



## DOC Management Agreement report – July 2020

### Trapping Overview.

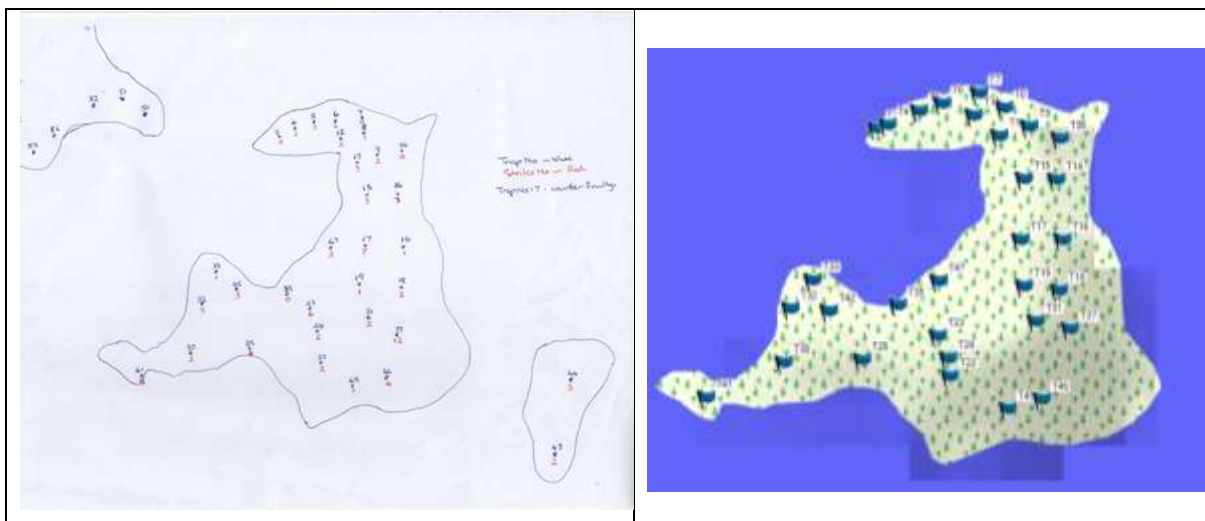
We now have the following traps installed and operating:

	DOC 200s	A24s
Tawhitinui Island	15	31
Awaiti Island	6	2
Tarakaipai Island	7	
Mainland (Odlins Reserve)		7

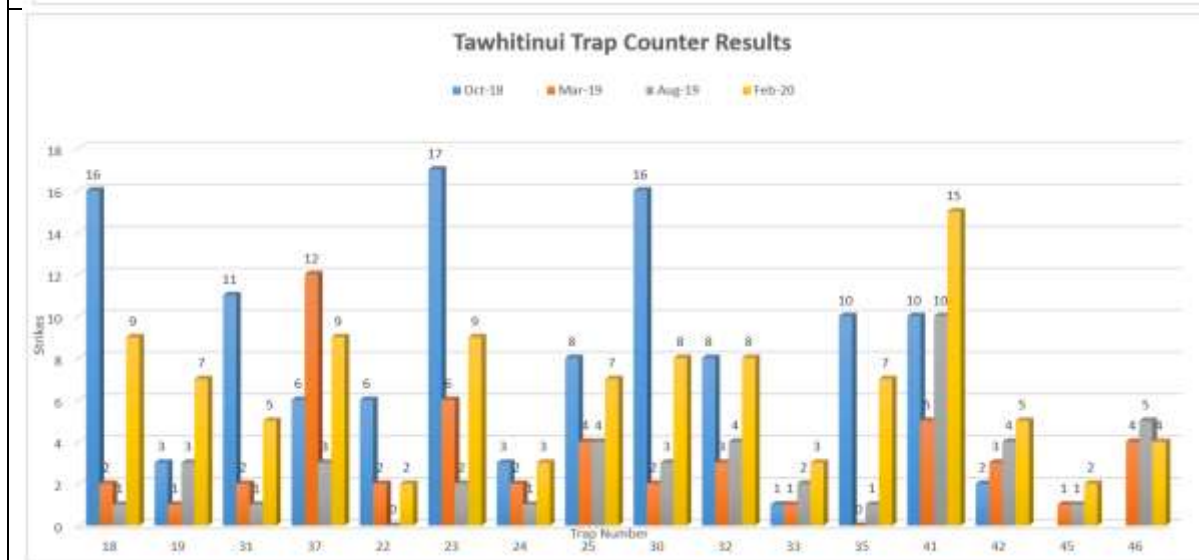
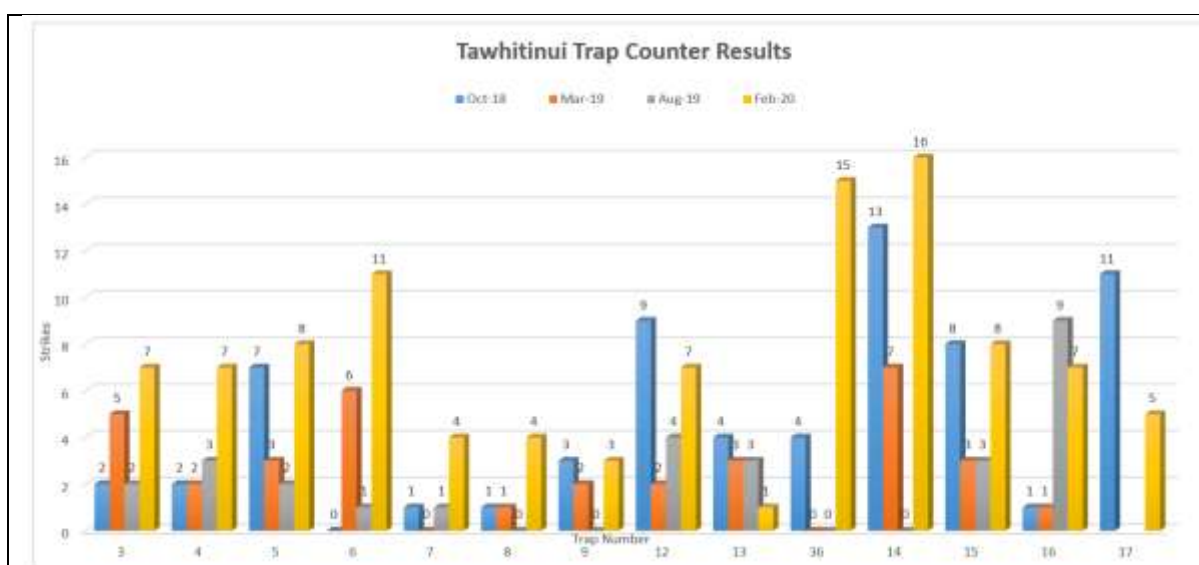
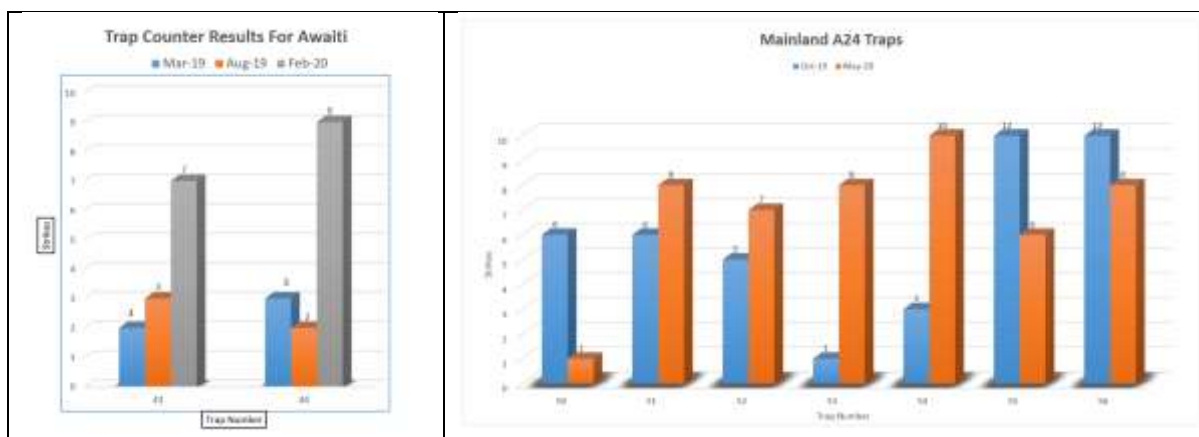
Because of their “once every 6-month” servicing (replacement of gas cylinder / bait lures & interim check) the A24s have revolutionised our ability to better manage the trapping programme on the islands. We now feel far more in control because even if it is a couple of months between island visits, we know the A24s are still doing their job and this statistic is highlighted in the following graphs. The interim strike count gives an insight into an increase or decrease of strike numbers within the 6 month period. As experienced last year after the mast, a surge in strike numbers then an equally dramatic drop in the second half of the period. Adds to our knowledge of trap efficiency and strikes vs season.

We believe we now have adequate traps on Awaiti and Tawhitinui Islands and have installed 7 X A24s on the mainland (headland on the Odlins Scenic Reserve closest to Tawhitinui Island). These traps provide basic coverage however there is always room to increase trap numbers and as funding allow, we would eventually like to implement a 50 X 50m grid pattern.

The Gas/Lures in the A24s traps were refreshed in February and they are due again in August. The mainland A24s are due for Gas/Lures in November 2020.



Draft location map of traps. We now have better GPS devices so will be able to mark the position of DOC200s. A24s, penguin boxes, weta boxes. lizard refugia and watering holes.



**Working bee** – On the 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 we held a working bee where we were joined by Friends of the Islands. 19 people travelled from Tennyson Inlet to Tawhitinui Island. All attendees were given a Health & Safety briefing with no accidents or incidents were reported. The jobs completed included:

1. Vesplex wasp bait stations were installed (Vesplex was put into these by registered operators later in Feb 2020).
2. Checking of all A24s and rebaiting / resetting of the DOC 200 traps
3. Trap line clearing (most of these are on the ridges where no vegetation has been removed other than to make the trap lines safe to transverse - only hand tools were used).
4. Water holes created in the creek on Tawhitinui Island. This creek runs (or rather dribbles) all year round (even in droughts). Currently the stream is mostly covered by forest debris and there are very few places where birds can drink. The gully runs most of the way up to the ridge line but the water only appears approximately 30 meters from the coastline. We have enlarged some of the “damp spots” so that water now pools there. We installed one of our trail cameras on the second pool where we have recorded a lot of activity day and night. 116 videos were taken in 5 days (until the batteries went flat). Bird types viewed were bell birds, tui, silver eyes, lots of fantails, chaffinch, thrush, blackbird, weka, penguin and rats. We have these videos on file.



**Tracks & Structures.** We have built no tracks (other than the aforementioned trap lines) and we have installed no structures.

**Health & Safety.** There have been no reported accidents. Wasps have the potential to cause injury but our control of these is covered below. DOC best practice Guidelines have been followed for all work carried out on the Islands. There are no new hazards that we are aware of. Our H&S committee completed a review of our H&S plan and CoVID19 recommendations were added in. The updated H&S plan was sanctioned by the Trustees. We all agree that the H&S plan is fit for purpose and still very applicable for use. Each of our volunteers are given a copy of it. Now that our trap lines are established and we are primarily using the A24s (on a 6-month checking cycle) we see the potential for accidents to lessen.

**Species and Pest monitoring.** In November 2016 Derek Brown carried out 6 days of survey work on the Islands and produced a report detailing the species he observed. In 2021 we are hoping to reemploy Derek to do another survey to see if the biota has changed. We have installed two Trail Cameras which have proven excellent tools to record rat movements and deaths and the A24s in action.

**Weed Control.** We have removed a small number of pine trees that were growing at the North Western end of Tawhitinui Island.

**Wasp Control.** Due to extreme wasp numbers in mid to late summer we found there was a high Health & Safety risk for people checking the DOC 200 traps. A number of the TIIT trustees are registered Vespex operators and Sanford's supplied funding to purchase a large container of Vespex which was used to place around the DOC 200 traps. The Vespex has been highly successful in greatly reducing the wasp populations to the point where after one application our trap lines and DOC 200's are mostly devoid of wasps. The permission to use Vespex is covered in the DOC-2971257 "Tennyson Inlet – Wasp CONTROL OPERATION". DOC best practice Guidelines have been followed

**Habitat enhancement.** With the success of the DOC supplied Penguin boxes we have built another 7 and these were installed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. We continue to monitor the Weta living in our Weta motels and lizards living in our Lizard refugia motels and intend to install more of these in the near future

**Species translocation.** We have done no translocation of any species.

**Signage.** We have now installed the "No Dog" signs on the landing points of the islands plus the Penzance, Elaine & Duncan Bay launching ramps.



**TIIT budget** - See attached Appendix One

**Newsletter** – See attached our latest newsletter (9<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

**Stock Take of gear** on hand

19 x A24s
49 X gas cylinders
4 X Stoat lures
33 X Rat lures
5 X Counters
5 X Counters
1 500gm Rat/ refill choc
1 500gm rat/mice refill/lure choc
3 200gm Rat/Mouse refill/lure choc

60 X Box of chew cards
50 X Tunnel foot- print pads
16 X Tracking tunnels (made by Graeme)

**Summary** –The A24s are proving their worth and their 6 monthly service intervals has made the job of servicing the islands far easier. As the table above show we have units on hand to put on to Tarakaipai Island. This was highlighted in our 2019 DoC report. We have talked verbally to Ngati Kuia but believe it is DoCs role to formalise agreement around the placement and location on Tarakaipai Island ridge line which will allow us to better ascertain predator numbers and types (we have caught Stoats on this island before).

We are keen to meet with DOC to discuss this report

Yours Faithfully



Jeremy Cooper

Chairman of the Tennyson Inlet Island Trust

## Appendix One

<b>Draft TIIT BUDGET as at June 2020</b>	<b>Jun-20</b>
	May-21
<b><u>Eradication of pests</u></b>	
Replenishment packs for the A24 ( Co2 / lure bait etc) @ \$40 X 59 traps	\$ 2,460
Purchase of bait for the DOC 200 traps (41 traps)	\$ 300
Wasp bait (Vespex)	\$ 300
Purchase of A24 traps (another 5 each year)	\$ 1,000
<b><u>Hardware</u></b>	
Purchase of a GPS unit (finding traps for trap servicing crews)	
Purchase of 2 X 2 way radios (allow servicing crew to talk with boat)	\$ 400
<b><u>Enhancement of islands</u></b>	
Collection of seed, Propagation native plants (bird feeds)	\$ 1,000
Penguin boxes / lizard houses, weta motels & water catchment etc	\$ 500
<b><u>Building Knowledge</u></b>	
Tunnel counters, chew cards and consumables	\$ 300
Update of Baseline surveys for all islands	\$ 4,500
<b><u>Other</u></b>	
Advocacy & Promotion	\$ 500
Newsletter - production and email	\$ 500
Website maintenance	\$ 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,960</b>