

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Cavalli Islands, Stephenson (Mahinepua) and other Islands and islets.

Summary:

This area covers the Cavalli Islands and Stephenson/Mahinepua Island and islets, within the East Coast area between Cape Wiwiki and Berghan Point, including Cone/Horoiwi Island, Oruatemanu Island, Motueka (Flat) and Motuekaiti Islands and Lion Rock.

Northern NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher and Caspian tern are found on the offshore islands of Mahinepua/Stephenson Island and Cavalli Islands, including Motukawanui, Kahangaro and Motukawaiti Islands where they are also breeding. White-fronted tern are also present on many of these islands and are reported breeding on Horonui (Cavalli) Island.

Reef heron are present on Horoiwi (Cone), Mahinepua, Motuterakihi and Motueka (Flat) Islands, where they are probably breeding. Pied, little and black shags have been recorded at many of the islands in this area.

Seabirds present on the islands include: Pycroft's petrel, fluttering shearwater, little shearwater, diving petrel, fairy prion, blue penguin, grey-faced petrel and white-faced storm petrel. These seabird species are also breeding on the following islands: Pycroft's petrels breed on Mahinepua; little shearwater breed on the Cavalli Islands and Mahinepua and Horoiwi (Cone) Islands; fluttering shearwater breed on Horoiwi, Mahinepua, Oruatemanu and Cavalli Islands; diving petrel breed on Horoiwi, Mahinepua, Oruatemanu, Te Anaputa and Cavalli Islands; the grey-faced petrel breeds on Horoiwi and Cavalli Islands; blue penguin breed on Horoiwi, Mahinepua, Oruatemanu, Motueka, Motuekaiti and Cavalli Islands.

Threatened and At Risk bird species - East Coast: Cape Wiwiki to Berghan 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>
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident, may breed
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident, breeds
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident, breeds
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident, may breed
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident, breeds
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident, breeds (Horonui Is.)
Little shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Uncommon resident, breeds
Pycroft's petrel	<i>Pterodroma pycrofti</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Uncommon resident, breeds
Brown teal	<i>Anas chlorotis (North Island)</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Rare resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Uncommon resident, breeds
Common diving petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds

Fairy prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident
Fluttering shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident, breeds
NZ white-faced storm petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina maoriana</i>	At Risk	Relict	Uncommon resident
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon visitor
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon visitor
Black-winged petrel	<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>	Not threatened	Not threatened	Uncommon visitor
Grey-faced petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera gouldi</i>	Not threatened	Regionally significant/mainland population	Uncommon resident, breeds

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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