

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th September to 14th October 2017

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Fence extensions

In consultation and agreement with the two landowners the existing Plague Skink containment fence is having an additional section added. This will enable the termination point to be closer to the foreshore and to provide containment of potentially Plague skink contaminated fill that has been brought in from elsewhere within the plague skink site. (See aerial below)



- Chicken cell - fenceline route cleared (except on Stewart boundary)
- Eastern end extension - fenceline route cleared (except for last 30m to road)
- Trap only cell - fenceline route cleared
- Plague skink containment fencing completed by September 2017

Cells are currently being constructed to trial the viability of using chickens for Plague skink control. Chickens are prolific foragers and will consume any small vertebrates and invertebrates within confined cells. The results from the (red) chicken cell will be compared with the IST trap only yellow cell.

A 50m section of fence has also been built to finish the section from the bee hives to the QE11 trust block. This crosses Taylors Bay access track and incorporates an innovative Plague skink stop structure that prevents movement out of the contained area

Carpet squares have been deployed to act as ACO's for nesting female Plague Skinks

Argentine & Darwin's ants

Notice of intent actioned at 42 Medlands Road. This involved pottle monitoring using xstinguish monitoring paste to delimitate ant spread followed by site treatment. This was carried out by a group of 5 warranted biosecurity officers who travelled from Auckland for the operation.

Envirokiwi carrying out the first (12th & 13th October) xstinguish treatment at 44 Medlands road and surrounding properties. Ant activity was noted as 'high' in garden/house areas but in general it appeared to be better than last season. Sections of the treatment area were holding water or were boggy and were unsuitable ant habitat.

Mulberry Grove & Okiwi Community Pest coordinators

Mulberry Grove

Shanti has organised a meeting for the 28th of October at the School to gauge community willingness to see the Mulberry Grove Pest Coordinator continuation. Envirokiwi will provide there expert input as they have been involved with the project since March 2015.

Okiwi

A workshop was held with the board on 10th October to discuss both coordinator positions. It was decided for the time being that a community working group will go ahead in replace of the single coordinator, with Envirokiwi working as a facilitator for the project.

Feral Pigs

Pig damage is still ongoing with rooting affecting walking tracks and private property. A recent complaint regarding Station Rock walkway was investigated as it was reported that *30-50 sites covering up to 500m of damaged track in total*. On inspection damage was not that significant with recent sign being towards Rosalie Bay Road and at the entrance of the track at the Medlands road end. A trail camera has been set up to detect movement on a well used game trail so biosecurity can estimate mob size.

Broken and Grey Group Islands

- Servicing of rat motels on the 5th & 6th October
- Spray Lepidium monitoring plots and transects for Bromus (Prairie grass) 6th October
- Clear gorse along main track on Motu Taiko and Mahuki to keep access open.

Weed Control

Total Control

Madeira vine- removal of tubers from Mulberry Grove School
Royal Fern-Sanderson site is currently being grid searched (Envirokiwi).

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (August)

- Port Fitzroy –60% Bait take, 0 rats caught in DOC200, 3 x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 2% Bait take 0x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 57% bait take 1 x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -0% bait take. 0 x Rat caught in DOC200, 0x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 29% bait take
- Claris residential-10.4% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (August)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 0%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 12.5% & Kawa 100%

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	25%	0
Jetty	0x Rat	0%	0
Pickards	0x Rat	1%	0
Stellins	0x Rat	0%	0
Whangapara Jetty	0x Rat	0%	0
Okupu Boat Ramp	0x Rat	0%	0
Mulberry Grove Boat Ramp	0x Rat	0	0
Puriri Bay Boat Ramp	0x Rat	100%	0

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption (Diphacinone) very low in most areas with the exception of Port Fitzroy and minimal interceptions of rats.

Rabbits

Fumigation of warrens in Awana campground paddocks and Curreens

Awana Cat Trapping.

6 Cats have been caught in Awana with trapping still ongoing. A cat trap is being set up at the Grey Faced petrel site, south of Awana Beach.

Good Nature A24 Traps

Judy Gilbert from Windy Hill is pursuing answers from Good Natures Stu Barr and Doc's Darren Peters on the following:

1. Why so many of the ALP's failed to release bait
2. Why some ALPs appear to have released bait too quickly and run out well before the expected 6 months
3. What can be done about the clogging up of the bait around the trigger and the likelihood of this causing -off gassing
4. A review of the flavour of the bait. Consider a peanut butter based lure as trials seem to point towards the Chocolate bait in the ALP's not having the same degree of attractiveness as peanut butter.

Dog Hui

Attended South island dog hui. This event provides the opportunity for predator and species dog handlers to get together and share knowledge and experiences. The forum provides dog/handler training sessions and this year had a section on MPI dogs presented by their dog handlers.