

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Doubtless Bay, Rangaunu Bay, Great Exhibition Bay, excluding Rangaunu, Houhora and Parengarenga Harbours

Summary:

This area of coast covers from Berghan Point to Kokota sandspit, incorporating Doubtless, Rangaunu and Great Exhibition Bays but excluding the three large harbours: Rangaunu, Houhora and Parengarenga Harbours as well as Mangonui Harbour.

These areas comprise steep rocky coastline around Berghan Point to Mangonui Harbour and Knuckle Point at the end of the Karikari Peninsula, interspersed with small sandy bays, some streams and other wetlands. The long sandy beaches of Doubtless and Great Exhibition Bays are relatively unbroken with rocky outcrops and little development behind the beaches. NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher, pied oystercatcher, white-fronted and Caspian terns, red-billed gull, reef heron, bar-tailed godwit and lesser knot occur along the sandy beaches. NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher, white-fronted tern and red-billed gull breed along sandy beaches, while banded dotterel breed on Kowhai and Karikari Beaches Peninsula. Penguin colonies are present in Doubtless Bay and at Rawarawa. Henderson and Kowhai Bays are important roost sites for migrant waders, particularly bar-tailed godwit and lesser knot. Turnstone are also present on the beaches.

Australasian bittern, banded rail, marsh crane and fernbird have important populations on the Karikari Peninsula, particularly in the Kaimaumau-Motutangi swamp behind East Beach. White heron are occasionally seen at sites such as Awapoko Estuary.

Threatened and At Risk bird species - Doubtless Bay, Rangaunu Bay, Great Exhibition Bay

Species Common Name	Scientific Name - updated 2013	NZ threat classification		Site status/ significance NB. Specific to site
White heron	<i>Egretta alba modesta</i>	Threatened	Nationally critical	Rare NZ migrant
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Relatively common resident, may breed
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
Banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident, breeds, & migrant
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident, may breed; important stronghold
Lesser knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common migrant
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Common resident
Little blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
Banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
NZ pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon 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	Relatively common migrant
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident, breeds on islets, maybe on beaches
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Relatively common resident, breeds
Spotless crane	<i>Porzana t. tabuensis</i>	At Risk	Relict	Rare resident
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</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
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Not threatened	Migrant	Uncommon migrant

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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