

Significant Ecological Estuarine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: Rangaunu Harbour

Summary:

Rangaunu Harbour is a large harbour flanked by the Kaimaumau Wetland, East Beach (dunelands), farmland and the largest mangrove forest in New Zealand. There are extensive tidal flats with healthy seagrass beds and a mid-harbour island (Walker Island). Some oyster farming occurs here. The harbour supports many thousands of waders – these include local breeding residents (northern NZ dotterel, variable oystercatcher) and migratory waders from within New Zealand (wrybill, banded dotterel, pied stilt, NZ oystercatcher) and northern hemisphere migrants (bar-tailed godwit, lesser knot, ruddy turnstone, Pacific golden plover and others). Additionally the harbour is important for tern and gull species with Caspian and white-fronted tern and red-billed gull breeding and eastern little tern migrating here from Asia. The presence of predator-free Walker Island is a big asset for Rangaunu avifauna. Shags of several species and royal spoonbills breed locally and there are important populations of Australasian bittern, banded rail, spotless crane and fernbird. The ecological significance of these sites is High given the national and international importance of the species populations at Rangaunu, linkages with other adjacent wetlands and a safe breeding site on Walker Island.

Table 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' shorebird species present at Rangaunu Harbour

<i>Species Scientific Name</i>	<i>Species Common Name</i>	<i>NZ threat classification</i>		<i>Significance for species</i>
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	White heron	Threatened	Nationally critical	Rare visitor
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian bittern	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied shag	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Locally important breeding and feeding
<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Reef heron	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Locally important breeding and feeding
<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	Wrybill	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important feeding
<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	Northern NZ dotterel	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Banded dotterel	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important feeding
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Lesser knot	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important feeding
<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Red-billed gull	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Little blue	At Risk	Declining	Local feeding

	penguin			
<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	NZ pied oystercatcher	At Risk	Declining	Local feeding
<i>Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Pied stilt	At Risk	Declining	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Sterna striata</i>	White-fronted tern	At Risk	Declining	Nationally important breeding and feeding
<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	Fernbird	At Risk	Declining	Locally important breeding and feeding
<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	Banded rail	At Risk	Declining	Locally important breeding and feeding
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	Eastern bar-tailed godwit	At Risk	Declining	Nationally important feeding
<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	Variable oystercatcher	At Risk	Recovering	Locally important breeding and feeding
<i>Porzana tabuensis tabuensis</i>	Spotless crake	At Risk	Relict	Local breeding and feeding
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	Black shag	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Locally important feeding
<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	Locally important feeding
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal spoonbill	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Locally important breeding and feeding

References

Dowding, J.E., Davis, A.M., 2007. New Zealand dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*) recovery plan, 2004–14. Threatened Species Recovery Plan 58. NZ Department of Conservation.

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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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