

# 2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

## Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal  
lagoons & harbours



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# IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



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This document has been prepared for Forest & Bird by Chris Gaskin, IBA Project Coordinator (NZ).

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## Contributors

The following individuals have contributed to the profiles in this document in a variety of ways, including supply of data and information about seabirds, and reviewing draft material, site profiles, species lists and site maps.

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Front cover: Rachel McLellan (Black-billed Gulls), Craig McKenzie (Black-fronted Tern)

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ098	<b>Bluff Harbour Awarua Bay</b>	<b>Southland</b>
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<b>Location</b>	New Zealand, Southland
<b>Central coordinates</b>	46.568007°S, 168.330545°E (Rabbit Islet)
<b>IBA criteria</b>	A1, A4ii
<b>Area</b>	8,965 ha
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 14m
<b>Year of Assessment</b>	2013

**Populations of IBA trigger species:**

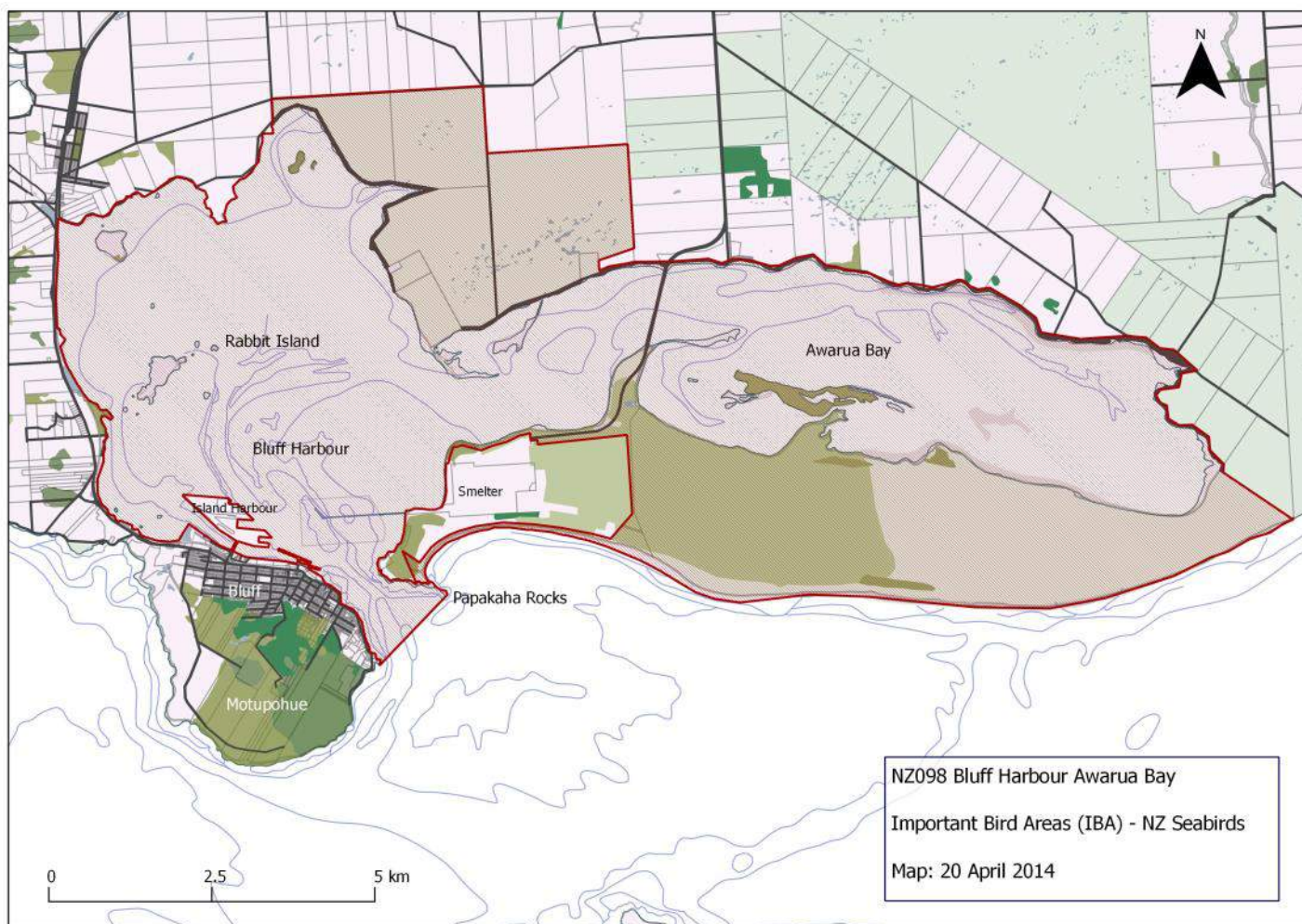
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Stewart Island Shag	Breeding	1955-2013	77-155 (nests)	A1, A4ii	VU	Nationally Vulnerable
Black-billed Gull	Non-breeding		No counts	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Non-breeding		No counts	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
New Zealand Dotterel (Southern Red-breasted Plover) <sup>1</sup>	Non-breeding	1997-2013	77-82	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Australasian Bittern	Resident		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

<sup>1</sup> Considered full species by IUCN/BirdLife/Handbook of the Birds of the World.

**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Pied Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Grey Teal, NZ Shoveler, Mallard, NZ Scaup, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, Australasian Harrier, Pukeko, Marsh Crake, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Shining Cuckoo, Rock Pigeon, South Island Fernbird, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Bellbird, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: Spotted Shag, White Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Cattle Egret, Wrybill (VU), South Island Oystercatcher, Pacific Golden Plover, Turnstone, Red (Lesser) Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Grey Plover, Mongolian Dotterel, Marsh Sandpiper, Sanderling, Far Eastern Curlew, Asiatic Whimbrel, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Arctic Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Little Tern.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Tiwai Spit	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Seaward Moss	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps site
Awarua Plains	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Unnamed	Marginal strip	Protected area contained within site





IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Neritic (Submergent Nearshore)	Subtidal Sandy-Mud; Estuary	Major
Marine Intertidal	Sandy Shoreline, Beach and Spit; Rocky Shoreline; Salt Marshes	Major
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Coastal Sand Dunes	Major
Artificial Aquatic	Marine Anthropogenic Structures	Minor
Wetlands (inland)	Shrub Dominated Wetlands	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds	Major
Shrubland	Manuka; bracken	Major

#### Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases	Invasive alien species - mustelids, cats, rats, hedgehogs	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by harbour users - disturbance of nesting & roosting shags.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration

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**Threats to the site (pressure) - contd.**

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<b>Threat Level</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>
Residential and commercial development	Industrial Development	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Pollution	Domestic & urban waste water - run-off	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Storms	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

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**References:**

Lalas, C., Perriman, L. 2012. Distribution and abundance of Stewart Island shags (*Leucocarbo chalconotus*). Department of Conservation, Dunedin.

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Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie