



20 February 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 27 January 2025, in which you asked for:

*I seek a copy of a report on or the results of the whio survey in Kahurangi NP described in this DOC website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2023-media-releases/big-increase-in-whio-numbers-in-kahurangi-national-park/>.*

*The article states that the survey began in 2020 and was still underway in September 2023. I expect it's now finished and a report has been prepared. However, if not, it would still be useful for me to have the substantive results. I'm seeking to understand the effectiveness of predator management to benefit whio and other forest and river bird species.*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *I seek a copy of a report on or the results of the whio survey in Kahurangi NP described in this DOC website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2023-media-releases/big-increase-in-whio-numbers-in-kahurangi-national-park/>. The article states that the survey began in 2020 and was still underway in September 2023. I expect it's now finished and a report has been prepared. However, if not, it would still be useful for me to have the substantive results. I'm seeking to understand the effectiveness of predator management to benefit whio and other forest and river bird species.*

Please find attached a copy of the report titled "Survey of the Distribution and Abundance of whio in Kahurangi National Park", dated (no month) 2024. This report, undertaken by the fauna science team, details the methods, results, and conclusions of the Kahurangi NP whio survey undertaken between July 2020 and April 2023.

In addition, attached is a document titled “Kahurangi Whio Survey Update”, dated September 2024 and undertaken by the fauna science team. This report investigates the observed whio population decline in some rivers of the Kahurangi National Park between the original survey undertaken between 1998-2000 and the most recent survey conducted between 2020-2023.

These two documents should assist you to understand the effectiveness of predator management for whio.

Please note, a final report from the fauna science team that combines these two documents is due to be completed mid-year in 2025. This may be provided upon request (contact person at the end of this letter).

The documents released with this OIA are described in Table 1. below.

Table 1. Description of released documents associated with OIAD-4852

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	(no month) 2024	Survey of the Distribution and Abundance of whio in Kahurangi National Park	Released in full.
2	September 2024	Kahurangi Whio Survey Update	Released in full.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Cassie Mealey, Whio Recovery Group Lead, by email to [cmealey@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cmealey@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman  
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*