

# Island Eradication Work in Scotland

Group of Experts on IAS  
Bern Convention  
Workshop, Madiera,  
June 2017

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RSPB Scotland

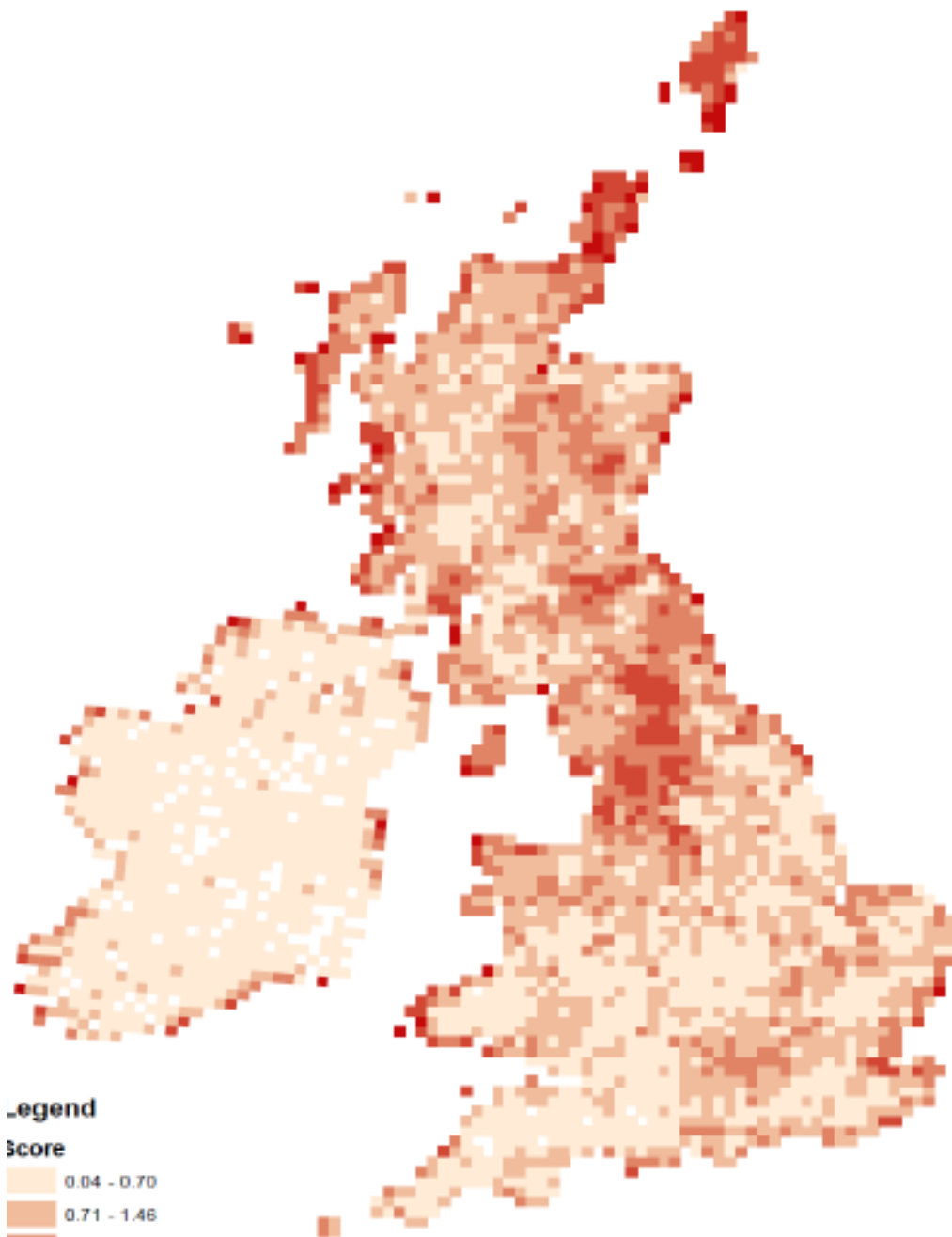


# UK islands

*'an area of land where some part remains above the spring high-tide line (Ordnance Survey Mastermap Mean High Water Spring line). All islands were geographically distinct at low-tide (Ordnance Survey Mastermap Mean Low Water Spring line), thus land connected at low-tide but separated at high-tide (is) considered a single island.'*






Stanbury et al. 2017

- 9,688 islands
- Most are <1 ha
- 1,013 >100 ha
- 80% of all UK islands are in Scotland, mostly in the Western and Northern Isles



**Legend**

**Score**

-  0.04 - 0.70
-  0.71 - 1.46
-  1.47 - 2.59
-  2.60 - 4.59
-  4.60 - 9.20

# Global populations on UK islands

- Manx shearwater – 80%
- Northern gannet – nearly 70%
- Great skua – 60%
- Majority of all these are on Scottish islands



Decline of **>70%** since 1986



**60%** decline  
between  
1986 and  
2009



Scotland is internationally important for its seabird breeding colonies.

There are around **5 million seabirds** in **Scotland**

# SCOTLAND'S seabirds

are

# DECLINING FAST

Scotland is home to ...



**95%**  
of the EU's great skuas



**67%**  
of the EU's northern gannets



**65%**  
of the EU's black-legged kittiwakes



of the EU's breeding seabirds are based in Scotland.

Seabirds are protected on land, but without Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to protect their foraging grounds at sea, their colonies are just a safe place to starve.

**MPAs are vital to protect our declining seabirds and their feeding areas.**

## SEABIRDS ARE THE FASTEST DECLINING GROUP OF BIRDS GLOBALLY

**50%**

of all seabird species are known or suspected to be experiencing population declines.

Since 1986, 10 out of 19 monitored seabird species have suffered long-term declines in Scotland.



### THREE KEY THREATS TO SCOTTISH SEABIRDS



Climate change



Lack of food



Development at sea



Arctic skuas

**74%**



black-legged kittiwakes

**66%**



Arctic terns

**72%**



We have **ONE CHANCE** to help seabirds where they need it most – at sea.


Tell the Scottish Government you want **MPAs for seabirds**.

Find out how you can help ...

[rspb.org.uk/scotlandsealife](http://rspb.org.uk/scotlandsealife)

Follow the campaign ...

 [FB/RSPBScotland](https://www.facebook.com/RSPBScotland)

 [Twitter#seabirds](https://twitter.com/seabirds)

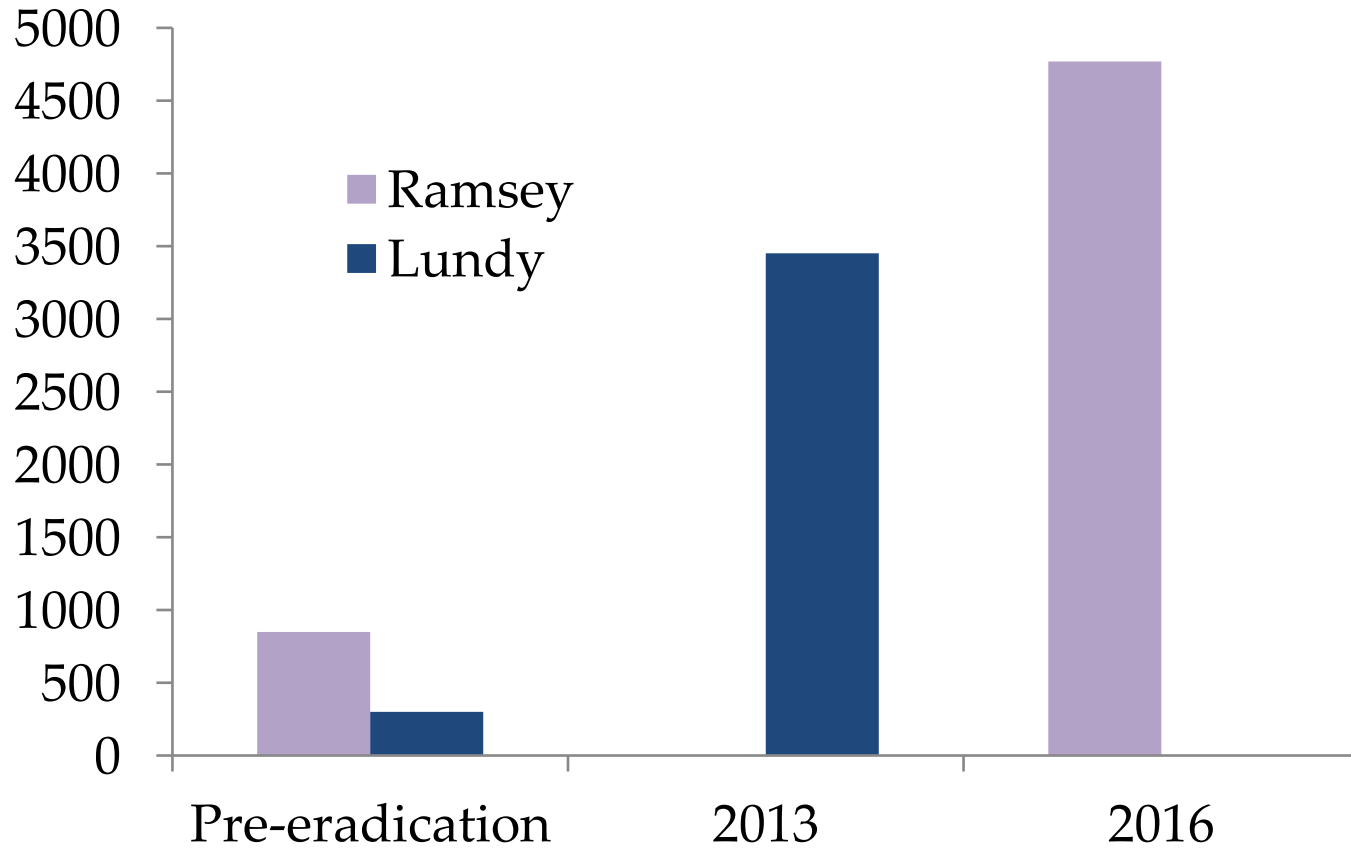


**12+ Colonies Lost** in recent centuries

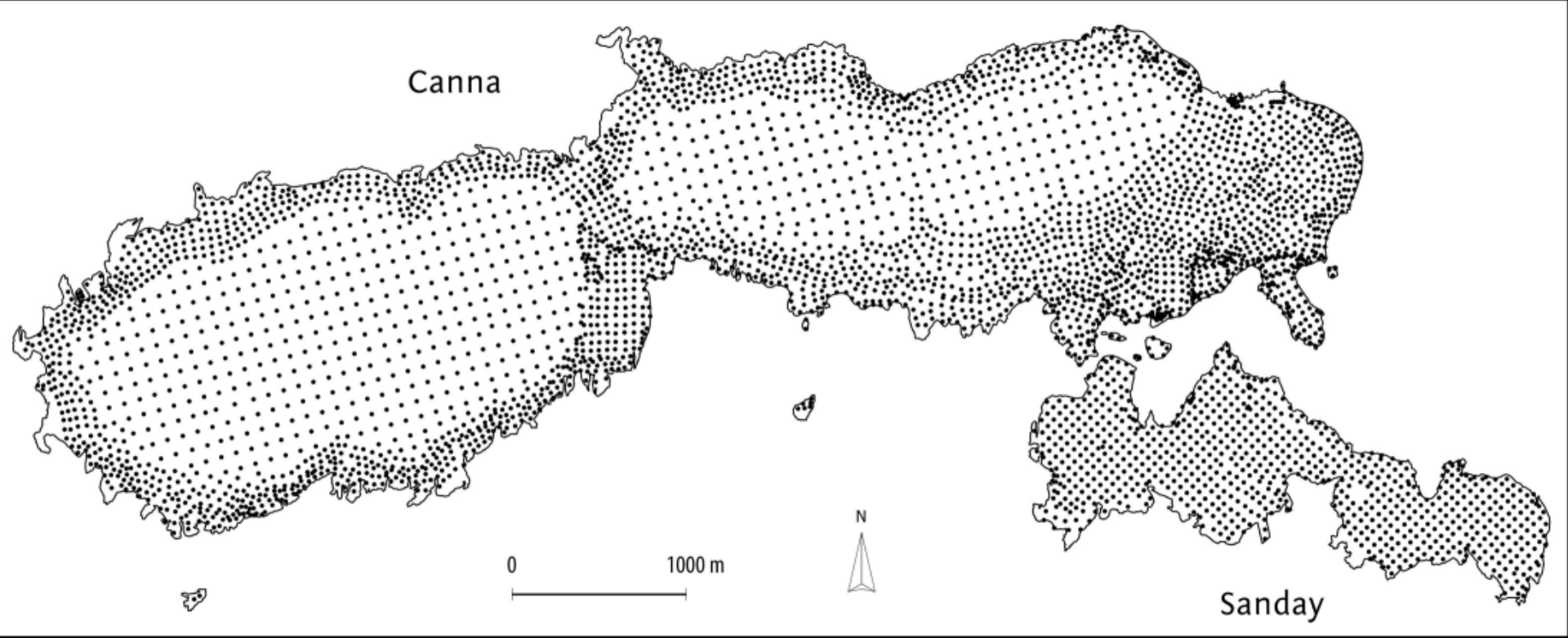




# Manx shearwater AOB











Drawn: Jun 2016 by Kelvin Floyd



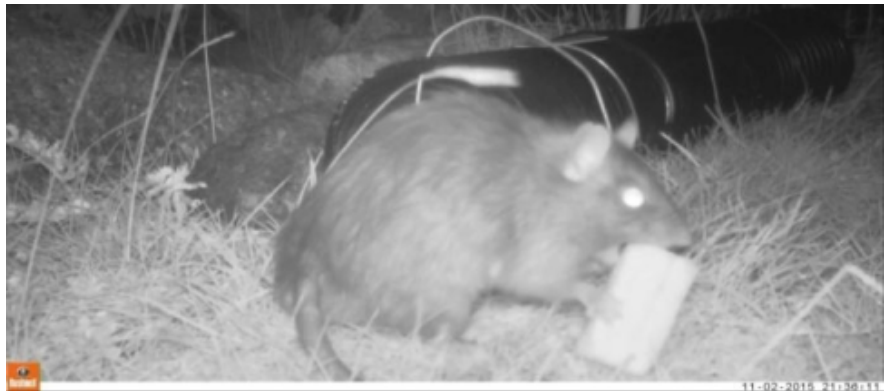
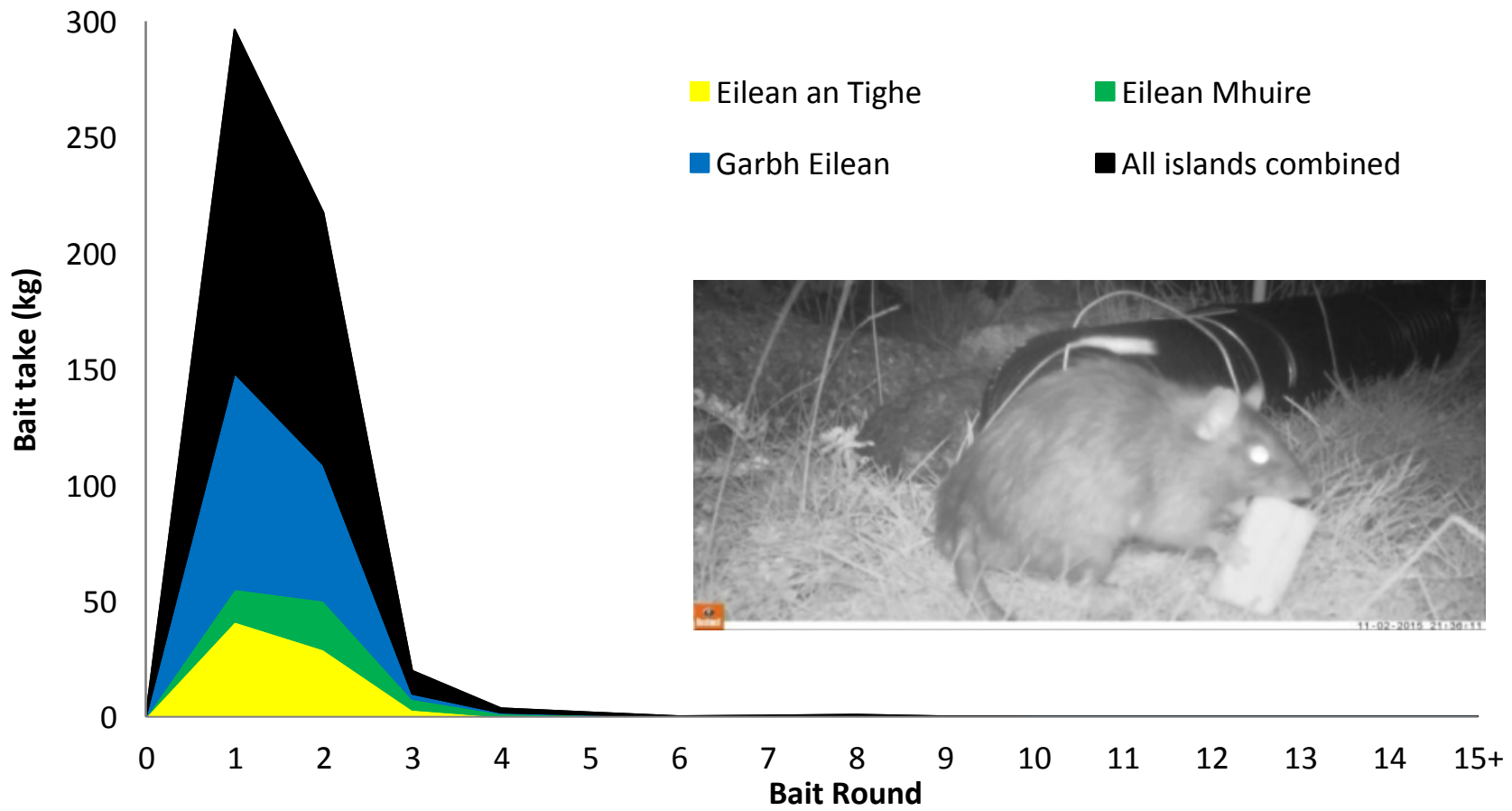
# Winter rat eradication

- 171 ha – 1183 bait stations
- 25X25 metre grid in coastal areas and the boulder field; 50X50 metre grid elsewhere
- Second generation anticoagulant in grain-based bait (Contrac™ with Bromadiolone 0.005%)

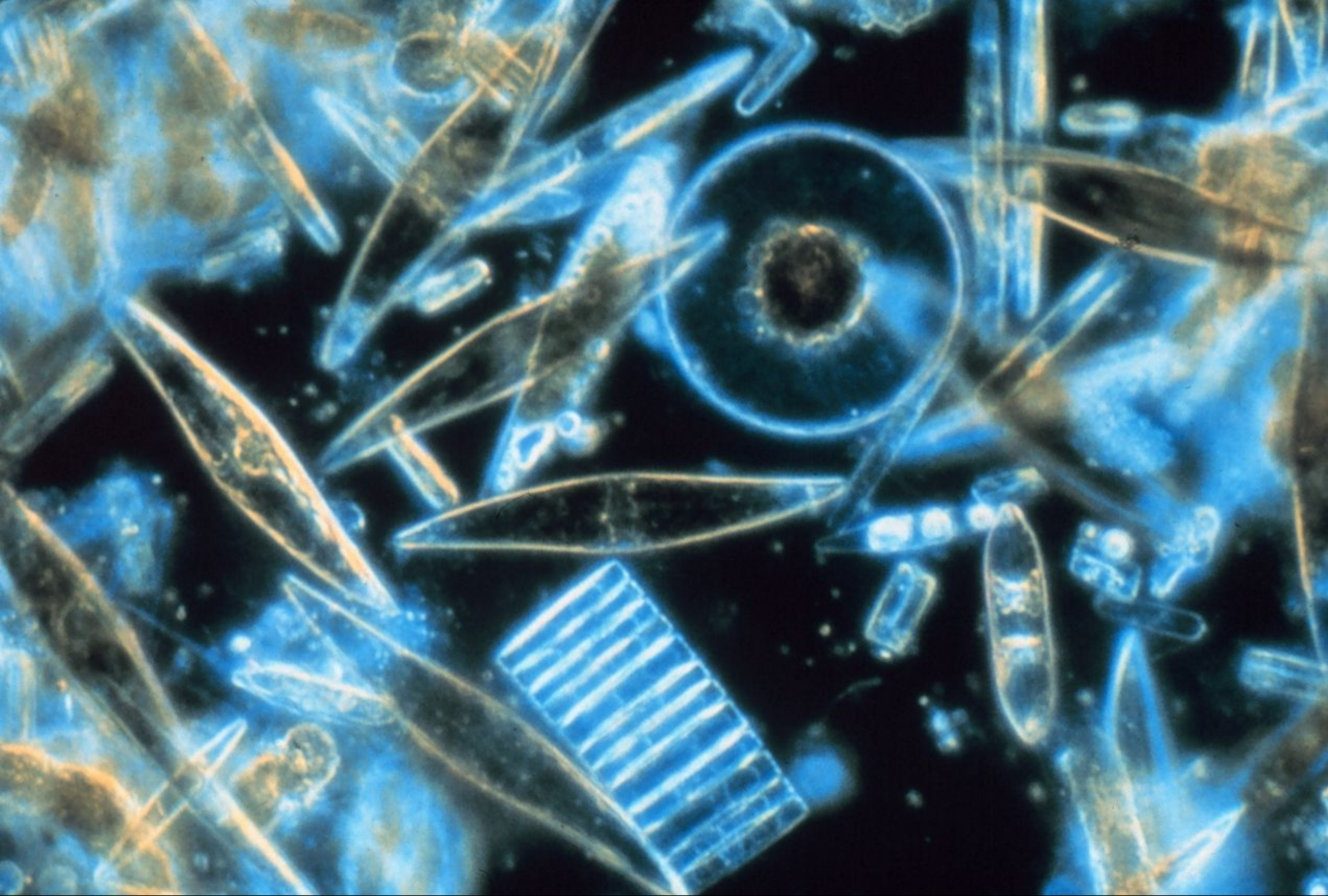


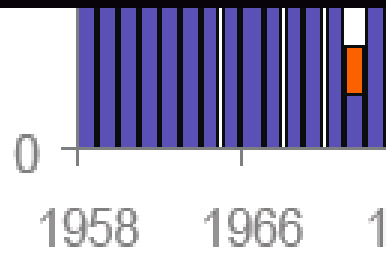
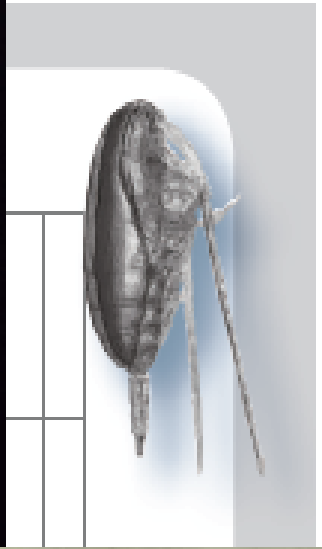


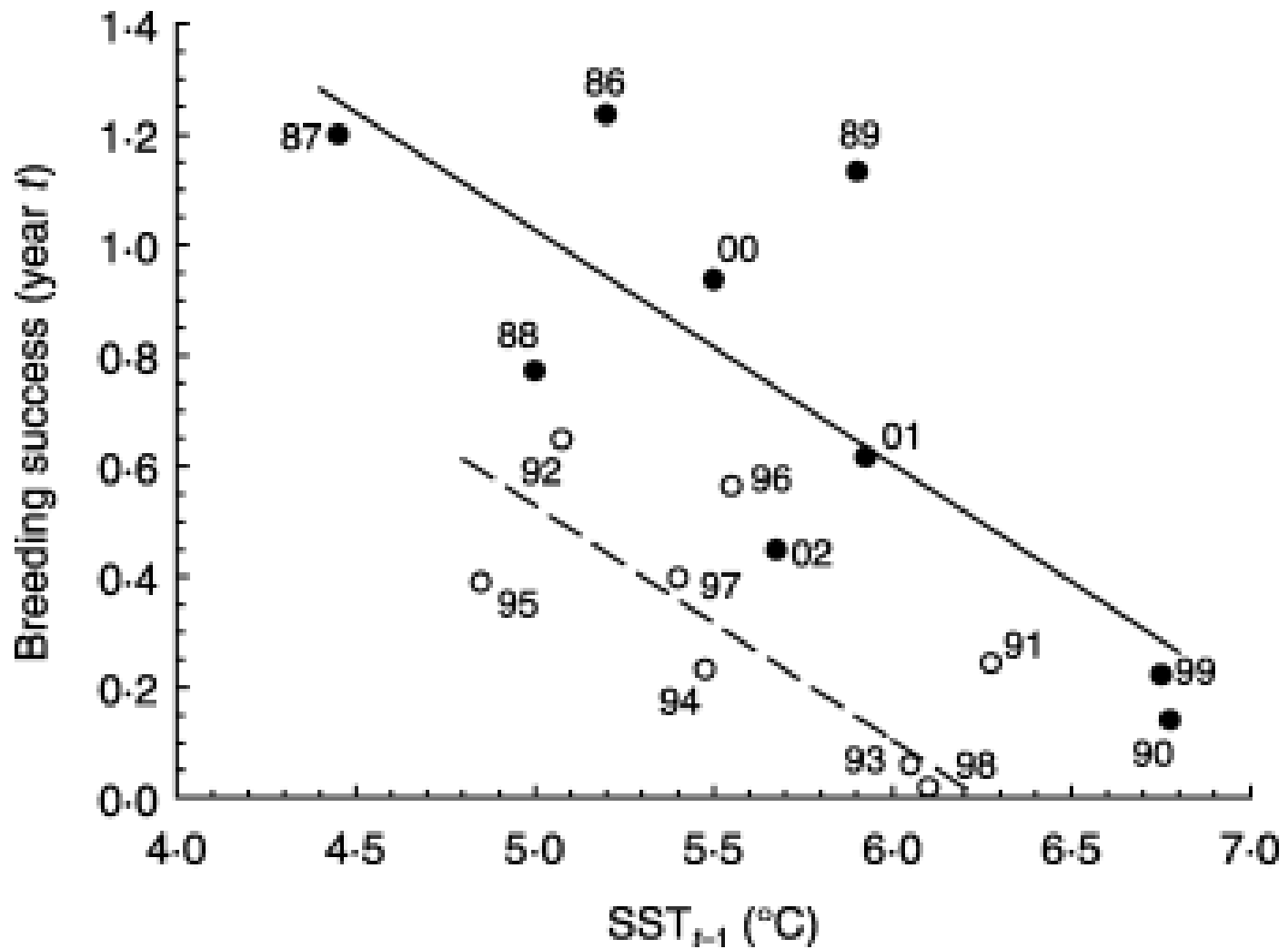










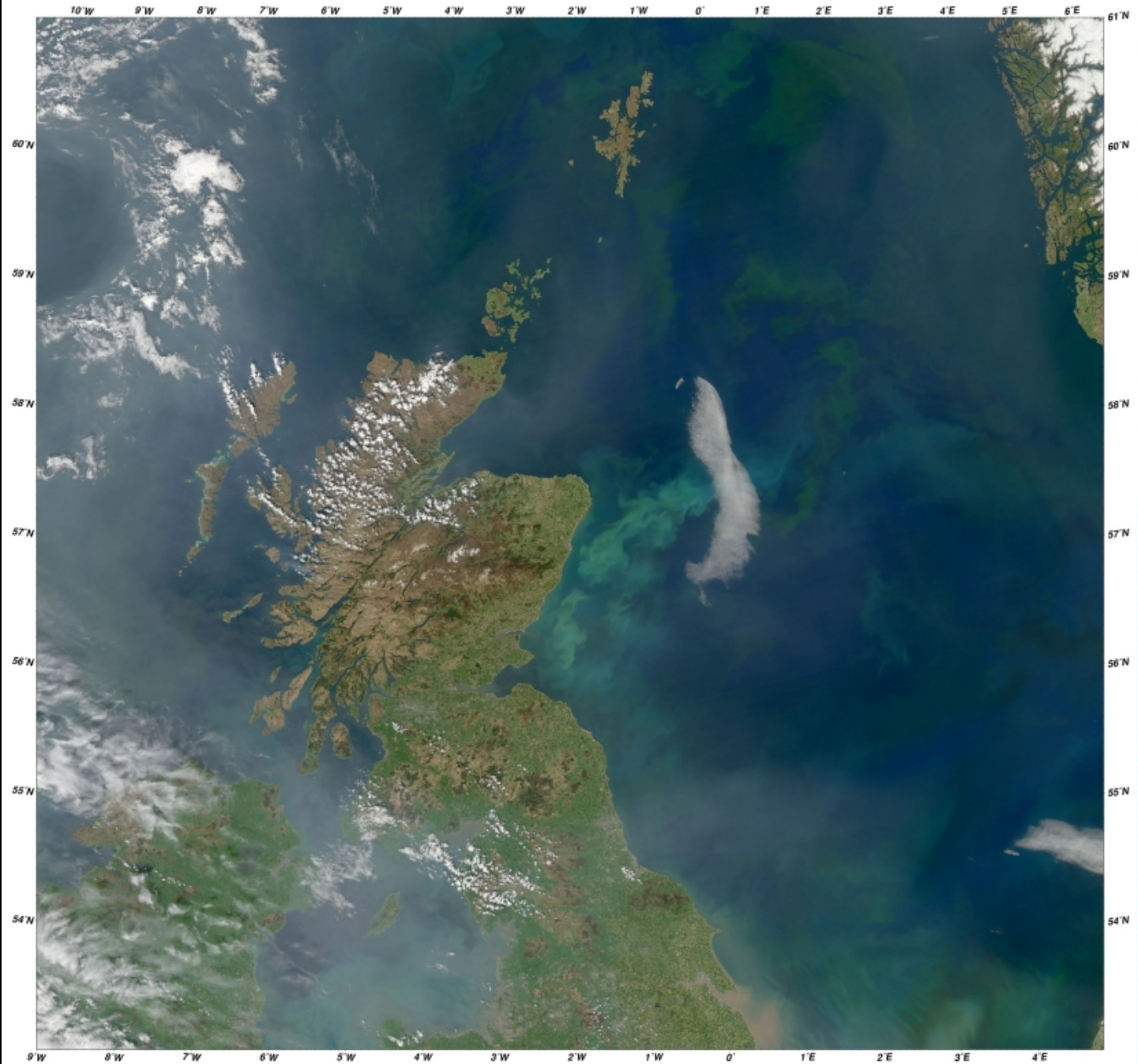


Frederiksen, M., Harris, M.P., Daunt, F., Rothery, P. and Wanless, S. 2004. The role of industrial fisheries and oceanographic change in the decline of North Sea black-legged kittiwakes. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 41: 1129-1139

8 May 2008

Scotland

Aqua MODIS



# Prioritising UK islands



THE  
NATIONAL  
TRUST



Scottish Natural Heritage  
All of nature for all of Scotland



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for everyone



giving  
nature  
a home



AHVLA  
Animal Health and  
Veterinary Laboratories  
Agency



# Prioritising UK Islands

- 10,000 islands in analysis
- Objective island prioritisation for INNS eradication
- Considers biodiversity gains, feasibility, sustainability
- Identifies islands where eradication not yet feasible – other interventions needed.
- Objective UK island prioritisation for biosecurity.
- Subject to generic assumptions – needs subjective pragmatism overlaid.
- Indicative, not prescriptive: practical/socioeconomics



# Where next?



From Stanbury *et al.* 2017

# **Island Rodent Eradication and Best Practice Toolkit**

WEED & ANIMAL PESTS

Best Practice

Island Biosecurity  
Best Practice

This manual provides current agreed best practice for working with the Island Biosecurity SP and

Current agreed best practice for hand br

- 1. Islands
- 2. Islands
- 3. Islands

1.0	Agst.
2.0	Sept
2.1	Oct
2.2	July

Thank you  
Coral Sea  
Fish & Game  
Department



Version
1.0
1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
1.5



Current agreed best practice for rat eradication - Poison bait in bait stations

Photo DOC



Version 1.3 October 2011



Pacific Invasives Initiative  
Resource Kit for Rodent and Cat Eradication

Home > [pacificinvasivesinitiative.org](http://pacificinvasivesinitiative.org) > PII Resource Kit for Rodent and Cat Eradication

[Site Map](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Terms](#)

Introduction

- Benefits of Eradication
- About the Resource Kit
- Resource Kit Principles
- The Project Process Overview
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Biosecurity
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Acknowledgements
- References

The Project Process Stages

1. Project Selection
2. Feasibility Study
3. Project Design
4. Operational Planning
5. Implementation
6. Sustaining the Project

Tools

Welcome to the  
PII Resource Kit for  
Rodent and Cat Eradication

This kit provides project managers with a practical guide to help plan and implement rodent and cat eradication projects.



Introduction



The Project Process



Tools

# Structure

Overview + project management framework

```
graph TD; A[Overview + project management framework] --- B[Subject-specific annexes: technical info & guidance]; A --- C[Worked examples of major project management documents]; A --- D[Templates / checklists for major documents];
```

Subject-specific annexes:  
technical info &  
guidance

Worked examples of  
major project  
management  
documents

Templates / checklists  
for major documents

& sources of additional info

# Annexes

- Bait Station Operation
- Rodent Trapping and DNA Sampling
- Rodent surveillance
- Biosecurity measures
- Rodenticides – legalities/practicalities
- Logistics and Equipment











giving  
nature  
a home