

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th March to 14th April 2018

Officer's name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

- Chickens have been relocated to the top cell and trapping has been carried out in the first chicken only cell. 19 juveniles and four adult have been captured. The theory of why so many skinks eluded predation by chickens was that there was too much harbourage and cover which adult skinks could hide / lay eggs. So essentially the first run was a learning experience – future use of chickens would probably need more intensive understorey removal, and constant turning over of leaf litter – even mulching of some litter & storing for compost in a skink free area (how this would be done isn't quite clear yet)
- 107 Skinks caught in the second trap only cell
- Skink fence completed down to Little Shoal Bay

Argentine & Darwin's ants

The second round of treatments for the three Mulberry Grove sites have been completed.

Argentine Ant and Plague Skink Surveillance

Contracted surveillance monitoring has been carried out in 20 locations in the Okupu, Claris and Whangaparapa areas with no finds of either pest.

Weed Control

Total Control

- Madeira Vine
 - Remove tubers from Mulberry Grove School
 - Whangaparapara lodge site audit

SWI



An observant visitor to the island spotted this plant at Mulberry Grove over Easter which is a horse tail species and likely to be *Equisetum arvense*. A voucher specimen was sent to the Herbarium for species verification.

This exotic plant is allied to ferns and is problematic in wetlands.

The plant will be removed before it has chance to spread.

- Japanese Honeysuckle
 - Treat vine at the Rosalie Bay site. This was the second visit to the site and initial treatments seem to have worked well. Plant matter was re-treated where any surviving growth was found.
- Blue Morning Glory
 - Pulled down and treated large plant at the Police Station and foliar treat.
 - Visit the Ross Bay site and pull down/Treat large plant at Glass house.
- Kahilli Ginger
 - A single juvenile plant was located within the Sunbeam ginger site. To date half the allocated area has been grid searched with a small area of steep bush yet to be completed.

Community Pest Coordination Okiwi

Most snap traps have been deployed out into the field and about half are being regularly checked. Rat captures south of Mabey Road are very high but the adjacent reserve catching very little. Around houses where bait is still being used, captures are low but houses that are trap only captures have been high. Both rats and mice have been caught.

Data is being recorded in Trapnz by the coordinator with some residents choosing to enter their own data into this programme.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (February)

- Port Fitzroy 58% Bait take, 7x kiore caught in DOC200, 3 x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 15% Bait take 2x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 32% bait take 4 x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 2x Wax tag=Rat
 - Spot audit on DoC 200s and bait stations
- Okupu -0% bait take. 1 x Rat caught in DOC200, 0x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 41% bait take
- Claris residential-2% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (February)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 50%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 75%, Okiwi 90% & Kawa %

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

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

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption high at Port Fitzroy. Large number of Kiore choking up DoC200 traps at Port Fitzroy Wharf.

Invasive Birds



A Rock pigeon reported at Kaitoke Hot Springs car park has since dispersed eluding capture.

Regional Pest Management Plan

Hold information event at Claris Conference Centre on the 7th of March 2018

Dog Work

Carry out Biosecurity work for Motutapu/Rangitoto dual event

Rabbits

Average	Okiwi	0.75
Average	Whangapoua	25
Average	Okiwi airfield	72
Average	Awana	9.75
Average	Kaitoke	2.75

The above latest relative abundance spotlight counts averaged over four nights indicate further significant reductions in Awana.

Whangapoua and Okiwi airfield also show good reductions.