

Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands  
Number and placement of rodent bait boxes on vessels



On vessels, a number of areas have been identified as being higher risk in terms of rodent presence, and these areas should be the focus of monitoring. These monitoring areas include Rodent entry / exit points such as the forward and aft mooring areas, gangway, zodiac storage and cargo receiving areas, and potential rodent harbourage such as waste and dry provision storage areas.

**For vessels with a load line length of more than 24 metres**, rodent monitoring stations should be placed in each of the areas described in Table 1, where those areas exist such that a vessel may have up to a maximum of 6 rodent monitoring stations. Note that some vessels will not have all of these distinct areas, and as such will require fewer bait boxes.

Rodent monitoring stations should be placed in quiet and sheltered areas, and fixed where necessary to prevent movement in heavy seas.

Table 1 Locations of Rodent Monitoring Stations (for vessels LOA >24 metres)

Location	Type	Bait box
1 Foc'sle (mooring line locker or Bosun's locker)	Rodent entry / exit point	Y / N
2 Aft mooring deck	Rodent entry / exit point	Y / N
3 Zodiac storage or shelter deck	Rodent entry / exit point	Y / N
4 Cargo receiving areas	Rodent entry / exit point	Y / N
5 Dry food & provision stores	Rodent harbourage	Y / N
6 Waste storage areas	Rodent harbourage	Y / N

**Vessels with a load line length of less than 24 metres (including yachts)** should place 1 rodent monitoring station inside the vessel in an area with suitable conditions for rodents, and 1 rodent monitoring station on a sheltered area of deck while at anchor or alongside.



Rodent monitoring stations (or bait box) and wax bait blocks.

Rodent monitoring stations can be collected from the GSGSSI offices in Stanley, Falkland Islands, prior to departure for South Georgia. If the vessel will not be calling in the Falklands prior to landing in South Georgia it is the responsibility of the vessel to ensure that acceptable alternative rodent monitoring stations are in place. Contact GSGSSI to check requirements.

Rodent monitoring stations contain solid wax bait blocks impregnated with rodenticide (0.005% Difenacoum). GSGSSI requires the use of solid wax bait blocks to enable checks of the bait to show gnaw marks or unexplained damage to the wax block which may indicate the presence of rodents. Any such marks must be reported to GSGSSI before entry into the maritime zone. Loose bait such as pellets cannot be used as is it will not show any signs of disturbance by rodents.



*Bait showing rodent gnaw marks*



SOLID WAX BAIT BLOCKS



LOOSE BAIT PELLETS

If you have bait boxes already on board from previous visits to SGSSI, please check that the bait is intact and in good condition prior to departing for SGSSI. **At a minimum, bait should be replaced annually or if the bait becomes damp or damaged.** Bait will deteriorate more rapidly in wet locations than in dry sites. **Dispose of old bait blocks by incineration or in landfill.**

Additional boxes and replacement bait can be collected from the GSGSSI offices at Government House in Stanley.

Remain vigilant to the presence of rodents on board ship, including the presence of faeces, gnaw or chew marks, damage to provisions or suspected sightings. Ensure well-fitting rodent guards are fitted to mooring lines at gateway ports prior to arrival in SGSSI.



*Rat & mouse faeces*

### **Rodent Bait Safety**

Do not handle the bait blocks without gloves, and ensure that the bait is used only in the lockable boxes provided. Wash hands after checking the bait box. The bait used by GSGSSI is Roban Excel bait blocks, which contains 0.005% Difenacoum as the active ingredient. Safety Data sheets can be downloaded from the website <https://www.pelgar.co.uk/uk/product/roban-excel/>

### **Rat Poison Information**

#### **The poison contains 0.005% Difenacoum**

Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Do not smoke eat or drink while handling this product. Wash hands and face before eating, drinking or smoking.