

Rat Documented Swimming 400 meters

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- *From:* Rich Travsky <"traRvEsky"@hotmMOVEail.com>
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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4356980.stm>

The swimming ability of a rat which crossed open sea to find new territory has impressed New Zealand scientists.

The rodent had been radio tagged and its movements tracked by researchers to learn more about pest species and how they invade small islands.

The rat was released on the uninhabited island of Motuhoropapa but refused to be captured at the project's end.

The NZ team tells Nature magazine the animal finally turned up on the nearby Otata Island – a mighty swim of 400m.

James Russell, from the University of Auckland, and colleagues think this may be the longest distance recorded for a rat swimming across open sea.

"Norway rats can supposedly swim up to 600m but, to our knowledge, this is the first record of a rat swimming hundreds of metres across open water," they write.

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Obviously, rats are aquatic.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Rat Documented Swimming 400 meters***
◇ *From:* Algis Kuliukas
 - ◆ ***Re: Rat Documented Swimming 400 meters***
◇ *From:* Philip Deitiker
 - ◆ ***Re: Rat Documented Swimming 400 meters***
◇ *From:* spiznet
- Prev by Date: ***A Drift Hummer***

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