

Upper Clarence black-fronted tern project update



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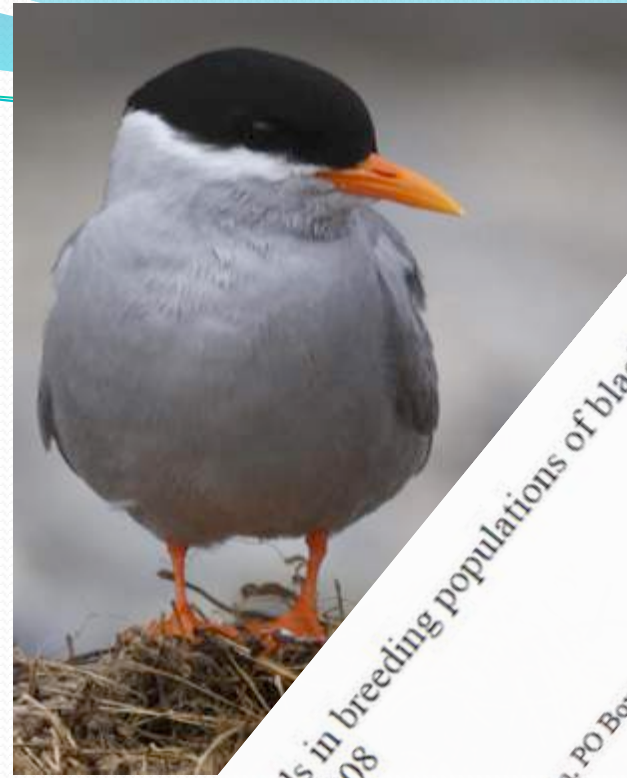


BFT Nationally

- National review
- Serious population decline
- Expected decline of 90% in next 25 years
- Highest declines in smaller rivers

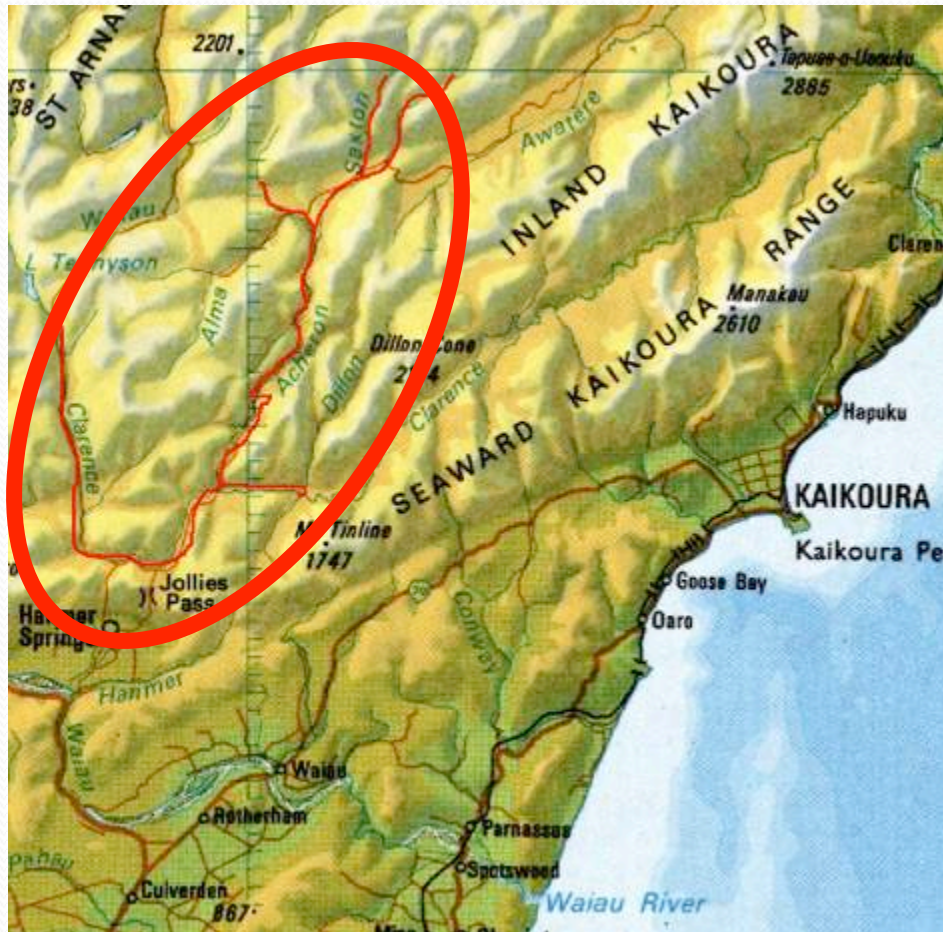


- Extinction likely without urgent management



Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns
(*Chlidonias albostrimatus*) 1962–2008
Colin F. J. O'Donnell* and Joanne M. Hoare
Research and Development Group, Department of Conservation, PO Box 13049, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand
*Author for correspondence (Email: codonnell@doc.govt.nz)
Published on-line: 17 November 2010
Abstract: Black-fronted tern (*Chlidonias albostrimatus*) breeding populations on brai?

Upper Clarence catchment



- Significant population
- Approximately 700 birds present
- Inland population

BFT on the Upper Clarence

- Low breeding success recorded
2012-2014



- Primarily due to predation

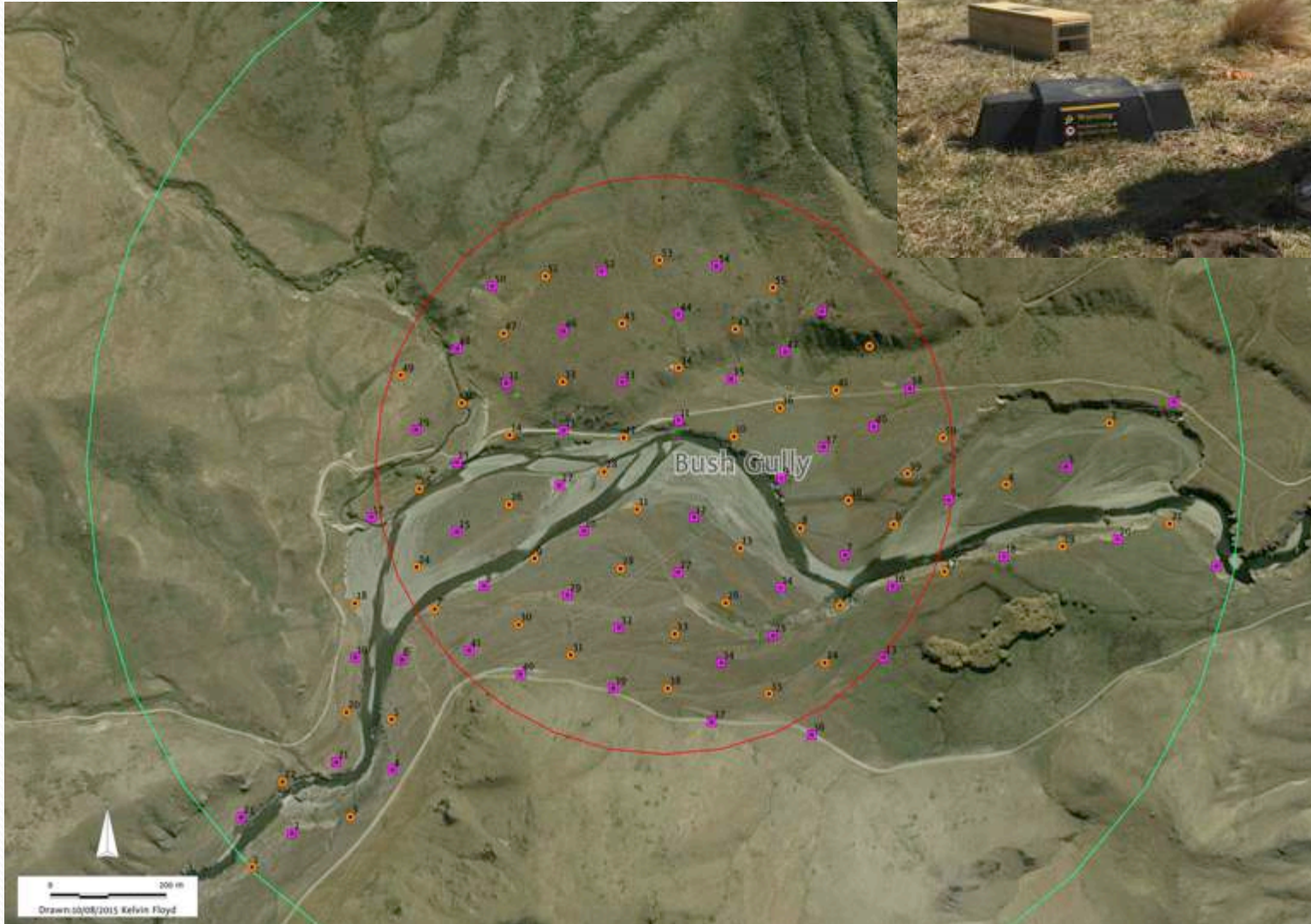


Upper Clarence Project

- Five year project – aimed at three colonies
- Predator control
 - = network of traps around colony
- Habitat enhancement
 - = Forming weed free island
- Breeding outcome monitoring
- Year one completed



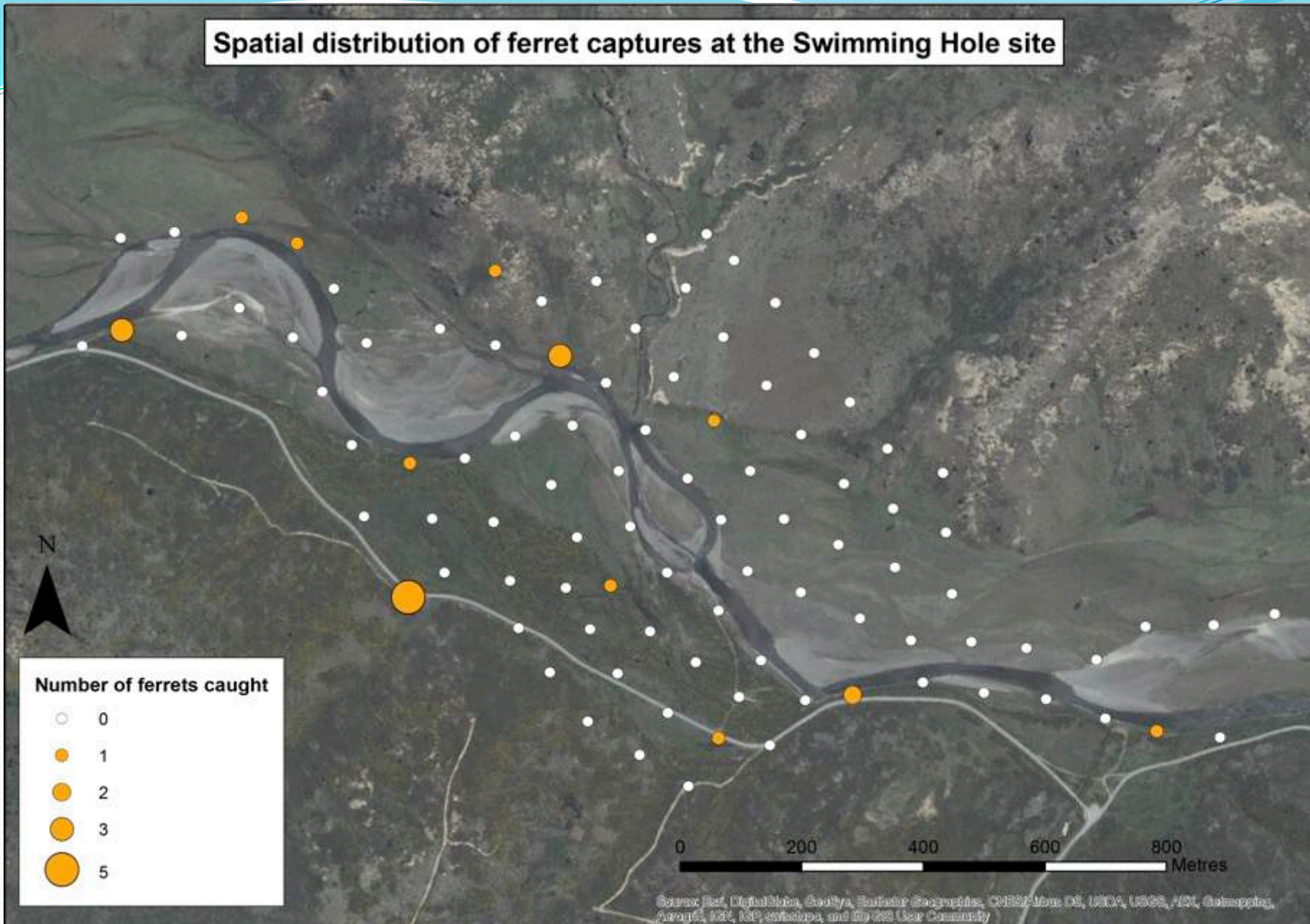
Predator control



Predator control - results

	Swimming Hole colony	Mitchell's Cutting colony	Bush Gully colony	Total
Cat	5	5	4	14
Ferret	21	7	8	36
Hedgehog	27	13	22	62
Stoat	18	7	8	33
Weasel	11	4	1	16

Spatial distribution of ferret captures at the Swimming Hole site



Habitat enhancement

- Carried out in Late March 2016
- Resource consent conditions meant it was not possible to do before the 2015 breeding season







Before



After



Breeding success

- 2015 season poor breeding success throughout Upper Clarence catchment
- No improvement on sites with predator control



- Main reason = lowest record river levels!
- Individual pest causing significant harm



Results

- Not fully tested
- Predator control – successful at catching predators
- Habitat restoration – completed, ready for coming season
- So despite no improvement this season, optimistic for the future



Thanks for
listening....

