

Rat Island (Hawadax Island) Norway Rat Eradication — A Cautionary Case in Non-Target Mortality (USA)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A 2008 aerial brodifacoum campaign removed Norway rats from Rat (Hawadax) Island, Alaska, but early snowfall preserved bait too long, killing an estimated 46 bald eagles and 320 gulls; by 2019 peer-reviewed monitoring showed gull nests up 291% and oystercatchers up ~900%.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-23

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge\) / Island Conservation / The Nature Conservancy](#) — accessed 2026-07-23

[Hakai Magazine — The Rat Spill](#) — accessed 2026-07-23

[PMC / Nature Scientific Reports — 11-year recovery study](#) — accessed 2026-07-23

[Scientific American — Did the Rat Island restoration effort kill 41 bald eagles?](#) — accessed 2026-07-23

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