



NATURAL CHARACTER EVALUATION TABLE

Biophysical Characteristics

- Landforms** | series of scattered offshore island landforms comprised primarily of volcanic rock, the islands rise sharply from surface of the sea, gradually evening out in to a rolling landscape. Exposed craggy rocks and stony beaches extending to rocky outcrops characterise the edge of the islands.
- Vegetation type, Cover & Patterns** | windswept coastal scrub including manuka, flax, and coprosma desperately clings to the tops of the islands, while the more exposed cliffs and escarpments remain bare. Stunted pohutukawa are also prominent in places.
- Sea / Estuarine Water Bodies** | the open surface of the Pacific Ocean provides a dramatic setting and defines the island landscape.
- Land Uses / Activities / Structure** | no human activities or structures exist or are apparent on the Islands.
- Habitat Value** | provides significant habitat due to sequence of coastal habitat types and isolation from mainland.
- Natural Processes** | exposed highly weathered coastal edge and outcrops of the landform reveal their underlying geology and are expressive of the landscapes formative processes.

Rating of Biophysical Characteristics □ □ □ □ ■
Very Low.....Very High

Perceptual Characteristics

- Wildness / Wilderness / Remoteness** | the combination of well-defined natural landforms, land cover, ocean setting, evidence of coastal processes and atmospheric conditions heighten the remote, raw and wild character of these islands.
- Experiential Attributes** | the islands are completely unmodified rocky islands with a character that expresses both natural processes and evokes a strong sense of being divorced from human activity. Their sculpted rocky landforms and battered vegetation are both highly dramatic and expressive of the surrounding coastal exposure.
- Context / Setting** | the open surface of the Pacific Ocean provides a dramatic setting and defines the island landscape - highly exposed to the majority of the eastern coastline, particularly from Opito Bay.
- Transient / Dynamic Attributes** | interplay of headlands, exposed slopes and open waters of the Pacific Ocean including variation resulting from weather and light conditions, time of year / day.
- Night-time Values** | limited exposure to lights due to the absence of dwellings and structures within the unit imparts a very strong sense of naturalness.

Rating of Perceptual Characteristics □ □ □ □ ■
Very Low.....Very High

Overall Natural Character Evaluation
(Biophysical and Perceptual Values) **OUTSTANDING**