

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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NZ099	Omaui Island and Oreti (New) Estuary	Southland
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Location	New Zealand, Southland
Central coordinates	46.452583°S, 168.327971°E (Bushy Point)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	C. 4450 ha
Altitude	0 - 11m
Year of Assessment	2013

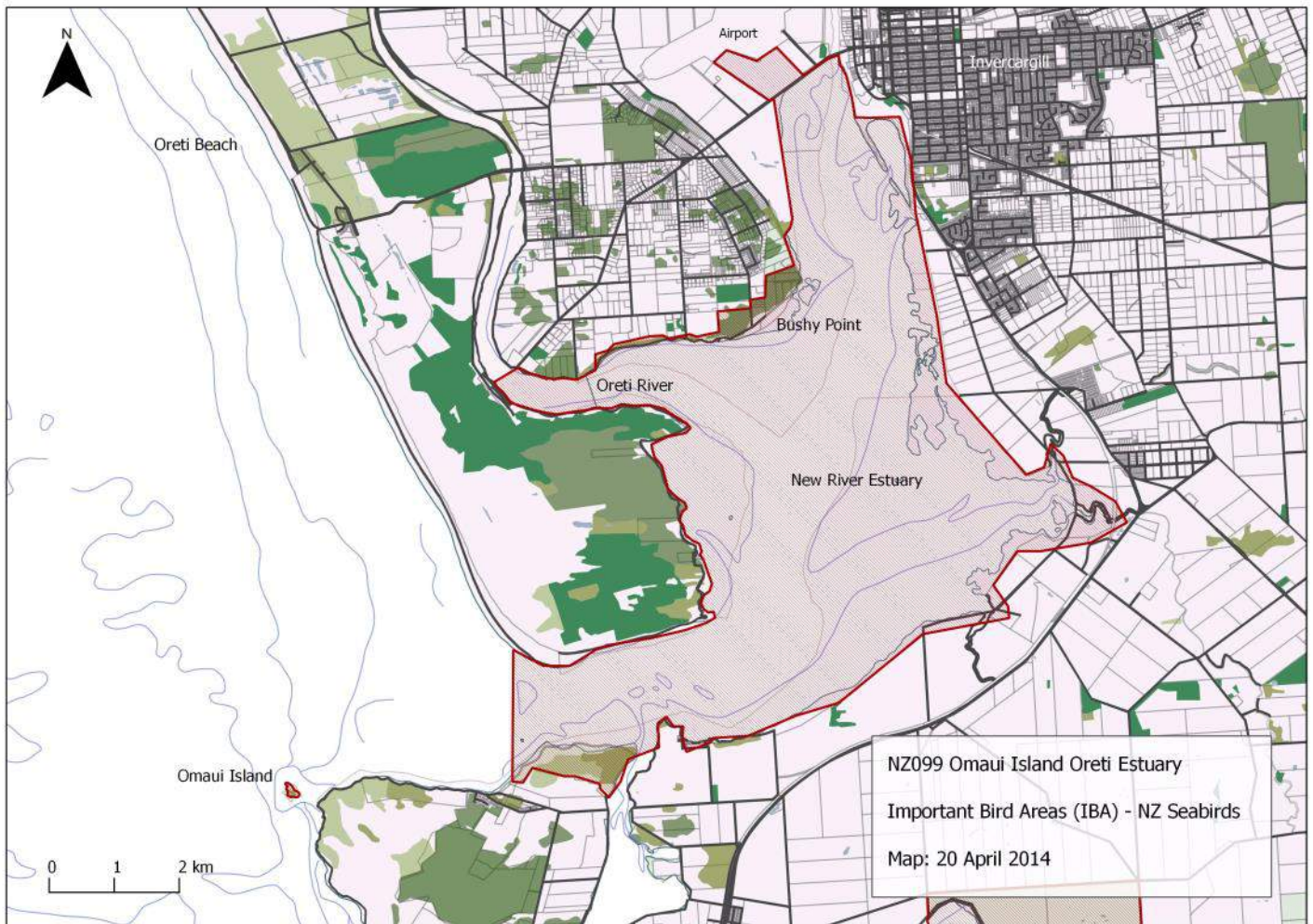
Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Stewart Island Shag	Breeding	1991-2011	65 (nests)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable
Black-billed Gull	Non-breeding	2013-2016	26-45 (individuals)	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Australasian Bittern	Resident		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

Black-fronted Tern (EN) and NZ Dotterel (Southern Red-breasted Plover) (EN) have been recorded in the estuary. As P. Rhodes (pers. comm.) notes: “there are few keen birding people down here and parts of the estuary, especially the shell-banks are quite tricky to get to so that there are probably far more Black-billed gulls and possibly Black-fronted terns that never get reported.”

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Sooty Shearwater, Spotted Shag, Black Shag, Pied Shag, Little Shag, Spotted Shag, White-faced Heron, White Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Paradise Shelduck, Grey Teal, NZ Shoveler, NZ Scaup, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, Australasian Harrier, Pukeko, Marsh Crake, South Island Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, South Island Fernbird, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silveryeye, Bellbird, Mallard, Rock Pigeon, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Pacific Golden Plover, Turnstone, Red (Lesser) Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Omaui Island	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Mokomoko Inlet	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Unnamed	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Otatara South	Scenic Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Oreti River, Bushy Point	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Bushy Point	Conservation Area	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; Rocky Offshore Island	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
Forest	Podocarp forest (Bushy Point)	Minor

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

Threats to the site (pressure) - contd.

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities - disturbance of nesting & roosting shags.	Happening now	Small area/few individuals (<10%)	Imperceptible deterioration
Residential and commercial development	Industrial Development	Happening now	Some of area/population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration

References:

Cooper, W., McClelland, P. 1991. The Birds of Omaui and Pig Islands. *Notornis* 39: 316-318

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



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie