

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th September to 14th October 2018 Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Ground truthing is being carried out for a possible new route for barrier fencing. This will be beyond the current structure and includes engineering input to come up with solutions for water courses

Cell locations

The table below summarises different cell numbers, and a map showing their location. Note chicken cells have black borders on the map, trap only cells have no borders. Cells 4, 7, & 5 aren't highlighted on map as they aren't being used.

Cell #	Purpose	Size Ha
1	1 st chicken cell	.145
2	1 st trap only cell	.21
3	Chicken holding cell	.079
4	Unused cell on top ridge	.073
5	Unused cell on top ridge	.092
6	2 nd trap only cell (lure trial site)	.133
7	2 nd chicken cell – high density	.05
8	3 rd chicken cell – low density	.13
9	3 rd trap only cell	.033



- Cell 1 - 1st chicken cell
- Cell 2 - 1st Trap only cell
- Cell 3 - chicken holding cell
- Cell 6 - 2nd trap only cell (lure trial site)
- Cell 7 - 2nd chicken cell - high density
- Cell 8 - 3rd chicken cell - low density
- Cell 9 - 3rd trap only cell

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Argentine & Darwin's ants

- Technical Advisory Group meeting on the 12th October to review the Great Barrier 2017/18 monitoring and treatment results as well as discussion on Kawau, Tiritiri Matangi and Rangitoto programmes.
- Monitoring has been completed at Ocean View Road with three finds through the 17ha area, one of the finds was just a single ant.



The Argentine ant detected at the end of Ocean View Road



The pictured ant was collected from under rocks in the pasture at Oceanview road and resembles an Argentine ant to the naked eye. Under magnification it was identified as another species

Argentine ant and Plague Skink Surveillance



Ant samples bought in by a bee keeper were identified not to be Argentine ants

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (August)

- Port Fitzroy 13% Bait take, 1 x kiore caught in DOC200, 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 10% Bait take, 2x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 20% bait take, 2x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -0% bait take. 0 x Rat caught in DOC200, 0x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 2% bait take
- Claris residential-0.2% bait take

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Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (August)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 0%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 0%, Okiwi 12.5% & Kawa t0%

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	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



The above dog surveillance was carried out 11th October to provide confirmation that the array of bait stations was having the desirable effect. Just 2 positive detections on the boundary of the airfield which is a good result.

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption very low at all sites with few rats choking up DOC200's.

Weed Control

- Search and treat plants of Diplazium esculentum at Medlands Road property. This species of fern is of tropical origin and was identified during last seasons weed surveillance programme.
- Grid search and remove Juvenile Kahili Ginger Okupu beach area
- Treat areas of Marsh Pennywort in Claris
- Vial treat Madiera vine in Whangaparapara

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Myrtle Rust familiarisation

Site visit to Onehunga to look at Myrtle rust on *Syzygium australe*, *Lophomyrtus bullata* and *Metrosideros excelsa*. The pathogen exhibits different symptoms on the three myrtaceae species.

Cooks Scurvy

Carry out targeted herbicide treatment on Prairie grass that is competing with Cooks Scurvy grass on the Mahuki site as well as cut out large inkweed plants.

Broken Islands

Complete servicing of rat stations on Mahuki and Motu Taiko.

Pigs

Continued pig damage occurring in the Medlands area. Some of the animals are reported to be domestic pigs. *To note there is no distinction between feral and non-feral if a pig is not held in captivity, it can be taken as released and therefore a declared pest under the current RPMS (Regional pest Management Strategy 2007). A farmer having fences that are not adequate or not maintaining them can be interpreted that the person has caused the pigs to be released and therefore there is no come back in regard to other parties controlling them.*