

Biosecurity Local Board General Update

Month/Year: 14th April - 14th May 2018

Officers name: Jeremy Warden

Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area- Great Barrier Island

Plague Skink Shoal Bay Wharf

- Trapping completed in the trap only cell
- Chickens are still in the first Chicken cell. Plague skinks surviving within this cell was likely due to too ample harbourage and leaf litter which adult skinks could hide / lay eggs. The first run was a learning experience – future use of chickens would probably need more intensive understorey removal and constant turning over of leaf litter.

Argentine & Darwin's ants

- Treatment of Argentine ant sites identified within Claris Landfill identified during monitoring.

Argentine Ant and Plague Skink Surveillance

- Surveillance monitoring picked up a small number of Argentine ants around the Shoal Bay rubbish skip site at the end of April. A second monitor incorporating a large area was initiated on the 10 May and found no trace of ants. We are now looking at possible sources that may have contributed to ants being present.



- A number of commercial properties on Gray Road were also inspected for Argentine ants
- Site visit to Argentine ant site on Gray Road to inform the new owner of the risk of transporting materials off site and how to manage the site in the presence of Argentine ants. Was able to show the owner an Argentine ant nest on site.
- New Plague Skink site discovered on Omanawa Lane with a number of animals captured of varied age groups



Adult Plague Skink showing single diamond shaped frontoparietal head scale

- Two plague skinks caught at Claris club. A juvenile was captured in a trailer full of building material and large adult some days later within the club grounds.

Weed Control

Total Control

- Lantana- Kaiaraara Bay point
 - A number of plants cut and pasted concurrently with Moth Plant work.

SWI

- Smilax and Kahili Ginger -Shoal Bay
 - This season a reduced number of Smilax plants were removed from this area during a grid search
 - A number of Kahili Ginger seedlings concentrated within a small area were removed
- Kahilli Ginger – Omata Rd
 - An adult plant was discovered at the southern boundary necessitating further work next season
- Moth Plant –Kaiaraara Bay point
 - A small number of adult plants were cut and pasted and seedlings treated. Control at this site is making good progress.
- Climbing Asparagus – Harpoon Hill
 - A number of seedlings were removed from the middle of the site with one property to complete the grid search.



The infestation of *Mariscus seemannianus* identified in Medlands during weed surveillance was treated. The plant resembles a larger version of native umbrella sedge and has tropical origins. It has spread to occupy an area of approximately 400m².

Coastal Weed Surveillance

Envirokiwi have partnered with Papawera Trust and carried out surveillance from Mulberry Grove through to Gibbs Landing area. Notable finds included a total control weed *Asparagus drepanophyllus*, Kahili Ginger and Smilax.

Significant finds of grey willow, ginger, lantana, eichhnornia, Gunnera, tinctorial, *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) were also documented.

Community Pest Coordination Okiwi



A bird count workshop was led by Mel Galbraith on the 20th April and was attended by 18 people from Okupu, Claris, Awana, Fitzroy, Motairehe and Okiwi. Plans are now being made to undertake bird monitoring in Okiwi around 1 July to align with when they were done approximately 10 years ago (organised by John Ogden for the GBI Environmental Trust).

Rat trapping is continuing on most properties in the area and results being updated in Trap NZ. Some residents will enter their own results direct, others supply results to Envirokiwi for entry. The school is servicing traps in Okiwi Reserve and across the road from the school. Rat captures have dropped off in the last couple of weeks and mice are being caught more. Cat traps are in place in the field. Some traps still need to be activated and serviced on properties owned by non-residents.

Wharf and Airport Mustelid and Rodent Pest Surveillance (March)

- Port Fitzroy 60% Bait take, four kiore caught in DOC200, x Wax tag=Rat
- Tryphena- 37% Bait take, four ship rat caught in DOC200. three x Wax tag=Rat
- Whangaparapara- 69% bait take, two x ship rat in DOC200's. five x Wax tag=Rat
 - Spot audit on DoC 200s and bait stations
- Okupu -0% bait take, one x Rat caught in DOC200, one x wax tag=Rat
- Claris airfield environment – 49% bait take
- Claris residential-15% bait take

Bait Stations at Transfer Sites (March)

- Southern Stations- Medlands 30%, Okupu 0%, Puriri bay 40%, Mulberry grove 0%
- Northern Stations- Motairehe 0%, Okiwi 50% & Kawa 31%

Private Jetties & Boat Ramps

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

Okupu Boat Ramp	1x Rat	30%	Rat
Mulberry Grove Boat Ramp	0x Rat	20%	0
Puriri Bay Boat Ramp	1x Rat	100%	Rat

Conclusion: No new species of pest animals detected, bait consumption high at Port Fitzroy and Whangaparapara. Large number of Kiore choking up DoC200 traps at Port Fitzroy Wharf.

Dog Work

- Dog surveillance carried out on the Mokohinau in response to Catamaran being wrecked off H Stack. Covered most of the Flax Islands and H stack with Dog.

Rabbits

- Cat traps have been deployed in Awana and trapping will commence over the coming weeks
- Goodwood Aotearoa booked for night shoot work 18 – 25 May 2018

QE11 Trust Visit

- Provide information to the visiting trust board on Biosecurity programmes on Great Barrier Island.
- Explained the Plague Skink containment programme as it related to the QE11 Mara point block