



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Ranger, Tara iti Seasonal Predator Control

Location	Auckland, Mahurangi Warkworth Office
Dates of Employment	7 th September 2026 – 28 th February 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$60,703 - \$71,500

Mō te tūranga | About the role

The New Zealand Fairy Tern/ Tara iti is New Zealand's rarest endemic breeding bird. There are currently fewer than 45 birds left in the population. The survival of this species is supported by a dedicated team of DOC staff.

During the tara iti summer breeding season we recruit extra people to look after breeding pairs, nests, and important sites across Auckland and Northland. Controlling predators at these sites is an important part of ensuring the survival of the species. We're looking for someone to work with our Predator Control Lead to help the team carry out predator control activities including trapping, monitoring and live dispatch.

Key Tasks

- Trapping and baiting, using both kill-traps and live-capture (leghold) traps
- Using TrapNZ to record and manage data
- Delivering bait to sites
- Maintenance of trail camera network around predator control sites
- Occasional support for firearms operations to control predators
- Trapline maintenance including some bush clearance
- Equipment maintenance
- Operational support for the wider team as required

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

If you have some of following, we are keen to hear from you:

- Working knowledge of different types of traps including DOC series, SA, legholds, including how to maintain them

- Knowledge of the ecology and biology of predator species including rodents and mustelids, with a focus on how to recognise each species and their preferred environments.
- Experience laying traplines
- Knowledge of TrapNZ or similar GPS/ GIS software, and experience using it in the field
- Experience working in New Zealand's back country, especially at coastal sites
- Ability to work independently, comfortable with working alone in the field
- Full New Zealand drivers' license
- Ability to drive a manual vehicle, including off-road
- Availability for evening and weekend work

Desirable:

- Current First Aid certificate
- Experience working in New Zealand's back country
- LUV qualification e.g. NZQA or similar
- 4-wheel drive qualification e.g. NZQA or similar
- Familiarity with trail camera technology
- Experience using kayak or canoes
- Firearms license

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Tara Iti program operates across multiple coastal sites including Mangawhai, Waipū, Pāpakanui, Pākiri, and Te Ārai. As a seasonal Ranger you'll be expected to work across all these sites and occasionally in other places as decided by the needs of the program. You'll be working closely with the Predator Control Lead to carry out most of your tasks.

Additional Information

Roster: Rangers work 5 days on/ 2 days off with days off during the week. All Rangers are expected to work weekends and public holidays including Christmas. This is a full-time 40hr/ week role with flexible working hours depending on the work.

Accommodation: The successful candidate will have/ find their own local accommodation. DOC does not provide accommodation for this role. There is no requirement to be located in any particular area. The successful candidate is responsible for their own transport to and from their Home Base. DOC vehicles are provided for work travel.

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Kate Sparks ksparks@doc.govt.nz