

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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NZ049	Clarence River mouth	Kaikoura
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Location	New Zealand, Marlborough
Central coordinates	42.160031°S, 173.909798°E
IBA criteria	A1
Area	1386 ha
Altitude	0 - 125m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

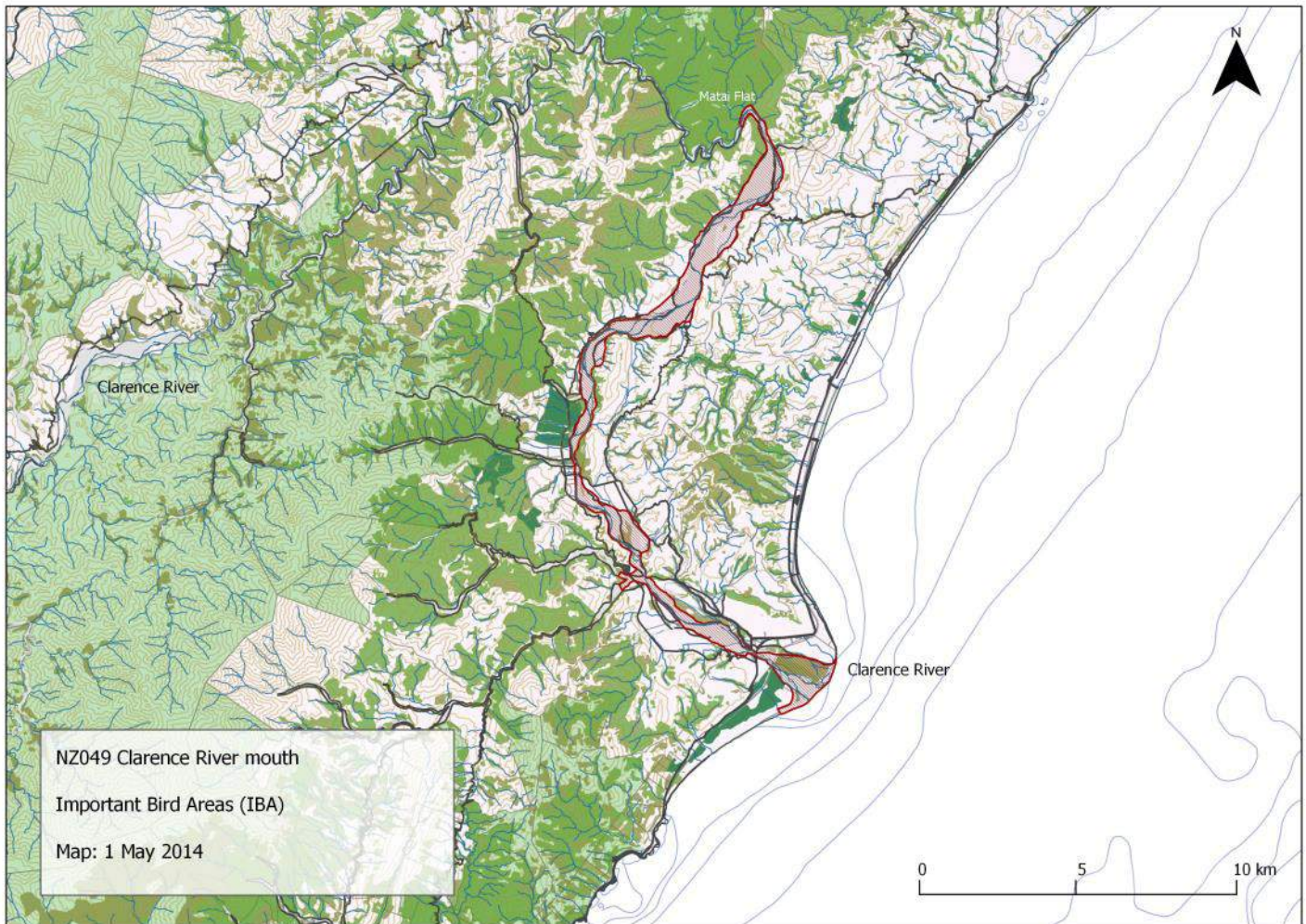
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	2010-2014	210-260	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1992-2011	20-42	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Australasian Harrier, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, White-fronted Tern, Californian Quail, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Silvereye, Skylark, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling. Other species recorded: Pied Shag, NZ Falcon, South Island Pied Oystercatcher.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
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The IBA includes an area of Stewardship Land (DOC) designated 'Grazing Licence - Murray' for the Clarence River near the river mouth.

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Shingle Shoreline	Minor
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Outwash Delta (Rivermouth)	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; River Gravel Beds; Small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupin, broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper valleys)	Minor
Shrubland	Manuka, matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), 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 river users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)	Happening now	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:

O'Donnell, C.F.J., Hoare, J.M. 2011. Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias albobristatus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43

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.

Steffens, K. 2012. Helicopter surveys of black-fronted terns in Marlborough, New Zealand. Internal report DOCDM-892932. Department of Conservation, Nelson Lakes.



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie