

WEST COAST REPORTING AREA

Includes Franklin, Rodney and Waitākere Ranges local boards

2018

STATE OF AUCKLAND MARINE FACTSHEET

WEST COAST

The black sand beaches of Auckland's west coast extend from Karioitahi Beach in the south, to Rangitira Beach (north of Muriwai Beach) in the north, interrupted by the rocky headlands of the Waitākere Ranges between Whātipu and Māori Bay.

The rocky coast is ecologically diverse, 598 documented plant and animal species on the intertidal reefs alone. Marine species have adapted well to the dynamic coast and the exposure of large swells, strong currents, cold temperatures and low light levels.



The west coast also provides important habitat for many different bird species; including the dune and swamp areas of Whātipu Bay for New Zealand dotterel (tūturiwhatu), fernbird (mātātā), and the critically endangered Australasian bittern (matuku hūrepo), Auckland's largest mainland seabird colony, the Australasian gannets (tākapu) at Muriwai, and one of New Zealand's most significant mainland petrel breeding areas at Te Henga. Recent council surveys from Muriwai south to Te Henga have also identified a number of mainland breeding sites for grey-faced petrel (ōi) and little penguin (korora) (Landers, 2017).

Bathing beach water quality:

Check safeswim.org.nz for live information on water quality and swimming conditions at your favourite swimming spots.



Grey faced petrel, James Russell.

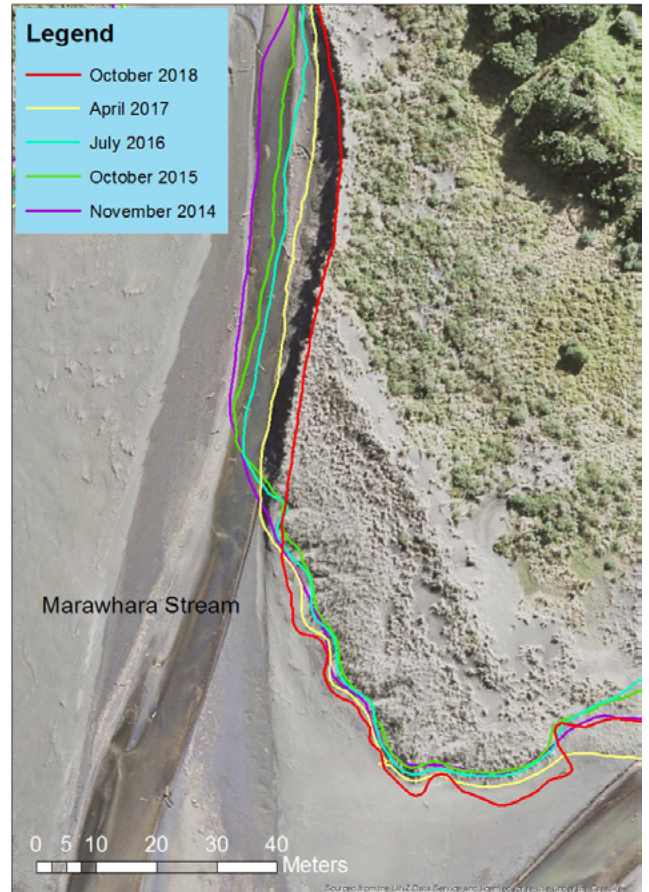
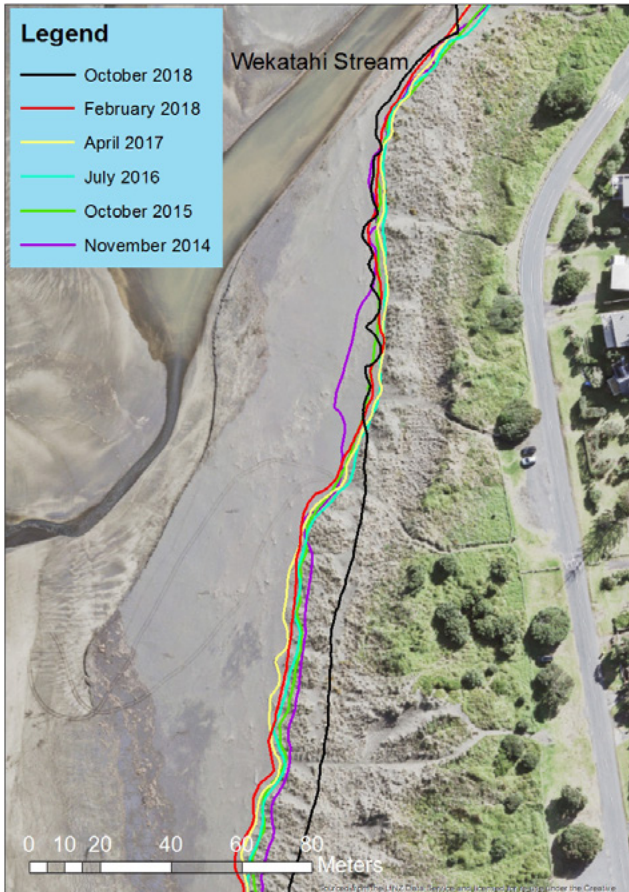
WEST COAST BEACH PROFILING

Beach profile (cross-shore change) monitoring is undertaken at Piha and Muriwai beaches. Surveying at northern Piha where the Wekatahi and Marawhara streams run into the ocean has been carried out since 2014.

The results have revealed erosion of the southern Wekatahi dune toe (seaward edge) to its most inland location.

Similarly, the current position of the Marawhara toe dune system has moved inland and is slowly migrating south.

At southern Muriwai, following dune reshaping works in 2009 and 2016/2017, sand levels have remained high and have maintained a healthy shape despite significant winter storms. The new reshaped dune form has a more natural face which protects from the power of waves and currents that remove sand.



In the absence of comprehensive data for some areas, report cards are not available. In these areas fact sheets have been generated until more information is collected.

FIND OUT MORE

This report card is part of a series prepared by Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit, which undertakes monitoring and research to provide information and evidence to inform the council's activities and reporting. More report cards can be found at: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment. The report card series includes reporting on freshwater, terrestrial, marine, air, soil, capacity for growth, demographics and quality of life.

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