

Ecologically Significant Marine Area Assessment Sheet for Wading and Aquatic Birds

Name/Area: East Coast: Cape Wiwiki to Berghan Point, excluding Whangaroa Harbour and Cavalli and Stephenson Islands.

Summary:

This area covers the coast from Cape Wiwiki to Berghan Point, including Takou, Taupo, Motukahakia and Taemaro Bays, but excludes the Cavalli Islands, Stephenson Island, Whangaroa Bay and Whangaroa Harbour. This area comprises coastal cliffs and sandy beaches.

Along the sandy beaches there are NZ dotterel, Caspian tern, banded dotterel, variable oystercatcher, red-billed gull and white-fronted tern. Reef heron may be breeding at Takau Bay.

NZ dotterel are breeding at Takou Bay, Matauri Bay, Taiaue Bay, Mahiepua Bay, Tauranga Bay, Taupo Bay, and Taemaro Bay, and Tapuaetahi and Tahoranui Rivermouths.

In the saltmarsh and adjoining wetland areas Australasian bittern, fernbird and banded rail are present and likely to be breeding in some localities.

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>
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened	Nationally endangered	Rare resident
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Threatened	Nationally vulnerable	Rare resident
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	Uncommon resident, breeds
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	Common resident
Banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare resident
NZ pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare NZ migrant
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus h. leucocephalus</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Uncommon resident
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	At Risk	Declining	Rare resident
Variable oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At Risk	Recovering	Uncommon resident
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	At Risk	Naturally uncommon	Uncommon visitor
Little black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</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

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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