variable oystercatcher breed on various other beaches in the far north (Te Paki PNAP report, DOC 2009). A little blue penguin colony has been recorded at Twilight Beach (HANZAB).

Pied stilt are present on wetlands and the coastline, often breeding at the former. Reef heron have also been recorded in this area.

On the islands, Motuopao and islets, and Cape Maria van Diemen there are grey-faced petrel breeding, black-winged petrel, fluttering shearwater, sooty shearwater, diving petrel and white-faced storm petrel and reef heron, terns (Caspian and white-fronted), variable oystercatcher and pied shag. White heron may occasionally visit the coast alongside Parengarenga Harbour where they are regular visitors.

Threatened and At Risk bird species – Ohau Point to Scott Point

<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
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident
Banded dotterel	<i>Charandrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common NZ migrant
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident, breeds mainly on islands
Sooty shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident, breeds
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident, breeds
Banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus h. leucocephalus</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident

White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident, breeds on islands
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Common resident, breeds
Common diving petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds on islands
Fluttering shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds on islands
NZ white-faced storm petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina maoriana</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds on islands
Marsh crake	<i>Porzana pusilla affinis</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident
Spotless crake	<i>Porzana t. tabuensis</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon 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 brevirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon resident
Black-winged petrel	<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>	Not threatened	Not threatened	Uncommon resident, breeds on islands
Grey-faced petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera gouldi</i>	Not threatened	Regionally significant/mainland population	Uncommon resident, breeds on islands

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

Bream Tail to Waipu Cove Bird Values: Assessment of Ecological Significance			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
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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