



Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust

Trapping Report - June 2017

Introduction

Traps are checked and baited by Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust volunteers twice per month. The results for trap checking are recorded and entered into the DOC designed “Animal Pests – Trapping” internet based application. The trapping application is a Geographical Information System (GIS) that allows systematic recording of trapping results, data analysis and reporting of rats and mustelids (stoats or weasels) caught by volunteers.

April to June 2017 Trapping Results

A total of 64 mustelids and 1,039 rats have been caught by Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust volunteers since August 2015 when records first were stored in the database. Historic records show that between October 2010 and August 2015, 158 mustelids and 2156 rats were caught, making a **grand total of 222 mustelids and 3,195 rats caught since October 2010.**

Trapping results for the months of April to June 2017 (table 1) show 148 rats and 7 mustelids were caught. This is up from 109 rats caught and down from 24 mustelids caught in the previous 3 months.

Table 1: Mustelids and rats trapped for April to June 2017

Line	Mustelids	Rats	Average Percent Rats Per Month Per Total Trap boxes	No of Trap Boxes on Line
A	0	48	13%	127
B	3	21	18%	39
C	0	15	22%	23
H31/1 to H31/12	0	7	19%	12
H1 to H62	3	42	23%	62
Marahau	0	6	18%	11
Stilwell	1	5	11%	22
Tinline	0	4	17%	8
Lines Combined	7	148	17%	304

Note: The rats and mustelids noted as caught are from checking traps twice during the month.

Pitt Head and Torrent Bay A24 Trapping

204 A24 (Rat and Stoat traps) and 16 Possum traps are in place and checked monthly. 5 possums have been trapped in the last 12 months.

For the two checks May and June 69 Gas bottles were replaced, 95% had been in place for 6months or more. Four traps have been removed for refurbishing and replaced.

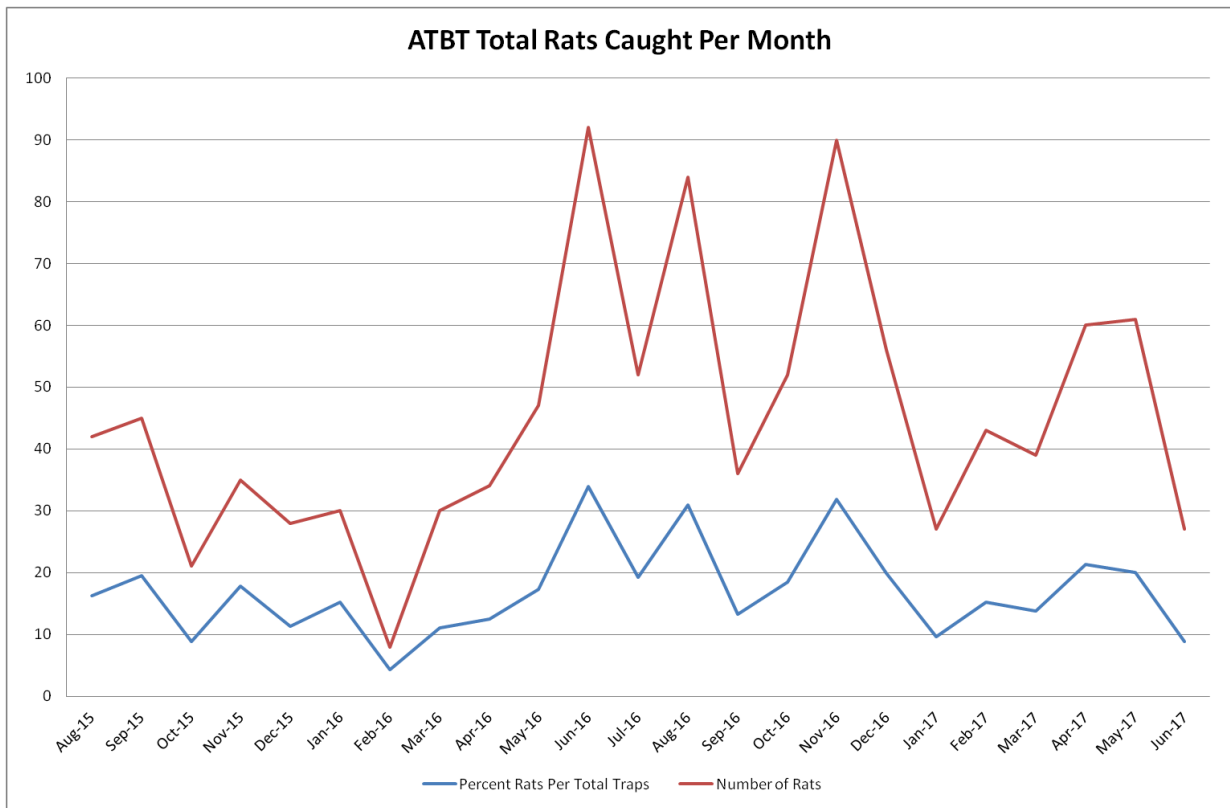
Of the 204 A24's 22 are fitted with counters. Over the last two months there have been only 5 strikes, most probably mice but one Rat carcass has been sited.

Next month a bait change from peanut butter to chocolate will be made. Each are run for 6 months.

Question 1: What is the trend in rat numbers caught?

The chart below shows the monthly % rats caught per total trap boxes and rat numbers caught per month since August 2015.

Chart 1: ATBT total rats trapped per month from August 2015.



The chart shows there was an increase in rats caught since March, followed by a sharp decrease for June.

Note that trap line H31-1 to H31-12 has only been in operation since March 2016 and H12 to H62 since December 2015 so the results prior to April are not directly comparable with now. Also 7 additional traps have been added to B line since October 2016.

Question 2: Where are rats being caught?

The map below where rats have been caught (green triangle) over the last three months.

Map 1: Rats trapped April to June 2017

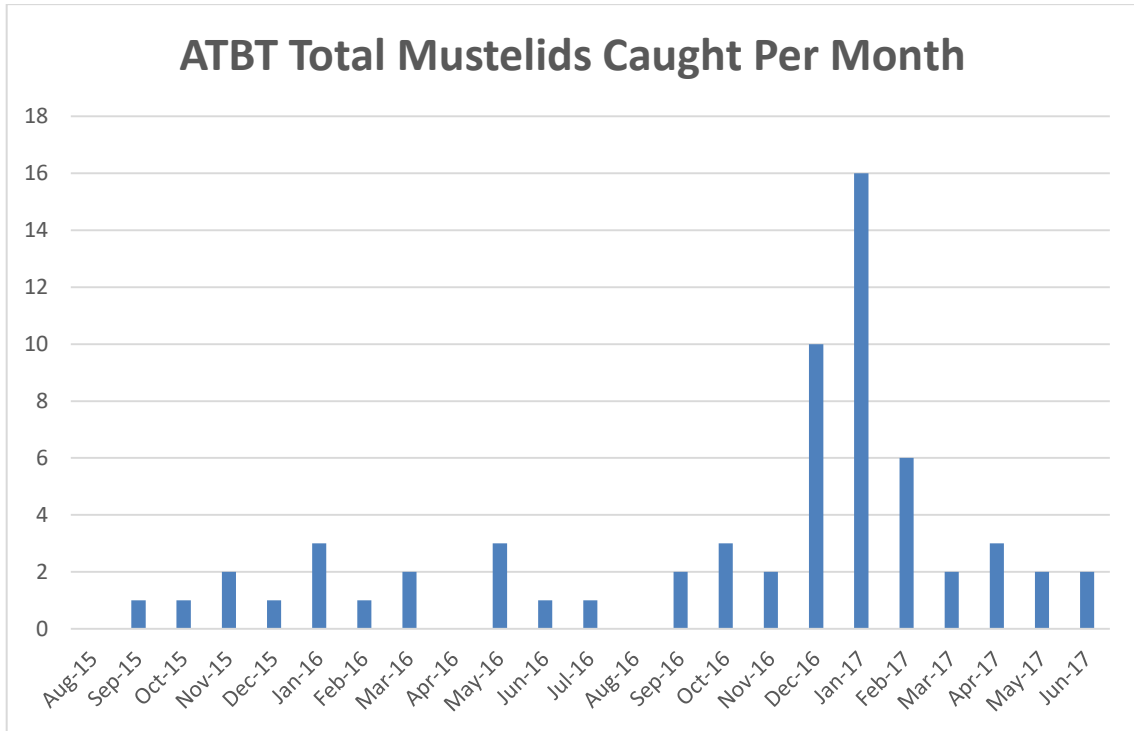


The map shows rats have been caught well spread over all the area in which Birdsong Trust volunteers trap. The only distinct area where no rats have been caught in the last three months is between Watering Cove and Anchorage (C19 to C23 and B13 to B20).

Note Pitt Head has A24 traps and will be catching rats without a “body count”.

Question 3: What is the trend in mustelid numbers caught?

Chart 2: ATBT total mustelids trapped per month from August 2015.

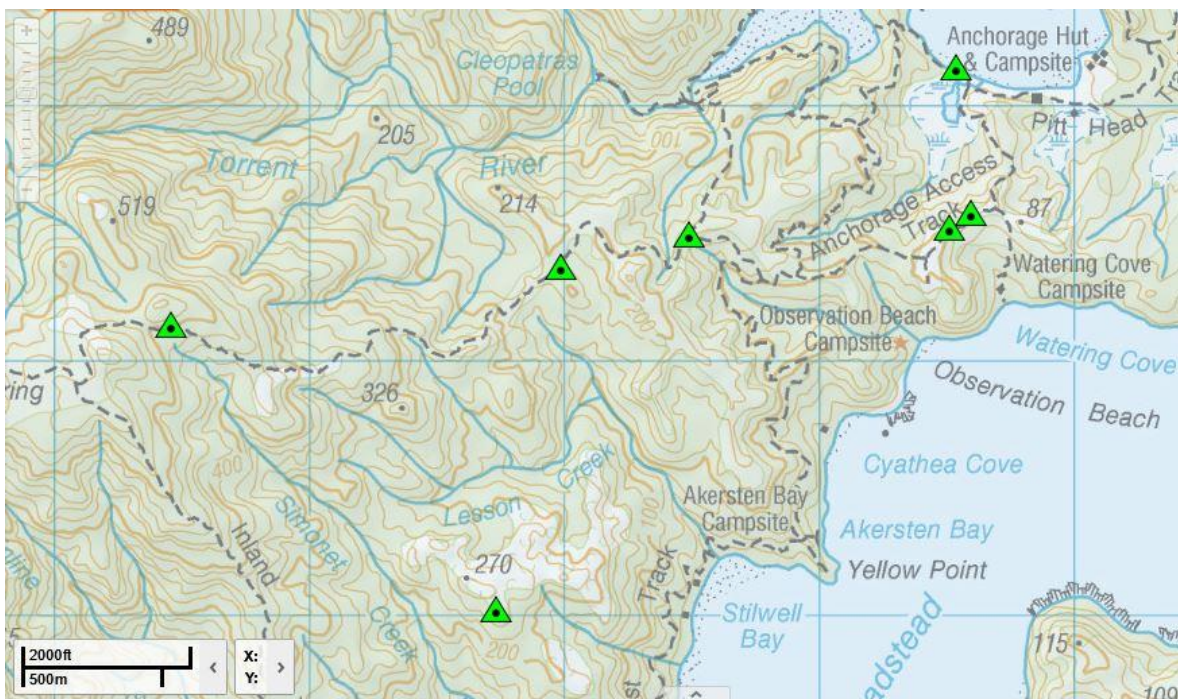


Mustelid numbers are back down to usual numbers being caught per month after a spike in numbers caught from December 2016 to February 2017.

Question 2: Where are mustelids being caught?

The map below shows where mustelids have been caught (green triangle) over the last three months.

Map 2: Mustelids trapped April to June 2017



Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust Trap Lines

The picture below shows traps lines that are checked and maintained by ATBT volunteers. (Note there are some trap lines missing from the map, notably: M Line around the Marahau estuary, C line that runs between Cyathea and Watering Coves, and B line extension.)

