Rodents Continue to Spread Diseases
Rats Cause Fires by Chewing Wires… and may cause unexplained vessel fires
Wildlife Islands Are Vulnerable to Rats
Alaska’s Islands have a priceless seabird resource
Rats take: eggs, chicks, adults
Great Circle Route Brings Many Ships By Refuge Islands
Shipwrecks Can Introduce Rats

Selendang Ayu – December 2005
On refuge land on Unalaska Is.
This method of introduction is called a “rat spill”

Chil Bo San #6
Unalaska Island
1992
But there are other ways rats can reach new locations ...

Particularly “hitch-hiking” rats off

- Fish processors
- Cargo ships
- Military vessels
- Fishing vessels

Even passenger and research ships …and aircraft
Some Alaskan ports are rat infested
St. Paul & St. George Have Rat Prevention Programs Backed by Municipal Ordinance
1993 – present
6 rats in a million trap nights

Pribilof Islands
Lead the counter-insurgency

• Raise awareness of the rat problem

• Enlist participation of vessel owners, staff, neighbors, and public

• Develop integrated pest management

• Evaluate results, modify as needed
The state is publishing a Rat Control Action Plan

Wildlife and Humans at Risk:
A Plan for Returning Alaska to its Rat-Free State
Draft Sent to Reviewers -- 7/18/06

By E.I. Fritts
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Look especially at:

- Section 6.2 – Outreach and Involvement
- Section 6.6 – Review and Implement Prevention Techniques
- Appendix C – Rat Behaviors & Attributes
- Appendix N – Example Outreach Text for Posting Aboard Ships
Does your harbor have rats?

• If not, take steps to be sure you don’t get them.

• If you do have, ensure that you do not infest the vessels using your harbor. Develop a control plan.
Steps to halting the invading force

• Pathways analysis
• Risk analysis
  inspection, ID
  cost, safety, efficacy
  best control methods

Decide what needs to be done and how

Use multiple, overlapping means and “overdo it”
Rat Free Island

No Rat Infested Ships Allowed

St. Paul Ordinance 94-02
Integrated Pest Management for both prevention and control

• Sanitation (garbage control, etc)

• Clean up cover (harborage for rodents) – trash, clearing brush, grass

• Structural Design & maintenance

• Proper control measures
Modify structures to stop rodents and deny them “harborage”
Store Foods Out Of Reach

Properly Control Garbage
Control Techniques

- Deny food, water, "harborage"
- Physical exclusion
- Trapping
- "Toxicants"
- Other methods
Other means may include:

- Frightening
- Repellants
- Fumigants
- Clubbing or shooting
- Cats or dogs
- Natural or introduced predators
Control rats with snap traps, sticky boards, and poison
Use the best control methods, and plan for maximum effectiveness

• Learn rat behaviors

• Place traps, baits in rat territories and routes

• Establish an on-going prevention/control program
Prevent rats from boarding, leaving vessels

- Rat guards on all ship lines
- Overhauling, inspecting nets, pots, lines
- Inspect cargoes
- Place traps near gangways and other access points
Overhaul or shake out gear before loading
Rodent Prevention Kits given to vessels and to harbors for distribution to vessels.
Sailing for the Pribilofs?

Don't Be XXX-RATed

FREE RAT PREVENTION KITS!
Infested vessels will be evicted. Please do your part to protect public sanitation, wildlife, and the seafood industry. Install a prevention kit! For free kit and information contact:

Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program
(907) 546-3190
St. Paul Traditional Government
(907) 546-2641

Warning

Keep A Rat Free Ship!

Protect Your Health
Rats, mice, and their flea can transmit diseases, including the plague, salmonellosis, leptospirosis, trichinosis, and rat bite fever. Rodents also cause unnecessary distress by leaving behind droppings. The droppings are often left unwashed, and this can result in the spread of bed bugs, which can be difficult to remove.

Protect Your Ship and Cargo
Rodents cause harm by chewing on electrical wires. Their front teeth grow continuously so they must chew to keep them short and sharp. They will chew on almost anything. They also create hydraulic leaks, spilled material for water, and eat and contaminate food.

Protect our Environment
Exotic rodents pose threats to the environment, particularly to Alaska's islands. If introduced to new areas, they destroy habitat, kill wildlife, and may affect wildlife with disease.

Don't let your ship carry rodents to new places where they could get off in freight, gear, garbage, or by skag-packet.

Qualifying vessels may get a free rat prevention kit
Harbor Master’s Office

This program funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Hoofer Environmental and the commissioners of St. Paul and St. George of the Biskaj Islands.
Rat prevention/control is not a one-shot effort
Better to maintain a continuous prevention and control program than to respond to a rat crisis.
Look for
www.stoprats.org
Any questions?
We Want To Hear From You

Please fill out questionnaire!

- Do you have rats/house mice?
- Are you worried about rats arriving on vessels?
- Do you have a rat control program?
- Do you need help?
- Comments/ideas?

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