Te Haupa Island Scenic Reserve Eradication

Eradication of Rodents

The Department plans to eradicate Norway rats and mice from the 4 hectare Te Haupa Island Scenic Reserve off the coast of Mahurangi (formerly known as as Te Haupa Saddle Island Scenic Reserve)

Why we are eradicating rodents?

Rodents (both rats and mice) directly predate on native birds, reptiles, and invertebrates, and can impact the growth and recovery of native vegetation and ecosystems. In the past few decades, Te Haupa has been pest-free for periods, allowing the recovery of both native flora and fauna – but in recent years both rats and mice have made it to the island and populations have re-established.

The planned eradication will restore Te Haupa to a mammalian pest-free state, as well as improve surveillance tools on the island to detect and respond to future pest arrivals before they can establish. By doing so, we hope to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity and cultural values of the Island. This includes protecting grey-faced petrels, little blue penguins, Northern NZ dotterels and other forest birds.

Te Haupa Island is also a highly significant site of Ngāti Pāoa. Te Haupa Island was named to commemorate the great chief of Ngāti Pāoa, Te Haupa – Te Upoko Ariki Toihau o Ngāti Pāoa. Te Haupa and his people regularly occupied this and other nearby islands at times during the fishing seasons. Te Haupa was recognised as a man of great strength, bravery, power and leadership and known as the “celebrated chief”.

How it is happening?

- Two applications of cereal pellets containing the anticoagulant Brodifacoum will be hand distributed across the whole island by a team of DOC staff members
- The two applications will be spaced at least 14 days apart
- Timeframe of applications are between August 17th and November 2026, when appropriate weather windows are identified

Why are we using this method?

Brodifacoum is a commonly used rodenticide, and is the toxin normally used for one-off rodent eradications in New Zealand and overseas. This technique increases chances of success as it is completed quicker than a bait station operation and reduces necessity for device interaction. The resident native wildlife are not likely to consume or be affected by the bait.

Timeframe

The first and second bait applications will occur between the 17th of August and November 2026; when appropriate weather conditions allow. The second bait application will occur a minimum of 14 days after the first.

Important information

<u>Risks</u>

Risks to human health are low, unless large quantities of the toxin are directly ingested. For these reasons, **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait, **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times and **DO NOT EAT** animals from the area outlined below.

Poison bait or carcasses are **DEADLY TO DOGS** long after the operation. Immediate veterinary advice should be sought for any suspected poisoning.

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Presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals.

Warning Signs

- Warning signs up at Scotts landing, Jamieson Bay, Opahi Bay boat ramps and Sandspit Wharf installed 3 days prior to Operation start date
- Toxin warning signs installed at main landing on island

If you suspect poisoning

- Seek medical attention from your local doctor or hospital
- Contact National Poisons Centre: 0800 POISON
- In an emergency dial 111

For more information

- Contact Principal Ranger Olivia Keane, 027 225 9668, okeane@doc.govt.nz

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