

Identification of Wellington Regional Surfbreaks



Report prepared for:
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Prepared by:
Michael Gunson, Shane Orchard & Peter Windsor

October 2014

Identification of Wellington Regional Surfbreaks

Report prepared for:
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Prepared by:
Michael Gunson, Shane Orchard & Peter Windsor

October 2014

Cover photo: Outside Propellers, Palmer Head - Breaker Bay August 2011.
Courtesy Jeremy <http://surf.co.nz/mobi/gallery/shot-day-aug-2011/13875/>

Preface

In my work as a founding committee member of the Surfbreak Protection Society Inc, a quote from previous crown minister, Dr Marilyn Waring to the SOLGM convention in 2001 keeps coming to mind;

"...Someone who has lived on the bank of the river as a subsistence fisherman, even when he or she is illiterate, is the expert on fish at that point in the river. He will always know (sic) more than the departmental scientist from Bangkok and the World Bank consultant from Cornell."

I am in effect, that fisherman, I am an expert on many surfbreaks in the Wellington region, but not all. Every surfer will have their own favourite surfbreak or surfbreaks, and will be the expert surfer at that point on the coast.

While I have the ability to identify with a good deal of accuracy the 64 surfbreak and surfbreak areas in the Wellington Region as recognised in the NZ Wavetrack Guide, the greatest challenge to me has been to identify maximum surfing ride length in optimum surfing conditions. That is partly why the surfbreaks themselves in this report are contained within a larger polygon area. I go into this in greater detail in the methodology section.

A number of surfbreaks I have surfed only a half dozen times or perhaps even only observed from shore. One surfbreak I can give a very high degree of accuracy to maximum surfing ride length is Butterfish Rock at Breaker Bay, my resident home break where I grew up and surfed on a regular basis. Butterfish Rock has a major role in focussing the swells on to the inner rock ledges.

Butterfish rock has numerous land marks around and on it. Based on these, the ruler tool in Google Earth can be used to measure the optimum ride, take off and exit points for ideal surf conditions at this surfing location. Yet many expert surfers will have had optimum ride entry and exits points slightly to the left or right by a couple or few meters to where I have indicated.

This poses the problem. We are not talking about simply measuring one end point to another. In the case of Breaker Bay, Butterfish rock and the inner rock ledges are locationally stable, yet the swells that wrap around the rock are beholden to each individual wave's sensitive dependency to initial conditions – the butterfly effect.

Each wave sends its surfer on their own unique path, ever so slightly different from the last - such is the joy of surfing.

Michael Gunson
October 2014



Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Objectives.....	1
3. Methodology.....	2
3.1 Identification and mapping.....	2
3.2 Characteristics.....	3
4. Findings	6
4.1 Overview of surfbreak locations	6
4.2 Surfbreak locations and characteristics	7
Castlepoint - Slipperies	7
Castlepoint - Main Beach	7
Castlepoint - Christmas Bay and the Gap	8
Riversdale - Main Beach.....	9
Uruti Point.....	9
Tora - Stony Bay	10
Tora	10
South Tora – God Squad – Shipwrecks – Toilet Bowls.....	11
White Rock: White Rock Point- Dophin Bay- Gnarlies	12
White Rock : The Spit – Seconds- The Desert- Schnappes.....	13
Windies/no.4 - Big Ning Nong -Little Ning Nong and Dee Dees	14
Humenga Point – Pararaki Stream – Humenga Lodge – Otakaha Stream.....	15
Whatarangi – bombie - Point - Bay Bombie- Station	16
Batches.....	17
Lake Ferry – Lake Onoke	18
Wainuiomata Coast.....	18
Eastbourne	19
Breaker Bay – Butterfish Rock and Propellers	20
Lyll Bay - Airport Rights - Moa Point	21
Houghton Bay	23
Taputeranga Island (Rat Island)	24
Stevo’s, (Not Boom Rock)	24
Titahi Bay.....	27
Plimmerton	28

Titches - Hongoeka.....	28
Pukerua Bay	29
Kapiti Island.....	30
Paekakariki	30
Waikanae	31
Otaki.....	31
5. Discussion.....	31
5.1 Surfbreak locations and characteristics	31
5.2 Length of ride assessments.....	32
5.3 Managing surfbreaks.....	33
6. References	34



1. Introduction

Surf breaks are unique and valuable components of the coastal environment. They have cultural, spiritual, recreational, and sporting meaning to in excess of 200,000 people in New Zealand¹. Surfbreaks are becoming increasingly recognised in New Zealand coastal policy which is consistent with developments occurring internationally. An increased focus on mechanisms to protect surfbreaks has resulted from numerous cases of degradation worldwide and a greater awareness of existing values². The argument for protection of surfbreaks recognises that a range of benefits are associated with these unique places. These values depend on the integrity of natural processes which influence surfbreak environments, and on a variety of aspects important to surf break users including accessibility and environmental health³.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) provides guidance to local government for the day-to-day management of the coastal environment⁴. The scheduled 10-yearly revision of the NZCPS 1994 included a comprehensive review process and input from stakeholder groups⁵. The process attracted considerable input from surfers and surfing organisations and resulted proposals for a definition for “surf break” and provisions for surf break protection were recommended⁶. These recommendations were largely adopted within the final NZCPS 2010⁷.

Local authorities are now responsible for implementing NZCPS policies and an essential first step is to understand the features of the surf breaks in their area. However, in New Zealand the characterisation of surf breaks for management purposes has not yet been extensively researched⁸. There is an urgent need for a better understanding of the resource in relation to the values derived by the community and consideration of the mechanisms by which degradation can occur. The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has proactively recognised its obligations to give effect to policies 13, 15, and 16 of the NZCPS with regard to surfbreaks, and is taking steps to better understand the resource.

2. Objectives

You cannot protect a natural landscape or seascape feature unless you first know where it is located.

The objective of this study was to document the location of surfbreaks in the Wellington region, and provide a short summary of characteristics for each for the Wellington Regional Plan Review. This information will be useful as a forewarning to planners, developers, and others who may be undertaking activities in the coastal environment, to assist in managing for potential adverse effects on these surfbreaks.

¹ Sport and Recreation New Zealand, 2008; Graham, 2011.

² Scarfe et al., 2009a, 2009b.

³ Peryman & Orchard, 2013.

⁴ Rosier, 2004.

⁵ Young, 2003; Rosier, 2004, 2005.

⁶ Board of Inquiry, 2009a.

⁷ Department of Conservation, 2010.

⁸ Skellern et al., 2013.

The brief for this report focussed on the 64 surfbreaks listed in the Wavetrack Guide for the Wellington Region⁹. However, it should be noted that the guide has not listed all of the regional surfbreaks, such as Makara, Te Ikaamaru Bay, Open Bay (Little Titahi), Western Lakes, and Flat Point, to name a few. The generalised nature of the maps in the Wavetrack Guide lends to some potential confusion as to where certain surfbreaks are located. To address this, other unlisted surfbreaks were identified in some cases, such as Little Titahi on the West Coast and Whatarangī Bay Bombie on the South Coast.

For example, it was important to sequentially list the unrecognised surfbreaks Windy and Little Titahi, as one would walk the coast to Stevo's. The map of Stevo's in the NZ Wavetrack Guide and in particular on nzsurguide.com point to Boom Rock, a popular fishing spot. To address this it was necessary to establish all surfbreaks near Stevo's in order to accurately identify this surfbreak as listed in the Wavetrack Guide. This does however draw ones attention to Little Titahi as a previously unrecognised surfbreak. Omissions such as this do not detract from the overall value of these publications, as they have both done a great service in identifying the region's surfbreaks.

It also has to be highlighted that a number of surfbreaks such as Lyall Bay only receive a mediocre score on the NZ Wavetrack Guide "stoke meter". This should not be confused with high amenity value, which town breaks like Lyall Bay and Titahi Bay provide, these town breaks are of high importance as noted at the Board of Inquiry to the NZCPS regarding their Nursery surfbreak status¹⁰.

3. Methodology

3.1 Identification and mapping

The identification and mapping of surfbreaks was conducted by Michael Gunson with assistance from Peter Windsor, based on expert local knowledge. This includes 40+ years of surfing around the Wellington area, and having surfed most of the surfbreaks at one point or another, and gaining a good idea of the location of them all.

The NZ Wavetrack Guide was used as the key reference and identifies 64 individual surfbreaks, or surfbreak areas consisting of multiple surfbreaks(e.g. Lyall Bay). A number of commercial surfing guide websites were also utilised including

www.NZsurguide.com

www.wannasurf.com

www.surf-forecast.com

It should be noted that generally these websites rely on contributors (often anonymous) to submit on the surfbreaks in a crowd sourcing fashion, which requires correcting by the same method. A number of errors were noted in these information sources, such as location, length of ride etc. When in doubt of a surfbreak's location or characteristics, travel to individual surfbreaks was used for clarification.

⁹ Morse & Brunskill, 2004.

¹⁰ Board of Inquiry, 2009b.

For mapping, Google Earth images of each surfbreak or group of surfbreaks were used to identify individual surfbreaks, and a red polygon drawn to denote to the area in which the surfbreak is located. In some cases, to eliminate any potential confusion, it was necessary to include other surfbreaks not identified by the NZ Wavetrack Guide. These surfbreaks were marked with green polygons. For a surfbreak area like Lyall Bay unlisted peaks were also marked in green next to recognised surfbreaks in red.

3.2 Characteristics

A list of characteristics was identified covering the following aspects of each surfbreak regarding optimum conditions and type of wave produced:

Wave Type:

Wave type relates to whether it breaks to the Left (L) or to the Right (R) as viewed from the shore, whether it is a reef break, reef point, sand beach break, sand point break or mix of the former.

Wave Size Min:

The minimum size of wave that can generally be ridden at the surfbreak; 0.5m relates to waves of half a meter in size can be ridden, -0.5m relates to waves of less than half a meter can be ridden.

Wave Size max:

Relates to the optimum wave size that the surfbreak can handle, often a surfbreak can handle bigger waves than mentioned but conditions may be too treacherous or render the waves too hard to catch.

Wave Shape:

Refers to the shape of the wave, whether it has a high break intensity or fast peel angle, e.g. heavy fast breaking lip (perhaps un-makable); soft crumbly and slow; solid punchy walls and / or deep hollow barrels.

Optimal Swell Direction:

The direction that the best swell directions are generated from that produce optimal surfing wave conditions for that surfbreak.

Optimal Wind Direction:

The best offshore wind direction for that surfbreak so that the wind does not degrade the surfing wave quality, and may improve it.

Tide:

Optimal tide conditions that produce best wave quality at the surfbreak.

Skill Level:

A general guide for the competency rating a surfer should have before attempting challenging waves, for example, learners should generally steer clear of reef breaks and stick to sandy beach breaks, intermediate level surfers should generally steer clear of reef breaks that are listed as gnarly or heavy or recommended for advanced to expert, some of these surfbreaks may be ridden by surfers of lesser ability in small conditions, but it is up to the individuals responsibility to make a realistic evaluation of one's own ability – e.g. learn to swim before you learn to surf.

Wavetrack stoke meter:

The Wavetrack Guide rates surf breaks on their wave quality when a swell is running. Breaks are not rated on their area's swell consistency. This is to ensure the guide offers an accurate appraisal of each break's potential when optimum conditions are present.

The stoke meter does not relate to factors such as ease of access or high amenity value, an inner city nursery surfbreak that has a stoke rating of three may be strategically important to that regions next generation of surfers wishing to learn to surf.

Approx max ride length:

This was the most challenging characteristic to determine, since every surfer has their own view or experience of a particular surfbreak's approximate maximum ride length. It is also reliant on that person's perception of distance as regarding to time taken moving along the face of the wave to the exit point. It is also reliant on that surfer's familiarity with the surfbreak and his or her experience of surfing the break during optimal conditions. Surfing a particular surfbreak many hundreds or thousands of times will inevitably lead to that surfer understanding the optimal limits of that surfbreak.

In the time frame given to complete this report it would be physically impossible to site visit every single surfbreak and give a near accurate maximum surfing ride length to them all, as it would need all optimum swell producing effects to come in to play for each surfbreak visit. The surfbreak at Breaker Bay provides a good example of these issues.

Breaker Bay

20 years as a Breaker Bay resident surfer, plus surfing the break when I had moved out of the area, has given me an intimate knowledge of that surfbreaks conditions, with both its highest and lowest surfable limits. I have been surfing the break when swell has been completely crashing around the rock in swell up to 3m+. These are not the optimal conditions, as you have to take off from the shoulder of the wave, and are more than likely to get pitched as to catching the wave. At that point you really need a tow in from a jet ski.

The optimal range for Butterfish Rock is 2 to 2.5 m swell, this means that the wave wraps around the rock and forms a distinct focal point, a crest of about 1 or 2 meters long develops on the absolute peak that facilitates an easy entry on to the wave face. If you miss it, you lose the wave, it is mission critical.

There is a very fine tipping point in wave size, where any higher than that 2.5 meter limit (with tides, swell period etc taken into account) and the wave starts breaking right through from the rock, then you have to start using the shoulder to gain entry to the wave, which becomes more difficult. When swell is of this optimum 2.5m size you can sit just within 20 meters of the rock, paddle toward the wave as it wraps around and forms its peak, turn quickly and launch yourself in that very fine window, on to the apex of the forming wave.

If you are too close to the rock, say 10 to 5 metres away, you will know that you are being sucked onto the rock face as the wave wraps around, and sucks water inward to form the peak - and you will instinctively back off, losing your window of opportunity.

Breaker Bay

At the other end of the scale is the Butterfish Rock section. The minimum surfing wave is about one and a half foot at dead low tide, or less than 0.5 meters. When the swell is that small at low tide you are taking off at the eastern end of the first rock shelf, and traversing approximately 30 to 50 meters to a point between two prominent rocks at the end of the inner rock shelf.

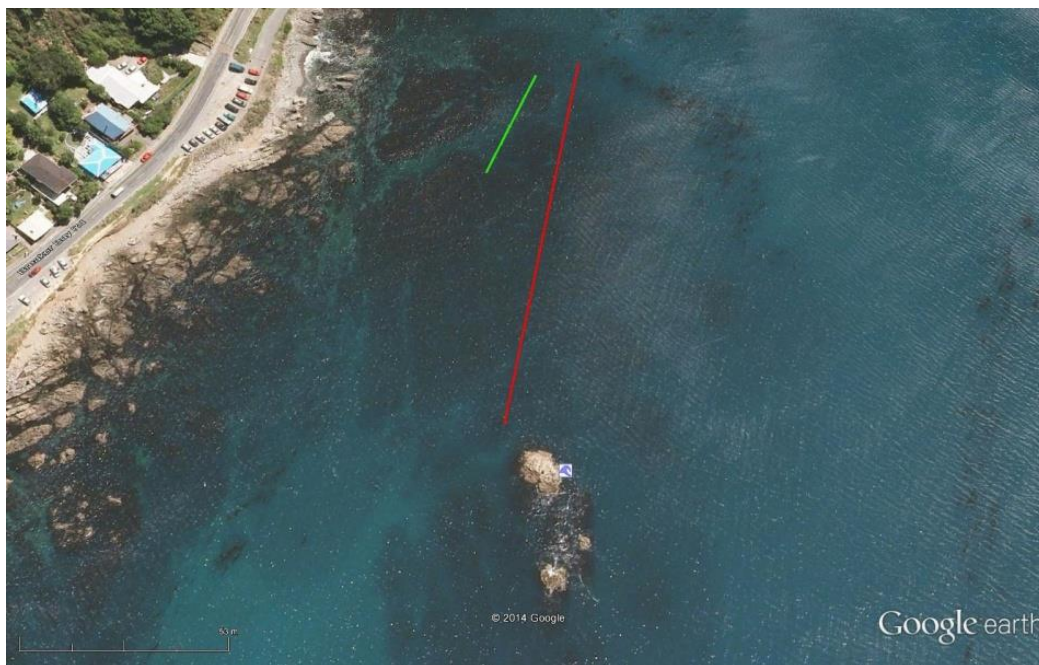
This is where an individual's perception of time, motion, and distance becomes blurred, without reflective and reasoned calculation using simple calibration tools like google earth ruler, an individual's perception of actual distance travelled on a wave can become easily distorted.

While Breaker Bay is acknowledged as a fast breaking wave, it has been documented to be a short ride. According to the contributors of Wannasurf.com the ride length of Breaker Bay is 30 to 50 meters.

Until I undertook this exercise I simply believed Butterfish Rock was only able to provide rides of approximately 50 meters in length, I had simply agreed with the status quo.

In conjunction with my 40+years of local knowledge I have used Google Earth and its ruler tool to demonstrate what a minimum 30 to 50 meter ride looks like compared to the optimum 150 m I have mapped with Google Earth. I must add that I am aware that 150m is on the conservative side.

The Website www.wanasurf.com¹ relies on contributor input which states that Breaker Bay is a short ride of 30 to 50 meters. Using Google ruler I have mapped a 50 meter ride in green (a very small day) with my optimum ride length of 150 meters in red.



4. Findings

4.1 Overview of surfbreak locations

Suggest an overview full page map here with all of the spots shown would be a really good way to go if possible!

4.2 Surfbreak locations and characteristics

Castlepoint - Slipperies



Slipperies-Castlepoint

In the Wairarapa, Slipperies is accessed by taking the left fork in the road several hundred meters after the Whakataki Hotel (5726 Masterton Castlepoint Rd) down Mataikona Beach Rd with a short drive down to the beach car park. Slipperies is an exposed reef break that has fairly consistent surf and can work at any time of the year. Works best in offshore winds from the northwest and there is no shelter here from cross shore breezes. Easily blown out by onshore winds Waves just as likely from local wind swells as from distant groundswells and the best swell direction is from the southeast. The reef breaks left. Best around mid tide. It very rarely gets crowded here. Watch out for dangerous rips, best for intermediate to advanced surfers in swell over 4 foot.

Castlepoint - Main Beach




Castlepoint Beach

has numerous beach break peaks with some sheltered beach/reef breaks at the southern end. Offshore winds are from the west with some shelter here from south winds. Does not handle onshore winds very well Most of the surf here comes from South –South East groundswells, with the lee of lighthouse rock providing access and swell focus from these swell directions when big. North East and East directions works very well up to two meters swell height. Individual surfbreaks at the beach are both lefts and rights. surfable at all stages of the

tide, but cleans up best at low to mid tide.

Castlepoint - Christmas Bay and the Gap

	<p>Christmas Bay Wave Type: Sand beach break Lefts & Rights Wave Size Min: -.5m Wave Shape: Punchy Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NW Tide: All Skill Level: All levels Wavetrack stoke meter :5 Approx max ride length:150</p> <p>The Gap Wave Type: Sand beach break Right hander Wave Size Min: -.5m Wave Size Max: 2.m Wave Shape: Wally Powerful Barrels Optimal Swell Direction: SE Optimal Wind Direction: NW Tide: All Skill Level: All levels Wavetrack stoke meter : 6. Approx max ride length: 170m</p>
---	---

Polygons From left to right: Christmas Bay – The Gap

Christmas Bay -Castlepoint

Is an exposed series of beach breaks that has quite consistent surf and can work at any time of the year. Offshore winds blow from the northwest with some shelter here from northeast winds. Does not handle onshore winds very well Most of the surf here comes from groundswells and the best swell direction is from the south southeast. The beach breaks offer lefts and rights. Good surf at all stages of the tide. Submerged rocks are a hazard. The approximate maximum left hand ride from the peak closest to the headland is approximately 150 meters

The Gap - Castlepoint

in the entrance of Deliverance Cove, is a sheltered beach break that has fairly consistent surf and can work at any time of the year. Works best in offshore winds from the west northwest with some shelter here from southwest winds. Able to handle light onshore wind Windswells and groundswells in equal measure and the best swell direction is from the southeast. The beach breaks favour rights with the odd left hand peak. Good surf at all stages of the tide. A very popular surfbreak, during summer and school holidays crowds can almost match that of the corner at Lyall Bay. Length of ride for optimum conditions is about 230 meters, any bigger than 2 meters then it closes out until the next peak in deliverance Cove, and significantly loses size.

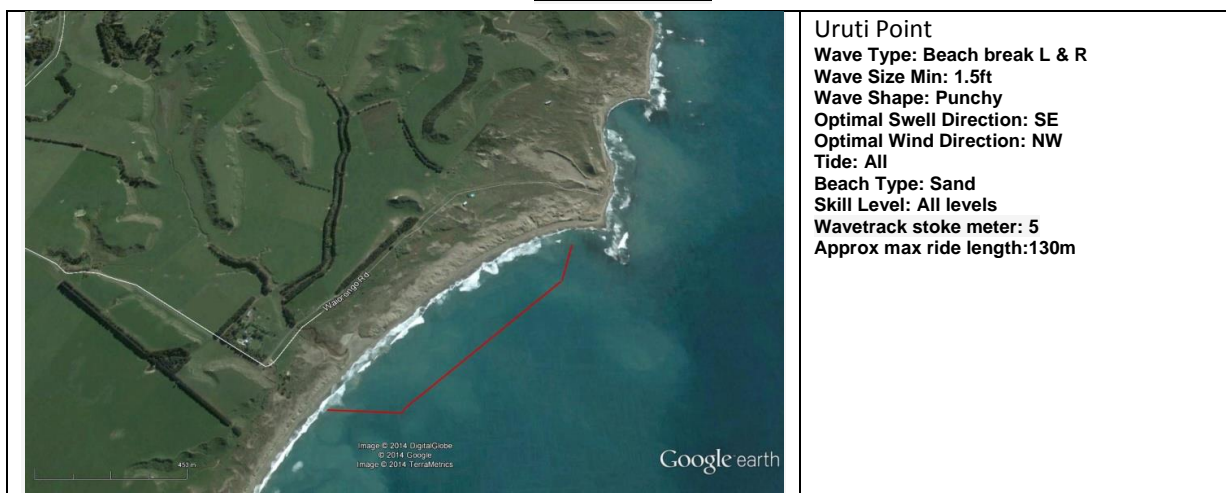
Riversdale - Main Beach



Riversdale

Riversdale has a series of exposed beach breaks that offer quite reliable surf and can work at any time of the year. The best wind direction is from the west northwest. Tends to receive a mix of groundswells and windswells and the best swell direction is from the southeast. The beach breaks offer lefts and rights for all levels of surfer ability – but learners need to be aware of rips. Best around high tide.

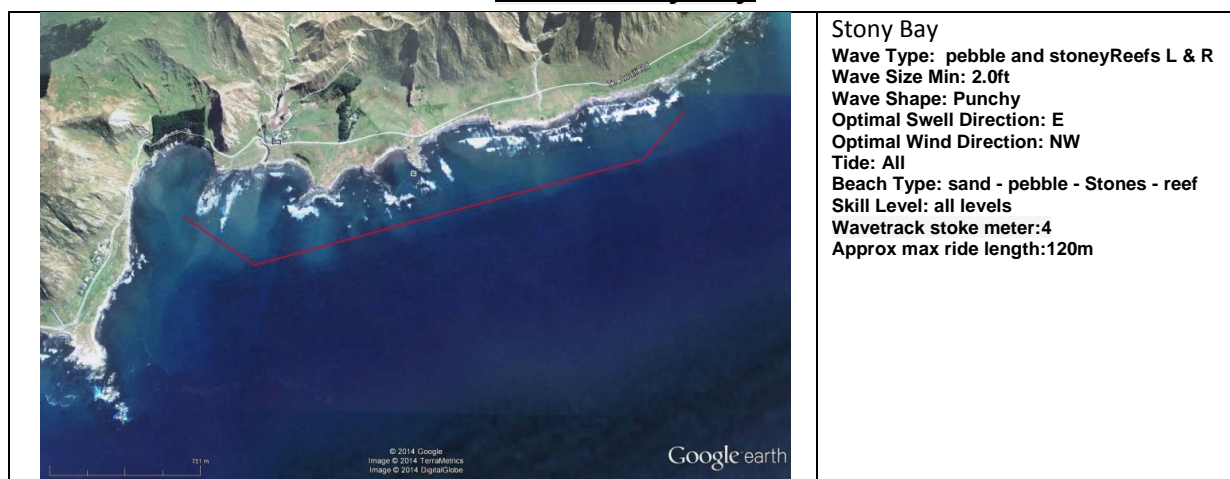
Uruti Point



Uruti Point

is accessed by taking Waiorongoro Rd, Off Homewood Rd, off the Riversdale Rd
 Uruti Point is a series of beach breaks along a sandy beach. There are several peaks down the beach to choose from, offering both right and left handers. Good fun, punchy waves. Good for surfers of all levels, There are surfbreaks at the point and further North that are not mentioned in the wavetrack guide.

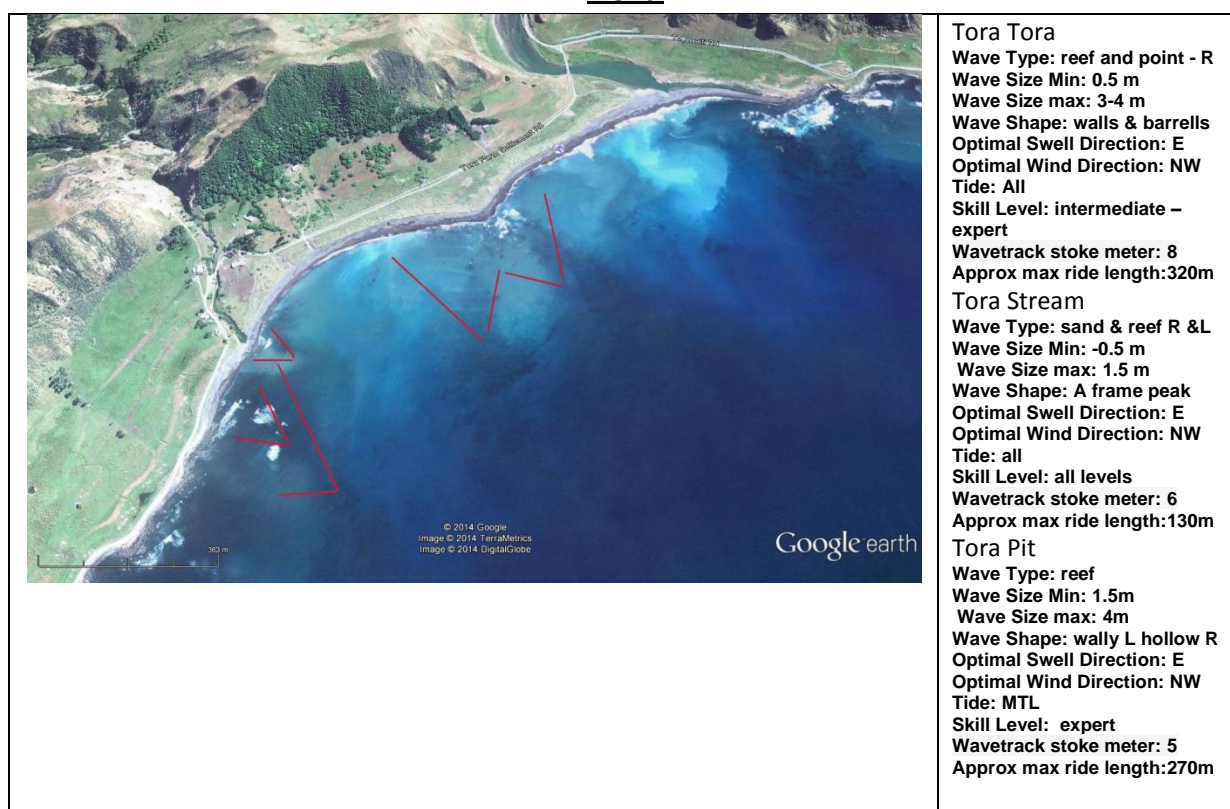
Tora - Stony Bay



Stony Bay

is a series of rocky beach breaks and reef outcrops along several internal bays with a number of peaks, located north of the Tora River. Stony Bay offers both right and left handers, and Picks up good swell. The waves are punchy and fun, good for all levels of surfer.

Tora



Polygons from left to right: Tora Tora – Tora Stream – Tora Pit

Tora Tora

Is in fact two breaks in one. A right hand inner reef break (known to an older generation as the slaughter house) that works up to 1.5 swells – good for surfers of intermediate ability, when the swell increases further

in height the right hand Tora point, some 300 plus meters further out starts breaking right through – best left to the experienced - expert ability when big. Tora Point is an extension of the inner break. A surfbreak on the NZ Surfing guide website refers to a Tora point north of Tora river, while Surf-forecast.com refers to the later as Tora Stix. Tora Tora as listed in the wavetrack guide describes the correct Tora point.

Tora Stream

(Awheaiti Stream) is an A frame surf break with a left and right hander of good quality under 1.5 meters nzsurguide.com has incorrectly mapped the Tora stream surf break as the Tora (Awhea) River beach break, Google Earth has also pinned a photo near Awhea river, but in fact that photo's true location is at (Awheaiti) Tora Stream. This can be confirmed by using street view in Google Earth. There is an unlisted (in the Wavetrack Guide) surfbreak at the Awhea River mouth – beach.

Tora Pit

Some 550 meters Northeast of Tora Stream a big wave magnet also known as the Bombora, mainly a left hander- but also provides a ledging right hander, more appealing the bigger it gets- fit competent advanced to expert surfers only.

South Tora – God Squad – Shipwrecks – Toilet Bowls

	<p>God Squad Wave Type: Reef Lefts & Rights Wave Size Min: .5m Wave Size max: 2m Wave Shape: peaks and walls Optimal Swell Direction: E Optimal Wind Direction: W Tide: all tides Skill Level: All levels Wavetrack stoke meter:5 Approx max ride length: 100m</p> <p>Shipwrecks Wave Type: reef Righthander Wave Size Min: - 0.5 m Wave Size max: 2 m Wave Shape: long walls - tubes Optimal Swell Direction: E Optimal Wind Direction: W Tide: All Skill Level: competent surfers Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: 120m</p> <p>Toilet Bowls Wave Type: Reef L & R Wave Size Min: -0.5 m Wave Size max: 2 m Wave Shape: Optimal Swell Direction: E Optimal Wind Direction: W Tide: MTH Skill Level: all levels Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: 120m</p>
--	--

Polygons from left to right: **God Squad – Shipwrecks – Toilet Bowls**

God Squad

The Southern most surfbreak at Tora listed in the Wavetrack Guide, user friendly waves on mid size swells fun peaks and workable walls

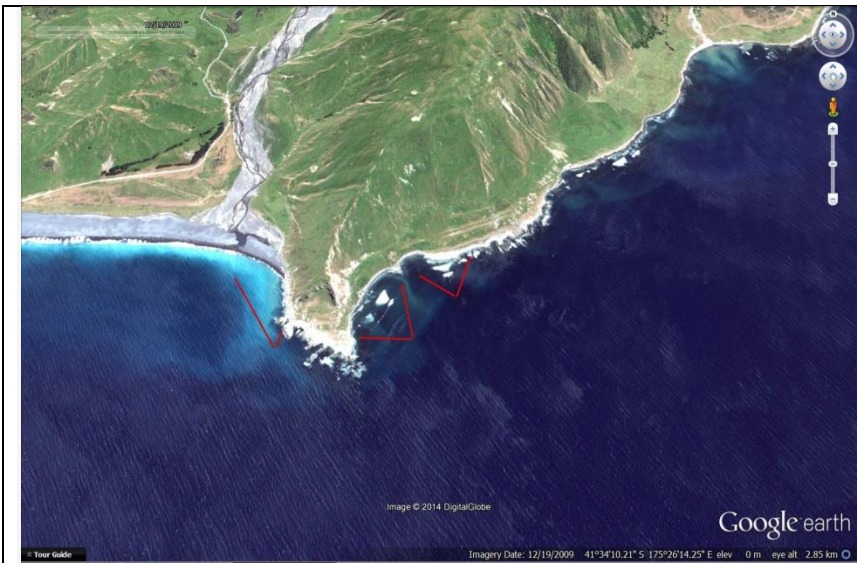
Shipwrecks

A good quality right hand reef breaking directly in front of the Opuia shipwreck works well for waves under 2 meters in height. Wave Track guide gives it a six on the stoke meter, nzsurfguide.com gives it a 7, the author agrees with the latter.

Toilet Bowls

Two distinct reef peaks just north of shipwrecks, providing left and right A frames. Toilet Bowls is a Beach/Reef break on a rocky beach, Toilet Bowls Picks up good swell and offers two peaks, with both right and left handers. The wave is nice and fun when small and gets more hollow with more size, providing plenty of punch and barrels. Good for intermediate to expert surfers.

White Rock: White Rock Point- Dolphin Bay- Gnarlies



<p>White Rock Point Wave Type: reef point Wave Size Min: 1m Wave Size max: 2m optimum Wave Shape: ledgy & hollow Optimal Swell Direction: SE Optimal Wind Direction: NW Tide: MTL Skill Level: advanced - expert Wavetrack stoke meter: 5 Approx max ride length: 150m</p> <p>Dolphin Bay Wave Type: rights odd left beach/reef Wave Size Min: 0.5m Wave Size max: 3.0 Wave Shape: various peaks Optimal Swell Direction: E Optimal Wind Direction: NW Tide: All Skill Level: experienced Wavetrack stoke meter: 5 Approx max ride length: 170m</p> <p>Gnarlies Wave Type: left reef - wedge Wave Size Min: 1m Wave Size max: 3m Wave Shape: Optimal Swell Direction: E Optimal Wind Direction: NW Tide: mid to high incoming Skill Level: expert Wavetrack stoke meter: 5 Approx max ride length: 180m</p>
--

Polygons from left to right: White Rock Point- Dolphin Bay- Gnarlies

White Rock Point

White Rock Point is a left hand reef point break off the western side of Te Kaukau Point. The break is fairly inconsistent but can offer some good waves when its on. The wave has a steep drop in, with a hollow, powerful wall to it. Best for advanced to expert.


Dolphin Bay

Dolphin bay is a beach break on a stoney /rocky beach, located on the east side of Te Kaukau Point. Dolphin Bay picks up plenty of swell and has several peaks with both right and left handers. a punchy and fun wave. Best for advanced to expert surfers.

Gnarlies

Gnarlies is a left point on the rocky point, located on the northern point of the small bay beside Dolphin Bay. Gnarlies is a swell magnet picking up plenty of swell and gets really hollow. The wave has a steep drop in with barrels on offer. Best for expert surfers.

White Rock : The Spit – Seconds- The Desert- Schnappes



White Rock : The Spit
 Wave Type: reef - point
 Wave Size Min: -0.5m
 Wave Size max: L:4m R:3m+
 Wave Shape: Barrels' & walls
 Optimal Swell Direction: SE
 Optimal Wind Direction: SW
 Tide: LTMl
 Skill Level: intermediate to expert
 Wavetrack stoke meter:10
 Approx max ride length:350
 Seconds
 Wave Type: point – boulder-reef
 Wave Size Min: -0.5m
 Wave Size max: 3.5m
 Wave Shape: fast walls
 Optimal Swell Direction: SE
 Optimal Wind Direction: NW
 Tide: LTM
 Skill Level: competent/expert
 Wavetrack stoke meter:8
 Approx max ride length: 300m
 The Desert
 Wave Type: reef - left hander
 Wave Size Min: 1m
 Wave Size max: 2.5m
 Wave Shape: ledging heavy lip
 Optimal Swell Direction: NE
 Optimal Wind Direction: NW
 Tide: LTM
 Skill Level: expert
 Wavetrack stoke meter:5
 Approx max ride length: 150m
 Schnappes
 Wave Type: Reef
 Wave Size Min: 1m
 Wave Size max: 2m
 Wave Shape: ledging - pits
 Optimal Swell Direction: SE
 Optimal Wind Direction: W
 Tide: LTM
 Skill Level: expert
 Wavetrack stoke meter:6
 Approx max ride length: 80m

Polygons from left to right: Schnappes – The Desert- Seconds- The Spit

Schnappes

Schnappes is a left hand reef break off the side of a large rock, onto a rocky beach. Its a solid wave with a gnarly drop in, and powerful wall or barrel. This is a serious wave, experts only.

The Desert

The Desert is a left hand point break off the rocks on the point, onto a stoney beach. Its a solid wave with a gnarly drop in, and powerful wall or barrel. handles big swell. This is a serious wave, experts only.

Seconds

Seconds is a quality right hand point break off the the point along large round boulders, onto a rocky/stoney beach. It's a quality wave with a fast drop in, powerful wall or barrel sections that peel along providing nice long rides. The wave handles big swell and can be a serious proposition when big, experts only.

White Rock : The Spit

The Spit is a long narrow rocky outcrop, with long left and right points that break down either side. The Spit is rated as a world class wave by Wannasurf.com¹¹ with several sections to play with as it peels all the way from one end of the spit to the other. It has a fast, steep drop in, with wally sections and barrels. This spot handles solid swell, the bigger the better, but also fun when smaller.

¹¹ http://www.wannasurf.com/spot/Australia_Pacific/New_Zealand/New_Zealand_NI/South_East_Coast/white_rock/

It is a long paddle out to the Spit, and while suitable for intermediate to expert surfers, the bigger the swell, only the more advanced level of surfer should be in the water. The Spit is given a WaveTrack Guide rating of 10, it was recommended to NZCPS Board of Inquiry in 2008 as a Nationally Surfbreak, a fact that was lost in translation with the final NZCPS as released in December 2010.

Windy/no.4 - Big Ning Nong -Little Ning Nong and Dee Dees

	<p>DeeDees Wave Type: reef Wave Size Min: -0.5m Wave Size max: 3m Wave Shape: peaky tube - hotdog Optimal Swell Direction: Optimal Wind Direction: Tide: MTH Skill Level: Wavetrack stoke meter: 6 Approx max ride length:375m</p> <p>Big Ning Nong–Little Ning Nong Wave Type: Point - Reef Wave Size Min: -0.5 Wave Size max: 4m Wave Shape:L&R walls tubes & peaks Optimal Swell Direction:S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: All Skill Level: intermediate to advanced Wavetrack stoke meter:9 Approx max ride length: 860m</p> <p>Windy / No.4 Wave Type: R Point - Reef Wave Size Min: 1m Wave Size max: 2m+ Wave Shape: fast walling sections Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: MTH Skill Level: All Wavetrack stoke meter: Not rated Approx max ride length: 120m</p>
--	--

Polygons from top to bottom; Dee Dees – Big Ning Nong, Little Ning Nong, and Craps –SuperTubes – Windies/No4.

Dee Dees

Dee Dees is a reef break on a rocky beach, just out front of the Kawakawa Station, Cape Palliser. Dee Dees features a good peak with both right and left handers, The right hander is the favoured ride . The wave is a real performance wave, its powerful and gets hollow with steep drop ins. Good for all levels of surfer. Wavetrack guide states That the best tide is Mid To High- that only applies to swells 2meters and up, below 2 meters it really does benefit from a tides in the low range.

Big Ning Nong – Little Ning Nong

Generically referred to as Ning Nong This polygon contains the four peaks that are essentially all interconnected by being a part of the same point - reef system.

Big Ning Nong is the huge left hand point break that fires all the way down to Dee Dees (860m) when the swell is 3m+ it commands the whole reef system, Craps on the inside will offer a good quality left hander with a fun right hand peak as the consolation prize, the left hander off craps can be ridden in excess of 470m, on bigger swell it is outside Big Ning Nong that fires off down to Dee Dees. On the inside of Craps and slightly North by 100m or so is little Ning Nong and/or raspberries, depending who you talk to.

The Ning Nong reef system is regionally significant and much revered by surfers nationally, the Wave Track Guide gives it a stoke meter rating of 9 yet many of the regions surfers would call it their most favourite surfbreak. Good for surfers of intermediate ability upwards when the swell range is up to 2m. Bigger than 2.5 -

3m It should be left it to surfers of expert ability. Ning Nong is one of the Wellington Region's premier surfbreaks.


Supertubes

Supertubes – as named in the wave track guide is the polygon just south of Ning Nong a wally left hand reef wave that is best surfed in the 1.5 to 2.0m range – some surfers would refer to supertubes as the left walling section peak just south of Dee Dees, which will start working properly at about 1.5m on a low tide.

Windies – No.4

Windies is a right hand point break on a rocky point, just south eas of Craps near the Ngawi Golf Course, out at the end of Cape Palliser. Windies is a nice easy wave with several section to play with as it peels along for over 100m. Good for surfers of all levels.

Humenga Point – Pararaki Stream – Humenga Lodge – Otakaha Stream

	<p>Humenga Point Wave Type: L reef point Wave Size Min: 0.5 Wave Size max: 3m Wave Shape: Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: MTH Skill Level: competent Wavetrack stoke meter:7 Approx max ride length:100 – 150m</p>
	<p>Pararaki Stream Wave Type: L & R rock reef and sand Wave Size Min: -0.5 Wave Size max: 1.0m Wave Shape: fast peaks Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: MT Skill Level: all levels Wavetrack stoke meter: not rated Approx max ride length: 120m</p>
	<p>Humenga Lodge Wave Type: Left point reef Wave Size Min: 1 m Wave Size max: 4m Wave Shape: ledgy sections Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: MTH Skill Level: Competent Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: 130m</p>
	<p>Otakaha Stream Wave Type: reef rocks and sand Wave Size Min: 1 Wave Size max: 1.5m Wave Shape: sucky punchy walls Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: All Skill Level: All Levels Wavetrack stoke meter:4 Approx max ride length:120m</p>

Polygons from top to bottom:Humenga Point- Paraki Stream- Humenga Lodge- Otakaha Stream

Humenga Point Outsides and Insides

Also known as Rubbish Tips or Dumps. Humenga Point is a left hand rocky point break. Humenga Point is a wally left hander with several sections and barrels that wraps the outer point when big. The point can offer

long rides on ground swells over 1.5. the inner point break offers fun peaks on smaller swells Good for all levels of surfer.

Pararaki Stream

Is just North of DeeDees, a couple of playful left and right river mouth surfbreaks over rocks and black sand which have shifting banks due to the river flow, best around mid tide these surfbreaks do not have a wavetrack stoke meter listing.

Humenga Lodge

A left hand reef point break located south of the lodge, needs a good size swell to start working (over 1.5m) properly some respect required as the rocks will offer frequent contact to board and surfer alike.

Otakaha Stream

A wandering stream mouth that dictates the position of the peak that breaks over rocks and sand. Surfable range between 1 to 1.5m a small right hander just to the south is more locationally stable.

Whatarangi – bombie - Point - Bay Bombie- Station

	<p>Whatarangi Point/Bombie Wave Type: L point & A frame outside reef Wave Size Min: 2m Wave Size max: 4m+ Wave Shape: long wall / peak Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: MTH Skill Level: expert Wavetrack stoke meter: Approx max ride length:260m</p> <p>Whatarangi Bay Bombie Wave Type: A frame reef Wave Size Min: 1.8m Wave Size max: 3m+ Wave Shape: rolling low breaking intensity Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: NE Tide: all Skill Level: competent Wavetrack stoke meter: not listed Approx max ride length: Approx max ride length:160m</p> <p>Whatarangi - Station Wave Type: Wave Size Min: Wave Size max: Wave Shape: Optimal Swell Direction: Optimal Wind Direction: Tide: All Skill Level: competent only Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: Approx max ride length:180 m</p>
--	---

Polygons from top to bottom: Whatarangi Point and Bombie –Whatarangi Bay bombie- Whatarangi Station

Whatarangi Point and Bombie

This point – Bombie is listed in the wave track guide it is situated at the most southern end of the white cliffs where the road takes a sharp right. When swell size exceeds 2.5m both point and the Bombie start to work, and holds up to 4m+, the point is a peeling left hander. The A frame Bombie is a few hundred meters to the North and further out to sea. Experts only.

Whatarangi Bay Bombie

Marked by a green Polygon this break is not listed in the wavetrack Guide, but newcomers often confuse it with the listed bombie, it is more popular due to being able to be ridden by competent surfers upwards (as opposed to experts only at the listed Bombie) the wave is an A frame Right and left with a low breaking intensity which does not generally provide steep walls, The lip most often connects halfway down the face, so a crouch for the cover up at the top is often required, a fun Mal wave even with a respectable size. a peaky wave, not very hollow but a good wave for competent surfers when points south are off the chart.

Whatarangi Point - Station

Is an exposed left hand point break that is very fast, with sections unmakeable unless the swell angle is just right. holds can be ridden on small swells(low tide) up to 3m in large swells optimum size is 2m+ . a smaller beach break runs down the inside point by the beach side homestead during bigger swells which are fun on a Mal.

Batches



Batches
Wave Type: L & R peak rocks and sand
Wave Size Min:
Wave Size max:
Wave Shape: beach break
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: NE
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: All
Wavetrack stoke meter: 4
Approx max ride length: 150m

Batches

South of the Pinnacles Reserve and on the other side of the active slip, Batches has a couple of peaks that start to fire as the swell gets bigger on Palliser Bay's outer breaks. the northern peak handles bigger swells, the southern peak has a fun bowl feature to it good for surfers of all levels.

Lake Ferry - Lake Onoke



Lake Ferry River mouth
Wave Type: Beach Break
Wave Size Min: -0.5m
Wave Size max: 2m
Wave Shape: fast thick hollow tubes
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: NW
Tide: H
Skill Level: Expert
Wavetrack stoke meter:9
Approx max ride length: 300m

Lake Ferry

Should not attempted by any less than an experienced and fit surfer, river flow and tide lead to very sudden and rapid changes in rips. The wave is a beach break with a heavy Lip, the peaks move location from side of the mouth to the other and sometimes more than one peak will exist, the surfbreak is usually located on the eastern side. Lake ferry is a beach break and the usual peak is a right hander. The wave has a thick fast breaking lip that can lock the surfer inside the barrel. A regionally significant surfbreak

Wainuiomata Coast



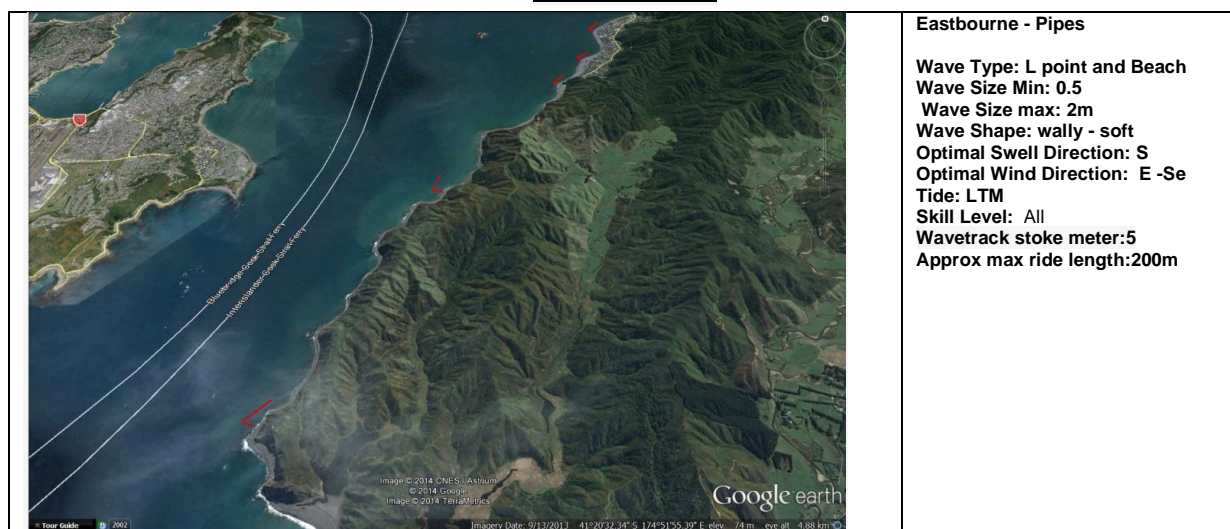
Wanuiomata River
Wave Type: Left Hand reef
Wave Size Min: 1m
Wave Size max: 3m
Wave Shape: ledgy fast sections
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: N
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: Advanced to Expert
Wavetrack stoke meter:6
Approx max ride length:260m
 Dribbles
 Wave Type: R & L Reef Break
Wave Size Min: 0.5m
Wave Size max: 2m
Wave Shape: punchy wall
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: N
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: Competent to Expert
Wavetrack stoke meter:6
Approx max ride length:250m
 Orongorongo River - Point
Wave Type: L reef point
Wave Size Min: 1m
Wave Size max: 3m
Wave Shape: fast walls and barrels
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: N
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: Advanced to Expert
Wavetrack stoke meter: 6
Approx max ride length:280m

Wainuiomata Coast

This stretch of coast is generically referred to as Wainui or Wainui Coast by surfers, all three surfbreaks are solid - heavy waves – can hold large swells though the bigger it gets. Many prefer the left hander over the Orongorongo Bridge, which involves a bit of a walk as the road is closed at the Bridge. Surfers need to be

mindful of the lefthand pointbreak on swells over 2.5 m as an eddy can form inside the break which can result in successive hold downs in sustained sets. A series of regionally significant surfbreaks.

Eastbourne



Eastbourne

The NZ Wavetrack Guide does not identify any particular peak on the Eastbourne Coast, the bottom polygon is a left hand reef point break near the Pencarrow Lighthouse, which needs a 2m swell and low tide to work. The second polygon from the bottom is **The Pipes**, which is the best known, consistent, and most popular Surfbreak some 20 to 30 minute walk out from Burdens Gate.

If there is a 4m+ swell on the harbour heads it will be about 2m at the Pipes, a wally left point break that doesn't really have any pipes to speak of, the pipes Are / were? Physical concrete pipes left on a bushy verge on the landward side of the road which also gives shelter to surfers on stormy days. Pipes can be surfed in a stiff South - South easterly wind, this makes the pipes the best prospect in the Wellington and Lower Hutt Cities during a large Southerly storm with big swell. Further down the coast Burdens Gate – Lion Rock also has a small Mal left hand wave but Lion Rock seems to have filled in with gravel over the last couple of decades. In huge southerly swells the inner Eastbourne township points host left hand shore break points of around a meter in size. The Wavetrack guide states that these breaks work on All tides, but the most popular break Pipes is best on a Low to Mid Tide, the higher the tide, the bigger the swell needed to keep it working.

Breaker Bay – Butterfish Rock and Propellers



Breaker Bay – Butterfish Rock

Wave Type: R reef ledge
Wave Size Min: 0.5m
Wave Size max: 3m
Wave Shape: Hollow fast
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: NW
Tide: LTM – MTH depend on size
Skill Level: Advanced - Expert
Wavetrack stoke meter: 8
Approx max ride length: 150m

Propellers

Wave Type: reef - point
Wave Size Min: 1m
Wave Size max: 2m+
Wave Shape: walls – fat tubes
Optimal Swell Direction: S
Optimal Wind Direction: NW
Tide: LTM
Skill Level: advanced - expert
Wavetrack stoke meter: 8
Approx max ride length: 180m

Breaker Bay – Butterfish Rock

Butterfish rock is located about 150 meters southeast of the car park at the bottom of the Pass of Branda at Seatoun. Focusing of the swell begins with sunken rock (which claimed the police boat Lady Elizabeth in a large swell in 1986) indicated by the dotted red line, on giant swell waves can break right through to Butterfish Rock.

As the swell wraps around Butterfish rock it will either break right through (in swell over 2.8m) or sharpen its focus to a well defined peak just inside of the rock, that will then steepen rapidly as it launches on to the inside reef. always a right hander, but on occasion a short left hander can be found, best suited for boogie boarders or goofy's.

The wave has a solid lip and due to the speed that it steepens lends to a lot of freefall take offs. This surfbreak rates as one of the heavyweights of the South Coast. Surfers need to observe it carefully before paddling out for the first time, there have been many injuries on the reef. Reinforcement of the car park to date has been good and that has not protruded into MHWS. This end of Breaker Bay is very popular in the holidays and if expansion of the car park facilities in the future is needed, special care must be observed to avoid adverse on this surfbreak. A regionally significant surfbreak.

Breaker Bay – Propellers at Palmer Head

Propellers is a right hand reef break on the Eastern side of Palmer Head, paddle out from the Wahine memorial Park (as featured on the cover of this report). When conditions are right it produces a long fast wall with barrels. Another surfbreak that deserves respect.

Lyall Bay - Airport Rights - Moa Point

	<p>Lyall Bay - clubrooms Wave Type: R & L beach break Wave Size Min: -0.5 Wave Size max: 1.8m Wave Shape: A frame sucky walls Optimal Swell Direction: SE Optimal Wind Direction: N or NW Tide: LTM Skill Level: All Wavetrack stoke meter: Approx max ride length: 200m</p>
	<p>Lyall Bay - Corner Wave Type: L Beach Break Wave Size Min: -0.5m Wave Size max: 2.5 Wave Shape: peaks and walls & tubes Optimal Swell Direction: S -SE Optimal Wind Direction: N Tide: All Skill Level: All Wavetrack stoke meter:5 Approx max ride length:350m</p>
	<p>Airport Rights Wave Type: R Reef break Wave Size Min: -0.5 Wave Size max: 2m Wave Shape: peak - tube Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: N Tide: LT Skill Level: intermediate - expert Wavetrack stoke meter:5 Approx max ride length: 125m</p>
	<p>Moa Point (mentioned under Airport rights) Wave Type: R reef point Wave Size Min: 2m Wave Size max: 4m+ Wave Shape: fat wall Optimal Swell Direction: S Optimal Wind Direction: N - NW Tide: All Skill Level: Expert Wavetrack stoke meter: not listed Approx max ride length:250m</p>

Polygons clockwise from the bottom left: **Outer and Inner Bombora -Lyall Bay- Airport Breakwater- airport rights- Moa point**

Outer Bombara- Lyall Bay

Off the eastern side of Te Raekaihau Point the Outer Bombora reef breaks left and right during mega swells, starting at 3 meters to 13 meters+.

Some 15 to 20 years ago a promoter was offering a prize of \$10,000 for the largest wave ride at this location, the prize is yet to be claimed. The outer Bombora is a large wave surfing venue.

Inner Bombora- Lyall Bay

Located east of Arthurs Nose, this peak starts working on a low tide in swells of 2m(low tide) up to 3 meters, bigger than this it is generally either a reform off the outer Bombora or breaking right through.

Lyall Bay

Is nationally culturally significant, in that it was surfed by Duke Kahanamoko the Father of modern surfing in February 1915, nearly 100 years ago. The Duke was a swimming and surfing superstar of his time, and his visit to Australia and New Zealand generated a popular wave of interest in the sport (please excuse the pun). Lyall Bay was one of the three places that the Duke publicly exhibited the sport of kings in New Zealand to the General Public. Therefore Lyall Bay is culturally significant (and regionally significant) to the sport of surfing in Aotearoa.

Lyll Bay Wellington, along with Fitzroy Beach, New Plymouth, Mount Maunganui - Main beach and Coast, Wainui and Waikaniae Beach- Gisborne, and St Clair Beach, Dunedin, were accepted as examples by the Board of Inquiry to The 2010 NZCPS as Nationally significant nursery surf breaks.

I have made a demarcation line in red across the bay from approximately just North of Hungerford Rd over the bay to a point some two thirds from the corner car park to the breakwater.

I have drawn in green the approximate beach break peaks that indicate the extreme outer locations of where these peaks may break in bigger swells that can be surfed.

As far as amenity value goes, Lyall Bay is Wellington City's most utilised surfing venue. It is Wellington City's premier surfing beach. At its widest point(Sutherland Road to the Corner car park) Lyall Bay is a little over 1100 meters as the Gull flies, and there are at least ten distinguishable surfable waves breaking left or right, though not all will fire off at once.

The green peak that breaks out from Dorrie Leslie Park only does so in swell exceeding 3meters, the wave face is about 2.5 meters, and breaks right, across towards the Lyall Bay club rooms. There is an inner right hander in from this peak that works in lesser swell that is quite soft and crumbly, the angle of approach makes it hard to keep up with the lip.

The Right hander that breaks East away from the Lyall Bay surf life saving clubrooms – is an A frame peak out from the Lyall Bay Surf clubrooms which is predominately a long right hander. A sucky fast left hander can often be produced off the A frame that breaks into the patrolled flagged swimming area towards the Maranui clubrooms. In the past the Lyall Bay surf lifesaving club put the eastern swimming flag directly out front of the clubrooms. With a change to the navigational bylaws in 2008 the club put the flag out to the end of the playground thus encompassing nearly the entire right hand break.

This particular right hander is the most predominant surfing wave in a south easterly swell, a pattern which prevails during the latter summer months, it is one of the two Lyall Bay peaks named in the NZ Wavetrack Guide.

The next peak marked in green(the largest peak is named the bend, and breaks approximately out front of the Real Surf Shop in Lyall Bay, right towards a midpoint between Tirangi Rd and Cochrane St. It can break Left to a point close to the eastern end of the playground at the bottom of Onepu Rd. sometimes the peak is non existant and just a large closeout, on rare occasions this peak can break near to the entrance of Lyall Bay, producing rides up to 400 meters the Bend use to do so several times a year in the previously to the early 70's, now probably once every three or four years.

The next peak breaks in front of Cochrane St, some refer to it as the toilet bowl, the toilet bowl Shape has not been evident since the construction of the Corner car park in the 1990's it is predominantly a left hander, though it does produce a short wedgy right hander.

Potential Risks to the grouping of Lyall Bay surfbreaks include:

1. Continued wastewater overflows due to heavy rain events.
2. Potential diminished surfing wave quality due anticipated airport extension south.

The Corner

The Corner Left hand peak also known as the Wall, breaks along the airport Lyall Bay wall from a point south of the orange and White steel frame communication tower. The corner Break is very popular and gets crowded. When it's good it can produce good quality barrels. The wave quality has been adversely affected by the construction of the corner car park, and in the early eighties from the placement of boulders along what was

then a vertical steel plate wall. When the steel plate wall was in place any future modification to the near shore environment in this area must properly assess potential adverse effects on the surfbreak. A surfbreak of very high amenity value Good for surfers of all levels depending on wave size, (competent + for size over 1.5m)



photo courtesy of www.surf-forecast.com

Airport Breakwater

The polygon on the end of the airport breakwater is in fact, a pre existing reef surfbreak with the southern airport and breakwater built over the top of that reef that extended out in to Lyall Bay from the North western base of Moa Point hill. The Breakwater is a short left hander off the rock that can hold size of around 3 meters.

Airport Rights

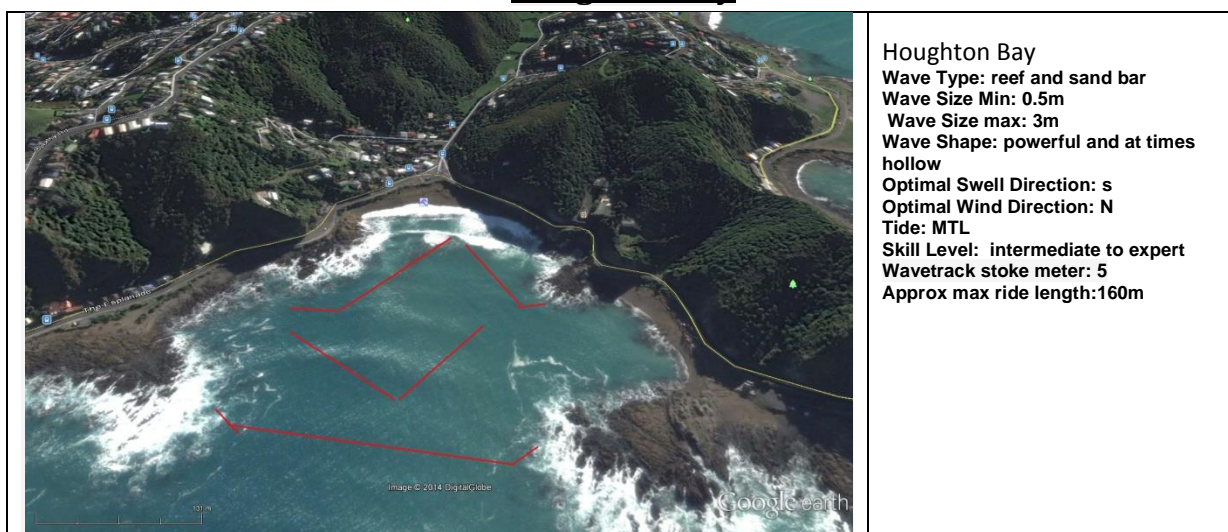
Breaks off a part of the original reef that the breakwater and airport is built over. It is a right hand reef break that best works in swell over 1.5m a lot of water moves up the face on takeoff and throws out with some authority. Beware of construction rubble with complimentary iron reinforcing rods poking out of the water at low tide, for convenience there is a first aid station at the airport and the hospital is only 10 minutes away for more serious injuries. advanced to expert only. **Hazard identification:** iron reinforcing rods should be removed

Moa Point

Moa Point is a Right hand reef point break that can hold up to 4 meter + of swell The Wave Track guide refers to it as a fickle break, by that I would assume not constant.

Moa Point is in fact a large wave venue so it takes at least 2.5 m of swell before it starts producing ridable waves. Best left for the experts, Moa point has the stigma of historically been Wgtn city's raw sewerage outfall.

Houghton Bay



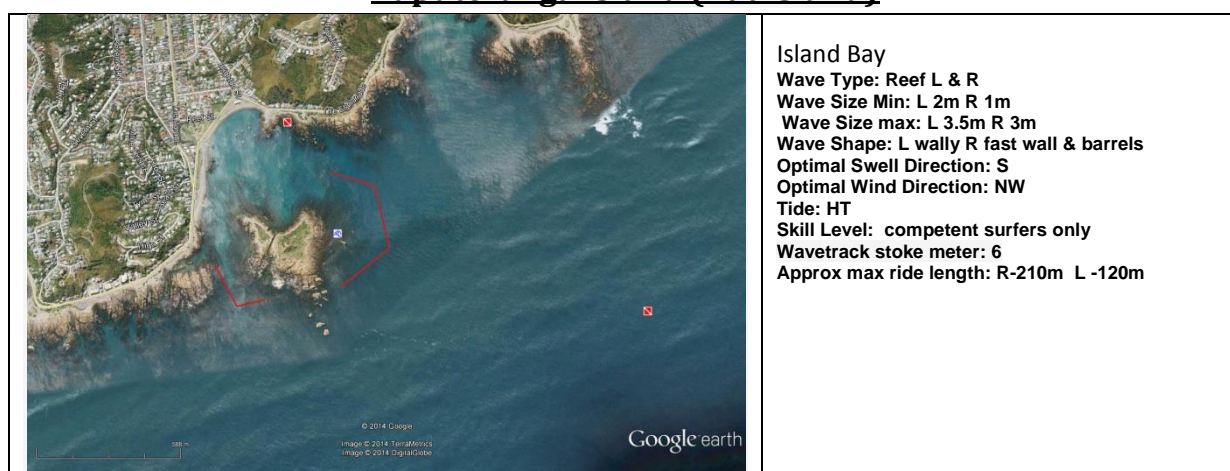
Houghton Bay
 Wave Type: reef and sand bar
 Wave Size Min: 0.5m
 Wave Size max: 3m
 Wave Shape: powerful and at times hollow
 Optimal Swell Direction: s
 Optimal Wind Direction: N
 Tide: MTL
 Skill Level: intermediate to expert
 Wavetrack stoke meter: 5
 Approx max ride length: 160m

Houghton Bay

Wellington City's 2nd most popular surf beach, the sandy beach has a steep incline and shore break undertow. The bay has reef points with left and right reef breaks and a sand bar in the middle of the Bay that can hold up to 3m waves in the right conditions(indicated by the central and most seaward marked polygon) The NZ wave track Guide states that optimum swell height is up to 1.5m, but the optimum swell height is up to 2m. Comments on Wannasurf.com state that max ride length is only 40m this is incorrect (verified with google line measure tool) in a macca swell you can paddle out from Princess Bay and ride the extreme south A frame peak(right hander the safest) which also provides a ride of some 100 to 140m before closing out the Bay – aim for Princess bay as an exit strategy this outside peak is of course the extension of the Bay's central sand bar . A regionally significant surfbreak area. Houghton Bay was the venue for the 1968 New Zealand Surf Nationals.

Risks to this surfbreak area include continued heavy metal contaminants entering the bay from the old landfill.

Taputeranga Island (Rat Island)



Taputeranga Island

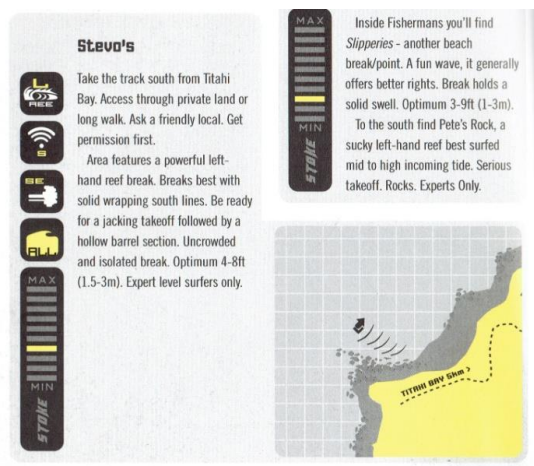
Also known as Rat Island, Is a small island out off Wellingtons Island Bay, officially called Taputeranga Island. Rat island features a right hand reef break off the east side of the island and a left hand reef break off the south west side of the island. Both sides produce solid, hollow, fast waves. Can be quite a long paddle to get out. best for advanced to expert surfers. A regionally significant surfbreak

Stevo's. (Not Boom Rock)



Polygons from left to right: **unnamed left reef break**(- green)- **STEVOS**(in red) – **Little Titahi**(Open Bay -green) **Windy** (Tirau Bay –green)

When I started revising printed and online literature for Stevo's I realised that the map used in the Wave track Guide, generalised as it is, was pointing to Boom Rock, I was unsure if there was a surfbreak at Boom Rock, but I did have a good idea of where Stevo's is, I should add that I have only walked that coastline in the distant past without surfing it.



The generalised picture on page 400 of the Wavetrack New Zealand Surfing guide which eludes to Boom Rock –not Stevo's

http://nzsurfing.com/surf_breaks/wellington/stevos uses this google image which clearly points to Boom Rock – not Stevo's

It should be pointed out that the Wavetrack New Zealand Surfing Guide and nzsurfing.com have done a herculean task in identifying NZ's Nationally and Regionally significant surfbreaks, with my 40 years experience and knowledge of the Wgtn Region's surfbreaks I thoroughly recommend the above publications for those new to surfing or the region.

It is this authors view that nzsurfing.com is the most informative of all online guides to NZ surfbreaks, and I presume what has happened with regard to Stevo's is simply directions lost in translation.

To resolve the issue I contacted Peter Windsor, A born and bred veteran local surfer and well known historian of the Titahi Bay Area. Peter confirmed my suspicions and clarified the surfbreaks along this area of coastline.

I shared several mapped images via email, and discussed further via phone conversations with Peter.

The detail of Peter's identification of the area's surfbreaks are as follows:

The first thing to establish is there is no Boom Rock wave to ride. It's only a reference for the fishermen to use as a reference point between Makara and Kaumanga Point.

But in saying that, there is another wave that can be ridden. It's Little Titahi and another as well before Kaumanga Point. As follows are the details etc.

Stevo's

Description:

Steve's is a left rock ledge located south of Little Titahi Beach (Open Bay). Look south from the beach, it's the point. The wave is powerful with a steep drop in section into a hollow barrel. It's safest on full tide with tide going out. It only works on a

large south/southeast swell which wraps past Makara. Leave this one to the experts and with a lot of local knowledge. Works one year then not another extreme local knowledge is needed

Little Titahi(Open Bay):

Little Titahi is a safe small beach break. Beginners and Malibu's relish this area. Normally breaks on large North West onshore swell, when Titahi Bay beach is out of control, this protected beach has small very clean waves. It faces due Southwest.

Be aware that both Stevo's and Little Titahi have rather a large amount of Stingrays which are yum yums for Orca's. No recorded incidents. Another interesting fact is the skinny dipping at the sandy beach.

Windy:

Just before Kaumanga Point is a small bay (Tirau Bay) facing Northwest. 1 meter surf is here similar to Titahi Bay beach conditions but smaller.

Directions:

From Wellington head north out of the city on state Highway 1. Turn left where the signs points to Porirua, go up the gorge. At Porirua turn left onto Titahi Bay Road and continue towards Titahi Bay (harbour on the right) Coming into Titahi Bay turn left into Te Pene Avenue then left into Te Puke Street and left into Pikarere Street and right into Moki Street . The road then drops away towards the treatment plant. Note; the gate by the cattle stop shuts between 7 pm and 7 am every day no exceptions. Follow the road to the treatment station parking area to the right just before the treatment station. From here a 5/6 km walk ensues. Rough terrain, climb down the cliff follow the track and follow the foreshore in a southwest direction. No dogs are allowed.

Nearest Town: Porirua

Travel Time from City: 45 minutes

Road in Seal.

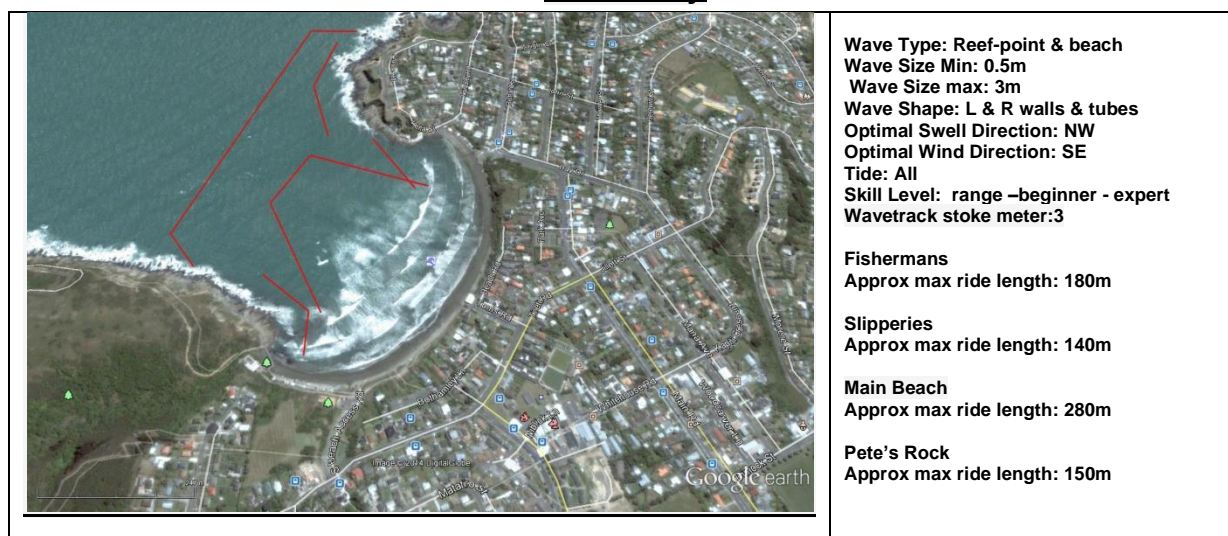
Walk in: Yes

Parking at beach: No

Safety awareness: Stingrays /Orca

I also confirmed with Peter that there is a small unnamed left hand reef- beach break just North of Boom rock that is not listed in the Wavetrack Guide a good fun wave when small.

Titahi Bay



Polygons from top to bottom; Titahi Bay - **Fishermans**– **Slipperies** - **Main Beach** and **Petes Rock**

Regionally Titahi Bay rates alongside Lyall Bay, and Castlepoint, and Houghton Bay as inner city – town beaches that provide high amenity value, with ease of access close to population centers. Titahi Bay along with the other three locations are regionally significant recreational assets for surfers of all levels of expertise(excluding Houghton Bay). These beaches are surfing nursery breaks as highlighted to NZCPS Board of Inquiry in 2008.

Titahi Bay consists of north and South rocky reef points and sand bars breaking centrally inside the Bay.

Fishermans is a right hander on the outer reef on the bay's North Point, it only really works when its big, and generates good long wally sections that can get hollow, in such conditions there is a lot of water moving around, best left to competent advanced surfers.

Further on the inside of the North Point is **Slipperies** a beach break point which offers up a finer quality right hand wave for intermediate level and up surfers.

Main beach is series of beach breaks offering left and right handers that are good for beginners, and provide fun mal waves for all levels. There are plenty of swimmers, body surfers, boogie boarders who utilise the main Beach.

Petes Rock is located on the Southern point, It is a gnarly, left hander that sucks off the reef that is best left to advanced or expert surfers.

Titahi Bay is a regionally significant surfbreak area.

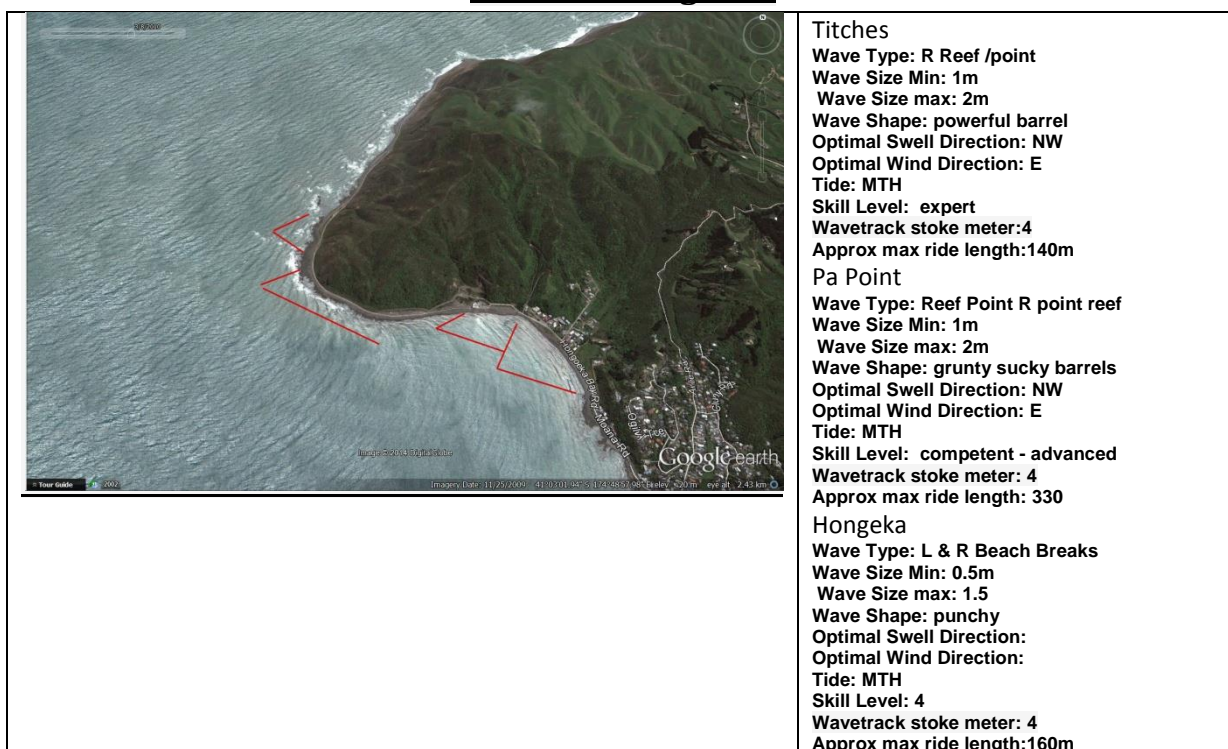
Plimmerton



Wave Type: beach break – rocky reef
Wave Size Min: 0.5m
Wave Size max: 1m
Wave Shape: soft fat peaks
Optimal Swell Direction: NW
Optimal Wind Direction: NE
Tide: All
Skill Level: All
Wavetrack stoke meter: 3
Approx max ride length: 60m

The main surf spot at Plimmerton is the beach break accessed from the towns centre via Queen Ave or Bath St. The main beach is sandy, Producing soft fat waves suitable for learners and longboard riders. Just around the headland with the fire station on it, is a series of little rocky coves holding waves up to a about one meter, not suitable for learners

Titches - Hongoeka



Titches
Wave Type: R Reef /point
Wave Size Min: 1m
Wave Size max: 2m
Wave Shape: powerful barrel
Optimal Swell Direction: NW
Optimal Wind Direction: E
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: expert
Wavetrack stoke meter: 4
Approx max ride length: 140m
Pa Point
Wave Type: Reef Point R point reef
Wave Size Min: 1m
Wave Size max: 2m
Wave Shape: grunty sucky barrels
Optimal Swell Direction: NW
Optimal Wind Direction: E
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: competent - advanced
Wavetrack stoke meter: 4
Approx max ride length: 330
Hongoeka
Wave Type: L & R Beach Breaks
Wave Size Min: 0.5m
Wave Size max: 1.5
Wave Shape: punchy
Optimal Swell Direction:
Optimal Wind Direction:
Tide: MTH
Skill Level: 4
Wavetrack stoke meter: 4
Approx max ride length: 160m

Polygons from top to bottom; **Titches – Pa Point - Hongoeka Bay**

Titches

Titches is a right hand point break on the rocky head land. Located further round the head land from Plimmerton and Pa Point. The wave is powerful with a hollow barrel. Best for expert surfers.


Pa Point

Pa Point is a right hand point break on a rocky head land. The wave is powerful with a hollow barrel. Best for advanced to expert surfers. Pa Point is one of the most favoured surf breaks on the Wellington Regional West Coast, therefore regionally significant.

Hongoeka Bay

Hongoeka Bay has several beach breaks along the bay near the marae. The wave is punchy and fun, with both rights and lefts. Ok for all levels of surfer. It is polite to ask permission at the Marae to surf here and at the point.

Pukerua Bay

	<p>Wairaka reef Wave Type: L reef Wave Size Min: 1m Wave Size max: 2.5 Wave Shape: grunty powerful barells Optimal Swell Direction: NW Optimal Wind Direction: SE Tide: HT Skill Level: expert Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: 280m</p> <p>Wairaka point Wave Type: L reef -point Wave Size Min: 0.8m Wave Size max: 2.5m Wave Shape: sucky – punchy sections Optimal Swell Direction: NW Optimal Wind Direction: SE Tide: HT Skill Level: advanced competent Wavetrack stoke meter: 6 Approx max ride length:130</p> <p>Brenden's Wave Type: R reef break Wave Size Min: 0.8m Wave Size max: 1.5m Wave Shape: sucky – fat shoulder Optimal Swell Direction: NW Optimal Wind Direction: SE Tide: HT Skill Level: competent - advanced Wavetrack stoke meter:6 Approx max ride length: 100m</p>
--	---

Polygons from left to right; **Wairaka reef – Wairaka point - Brenden's**

Pukerua Bay has three surfbreaks mentioned in the Wavetrack guide

Wairaka reef

Is the south western most break it is a left hander that breaks over a reef the wave type is very powerful and grunty with thick barrels, it should be left to the experts, foot access only


Wairaka point

Is a quality left hand point/reef with a sucky takeoff and punchy sections. optimum wave size range of 1 to 2.2m again, best left to experts

Brendens

At the bottom of the hill on Pukerua Beach Rd, walk north along the beach in front of the private houses Brendens is offers a right hand reef break with a fat shoulder, works best in the 0.5 to 1.5m swell range

Kapiti Island


	North Point Wave Type: L reef point Wave Size Min: 1m Wave Size max: 2m Wave Shape: long wrapping wally waves Optimal Swell Direction: NW Optimal Wind Direction: S Tide: All Skill Level: expert Wavetrack stoke meter: 8 Approx max ride length: 300m
	Mid Point Wave Type: L reef point Wave Size Min: Wave Size max: Wave Shape: wrapping walls Optimal Swell Direction: NW Optimal Wind Direction: S Tide: All Skill Level: Advanced - expert Wavetrack stoke meter: 7 Approx max ride length: 280
	South Point Wave Type: right reef point Wave Size Min: 1.5 Wave Size max: 2.5 Wave Shape: sucky fat lip & barrels Optimal Swell Direction: SE Optimal Wind Direction: N Tide: All Skill Level: Expert Wavetrack stoke meter: 7 Approx max ride length: unknown

Polygons from top to bottom - **North Point- Mid Point- South Point**

Kapiti Island

The island is only accessible by private boat. It offers several breaks; a left hand point break off the north east point of the island, another left hand point break mid way down the east coast of the island, and a right hand point break off the south east corner of the island. All breaks are on rocky points. The North and Mid breaks work on a north west swell with a southerly wind, and offer powerful, hollow, waves. The North point produces a lot longer, fast waves. The Mid point break has shorter, barrelling waves. According to reports the South point works very rarely, and only on a big south east swell with north to north westerly winds, offering a gnarly, hollow barrel. Experts only.

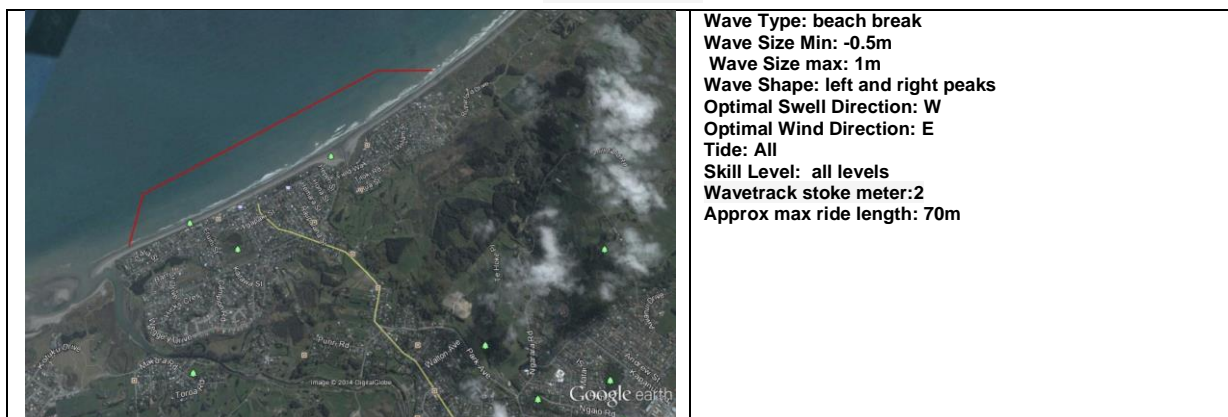
Paekakariki

	Wave Type: L & R beach break peaks Wave Size Min: 0.5m Wave Size max: 1.5m Wave Shape: soft walls – close outs Optimal Swell Direction: Optimal Wind Direction: Tide: HT Skill Level: All Wavetrack stoke meter: 2 Approx max ride length: 70m
---	---

Paekakariki

Is a beach break on a sandy beach. Paekakariki has several peaks along the beach to choose from with both right and left handers. The wave is small and soft, great for beginners but also good for surfers of all levels.

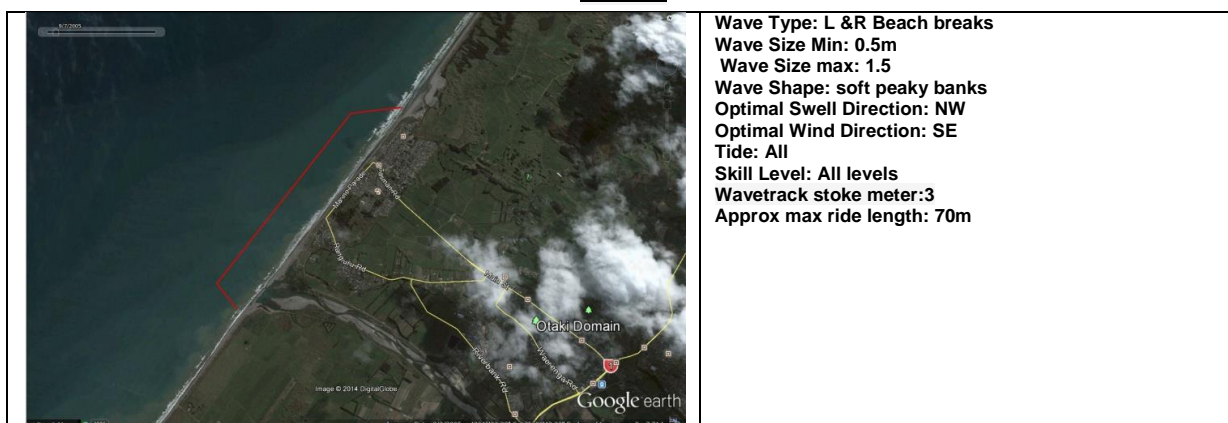
Waikanae



Waikanae

Is a series of left and right beach breaks along the sandy beach. Waikanae has several peaks along the beach to choose from with both right and left handers. The wave is generally mellow - small and soft, great for beginners.

Otaki



Otaki Beach

Is a beach break on a sandy beach. Otaki has several peaks along the beach to choose from with both right and left handers. While the wave is small, soft, and generally good for beginners, Long shore currents can be a challenge. On occasion the river mouth can produce banks.

5. Discussion

5.1 Surfbreak locations and characteristics

This report provides initial information for GWRC on the region's better known surfbreaks including confirmation of the location of surfbreaks covered in the Wavetrack Guide. Information on a range of important surfbreak characteristics is also documented to confirm, and in some cases update similar information as found in the Wavetrack Guide. However it is important to recognise that there are many other surfbreak characteristics that are important for the effective management of

surfbreaks, as is discussed further below. The limitations of this study should also be recognised, being largely a desk top assessment. It is therefore recommended that GWRC collect further information on the region's surfbreaks to inform policy and management. This should include the assessment of surfbreak values and the characteristics that underpin those values.

To address the potential for inaccuracies in such information it is recommended that the Council allow for some flexibility going forward, including the gathering of further information on characteristics such as maximum ride length in various conditions.

5.2 Length of ride assessments

There are other examples of methods for determining surfing ride length at surfbreaks around New Zealand. A recent example is a study by Met Oceans Ltd¹² as part of an Assessment of Environmental Effects¹³ (AEE) for the controversial breakwater proposed by Napier City Council to be built on Whakarire reef also known as city reef, a town surfbreak that provides an inner nursery break, this surfing reef has a very high amenity value.

The methodology used by MetOcean Solutions Ltd was to strap a GPS unit on to the back of an undefined or unidentified number of surfers with undefined surfing ability on an undefined number of days at high tide¹⁴. From the record provided it would appear that the observed conditions were providing mediocre to average surfing wave quality at the location. A swell period of 12s is just within the acceptable range for ground swell. Although the swell direction of 60 degrees (ENE) is within the optimal range, a one meter swell will not provide approximate maximum ride length.

The significance of this is that any impact assessment would be ill-informed if it assuming that the results of these measurements represented the surfbreak. The surfbreak occupies a different area from that suggested in MetOceans (2009) and consequently the understanding of spatial proximity to other features may be inaccurate. These include the shoreline, harbour entrance, and proposed breakwater in this case. Impacts on surfbreaks that can arise if impacts are not accurately assessed include shoreline access difficulties, backwash and current effects on both waves and the navigability of the area, and safety hazards in big swell conditions.

To truly ascertain approximate maximum ride length a recognised surfing expert (or experts) of that surfbreak should have been consulted. What is lacking here is consultation with the true experts of the surfbreak, the surfers at this point on the coast, who are a rich source of data on the parameter of interest. Based on that data, it is relatively simple task to establish the appropriate measurement using a tool such as the ruler in Google Earth.

GWRC can at least be assured that the polygons provided are indicative of the maximum ride lengths and location of those rides, for the surfbreaks covered in this report. An important aspect for other territorial authorities undertaking a similar exercise is to identify local experienced and expert surfers who have a deep understanding of their region's surfbreaks and riding parameters. This can be achieved by consulting with local surf riding clubs, surf shop owners, and organisations such as

¹² MetOcean Solutions Ltd, 2009.

¹³ Napier City Council Works Asset, 2013.

¹⁴ <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/HBRC-Documents/HBRC%20Document%20Library/2%20Proposed%20design%20wave%20reflections%20TN%20P0010-03%20210709.pdf>

the Surfbreak Protection Society, and through methods such as conducting surveys, and holding local meetings and hui.

Appropriate methods must be also used to translate knowledge of surfbreaks into parameters that may become important for decision making. For example, to establish the proper boundaries of a surfbreak based on characteristics such as location of the peak and ride length, the mapping methods employed must accurately represent the resource. It is then a relatively simple matter to calculate areas, distances, and other spatial parameters interest.

5.3 Managing surfbreaks

Understanding the nature and location of surf breaks is an essential starting point for managing their value to the community. Existing and potential threats can then be recognised, and interventions developed. To ensure that the surfbreak resource is not gradually degraded over time, proactive management of all surfbreaks is needed. This is important since surfbreaks are essentially a finite resource, notwithstanding that proposals for artificial reef developments and related mitigation strategies may have some merits.

Some threats to surfbreak values may be adequately covered by more general policies on coastal management. However in other cases specific management steps and decisions will be needed to adequately protect surf break values. In all instances, the appropriate management outcomes must be assured at the level of individual sites. For example, policies and plans will typically address coastal water quality issues at various sites and scales. For adequate surf break protection these need to ensure that appropriate environmental outcomes will be provided for at the location of individual surfbreaks, and may include avoidance of water quality degradation, or improvement to contact recreation standards to address legacy issues.

It is also important that the unique characteristics of individual surf breaks are identified and become the focus of management. This ensures that the qualities of surfbreaks are not unwittingly degraded through ill-informed decisions. An important example of this is the set of characteristics produced by the pattern of swell that arrives at a surfbreak. Prior to these being highlighted by the late James McCarthy¹⁵ they had received almost no attention in coastal management and decision making in New Zealand. However the policy context has now evolved considerably such that the concept of the “swell corridor” has been included in the NZCPS definition of a surf break¹⁶. Additionally, there are many other characteristics that may be important the value of a surf break to the community. It is especially important that these are taken into account if developing prioritisation or ‘significance’ type policy instruments as a means to protect surf breaks.

All surfbreaks have something to add to the resource. Examples include more remote breaks offering an escape from crowds, easy access breaks offering advantages for busy people, breaks in different coastal environments offer varying opportunities for wildlife encounters and other unique interactions with nature, safe ‘soft’ waves offer essential venues for learning, and breaks capable of holding big waves are a scarce resource in general. There are also spatial aspects to consider such as the relative value of a local break for the local community. These considerations are in addition to

¹⁵ McCarthy, 2008.

¹⁶ Department of Conservation, 2010.

the more commonplace rhetoric around protecting the highest 'quality' waves in terms of surfing performance, and since these surfbreaks are important drawcards contributing the considerable value of surfing to the New Zealand economy.

This brief discussion highlights that a robust multi-dimensional approach is required for effective surf break management to address the multiple values of surfbreaks to New Zealand communities at varying scales¹⁷. It is hoped that this initial identification of Wellington surfbreaks will be useful to GWRC in developing a comprehensive approach to managing the resource.

6. References

- Board of Inquiry. (2009a). *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 Report and Recommendations Volume 2: Working Papers*. Accessed 1 October 2014 from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/nzcps/NZCPS-2008-board-of-inquiry-vol-2.pdf>
- Board of Inquiry. (2009b). *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 Report and Recommendations Volume 1: Findings, Recommendations and Recommended New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2009)*. Accessed 1 October 2014 from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/nzcps/NZCPS-2008-board-of-inquiry-vol-1.pdf>
- Department of Conservation. (2010). *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010*. Wellington: Department of Conservation.
- Graham, S. (2011). *Sport New Zealand's Young People's Survey 2011 – In-depth Report*. Retrieved 3 October 2014 from <http://www.srknowledge.org.nz/researchproject/sport-new-zealands-young-peoples-survey-2011-in-depth-report/>
- McCarthy, J. (2008). *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008. Brief of Evidence of Jonathan Patrick McCarthy*. Accessed 2 October 2014 from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/getting-involved/consultations/current-consultations/nzcps/evidence/018-nzcps-evidence-01-of-02-a.pdf>
- MetOcean Solutions Ltd (2009). *Technical Note P0010-03*. Accessed 3 October 2014 from <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/HBRC-Documents/HBRC%20Document%20Library/2%20Proposed%20design%20wave%20reflection%20TN%20P0010-03%20210709.pdf>
- Napier City Council Works Asset (2013). *Napier City Council Breakwater Extension: Application to Hawke's Bay Regional Council*. Accessed 3 October 2014 from <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/HBRC-Documents/HBRC Document Library/Whakarire BW Appln FINAL 120813.pdf>

¹⁷ Skellern et al., 2013.

Peryman, P. B., & Orchard, S. (2013). Understanding the Values and Management Needs of New Zealand Surf Breaks. *Lincoln Planning Review*, 4(2).

Rosier, J. (2004). *Independent Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. A report prepared for the Minister of Conservation*. Accessed 1 October 2014 from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nzcps-review-2004.pdf>

Rosier, J. (2005). Towards better national policy statements: NZCPS review. *Planning Quarterly*, March 2005: 26-28.

Scarfe, B. E., Healy, T. R., Rennie, H. G., & Mead, S. T. (2009a). Sustainable management of surfing breaks: an overview. *Reef Journal*, 1(1), 44–73.

Scarfe, B. E., Healy, T. R., Rennie, H. G., & Mead, S. T. (2009b). Sustainable Management of Surfing Breaks: Case Studies and Recommendations. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 25(3), 684–703.

Skellern, M., Peryman, P., Orchard, S. & Rennie, H. (2013). *Planning approaches for the sustainable management of surf breaks in New Zealand*. Report prepared for University of Auckland, Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Surf Break Protection Society. 87pp.

Sport and Recreation New Zealand (2008). *Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Participation Among New Zealand Adults: Key Results of the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey*. Wellington: SPARC.

Young, D. (2003). *Monitoring the Effectiveness of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement: Views of Local Government Staff*. Wellington: Department of Conservation, Conservation Policy Division.

“The coast is never saved. The coast is always being saved”

Peter Douglas

