

23 July 2026

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 25 June 2026, in which you asked for:

- "1. Where are the rat monitoring results from before and after? Pukanui & Stewart Island 1080 operation last year.*
- 2. Apart from the poisoning, what else was different about the management at the breeding site in 2025, compared with 2024, and the previous years? Pukanui & Stewart Island 1080 operation last year."*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. Where are the rat monitoring results from before and after? Pukanui & Stewart Island 1080 operation last year.*

The first set of pre- and post-operation monitoring results is available at the link below and was presented at a public meeting in Oban:

<https://blog.doc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Monitoring-results-fact-sheet-pukunui-predator-control-operation.pdf>

For this part of your request, I am sharing with you Item 1 Monitoring results update #2 Pukunui predator control-suppression. This update includes data collected from the DOC's rat monitoring grids.

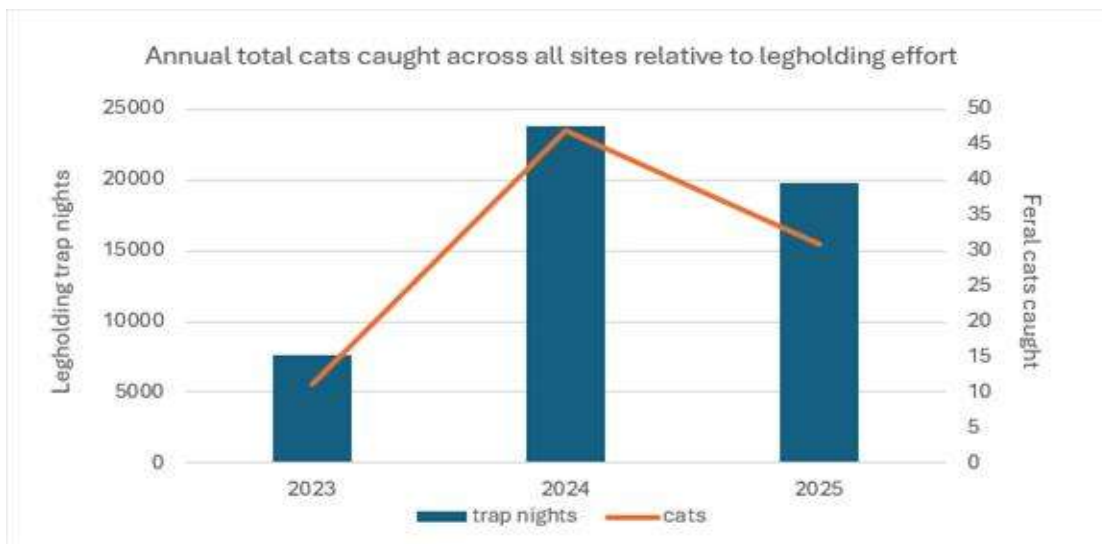
Predator Free Rakiura (PFR) undertook an operational trial across approximately 6,500 hectares of Rakiura National Park to assess whether all three rat species present on Rakiura (kiore, Norway rats, and ship rats) could be eradicated using 1080 toxin alone, and whether the addition of deer repellent affected the effectiveness of 1080 for these species. The trial results are available at: <https://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz/assets/PFR-Rat-Eradication-Trial-Results.pdf>.

Item 2 is a map showing the results of camera monitoring undertaken between May 2025 and March 2026. The map was presented as part of a public presentation on Rakiura in May 2026 showing weekly rat detections recorded at each camera location across both the treatment and control area monitoring grids. These camera networks were deployed primarily to monitor target predator species before and after the treatment. The results combine detections of all three rat species present on Rakiura, which are reported collectively as "rats", as species-level identification was not undertaken as part of this monitoring programme.

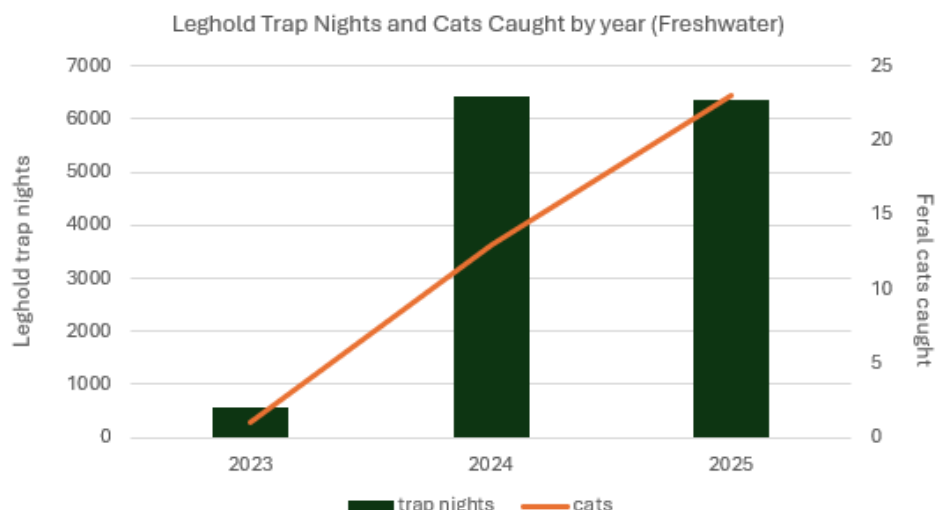
2. *Apart from the poisoning, what else was different about the management at the breeding site in 2025, compared with 2024, and the previous years? Pukanui & Stewart Island 1080 operation last year.*

The ground-based predator control programme remained largely unchanged between 2024 and 2025. The primary difference was that ground-set leghold trapping targeting feral cats was temporarily paused in areas treated with aerial 1080 following the operation. These traps have since been reactivated along the boundary of the aerial treatment area in response to detections of feral cats, to reduce the risk of reinvasion into the treated area.

The graph below shows an increase in trap nights between 2023 and 2024, which corresponded with an increase in feral cat captures. It also shows a slight reduction in trap nights between 2024 and 2025, alongside a decrease in feral cat captures. This reduction is likely attributable, in part, to the effectiveness of the aerial 1080 operation, which overlapped with some of the core trapping areas that were actively trapped in 2024.



In contrast, the Freshwater River/Rocky Mountain trapping area was located outside the aerial 1080 treatment area. Trapping effort in this area remained consistent between 2024 and 2025; however, feral cat captures increased from 13 to 23 over the same period.



Prior to 2023, feral cat control efforts included the use of ground-based 1080 bait stations. As this control method did not involve trap captures, comparable data on the number of feral cats killed through this method is not available.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department’s website.

Nāku noa, nā

Ben Reddiex
 Director Biodiversity National Programmes
 Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	25 November 2023	Monitoring results update #2 Pukunui predator control-suppression	Released in full
2	May 2026	Map showing the results of camera monitoring undertaken between May 2025 and March 2026.	Released in full