

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th August to 14th September 2018

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Over the past month the primary focus of the plague skink project at Shoal Bay has been to set up sites to undertake further trials using chickens and traps. The chicken flock is going to be split between a .05Ha cell, and a 1000m² cell (100 birds each) to examine the effectiveness of chickens at different densities. Test trapping was then undertaken to identify areas that had reasonable numbers of Plague skinks that could be used for the purpose of the trial. The fencing work required to enclose the .05Ha cell has been completed and trapping is underway to remove native skinks from this cell before chickens are introduced.

Argentine & Darwin's ants

Planning for 2018-19 Monitoring and Control in consideration for the Natural Environment Targeted Rates. This has allowed additional Monitoring and treatment work to be programmed in.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (July)

- Port Fitzroy 6.6% Bait take, 0 x kiore caught in DOC200, 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 16% Bait take 1x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 65% bait take 0x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 1x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -100% bait take. 0 x Rat caught in DOC200, 1x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 88% bait take
- Claris residential-16% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (July)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 100%, Puriri bay 100%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 0%, Okiwi 25% & Kawa 100%

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	0%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	0%	0
Pickards	0x Kiore	0%	0
Glenfern	0x Rat	0%	0
Whangapara Jetty	1x 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%	Rat

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption very high at Claris airfield and Whangaparapara. Port Fitzroy bait take low, with 0 numbers of rats caught in DoC200's.

Broken and Grey Group Islands

- The Grey Group Islands and Little Mahuki are currently at 0 rat density.
- A large number of rats were trapped on Rangiahua.
- Motu Taiko had rats captured in coastal stations.

Dog Hui Rotorua

This year's dog hui between the 28th and 30th August incorporated some good theoretical and practical learnings for dog handlers as well as the inclusion of shared field experiences. Kiwi bank provides support for the programme in exchange for the dogs promoting their brand.

- Handlers and dogs were taken through a pigeon flush test where birds were released close to the dogs and the dogs were expected to show little interest in the birds
- A GIS session was held to assist handlers in tracking and recording their work
- An anatomical session on the dog's nose and how its olfactory system works was also given