

CANNIBAL COVE



Despite the name, the Island mice and native islanders that call Cannibal Cove home are not ruthless, flesh-eating cannibals who take intraspecific competition to its extreme. Instead, Chuck Darlost awarded Cannibal Cove with its unfortunate misnomer after the superior native scientists discredited his first study on natal dispersal in Island mice. Chuck believed that male yearlings from Cannibal Cove were prematurely expelled from the maternal nests due to paternal resource competition, forcing the young male mice to wander toward the Message In A Bottle (MIB) coast. However, decades of study by the native scientists proved



that Cannibal Cove mice are no different from any other population: young mice leave the maternal nests unprompted by their parents two to three months after birth and exhibit strong site fidelity to their source population. In fact, Island mice rarely travel far from their home population, except for the occasional immigration of Dead Man Dunes mice to the Beach Bums and Beach Bums to the Realm of Spirits, or if washed away to Castaway Island.

For unknown reasons, Cannibal Cove mice always have three pups per litter, compared to the usual two to three in other populations.



The Cannibal Cove population is well adjusted to humans, and the native islanders in Cannibal Cove tolerate the mice, but do not tolerate Jack's sparrow. As a result, predation by Jack's sparrow is extremely low, and the Island mice benefit from shelter provided by huts and cabanas.



The native islanders do not collect mice from this population.



Noise from volcanic eruptions at Skull Mountain kills half of the Cannibal Cove population from cardiac arrest each year. The affected mice live in the habitats closest to the base of Skull Mountain and explosions occur once per year.



During the winter from November to May, Skull Mountain's toxic gas plume is forced over Cannibal Cove and kills mice if they are unsheltered.



The Resort Company has proposed developing an off-road adventure tour that would link Cannibal Cove to the Message In A Bottle beach. This development could reduce and fragment Cannibal Cove habitats, increase noise, and potentially introduce Darlost's Fire to Cannibal Cove.

Survey Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005-2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
# of Individuals (mark recapture)	200	250	300	325	350	200	325	340	390	325	400	350	400