



Our ref: 19-E-0158
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T Benseman
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Dear T Benseman

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 7 March 2019. You requested the following:

"I'd like to know about monitored and unmonitored numbers of whio in the Taranaki area and also what number of birds have been introduced to or translocated from this area. How many GoodNature and other traps have been introduced there and are being run to an effective schedule."

Your questions and our responses are set out below:

Question 1

Information relating to monitored and unmonitored numbers of whio in the Taranaki area

The department currently monitors whio pair numbers and productivity on eight rivers within Egmont National Park as part of an annual whio monitoring program. Sightings of whio reported in the wider Taranaki area are also recorded. A map has been produced showing whio observations from both standard annual surveying and extra surveys or anecdotal sightings from spring 2014 to early March 2019 to respond to your request. This map has been released (Item 1).

This season (2018-19) monitoring on the eight rivers found a total of 39 pairs, which produced 50 ducklings, of which at least 44 fledged. There were also 94 observations of single birds (23 of which were associated with a known pair). Single birds are often much more mobile than pairs holding a territory, so we do not estimate a number of birds from these observations.

Outside the eight monitored rivers, observations of a further five pairs, five singles, one juvenile and five ducklings were recorded.

Question 2

Number of birds which have been introduced to or translocated from this area

Between 1999 and 2018, 210 whio have been translocated to rivers and streams within Egmont National Park and two whio have been translocated to a location outside of the

National Park on the Manganui River (approximately nine kilometres from the National Park boundary near Kaiapoi Road).

Question 3

Number of GoodNature and other traps which have been introduced there

Please find my response to your request in the table below:

Trap type	Number of traps	Target species	Location of traps
A24 (GoodNature)	2160	Rats	Egmont National Park – high intensity trapping area (1,000ha) between Egmont Road and the Little Maketawa stream.
DOC200 (mostly double set traps)	1439	Stoats	Egmont National Park - trapping network between the Pouakai range and Pembroke Road
DOC200 (a mixture of single and double set traps)	461	Stoats	Egmont National Park – various locations including the Kaitake Range, Pouakai Range, Blue Rata Scenic Reserve and Manaia Road. These trapping projects are led by community conservation groups.
Modified Timms	69	Feral cats	Egmont National Park - trapping network between the Pouakai range and Pembroke Road
Mix between sentinel and possum master	170	Possum	Egmont National Park - Kaitake Range
DOC 250	42	Ferrets and stoats	Along the Manganui River, near Kaiapoi Road.

Question 4

Whether traps are being run to an effective schedule

Installation of the 2160 self-resetting A24 traps into a 1,000ha grid pattern began in March 2016 and was completed in April 2017. To date, these traps have been serviced five times (in September 2017, December 2017, April 2018, August 2018 and December 2018). A service of these self-re-setting traps involves the replacement of gas cannisters and automatic lure pumps. Further information on A24 traps can be found on the manufacture's website on <https://goodnature.co.nz/products/a24-rat-stoat>.

To test the effectiveness of the A24 trap network, 120 rat tracking tunnels were installed in March 2017 (12 lines of 10 tunnels). These tracking tunnels have been checked on a regular basis to monitor the effectiveness of the A24 trap network. The % rat tracking for these rat tracking tunnels are shown in the table below;

Date monitored	% rat tracking
21/03/2017	6.67%
2/06/2017	5.83%
23/07/2017	9.17%
22/09/2017	15%

20/11/2017	2.50%
20/01/2018	1.60%
25/03/2018	15.00%
26/05/2018	9.16%
13/9/18	10.00%
4/10/18	10%
13/11/2018	11.60%
6/01/2019	11.67%
21/03/2019	9.16%

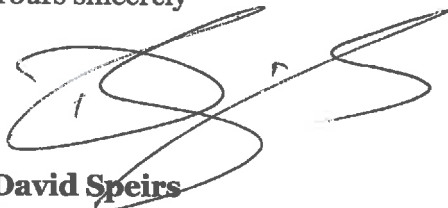
In general, DOC200, DOC250 and Timms traps are serviced 12 times per year, with higher frequency in the summer (when birds are breeding) and lower frequency over winter. Servicing schedules can vary from weekly to every 6-12 weeks. The sentinel and possum master traps are currently serviced every 30 days.

Attached documents

The following document falls into the scope of your request and is attached:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	26/03/2019	Map showing who observations from both standard annual surveying and extra surveys or anecdotal sightings from spring 2014 to early March 2019 (Our reference DOC-5896509)	Released in full

Yours sincerely



David Speirs
 Director, Operations
 Hauraki Waikato Taranaki Region

