

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

Name/Area: Bream Head to Taiharuru Head

### Summary:

This area starts from Busby Head and includes Smugglers Bay, Peach Cove, Bream Head, Bream Islands, Ocean Beach and Kauri Mountain beach. This incorporates coastal rocky headlands, with rocky outcrops and forest-clad slopes, rocky shoreline and long sandy beaches, stream mouths and extensive dune systems linking to a few smaller areas of saltmarsh and wetlands.

Threatened species include: Australasian bittern, Caspian tern, northern NZ dotterel, pied shag, red-billed gull, reef heron, and At Risk species include: banded rail, blue penguin, NZ pied and variable oystercatchers, pied stilt, Pycroft's petrel, northern diving petrel, Cook's petrel, fluttering shearwater, white-fronted tern, spotless crane, and black, little and little black shags.

Low numbers of Australasian bittern, fernbird, banded rail and spotless crane use stream mouths, wetlands and saltmarsh in this area. A few pairs of NZ dotterel and variable oystercatcher breed along the sandy beaches. Bar-tailed godwit and lesser knot are present on Kauri Mountain beach during the summer months. The following seabirds breed on the Bream Islands – red-billed gull, fluttering shearwater, blue penguin, northern diving petrel, and grey-faced petrel. The Regionally Significant grey-faced petrel has been confirmed breeding at Bream Head (within the Bream Head Scenic Reserve) in 2015 (<http://breamheadtrust.org.nz/news/petrel-discovery-boosts-bream-heads-ongoing-success-story/>).

### Threatened and At Risk bird species - Bream Head to Taiharuru Head

Species Common Name	Scientific Name - updated 2013	NZ threat classification		Site status / significance NB. Specific to site
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Rare resident
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident, breeds
Lesser knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon migrant
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident, breeds
Banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare 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, may breed
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, breeds
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata vealeae</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare resident
Pycroft's petrel	<i>Pterodroma pycrofti</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Rare visitor
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Relatively common resident, breeds

Common diving petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix</i>	At Risk	Relict	Common resident, breeds
Cook's petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	At Risk	Relict	Rare visitor
Fluttering shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds
Spotless crane	<i>Porzana tabuensis tabuensis</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	Rare resident
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Rare resident
Grey-faced petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera gouldi</i>	Not threatened	Regionally significant/mainland population	Rare resident, breeds (confirmed 2015)

## 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

### Key References and Bibliography

- 1 Booth, A. 2005. Natural areas of Whangaruru Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 2 Conning, L. 1998. Natural areas of Ahipara Ecological District: Reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Department of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 3 Conning, L. 1999. Natural areas of Whangaroa Ecological District: Reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, (Northland Conservancy), Whangarei.
- 4 Conning, L. 2002. Natural Areas of Maungataniwha Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Whangarei.
- 5 Conning, L. and Holland, W. 2003. Natural Areas of Aupouri Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Whangarei.

- 6 Conning, L., Holland, W. and Miller, N. 2004. Natural areas of Hokianga Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 7 Conning, L. and Miller, N. 1999. Natural areas of Kerikeri Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation (Northland Conservancy), Whangarei.
- 8 Dowding, J.E. 2001. Natal and breeding dispersal of northern New Zealand dotterels. Conservation Advisory Science Notes 338. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
- 9 Goldwater, N. and Beadel, S. 2010. Natural areas of Manaia Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 10 Goldwater, N., Graham, P., Holland, W. Beadel, S., Martin, T. and Myers, S. 2012. Natural areas of Rodney Ecological District (Northland Conservancy): Reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. New Zealand Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 11 Heather, B.D., and Robertson, H.A. 2005. The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand. Auckland, Penguin.
- 12 Lux, J. and Beadel, S. 2006. Natural areas of Otamatea Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 13 Lux, J., Holland, W., Rate, S. and Beadel, S. 2009. Natural areas of Te Pahi Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 14 Lux, J., Martin, T., and Beadel, S. 2007. Natural areas of Waipu Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 15 Marchant, S. & Higgins, P.J. (co-ordinating editors). 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds (HANZAB).
- 16 Miller, N. and Holland, W. 2007. Natural areas of Tutamoe Ecological District: reconnaissance survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. N.Z. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 17 OWR 2014. Oiled wildlife response (harbour specific series). Northland Regional Council.
- 18 Robertson, C. J. R., Hyvonen, P., Fraser, M. J. and Pickard, C. R. 2007. Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004. Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Wellington.
- 19 Sim-Smith, C. and Kelly, M. 2009. A literature review on the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve. N.Z: Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 20 Smale, M.C., Clarkson, B.R., Clarkson, B.D., Floyd, C.G., Cornes, T.S., Clarkson, F. M., Gilmour, D.C., Snell, T.M. and C.M. Briggs. 2009. Natural areas of Kaipara Ecological District (Northland Conservancy). Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Dept. of Conservation, Northland Conservancy, Whangarei.
- 21 [www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz](http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz)  
© New Zealand Birds Online 2013 – Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa), The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.), New Zealand Department of Conservation
- 22 New Zealand Dotterels *Tūturiwhatu pukunui* in the Bay of Islands factsheet. 2014. Department of Conservation, Pēwhairangi/Bay of Islands Office, Kerikeri.