# Farallon Islands Run-Through Notes (Friday)

* Add folks to invite for Tuesday’s meeting
* Through the ecological occurrence of the owls is where you get the biggest impact on the seabirds now.
* Overwhelming amount of data at other places of how bad mice can be for seabird populations
* Signal on the diet study showing they are eating crickets, salamander and sea birds – need to use strong language – we have evidence of mice eating seabirds, salamanders and crickets on the island and leave it at that.
* This species is a sanctuary resource
* You don’t have to say “likely” on slide 11 – use direct impact line to show mice direct impact on storm petrels. Use a thin orange line showing it’s not as strong of an impact (or we don’t have data to show a strong impact quite yet). Very little evidence but there is some.
* We know that by removing invasive mice from the island we will decrease negative impacts and have positive benefits that will help restore balance in the ecosystem. Say that – don’t read the text. (Slide 19)
* Lay out the general principles of eradication whether using rodenticide or any other method
* On alternative selection slide 22 – make sure to make it clear that it was an exhaustive search looking at all options available and even some theoretical
* Erin: consider deleting the alternatives analyzed slide 25
* Re contraceptives – brought up 20 years ago too, at that time it was extremely theoretical. If we waited back then, we would not have the recovery that HAS happened. There is now a registered products for rats – has limited ability to reduce population, and isn’t proven to work on mice. Would have to take a liquid bait, place it on a grid repeatedly across the entire island to have a chance for any kind of populations control, IF it was proven to eradicate, which it isn’t. Couldn’t deploy it without large amount of damage to the island and significant human risk. (Brad)
* Limited population reduction. We wouldn’t get the population decrease we need to see on the island. Deployment is impossible – liquid on a grid every 25 meters and keep it out there forever, which is what would be required. Couldn’t deliver it even in the best of situations. Provide Gerry some stronger language for slide 26 – send to Gerry.
* Newly registered product, registered for rats, no efficacy for mice, limited population reduction, no viable way of distributing it across the island in its current form – could be another 20 years before they figure out how to make it viable if ever
* Operational details – be careful not to make it sound like it’s so potent you only need a tiny amount, but be clear that it’s not that much product (not dropping tons of rodenticide)
* Bait application – avoids *intentional* bait in the water. Doesn’t altogether make it go away.
* Consider shortening the gull hazing part – but keeping the slides at the end so you can go to them if you get questions.
* Be prepared for questions around hazing – sure, that worked when there weren’t a bunch of dead mice around the island. What about when there’s a food source of dead mice and also will the gulls be ready to eat those pellets.
* The bait spill slide is a lot of information – consider making shorter and having the more info slide at the end to answer questions?
* Put the slide with all of our supporters up front!
* Talk about the bill and maybe the “exemption” – be clear there is a night and day difference between regular and chronic application in widespread at and residential application vs one-time controlled application by trained professionals for a specific outcome – completely opposite ends of the spectrum. – Put this up front much earlier. A conservation use vs a traditional application. Inherent in the bill, our controlled application for conservation what we’re proposing is a necessary use of this tool and allowed even in this bill. Minuscule amount compare to what’s been used year after year on mainland and caused these issues - very supportive of this not being used on mainland. But it has it’s place and time and this is it.
* Isotopes show that they do eat ?
* Way too many slides – generally a good guideline is a slide per minute.
* Put some of what you have at the end about a crisis about to happen – put up front. The long journey of restoration – this is one of the final steps – long arc of restoration. Bigger petrel conservation plan – talk about that too. Our declining to list is predicated on mouse eradication.
* Identify the key message for each slide – put it in your notes. That way you don’t read the text on all the slides.
* When you get to success stories – aerial rodenticide was used in EVERY successful eradication. The commonly accepted tool for this type of challenge.
* Project Risks – lots of info, point is really project will go through significant efforts to keep bait out of the water and only minimal amounts will get in the water.
* Have a slide where you say – every effort will be taken to keep bait out of the water. Some will happen – monitoring coastal environments has shown in past there is no residue in water or in other species in open ocean coast. In some situations that areNOT like the Farallones – lagoon or closed water – there has been detection. But for situations like Farallones like Anacapa – no residual.
* Stuff to cut – history of people etc – don’t have time.
* Opportunity to remind – not part of the sanctuary, but resources on island are critical to the sanctuary. Research on this island led to our understanding of climate change, predators are indicators of the environmental quality and helps us track impacts of impacts. The island is critical to the sanctuary and vice versa. Play up the interconnectedness. By restoring the island, you are restoring an important part of the sanctuary.
* Be careful of spelling of Brodifacoum – make sure it’s accurate throughout
* Description of owls and their movement – show the time graph and say here in august – their migration hormones are ramping up, they fly through and land on Farallones. The ones that stay, their migration hormones have dissipated, so they don’t want to fly away, so they stay.
* Anyone else who wants to see it again on Tuesday? Jorge said he wants to be there, and Brad.

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