

Ecological Halo

Participant Information Sheet

Everything you need to know about trapping, baiting, and reporting as part of our neighbourhood predator control network.

Keen to get involved? [Submit a request here →](#)

The Ecological Halo Programme is a neighbourhood predator control network surrounding our reserves. As a non-profit, we rely on halo participants to set and monitor devices during our predator pulses and report catches and bait uptake on Trap.NZ.

What is an ecological halo?

A buffer zone surrounding an area with significant ecological values, within which neighbours work together on pest animal and pest plant control to restore the natural environment and protect local biodiversity.

What are predator pulses?

Predator pulses are periods of intensive, synchronised trapping and baiting by all halo members. Pulsing is cost- and time-effective — it maximises predator control in a short window, minimises bait shyness, and reduces the bioaccumulation of toxins in the ecosystem.

When are the pulses?

Pulses run for one month, four times a year, timed to protect native species when they're breeding and most vulnerable:

February

Summer breeding season

April

Autumn catchability peak

August

Winter density peak

November

Spring breeding season

What do I do during a pulse?

Trapping

Set your kill trap with food lure on **day 1**. Check at least every three days and renew the lure if it's started to disintegrate. Dispose of catches and reset the trap. End the pulse on **day 28**.

If you're able to check and relure regularly, you're welcome to trap year-round — not just during pulses.

Baiting

We only recommend baiting during pulse months to reduce bioaccumulation of toxins in the environment.

We recommend using **Ditrac** for three out of four pulse months, and **Contrac** for one pulse month only.

Ditrac is a multi-feed toxin — rodents need multiple visits before receiving a lethal dose. This makes it safer around pets and reduces the risk of bioaccumulation.

Contrac is a single-feed toxin and stronger — one visit is enough for a lethal dose. Use sparingly, one pulse month per year only.

Ditrac months (February, April, November):

Day 1: Fill station — Day 3, 5, 14 & 17: Check, refill or replace mouldy bait — Day 28: Remove all bait

Contrac month (August):

Day 1: Fill station — Day 5 & 15: Check, refill or replace mouldy bait — Day 28: Remove all bait

Only use bait stations and toxins during the quarterly pulse months. You are welcome to trap all year round.

Resources

Everything you need to get started:

Google Form — data reporting

Prefer not to use Trap.NZ? Report your catches and bait uptake here instead.

[Open form →](#)

Rodent identification guide

Help identifying rats, mice, and other catches from your trap.

[Open guide →](#)

Recording on Trap.NZ

We'll send you a link and invite you to our Trap.NZ page. Please register for an account and record your catches and bait uptake — this helps us monitor progress and generate reports across the whole halo.

[Website tutorial →](#)

[App tutorial →](#)