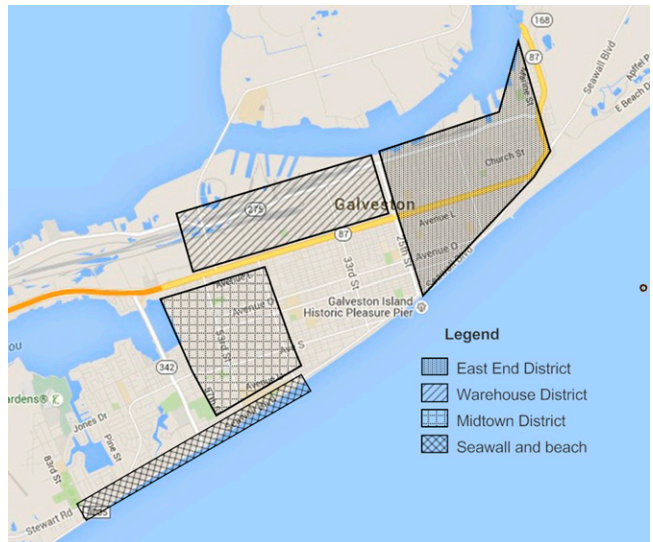


SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

RAT TRAPPING

Method. To collect rats, Sherman live animal traps (3 × 3.5 × 9 inch; H. B. Sherman Traps, Tallahassee, FL) were baited with a small ball (~2 cm in diameter) of a peanut butter, oats, and cornmeal mixture. At dusk, traps were placed in alleyways, around dumpsters, behind restaurants, and adjacent to derelict buildings in three areas of Galveston. Traps were also set along a fourth area known to harbor rats—the rip rap along the city’s seawall. The traps were retrieved at dawn.

Results. Sherman Traps were set on 18 evenings between June 30, 2015, and July 23, 2015, for a total of 463 trap nights (approximately 4,200 trap hours). Trapping was performed in four areas of Galveston: East End District, Warehouse District, Midtown District, and along the seawall and beach (Supplemental Figure 1). No rats were captured during the rat-trapping phase of the study. Several nontargeted animals (three mice, one crab, one kitten, and one opossum) were caught and subsequently released.



SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE 1. Baited Sherman traps were set in four different areas for the attempted collection of rats.