

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: East Coast: Taiharuru Head to Cape Brett, excluding estuaries (Taiharuru, Pataua, Horahora, Ngunguru, Matapouri, Whananaki, Whangaruru)

Summary:

This area consists of some saltmarsh areas, sandy beaches and dunelands, coastal forested headlands and island groups and islets.

Australasian bittern, banded rail, fernbird and spotless crane are present in swamp/ saltmarsh areas, probably in low numbers. NZ dotterel and variable oystercatcher are present on beaches, stream mouths and islands and breeding in some locations. Pied stilt, red-billed gull, banded dotterel, white-fronted and Caspian tern are also present on beaches and/or stream mouths. Reef heron have been recorded along the coast and breeding on Motutara Island. White heron have been recorded as a regular visitor in a few locations. Pateke (brown teal) utilise stream mouths and other wet and grassy areas, particularly around Mimiwhangata, Pareparea Bay, Helena Bay and others.

Around the headlands and islands there are pied and little shag colonies. Black shag breed on Rimariki Islands, along with blue penguin, red-billed gull, and grey-faced petrel. White-fronted terns are also recorded as breeding on some smaller islands.

Threatened and At Risk bird species - East Coast: Taiharuru Head to Cape Brett

<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>
White heron	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Threatened	Nationally critical	Rare but regular visitor
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Uncommon resident, breeds
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Uncommon resident, breeds
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident, breeds
Banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare NZ migrant
Northern NZ dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Relatively common resident, may breed
Lesser knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare 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	Rare resident
NZ pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare visitor
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus h. leucocephalus</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare resident
Eastern bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare migrant
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Common resident, breed on islets
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare resident
Brown teal	<i>Anas chlorotis (North Island)</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Common resident, breeds
Variable	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Relatively common

oystercatcher				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	Uncommon resident, breeds
Little black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon visitor
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevisrostris</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon resident, breeds
Grey-faced petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera gouldi</i>	Not threatened	Regionally significant/mainland population	Rare 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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