

## Best Practice for Muscattract Lure

### Introduction

This covers the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) of accomplishing the application of Muscattract Lure for the control of Mustelids (*ferret, stoat, and weasel*) and feral cats. This is based on reputable procedures that have proven themselves as a result of research outcomes and over time by Connovation field advisors and large numbers of customers.

Muscattract lure is a ready-to-use liquid, fish lure based on salmon flavour. Muscattract is entirely non-toxic and highly attractive to mustelids and feral cats and will attract them to trap and bait placement sites.

### Background

Mustelids and feral cats are lethal to our native wildlife. They are some of the main predators of our native birds. Can be equally at home in forests, bush/pasture margins, as they are in coastal habitats. They are killing machines and can predate on native birds, their eggs and fledglings, and other native critters such as lizards, frogs etc. Can be excellent climbers and very good at finding nesting birds. They are very aggressive, possessing sharp teeth and claws and they are not afraid of anything. Adding to the problem is their ability to quickly reproduce and travel large distances in search of food. Stoats are one of the worst predators of New Zealand's native wildlife.

### Why use Muscattract

- \*Highly effective as it has an odour similar to fish
- \*Extended field life; does not get fly blown and will easily outlast a lot of other fresh baits
- \*Practical and a good companion product for use with Erayz Blocks and Paste
- \*Shelf life 6 months
- \*Use as a concentrate or can be diluted; best to use as a concentrate as it will endure for long periods of time once sprayed.
- \*While not specifically tested, other pests such as hedgehogs and rodents may be attracted to and find the scent of Muscattract alluring. Therefore, some merit when used in conjunction with trapping of them.

### Muscattract

Sometimes referred to as salmon or fish lure; a brown/yellow coloured liquid with viscosity similar to a light cooking oil.

Comes packed as a concentrate in either 50ml or 500ml bottles.

### **Application**

There are a variety of different ways to use Muscattract.

- 1) Decant the concentrated lure into trigger spray bottles and apply as a general spray around trap and bait placement sites and over baits to enhance animals encountering baits and devices.
- 2) When using DOC traps in boxes, spray onto the wooden box internal surface walls and the odour will remain in the wood for some time and continue to lure animals
- 3) When trapping with live capture cages and Timms Possum Traps (for mustelids or feral cats), the Muscattract can be poured onto muslin cloth or a small square of sponge and wired onto bait hooks. Re-dipping into concentrated Muscattract lure when the odour starts to diminish.

### **Mustelid Sign**

Scats or droppings, animal sightings, and recordings, be it footprints left on inked cards when animals run through tunnels, video footage or hair sampling where tubes are put out with sticky paper or Velcro and as animal run past hairs are left that can then be identified under a microscope.