

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th December 2018 - 14th February 2019

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Chickens

All chickens are now in holding cells awaiting reintroduction to treatment areas in mid-February.

Trapping – Chicken cell 1 (CC1/cell1)

Trapping continued in this cell during January. No further plagues were caught following the captures in December (1 adult, 2 sub-adults), however a gecko and an adult copper skink were caught in CC1 during January.

Trapping – Chicken cell 2 (CC2/cell 7)

Post-chicken trapping occurred in CC2 (the high density cell) following the first 80 days of chicken treatment. 16 trap-nights were achieved and no skinks (native or plague) were caught.

Trapping – Chicken cell 3 (CC3/cell 8)

Post-chicken trapping in CC3 is currently on hold waiting for critter pic units to arrive, it is scheduled to be complete by Mid February.

Trapping – 1st trap only cell (cell2)

An adult plague was caught in this cell during January. This is only the 3rd plague capture in this cell & the first in a long time. It had no injuries suggesting it could have been dropped by a bird. It could have been in the cell the whole time, or potentially made its way under the fence as cracking against the fence line is being exacerbated by all the dry weather we are experiencing. Relatively high numbers of native skinks (moko, ornate and especially copper) are also being caught.

Trapping – 2nd trap only cell (cell 6)

This has been continuing with low numbers of plagues been caught. Hatchling plague skinks began appearing on 21/1/19. There have been a steady flow of native captures too.

Lure trial (cell 9)

This has begun, and we are currently starting our third week of trapping. So far 11 plagues have been caught (strawberry 4, red dot 4, mango 2, no lure 1).

Fence maintenance

Fence maintenance has been ongoing with post high wind checks, mowing, and cleaning occurring.

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

Argentine & Darwin's ants

- Sandhills Road
 - Monitoring detected one find at the southern end of the site. Treatments completed.
- Thomas Road
 - Monitoring detected a satellite population around the old hill homestead as well as finds close to the periphery of the site. First treatment completed
- Sugarloaf
 - Monitoring completed with finds on headland and around dwellings. First treatment carried out.
- Gray Road
 - Monitoring detected ants in landfill and neighbouring property as well as the northern side of Gray Road. First treatment completed.
- Okupu
 - One find on Camerton road foreshore property and series of finds around the lodge which has received treatments.
- Mulberry Grove
 - Monitoring nearly complete with no finds to date.
- Crossroads
 - Monitoring detected a localised find which will be treated this week.
- Masons Road
 - Localised finds which have had first treatment
- Mohunga Darwin's ants
 - Detected two finds across the 1ha site. Treatments have been carried out.

Argentine ant and Plague Skink Surveillance

Argentine ants

- Secondary inspections of logs within the Sandhills site and road edge. No ants encountered.
- Rubbish bins/skip at the Shoal Bay wharf. No ants detected.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (November)

- Port Fitzroy 64% Bait take, 1 x kiore caught in DOC200, 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 30% Bait take, 1 x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 44% bait take, 1x 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 – 24% bait take
- Claris residential-12% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (November)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 50%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 50% & Kawa 12.5%

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	37%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	100%	0
Pickards	1x Kiore	0%	0
Glenfern	1x 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%	0

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption moderate at all sites with the exception of Port Fitzroy which is high.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (December)

- Port Fitzroy 76% Bait take, 3 x kiore caught in DOC200, 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 25% Bait take, 0 x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 58% bait take, 3x Ship Rat in DOC200's. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Okupu -100% bait take. 1 x Rat caught in DOC200, 0x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 55% bait take
- Claris residential-10% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (December)

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

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	0x Rat	25%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	100%	0
Pickards	0x Kiore	100%	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

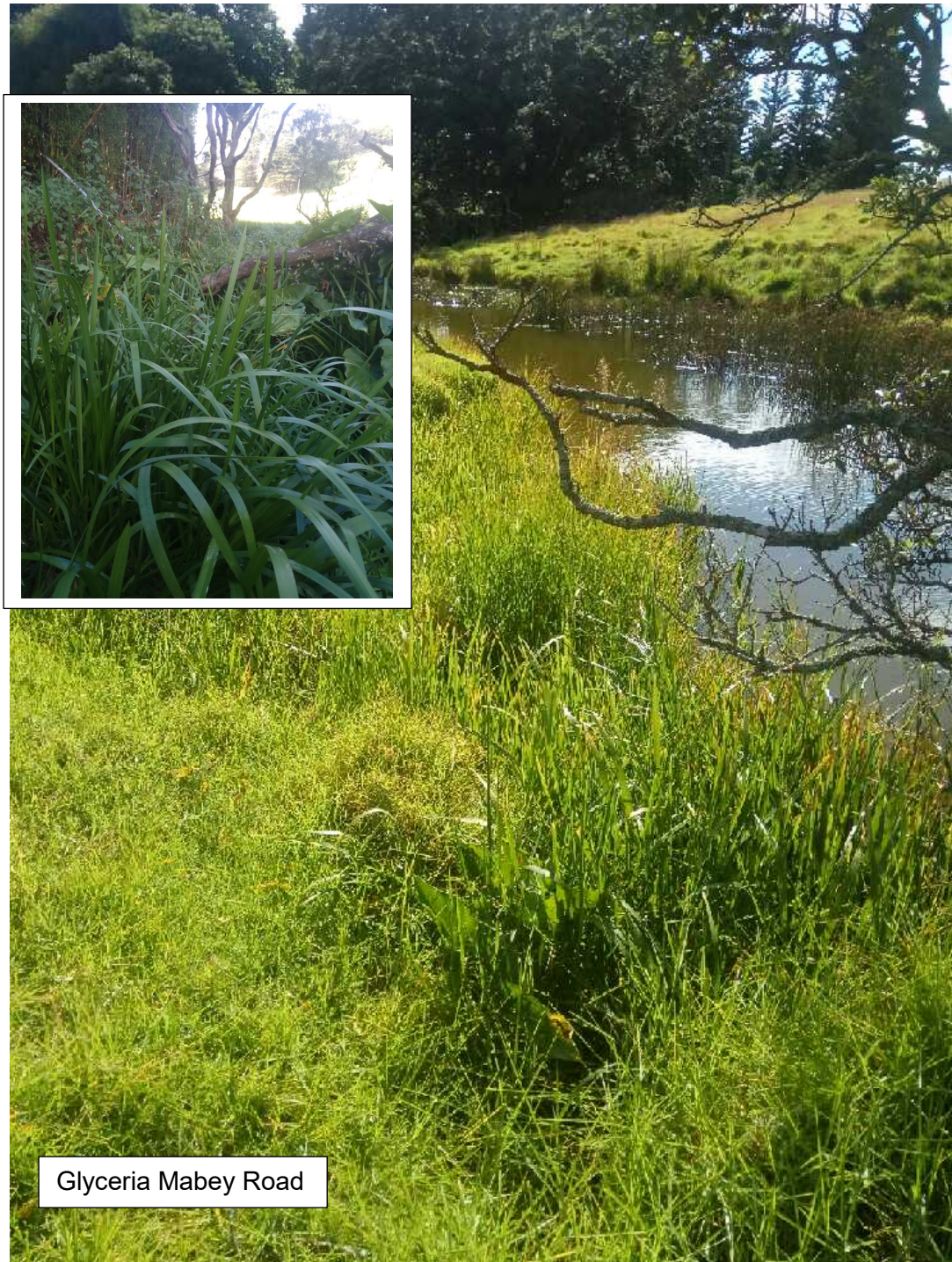
Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption high at all sites with the exception of Port Fitzroy which is very high.

Low incident Weed Control

- *Indian hawthorn* Claris – Grid search and removal completed with an extension of the known area. A revisit to treat large plants planned for coming days. 20-30 recorded on site.
- *Bushy Asparagus* Claris – Grid search and removal completed and all plants treated. Small number of Juvenile plants found.
- *Bushy Asparagus* Ocean view Road – Grid search complete. A revisit to treat large plants planned. Approximately 30 plants found.
- *Bushy Asparagus* Memory Rock – Treatment completed (a couple of plants were inaccessible due to steep terrain) 30 plants removed
- *Blue Morning Glory* Ross bay– First grid and treatment completed

Low incident Weed Control

- *Glyceria Awana* - First treatments at 3 sites completed. Two news large infestations dealt with.
- *Glyceria Mabey Road*-Large site below has received its first treatment



Low incident Weed Control

- *Japanese Honeysuckle* Rosalie Bay – Only very small amounts of regrowth found amongst yellow Ginger. Property owner also concerned about Periwinkle.
- *Moth Plant* Port Fitzroy – one visit carried out to treat seedlings.
- *Kahilli Ginger/boneseed* Palmers - Grid search completed. Small number of Juvenile Ginger plants found and removed. Bone seed identified in an open area and removed

Low incident Weed Control

- *Royal fern* Whangapoua-A number of large plants identified and treated.
- *Royal fern* Golf Club – A single large plant. Recommendation from the contractor to search the Blind Bay Road Wetland.
- *Senna* Golf Club – this was grid searched in conjunction with the *Royal fern* efforts. All areas containing *Senna* were marked (gps), revisited and treated.

Stoat Sighting

On the 4th January a member of the public reported 2 Stoats crossing Medlands Road at the southern end of the Medland causeway. After interviewing the member of public DoC initiated a response and initially took the role as the lead agency. The management of the response was later handed to Auckland Council.

The comprehensive response was mounted using detection dogs, trap cameras and stoat traps didn't find any evidence of stoats in the area. On the 15th February a decision was made to discontinue with the response.

