

SCOTT ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA

– Guidelines for Setting Rodent Traps on Vessels –



General guidelines

- **Never store food on your boat:** Rodents have an acute sense of smell, and catching a whiff of food from your boat makes nesting onboard attractive.
- **Good sanitation is a key to prevention:** Keep food and garbage in tightly sealed storage areas to avoid tempting rodents to board. Make sure to remove all traces of snacks and trash when storing your boat to minimize the odds of your vessel attracting rodents.
- **Be mindful of access points:** Whether you store your boat in the water or out, being mindful of access points is a good first step to keep rodents out of boats. Even simple adaptations like keeping ladders stored onboard can make accessing your boat significantly more difficult for rodent invaders.
- When tying up in port, **look for ways rodents could board your boat**, and take steps to stop them. Rodents are excellent climbers, jumpers and swimmers!
- **Use rodent guards** on tie-up lines where appropriate.
- As rodents are nocturnal, **lighting up gangways and ramps at night** can discourage them.
- **Seal entry points** to the vessel's interior, such as cable chases, and put screens or louvers over windows and vents.
- **Inspect and shake out fishing nets and lines**, before taking them aboard. Rodents particularly like to nest and shelter in trawl and seine nets and coils of ground line. Most gear storage facilities do NOT have rodent control programs. Soap does not work to protect stored nets from rodent damage.
- **Inspect cargo for rodent sign:** Rodents can hide in containers and in pallets.
- **Never throw a live rodent overboard:** They are good swimmers and may reach land.

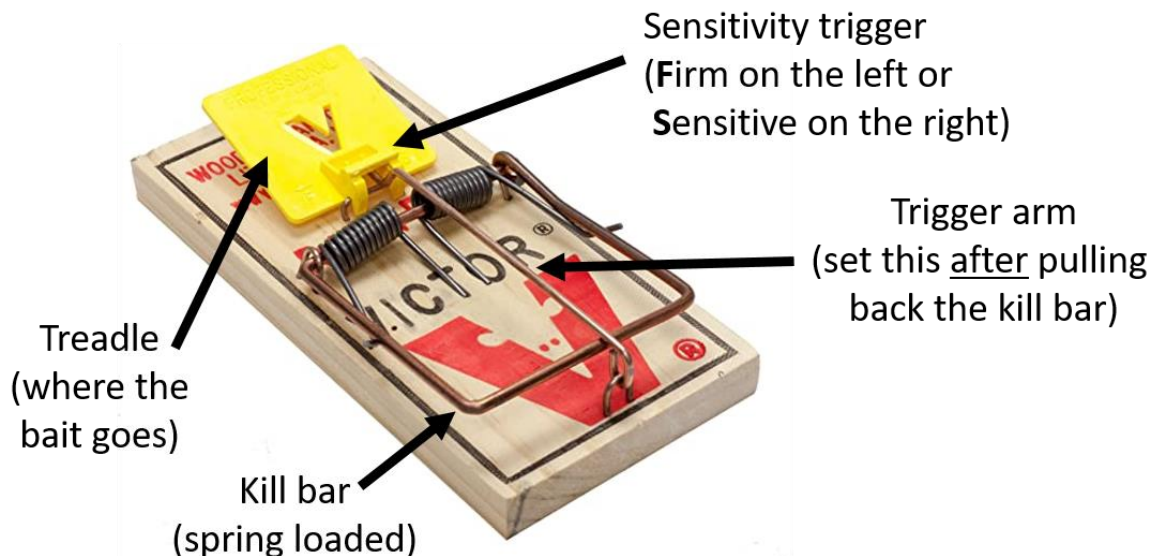
--- NEVER SET TRAPS WHERE PETS and/or CHILDREN CAN REACH THEM! ---

Where and when to set traps

- **Set traps in strategic locations:** After identifying possible access points, consider setting traps to capture any stowaways that might make it past your first lines of defense. Setting traps strategically, in places like on top of trailer tires or next to mooring ties, can help keep rodents out of your boat.
- **Place traps along walls** and where rodent sign is found such as dark and concealed spaces and near food or garbage.
- If you catch one rodent, do not assume it is the only one. **Re-deploy traps!**
- When tied up in ports **deploy traps** near any possible spot a rodent could board.

How to set traps

- **Always wear gloves when setting traps:** Your scent will deter rats from feeding on the bait.
- **Use fresh bait (peanut butter works well), and be patient:** Rodents are wary of new items in their environment.
- Set baited traps **without depressing the kill bar initially** to allow rodents to become comfortable with the trap, and then set the kill bar after 3-4 days.
- Place bait on treadle **before** depressing the kill arm!



Learn more, speak up, and spread the word!

- **Familiarize yourself** and crew with rodent sign, such as chewed materials, hair, rub marks, feces and urine. Periodically search dark and concealed spaces for sign.
- **Tell the harbourmasters** in the ports you patronize that you expect effective rodent prevention as part of the service you pay for.
- **Report rodent sightings** and especially a rodent invasion of your boat to the harbourmaster.
- **Ask about rodent control** where you store your gear.
- **Spread the word – Tell others how to get a free biosecurity kit.**