

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th June-14th July 2018

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Leaf litter has been turned over in the Chicken cell to give access to any concealed Plague Skinks for the chickens to consume. Winter rainfall has meant mesh drains in the containment fences need regular clearing.

Chickens are producing a lot of eggs which are being packed and shipped to Auckland City mission at no cost. This has been well publicised and has enabled biosecurity to promote biosecurity pathways management through this incentive.

Argentine & Darwin's ants

This month's regional programme has concentrated on auditing the effectiveness of the Argentine ant monitoring and treatment carried out during the season at the 10 known sites. The methodology used has consisted of visual searching focusing on sunny elevated areas, logs and around rocks where ants are likely to be over wintering. This method disrupts nests so ants can be identified and directly controlled.

Results of the audit will assist in formulating a plan for the up and coming seasons work. If ants are still found to be distributed across the sites at intervals less than 20m then a treatment only strategy will be implemented. If Argentine ants aren't visually observed then the site will be scheduled for Xstinguish baited pottle monitoring and any areas found with ants treated with toxic paste.

Weed Control

Total Control

- Remove madeira vine at Mulberry Grove School

Strategic Weeds Initiative (SWI)



The infestation of Sweet Reed Grass (*Glyceria maxima*) was treated during the course of the growing season. The image on the left shows no regrowth of this invasive wetland species. Follow up visits will be scheduled over the coming months

- Shoal Bay Smilax control- Abseiling work was carried out from Sarah Harrisons to Gibbs Landing to remove plants on cliffs and steep banks. A number of plants were found and removed.
- Whangaparapara Climbing Asparagus - Remaining properties grid searched and plants removed.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (May)

- Port Fitzroy 41% Bait take, 1 x kiore caught in DOC200, 2x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 41% Bait take 1x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 3x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 69% bait take 2x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 5x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -60% bait take. 1 x Rat caught in DOC200, 1x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 47% bait take
- Claris residential-20% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (May)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 60%, Okupu 100%, Puriri bay 100%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 90% & Kawa 5%

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	100%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	100%	0
Pickards	0x Kiore	50%	0
Glenfern	0x Rat	0%	0
Whangaparapara Jetty	0x Rat	50%	0
Okupu Boat Ramp	1x Rat	20%	0
Mulberry Grove Boat Ramp	0x Rat	0%	0
Puriri Bay Boat Ramp	1x Rat	100%	Rat

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption very high at Whangaparapara and Port Fitzroy.

Rabbits

Awana

The financial years programme has been completed. An audit of the work done on the QE11 block and foreshore reserve showed very little rabbit sign and impressive regrowth on fixed dune vegetation. Rabbit relative abundance spotlight counts will be carried out over the coming weeks.



Reestablishment/regrowth of *Melicytus novae zealandia* on Awana dunes due to decreased rabbit browsing