

Definition of the North Island and South Island

A project sponsored by Statistics
New Zealand

Project Tasks

- Research into all areas considered part of NZ
- Identify regions that can be considered part of either island
- Identify the justifications for including these regions as either island
- Consult with users of geographic classifications within Statistics New Zealand and across the Official Statistics System
- Report on current situation and recommend a definition

Some other definitions

- **Regional Council Areas** cover every Territorial Authority with the exception of the Chatham Islands. They usually contain complete Territorial Authorities (though a few TAs straddle regional council boundaries).
- **Territorial Authorities** include 15 cities and 59 districts.
- **Statistical Areas** are loosely based on the old provincial districts. They don't conform to legal or administrative boundaries. Their importance is in allowing historical comparability of data.

Those pesky outlying islands

- Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Bounty Islands, Snares Islands, Antipodes Islands and Campbell Island are all outside regions and territories
- Chatham Islands are outside a region but form their own territory
- Mayor Island, Motiti Island, White Island, and Moutohora Island are outside a territory but are in Hawke's Bay region.
- Stewart Island and Waiheke Island are within regions

My definition of the North Island and South Island

- Sub-national data outputs begin at Regional Council Area and Territorial Authority levels (Census of Population and Dwellings outputs also retain use of Statistical Areas for historical continuity). These outputs may be presented in tables headed 'North Island' and 'South Island'. However, North Island and South Island totals together do not sum to a New Zealand total, because some outlying islands and oil rigs are outside regions and/or territories.

But wait, there's more ...

- For example, Hawke's Bay region includes Motiti Island, Mayor Island, Moutohora Island and White Island, but these islands are not included within a Territorial Authority. The Chatham Islands are not included in a regional council and are classified as "Area Outside Region", yet comprise their own Territorial Authority. Other outlying islands such as Kermadec Islands, Three King Islands and Campbell Island, as well as the Taranaki and Southland oil rigs, are in neither a Regional Council Area nor a Territorial Authority.