

OIAD-4645

04 December 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 06 November 2024, in which you asked:

I was recently sent a snippet from the Stewart Island Update referring to current brodifacoum testing in Te Whaka ā Te Wera Mātaitai. I was wanting to know if there are any reports or data relating to this current program that you could share that we could incorporate into our review for completeness?

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

The Department of Conservation aurally applied Pestoff 20R Rodent Bait (containing 20ppm brodifacoum) to eradicate rats from Ulva Island in 2011 and 2023. Associated marine monitoring found low residual concentrations of brodifacoum for up to 9 months in some marine species following the 2011 operation¹ and ongoing residues near the detectable limit (1ng/g or 1part per billion) in some blue cod livers post 2023. The detected residues present a very low risk of adverse effect to human health via consumption of exposed marine species¹.

Five toxicology reports fall in scope of your request. I have decided to release these documents, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Official Information Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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.

¹ Masuda, B. M., Fisher, P., & Beaven, B. (2015). Residue profiles of brodifacoum in coastal marine species following an island rodent eradication. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, 113, 1-8.

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 National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	25 October 2023	Toxicology report T8294	Released in part
2	8 December 2023	Toxicology report T8351	Released in part
3	7 February 2024	Toxicology report T8375	Released in part
4	17 May 2024	Toxicology report T8431	Released in part
5	18 October 2024	Toxicology report T8568	Released in part