

# Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

## Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

### Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

Trials using traps and a variety of lures, as well as running Chicken cells is continuing.

#### Chickens

All chickens were shifted from their holding cells back to CC2 (high density) & CC3 (low density) on 20<sup>th</sup>&21<sup>st</sup> of February. We are now into the second round of 80-day treatments.

#### Trapping – Chicken cell 2 (CC2/cell 7)

Post round 1 chicken trapping occurred in CC2 in January. In going back through data sheets, I found that one plague adult was actually caught in this trapping round – this is different to the nil trapping result reported earlier.

#### Trapping – Chicken cell 3 (CC3/cell 8)

Post round 1 chicken trapping in CC3 occurred in February (7 nights). A large juvenile plague was caught near the top of the cell. An adult ornate was caught near the bottom the cell.

#### Trapping – 1<sup>st</sup> trap only cell (cell2)

A limited amount of trapping occurred in this cell in February. No more plagues were caught (An adult plague was unexpectedly caught in this cell during January), but several coppers were.

#### Trapping – 2<sup>nd</sup> trap only cell (cell 6)

This has been continuing with low numbers of plagues been caught (2 juveniles). There were 3 native species captures too in Feb.

#### Lure trial (cell 9)

This is ongoing. The site has partially changed following adjustments to make the grid safer for staff. Plagues have been caught in the new area being trapped. Up until the end of February 31 plague skinks have been caught: 12 no lure, 8 strawberry, 8 red dot and 3 on Mango.

#### Test trapping for future cell locations

So far, our test trapping has identified 2 new chicken cell locations (both close to cell 3, the chicken holding cell near the top ridge). If more trials go ahead, we would look to link the new cells with the holding cell to make shifting birds easier. Plagues have been detected in cell 4, a small enclosed area on the top ridge – this could be used as a trap only cell (it's fully fenced & ready to go).

#### 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 <sup>st</sup> chicken cell	.145
2	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> trap only cell (lure trial site)	.133
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> chicken cell – high density	.05
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> chicken cell – low density	.13
9	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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

- Oceanview road – monitoring and treatment of some small sites found. Airport drain still to do monitor.
- Sugarloaf – second treatment completed
- Medland Rd – monitoring almost complete (some landowner permission issues) with only a small infestations found
- Thomas Rd – 2<sup>nd</sup> round of treatments complete
- Blind bay Rd (crossroads) – Site monitored with only 1 small find. This has received 1 treatment with another planned for 19<sup>th</sup> March

### Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (January)

- Port Fitzroy 83% Bait take, 1 x rat unidentified in DOC200, 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 32% Bait take, 1x Ship Rat caught in DOC200. 0x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 43% bait take, 1x 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 – 22% bait take
- Claris residential-20% bait take

### Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (January)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 0%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 100%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 100%, Okiwi 100% & Kawa 6%

### Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

Location	DOC200	Bait Station	Wax tag
Yates	1x Rat	87%	0
Jetty	0x Kiore	50%	0
Pickards	0x Kiore	93%	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

- Puriri Bay Kahili Ginger-seedlings discovered close to Puriri Bay Road
- Palmers Kahili Ginger & Boneseed grid sear complete
- Claris -Indian Hawthorne removal complete with a number of finds throughout the site
- Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)-single site discovered at Tryphena during weed surveillance operation treated.



Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)



## Mokohinau Rodent Surveillance

Assist the Department of Conservation by carrying out rodent detection on Burgess Island early March using the dog. Nothing detected during this operation.

