



NZ Fairy tern shell patch enhancement in the Mangawhai Government Purpose Wildlife Refuge Reserve

Department of Conservation Whangarei Office notification of shell patch enhancement in Mangawhai Government Purpose Wildlife Refuge Reserve.

Notification

The purpose of this notification is to inform affected parties of the planned shell patch enhancement operation and maintain an open line of communication with community.

Methods

DOC along with the NZ Defence force (NZDF) will deliver 37 tonnes of shell to specific areas of the Mangawhai Government Purpose Wildlife Refuge Reserve.

The shell will be delivered via NZDF helicopter in phages underneath the aircraft. A tractor will also be on site to help shape the shell patches.

Timeframe

The operation will happen on the week of the 3rd -7th August 2020. NZDF staff will be on site to control any risks to public. During this time, we encourage people to stay off the spit.

Questions?

For any further details or questions please contact the Whangarei Area Office. Phone: 09 470 3300. Email: whangarei@doc.govt.nz

Why are we enhancing shell patches?

The Mangawhai Government Purpose Wildlife Refuge Reserve is a key breeding site for the critically endangered NZ fairy tern. Fairy terns rely on shell patches to camouflage their nests. Historically, nests have been laid in unsafe places at risk from tidal inundation. The purpose of this operation is to provide more safe shell patches for the fairy terns to breed on.

Key facts

A helicopter will be flying to and from the spit carrying an underslung load.

Shell will be mounded up in specific locations on the spit.

- DO NOT approach the helicopter
- DO NOT disturb the shell patches

We anticipate the helicopter will only be flying for 1-2 days. After the 7th August you that you can resume normal activities in the area.

If you are in doubt, please contact the Whangarei Area Office, 09 470 3300

Map of shell patch enhancement area



Mangawhai Government Purpose
Wildlife Refuge Reserve

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