

Predator trapping in Ashley-Rakahuri river: April 1st to Dec 31st, 2016

Report by : Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group (ARRG) Inc .

To : Environment Canterbury, CWMS Immediate Steps Fund.

In respect of : Grant Agreement dated 9th May 2016. .

Method :

Work within the prescribed area , by 11 people , using 125~135 traps over the period of 275 nights , caught 120 predators .

Trappers were: S Harris; G Davey; G Scott; G Swailes; N Ledgard; P Bodger; M Mardon; E Stancombe; S Elkingto; B Newland; D White.

Total Trapper hours worked = 371 ; at \$20/hr ; Value of trap attendance hours =\$7420

In addition , management of trapping works by G Swailes , estimated at **50 hours =\$1000**

This being: GPS coordinate fixing , with G Davey - 24hrs; provision of bait 12 hrs; recording of data 14hrs .

The trapping work was carried out along both banks of the river, between Hillcrest and Swamp roads upstream , down to Tulls road downstream.

Results

Predator species caught over the period were: Cat 27; Stoat 6; Weasel 10; Ferret 10, Hedgehog 67. A total of 120 predators.

Trap numbers were increased slightly over the reporting period, between 125 and 135 were used, with equal numbers of DOC200 and TIMS traps.

Total trap nights were 33,635 , catching 120 predators ; a catch rate of 0,36 predators per 100 trap nights . This rate is slightly lower than the previous reporting period and ARRG's long term average. We consider this to be a positive measure of our continual efforts to control predator numbers on the Ashley-Rakahuri river.

The recent trend of catching more ferrets and cats continued , especially over the winter period .

Conclusions

ARRG's aim is to improve the breeding success of shorebirds breeding on the Ashley-Rakahuri river. Management by the Group includes predator and weed control, plus improving public awareness in order to minimise human disturbance. This report documents a continuation of predator trapping initiated in 2004. Such work has led to an increase in bird populations since regular records were begun in 2000.

Geoff Swailes, Loburn

5th January 2017 .