



A PREDATOR FREE MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS?

For the past 150 years, the natural environment of the Marlborough Sounds has been gradually deteriorating. We have lost iconic species such as kiwi, kaka and robins from our forests, and the decline is continuing.

Introduced pests - primarily ship rats, possums and stoats - are the main culprits.

Is it possible to remove one or more of these pests from the Marlborough Sounds?

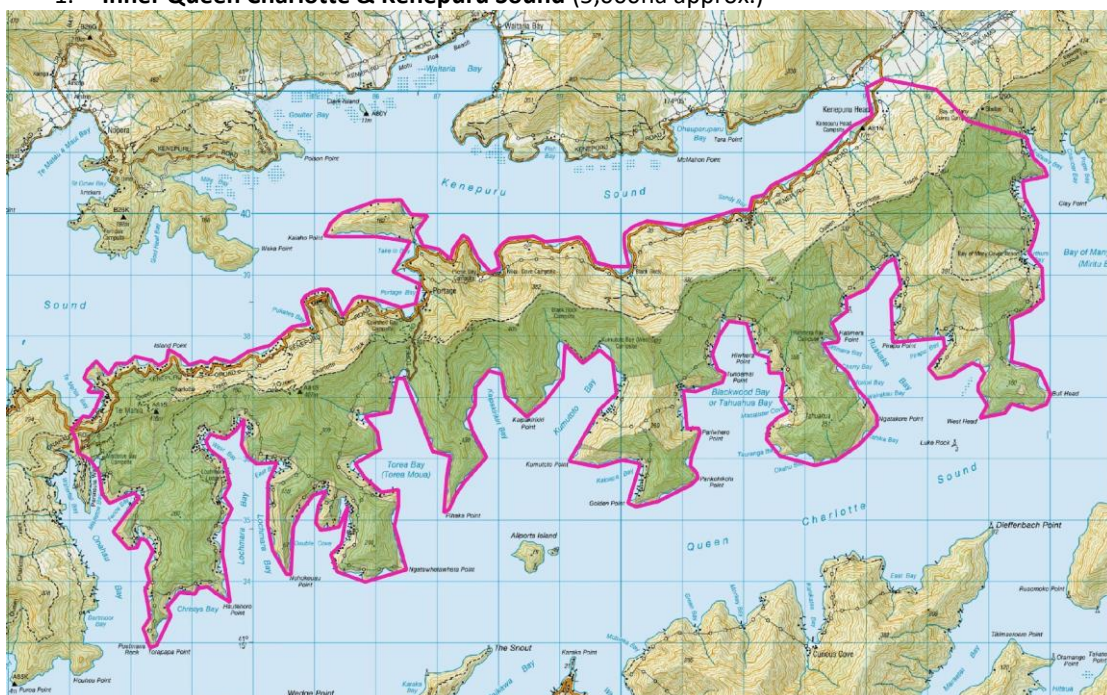
The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust is undertaking a feasibility study to see if it is possible to achieve predator freedom in some parts of the Sounds.

It will only be achievable, first and foremost, if the iwi, Crown agencies and the community fully support it. In particular, we would need to be able to undertake pest control on nearly all private land in any project area.

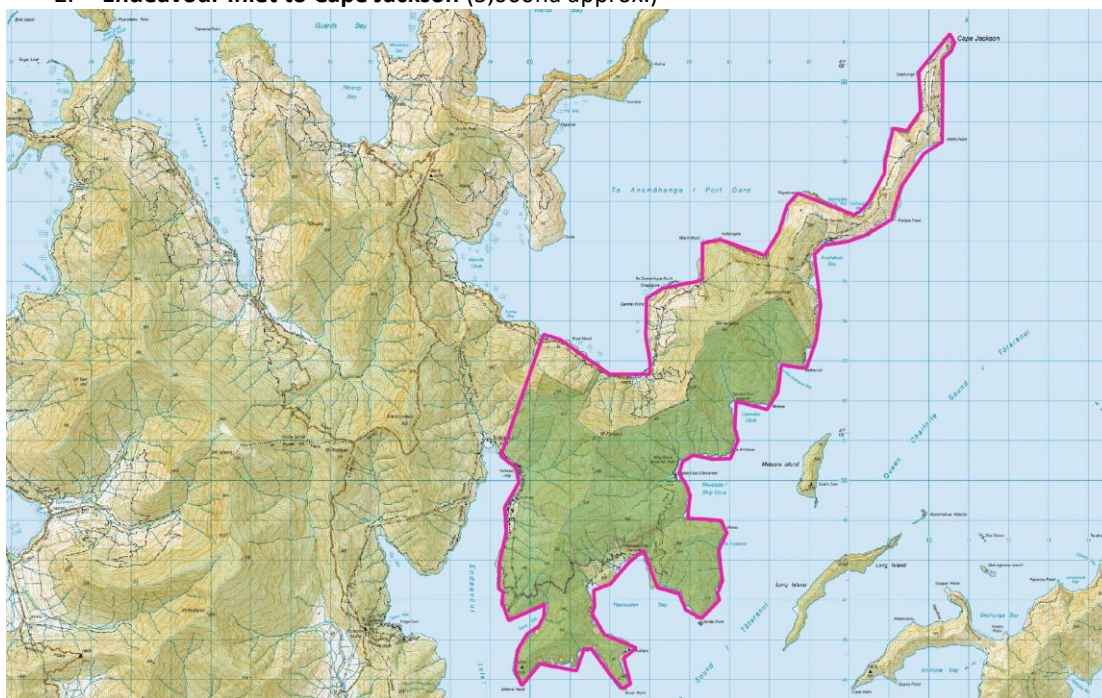
If we can demonstrate full support and 'predator free' proves to be technically feasible, the Trust will seek out the funding needed to make this possibility a reality.

There are two areas under consideration:

1. Inner Queen Charlotte & Kenepuru Sound (5,000ha approx.)



2. Endeavour Inlet to Cape Jackson (5,000ha approx.)



On both maps, public conservation land is shaded green.

Why get rid of predators?

Places like Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary in Wellington, Pukaha Mount Bruce in the Wairarapa and Motuara Island in the Sounds are proof that removing possums, rats and stoats can transform native habitats. With your help, we can see the same transformation right here:

- ✓ Abundant, diverse wildlife and a 'dawn chorus' like that Captain Cook encountered at Ship Cove 250 years ago
- ✓ Greater potential for connection, purpose and sense of identity by working together as a community
- ✓ Increased opportunity for iwi to exercise kaitiakitanga (guardianship)
- ✓ New employment opportunities as a result of increased visitors, tourism and pest control
- ✓ Reduced damage to bach properties, through rats getting inside houses and possum damage to gardens
- ✓ Enhanced attractiveness of our Sounds properties
- ✓ More enjoyable hunting, walking and tramping experiences in the bush
- ✓ Enhanced mental health and well-being resulting from the restorative effects of nature.

Who is involved?

The Trust was established in 2003 to "*promote and protect the natural, cultural and historical values of the Marlborough Sounds for future generations, including, but not limited to, landscape, productivity and biodiversity values*".

The Trust has a proven track record of success in the Sounds, particularly in controlling wilding pines and feral deer and goats with the support of local communities.

The Trust is working with Predator Free 2050 Limited (PF2050) on this project. PF2050 is a Crown-owned charitable company established to help deliver the Government's ambitious goal of eradicating possums, stoats and rats from New Zealand by 2050.

PF2050 is currently funding 17 large, landscape-scale projects that are expected to achieve eradication of one or more pest species in various parts of the country, and is now supporting us to see if it is possible to establish an 18th project, in the Marlborough Sounds.

When?

The feasibility study will run from January to July 2023.

How will the consultation work?

The Trust will consult Crown agencies and iwi and undertake liaison with all landowners with holdings of 5ha or greater in the two study areas. The purpose is to gauge the level of support for pest eradication in the two areas.

The Trust will only proceed to the next stage if there are sufficient landowners in support of eradicating one or more of these key predators - possums, rats and/or stoats.

At this stage, there is no funded project and there is no commitment to agree to predator control. This is an investigation only. However, if we can demonstrate full community support for one or other of the sites, the Trust will seek out the substantial funding required to make this project a reality.

For more information

For more information, please contact Sally Thomas at sally@soundsrestoration.org.nz or at 022 375 0334.

www.soundsrestoration.org.nz

www.pf2050.co.nz