

## Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Bream Bay – except Waipu and Ruakaka estuaries

### Summary:

This area includes the sandy beach/coastal strip of Bream Bay, from the north side of Waipu estuary and excluding Ruakaka estuary. While the beaches are generally little modified, some of the area behind the dunes is moderately modified or developed, while other areas remain little modified.

Threatened species include: northern NZ dotterel, banded dotterel, red-billed gull, Caspian tern, lesser knot and At Risk species include: white-fronted tern, oystercatchers, little penguin, bar-tailed godwit, and shags. These species use the area for feeding and roosting and are more concentrated near the estuaries. NZ dotterel & variable oystercatcher breed on the coast either side of estuaries. Freshwater ponds within the extended sand-dunes may be utilised by Australasian bittern.

NZ fairy tern uses the coastal strip for feeding.

### Threatened and At Risk bird species - Bream Bay

<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>
NZ fairy tern	<i>Sternula nereis davisae</i>	Threatened	Nationally critical	Relatively common resident
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Rare resident
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Banded dotterel	<i>Charandrius bicinctus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare NZ migrant
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident, may breed
Lesser knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon migrant
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
NZ pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon NZ migrant
Eastern bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon migrant
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Relatively common resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Relatively common resident, may breed
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax novaehollandiae carbo</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Rare resident
Little black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Rare resident
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Rare resident

## 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
<b>Overall Ranking</b>		<b>Notes</b>										
<b>Representation</b>	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
<b>Rarity and Distinctiveness</b>	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
<b>Diversity and Pattern</b>	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
<b>Ecological Context</b>	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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