

NATIVE ISLAND RAT ERADICATION PROJECT REPORT



Project Summary

The Native Island rat eradication project was established by DOC with the objective to remove the rat population with the Goodnature A24 self-resetting rat & stoat trap.

Native Island (63 hectares) is 60 metres off Rakiura/Stewart Island and had a high population of ship and norway rats, monitored at 73% before the pest control project began.



In November 2013, 142 Goodnature A24 traps for rats were deployed by DOC staff and volunteers over the island to remove the rats. In December 2014 rats were monitored at 0% on the island. A certified dog capable of sniffing out any remaining rats scanned the island without detecting presence of rats. The traps remain in place for continued biosecurity because reinvasion is expected due to the proximity of the island to the main Rakiura/Stewart Island.

This project was successful in removing the rat population from Native Island.

Project Objective

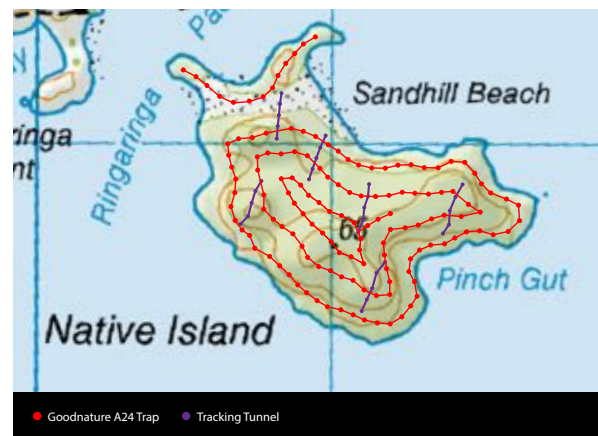
This project was set up to remove ship and norway rats from the 63ha island and prevent re-establishment of rats with a control network of Goodnature A24 self-resetting traps.

Project Design

The network on Native Island was established using DOC best practice guidelines for ground-based rat control.

Traps were set at 50m intervals on trap lines 100m apart based on the shape and topography of the island.

Monitoring was established using DOC tracking tunnel guide v2.5.2.



Native Island -46.916, 168.153

Dates: December 2013 - ongoing

Area: 63ha

Traps: 142 x Goodnature A24 rat & stoat traps set 700mm high.

Lures: Goodnature peanut formula: months 0 - 10
Goodnature chocolate formula: months 11 - 12

Network Establishment Time: 32 person days

Maintenance Schedule: 1 person day every 5 weeks to refresh lure and CO2 replaced every 6 months.

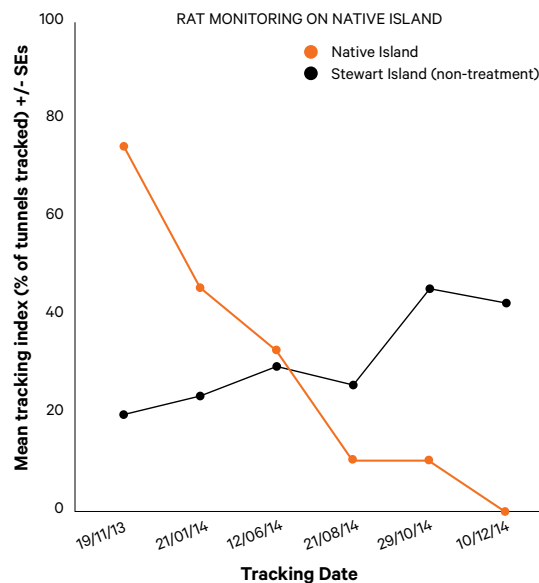
Monitoring Events: Two monthly.

Monitoring Method: 6 lines of 5 tracking tunnels on Native Island and 35 tracking tunnels at non-treatment site on Main Rakiura/Stewart island.

Certified rat dog surveying island.

Results

Objective achieved: **Yes**



Native Island pre-treatment monitor

Nov 2013: **73%**

Native Island post-treatment monitor

Dec 2014: **0%**

Stewart Island initial non-treatment monitor

Nov 2013: 22%

Stewart Island non-treatment monitor

Dec 2014: 38%

Highlights/Learnings

A single tool was used to remove the resident rat population and can remain in place to provide ongoing biosecurity.

A rat was monitored on the island in February 2015 and regular reinvasion is expected.

The project was established and managed by a range of operators including volunteers

confirming the ability for volunteers to achieve success in a project of this type and scale.

After 9 months rats were monitored at 6% for two consecutive monitoring rounds.

After the lure was changed from Goodnature peanut formula to Goodnature chocolate formula the following monitor was 0%.

References

Gillies, C.A. & Williams, D. 2013. DOC tracking tunnel guide v2.5.2: Using tracking tunnels to monitor rodents and mustelids. Hamilton, New Zealand: Science and Capability Group, Department of Conservation. 14 pp.



www.goodnature.co.nz

Goodnature A24 rat & stoat trap

Acknowledgements

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