



Zero Invasive Predators Ltd (ZIP): Role Description

Title: Field Ranger

Location: Bottle Rock peninsula, Queen Charlotte Sound

Manager's title: Field Team Lead

Context

ZIP was established in February 2015 by founding partners DOC and NEXT Foundation, as a limited liability research and development entity focused on developing the tools and techniques to enable an ambitious and exciting vision for New Zealand:

The complete removal of rats, stoats, and possums from large mainland areas for the long term, sustainable protection of native biodiversity.

ZIP's mission is to ensure the long-term security of New Zealand's biodiversity by developing operationally ready, innovative, strongly supported technologies to remove invasive predators from mainland sites, and protect those sites against reinvasion. We call this model 'Remove and Protect'.

The Remove and Protect approach, if successful, will make it possible to:

- carry out predator control in terrain where it is neither desirable nor possible to construct predator fences
- reduce our dependence on the repeated wide scale application of toxins at chosen sites
- enable progressive expansion of a protected area as funds and confidence allow
- create an environment on the mainland where, in time, ecological integrity could rival that of predator-free offshore islands

In September 2014, a field development site was established by the team (then under DOC management) at Bottle Rock Peninsula, in Queen Charlotte Sound. Here, we are assessing the effectiveness of the current predator control toolset in a 'virtual barrier' system, and testing new prototype technologies as they develop.

ZIP Values and Guiding Principles

- Invest strategically
- Be adaptive, agile and decisive
- Deliver rapid prototypes and experiment
- Create accessible solutions that work well
- Collaborate with contributors
- Ensure measurable progress
- Communicate openly
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Keep people safe

Purpose of the role

- Provide operational support to the ZIP field team, ensuring all work undertaken on site is to a high standard and enables system learning/improvement.
- Be 'embedded' in the challenge – operate systems at field development site(s) (approx. 90% time in the field), providing quality data and effective feedback loops on the performance of individual tools and system as a whole.
- Field test new developments from ZIP to ground truth their ability to perform to the standard required to become part of the remove and protect system at scale.

Functions of the role

- Operational support, as part of the field team, with key tasks including (but not limited to) servicing traps, bait stations, detection devices, electronic equipment, and development prototypes; initially at 440 ha Bottle Rock Peninsula site in Queen Charlotte Sound (accessed by boat from Picton in the Marlborough Sounds).
- Maintain operation of remove and protect system in situ; and implement system changes and modifications as required – establish effective feedback loops and mechanisms to connect field observations with development work.
- Collect and collate high quality data from field development site(s) for the team to access and utilise in planning and development work.
- Provide input into operational planning as required.
- Lead trials within field development site system where appropriate.

ZIP Organisational Structure

