



What's the Story with Australasian Bittern at Te Waihora ?





MATUKU

- Nationally critical
- Specialist, apex predator
- Elusive, cryptic traveler
- Boom 



Matuku and Te Waihora



Photo credit-
Lynette Harris

Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Why Te Waihora?

- Extensive and varied habitat

Harts Creek, Irwell river, Yarrs flat, Lakeside, Boggy creek, Halswell river, LII river

- Food availability
- Sparse and low human disturbance
- Where else is there to go?!



So how are we helping?

The Bittern Project

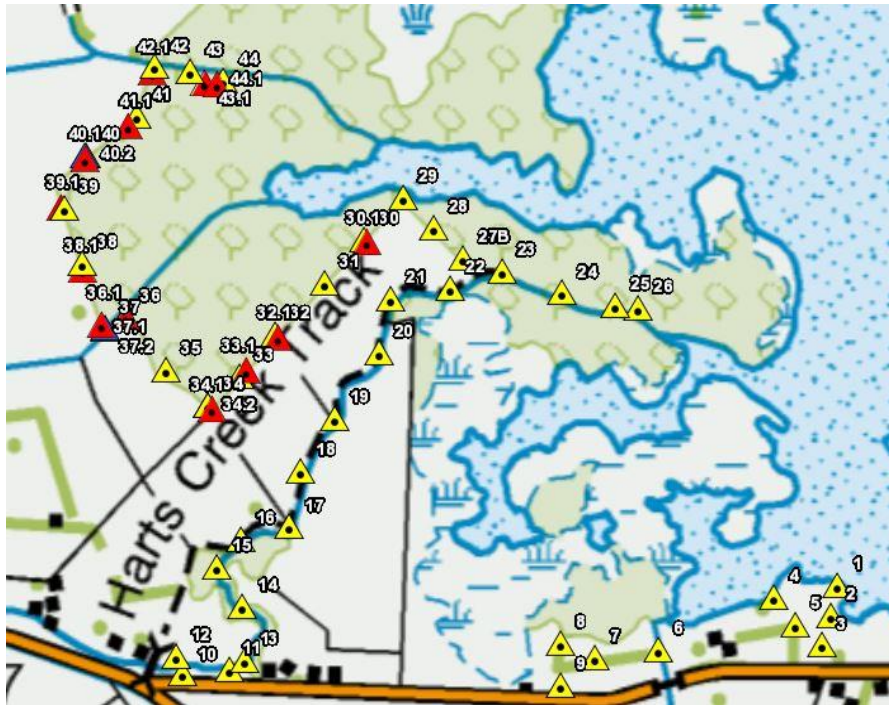


- 2014- Ecan and DOC partnership

Aims-

- Develop methods to find and monitor
- Define threats
- Educate ourselves for informed decision making
- Begin predator control at Harts Creek

Predator traplines



Harts Creek
~ 400 predators
removed since 2015

DOC 200 and 250
Timms traps
Goodnature A12

Newly installed lines at
Lakeside and Halswell River mouth

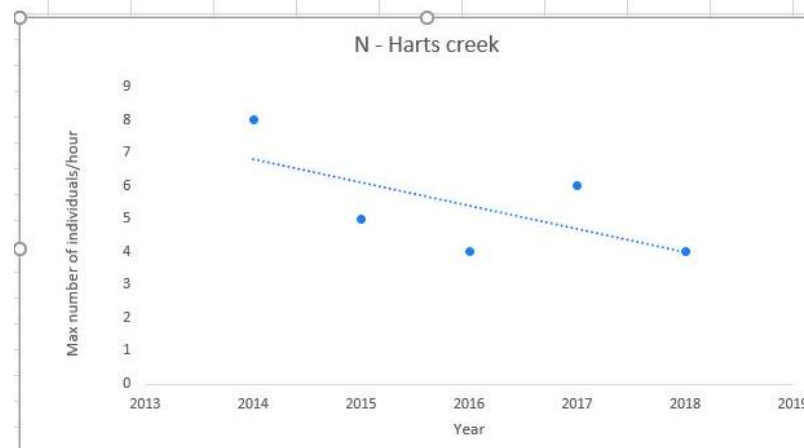
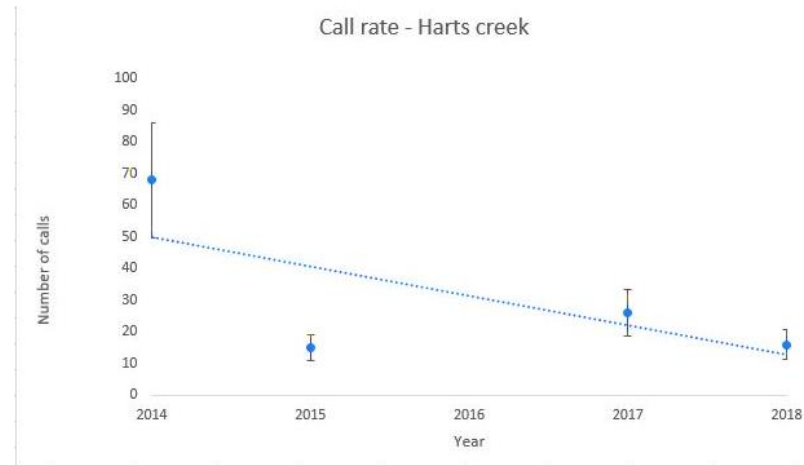


What have we found so far?

Call monitoring

Listening stations- Harts Creek and Timber yard point, LII river mouth, Halswell river mouth

Acoustic recorder sites- Taumutu, Lakeside reserve, Boggy Creek and Irwell river.



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Restoring bittern habitat



What are we still unsure about?



Harriers!

Nest
survival!

Lake
levels!

Photo credit- Sarah Crump

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