

2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal
lagoons & harbours



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE



IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

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

The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Level One, 90 Ghuznee Street
PO Box 631
Wellington 6140
NEW ZEALAND

This report is available from the Forest & Bird website in pdf form.

© Copyright February 2016, Forest & Bird

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.

Nick Allen, Tim Barnard, Tony Beauchamp, Mike Bell, Mark Bellingham, Robin Blyth, Phil Bradfield, John Cheyne, Wynston Cooper, Andrew Crossland, Philippa Crisp, Paul Cuming, John Dowding, Hannah Edmonds, Lloyd Esler, Julian Fitter, Peter Frost, Mel Galbraith, Liz Garson, Peter Gaze, Andrew Grant, Tony Habraken, Kate Hand, Ken Hughey, Elaine Lagnaz, Chris Lalas, Peter Langlands, David Lawrie, Eila Lawson, Nick Ledgard, Nikki McArthur, Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie, Bruce McKinlay, Michael McSweeney, David Melville, Gary Melville, Mark O'Brien, Colin O'Donnell, Gwenda Pulham, Aalbert Rebergen, Phil Rhodes, Adrien Riegen, Neil Robertson, Paul Sagar, Frances Schmechel, Rob Schuckard, Ian Southey, Kate Steffens, Graeme Taylor, Gillian Vaughan, Jan Walker, Susan Waugh, David Wilson, Kerry-Jayne Wilson, Steve Wood, Keith Woodley.

Cover design: Danielle McBride, Paradigm Associates, Auckland

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

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

Recommended citation: Forest & Bird (2016). *New Zealand Seabirds: Sites on Land, Rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons & harbours*. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

NZ043	Motueka River	Nelson
-------	---------------	--------

Location	New Zealand, Nelson
Central coordinates	41.100440°S, 173.029261°E (Motueka Spit carpark); 41.387241°S, 172.815542°E (Tapawera bridge)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	898 ha
Altitude	0 - 180m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull ¹	Breeding	1995-2010	38-70	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern ¹	Breeding	2007-2010	6-8	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

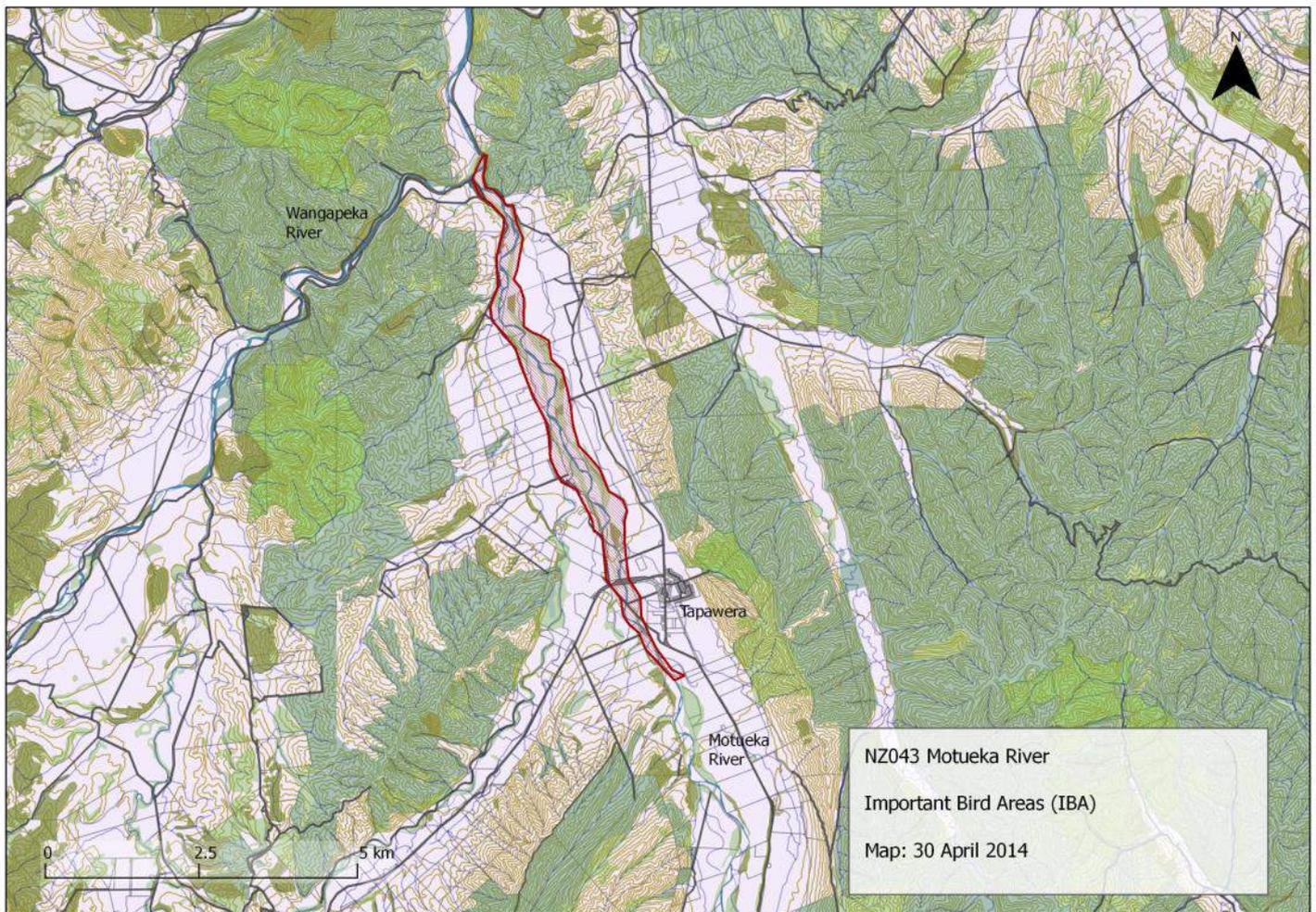
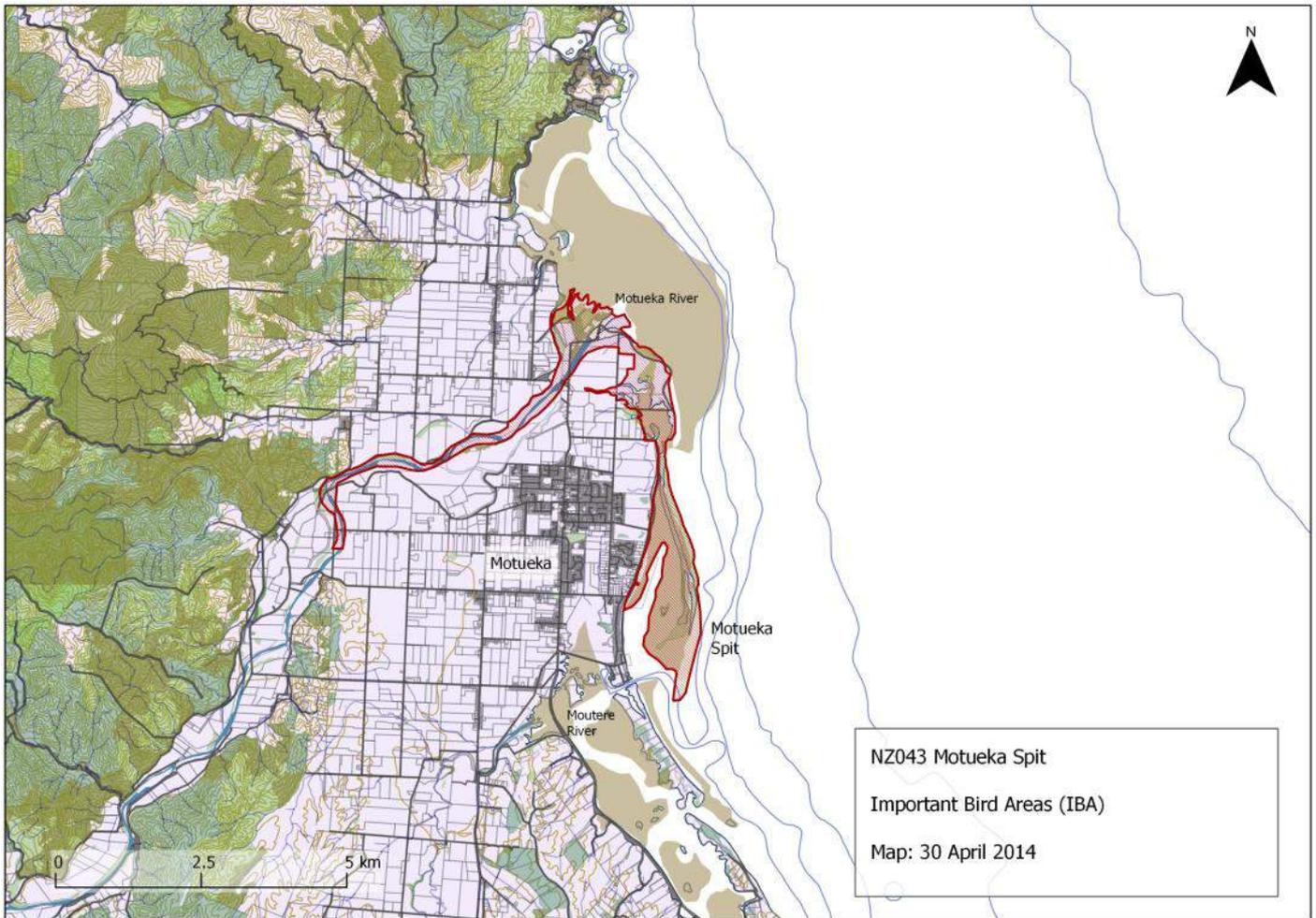
¹ Non-breeding populations at Motueka Spit; both are breeding at Upper Motueka site.

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following are confirmed or likely to be breeding or resident: Pied Shag, Black Shag, Little Shag, Spotted Shag, White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, NZ Shoveler, Australasian Harrier, Pukeko, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, NZ Pigeon, Shining Cuckoo, Morepork, Little Owl, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Bellbird, Tui, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling.

Other species recorded: Little Black Shag, White Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Wrybill (VU), South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Red (Lesser) Knot, Turnstone, Pacific Golden Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Asiatic Whimbrel, Brown Skua (seen off spit), White-winged Black Tern

Data provided by Ornithological Society of NZ (OSNZ) National Wader Database (2013)

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Motueka Sandspit	Scenic Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Raumanuka	Scenic Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Riverbed Motueka River	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Motueka River	Marginal Strip	Protected area overlaps with site



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Beach, Spits; Saltmarsh, rush	Major
Marine Coastal /Supratidal	Sand Dunes, marram grass,	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent River; River gravel beds	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupin, pasture grasses & rank weeds; willow margins	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 beach, spit and river users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Erosion of spit; storm surges	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Floods	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

References:

- Gaze, P. 2010. Motueka River Survey - Kohatu to the Coast. Internal report DOCDM-675156. Department of Conservation, Nelson .
- O'Donnell, C.F.J., Hoare, J.M. 2011. Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias albostratus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43
- Ornithological Society of NZ (OSNZ/Birds NZ) National Wader Database 2013.
- 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.



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

www.forestandbird.org.nz/important-bird-areas

Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie