

Significant Ecological Estuarine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Mangonui Harbour and Taipa Estuary

Summary:

The Mangonui Harbour and Taipa Estuary are small estuaries located to the north-east of Kaitaia. Both are located in predominantly farmland but both have some limited mangrove and saltmarsh habitat along creek margins. Mangonui in particular has extensive tidal flats relative to the estuary size, but both sites lack safe bird roosts. Key avifauna species present and which breed locally are little blue penguin, reef heron and pied shag, while Australasian bittern, fernbird and banded rail occur in the upstream wetlands and saltmarsh. Others feed locally (refer Table below). The ecological significance of these sites is Low-Moderate with locally important concentrations of the above species.

Table 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' shorebird species present at Mangonui Harbour-Taipa Estuary

| <i>Species Scientific Name</i> | <i>Species Common Name</i> | <i>NZ threat classification</i> | | <i>Significance for species</i> |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> | Australasian bittern | Threatened | Nationally endangered | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> | Pied shag | Threatened | Nationally vulnerable | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Egretta sacra sacra</i> | Reef heron | Threatened | Nationally vulnerable | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i> | Northern NZ dotterel | Threatened | Nationally vulnerable | Local feeding |
| <i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i> | Red-billed gull | Threatened | Nationally vulnerable | Local feeding |
| <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | Caspian tern | Threatened | Nationally vulnerable | Local feeding |
| <i>Eudyptula minor</i> | Little blue penguin | At Risk | Declining | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus</i> | Pied stilt | At Risk | Declining | Local feeding |
| <i>Sterna striata</i> | White-fronted tern | At Risk | Declining | Local feeding |
| <i>Bowdleria punctata</i> | Fernbird | At Risk | Declining | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i> | Banded rail | At Risk | Declining | Local breeding and feeding |
| <i>Haematopus unicolor</i> | Variable oystercatcher | At Risk | Recovering | Local feeding |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | Black shag | At Risk | Naturally uncommon | Local feeding |

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|--|-------------------|---------|--------------------|--|
| <i>novaehollandiae</i> | | | | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i> | Little shag | At Risk | Naturally uncommon | Locally important breeding and feeding |
| <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i> | Little black shag | At Risk | Naturally uncommon | Local feeding |

Key references:

Robertson, C.J.R.; Hyvönen, P.; Fraser, M.J.; Pickard, C.R.; 2007. *Atlas of bird distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*. OSNZ, Wellington.

Estuaries Reliability Notes and Key References

| Site | Assessor | Date | Key references (see below) | Data reliability |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| North Kaipara | RP | Oct 2015 | 3, 4, 6, 14, 15 | High |
| Mangawhai | RP | Oct 2015 | 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, 14 | High |
| Waipu | RP | Oct 2015 | 1, 2, 6, 13,14 | High |
| Ruakaka | RP | Oct 2015 | 6, 13 | High |
| Whangarei | RP | Oct 2015 | 3, 6, 9, 14, 15 | High |
| Taiharuru | RP | Oct 2015 | 10, 14 | High |
| Pataua | RP | Oct 2015 | 10, 14 | Moderate – High |
| Horahora | RP | Oct 2015 | 14, 15 | Moderate – High |
| Ngunguru | RP | Oct 2015 | 6, 10, 14 | High |
| Matapouri | RP | Oct 2015 | 10, 15 | High |
| Whananaki | RP | Oct 2015 | 5, 14, 15 | High |
| Whangaruru | RP | Oct 2015 | 5, 6, 14, 15 | High |
| Bay of Islands | RP | Oct 2015 | 5, 6, 14, 15 | High |
| Whangaroa | RP | Oct 2015 | 14, 15 | Moderate – High |
| Mangonui-Taipa | RP | Oct 2015 | 14, 15 | Moderate –High |
| Rangaunu | RP | Oct 2015 | 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15 | High |
| Houhora | RP | Oct 2015 | 3, 6, 11, 14 | High |
| Parengarenga | RP | Oct 2015 | 1, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15 | High |
| Whangape-Herekino | RP | Oct 2015 | 14, 15 | Moderate – High |
| Hokianga | RP | Oct 2015 | 6, 8, 15 | High |

Key references:

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6. OWR 2014. Oiled wildlife response (harbour specific series). Northland Regional Council.
7. Pierce R.J. 1999. Regional patterns of migration in the banded dotterel *Charadrius bicinctus*. *Notornis* 46: 101-122.
8. Pierce R.J. 2002. Assessment of ecological effects of proposed bridges and associated roadworks at Hokianga Harbour, Northland. Wildland Consultants Contract Report No. 575.
9. Pierce R.J. 2005. General patterns of bird use of Whangarei Harbour. Wildland Consultants Report No. 1047 for Northland regional Council.
10. Pierce R.J. 2007. Options for ecological restoration of the Tutakaka Landcare Coalition (TLC) area and neighbouring areas. *Eco Oceania Ltd* report for Tutukaka Landcare Coalition.
11. Pierce, R.J., Kerr, V.C, 2004. Effects of oyster farms on estuarine avifauna at Houhora Harbour, Northland. Contract Report No. 899, Report prepared for: Department of Conservation Private Bag 841 Whangarei.
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15. SSBI. Sites of Special Biological Significance. Department of Conservation Series, Northland.