
MWLR WEBINAR

Our Land and Our Future – Tō tātau whenua, mō āpōpō

Rabbit responses to predator

The following questions were asked during our live webinar with Mandy Barron but due to time restrictions, we were unable to answer these in the session.

Was the predator control the same at all sites?

Predator control was mostly based on a trapping network, but device type and density varied across the treatment sites. There was a large-scale poisoning operation (PAPP) for cats at the Poutiri Ao o Tane treatment sites in winter 2018.

Were the predator numbers the same at all sites?

Hard to say - we have measures (Camera Trap activity) for the Cape to City camera trap sites 2015-2020 which showed pretty similar and low CTRs of mustelids in both treatment and non-treatment sites and pretty similar moderate cat CTRs at both treatment and non-treatment sites (except in 2017 where cats were higher in non-tmt). We have one measure (Camera Trap) of cat activity pre and post PAPP application for one of the treatment sites at Poutiri Ao o Tane (Opouahui Station) in 2018 which showed a 40% reduction in cat CTR but no measures for the other treatment site or the 3 non-treatment sites.

Was there the same intensity of rabbit control happening at both sites?

We don't know - there was only one (notifiable) instance of widespread coordinated rabbit control at one of the study sites during the analysis period (burrow fumigation and shooting at Opouahi Station in 2012), but there were undoubtedly many instances of individuals or small groups doing night shooting on individual sites.