

16 September 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 11 August 2025, in which you asked for:

1. *Total government spend on hoiho from 1 July 2019 to present by project and year.*
2. *Total recorded hoiho mortalities from all causes, and cause of death, over the period 2000-2025, by fishing year or date if that is easier.*

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

On 21 August 2025 you clarified your request in relation to your second question, that hoiho mortalities are sought for all age classes of hoiho.

On 5 September 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 16 September due to the consultation necessary to make a decision on your request.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Total government spend on hoiho from 1 July 2019 to present by project and year.*

The total estimated DOC spend for hoiho from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2025 is 3,100,593 NZD. Please find attached an excel spreadsheet (item 1 below) detailing spend on hoiho by project and finance year (1 July to 30 June). The spreadsheet includes a tab for the Southern South Island (SSI) District Office operational budgets and a second tab for Biodiversity Heritage and Visitor Group budgets.

These lists only include funding that was specifically used for hoiho and excludes salaries for permanent staff. Some of the values provided are estimates, extracted from finance information from programmes with wider work deliverables. It does not include funding from other sources, e.g. fully cost recovered projects under the Conservation Services Programme, or DOC Community Funding not specific to hoiho (e.g. for the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital, which is externally managed and includes treatment for other species).

2. *Total recorded hoiho mortalities from all causes, and cause of death, over the period 2000-2025, by fishing year or date if that is easier.*

Please find attached an excel spreadsheet detailing hoiho deaths, grouped by fishing year (1 October to 30 September) and age class (item 2 below). Please note that many of the deaths relate to young chicks, which do not access the marine environment and are therefore not comparable to adult or juvenile deaths. A description for each age class and cause of death is provided in the excel spreadsheet (see tabs 'Age' and 'COD').

There are some caveats associated with the information provided to you: Early neonate chick deaths are in some instances listed as "unknown" due to a lack of definitive records, and overall chick deaths before 2020 may be underreported, as management and recording intensified the following years. Records from 2000 to the 2019/20 fishing year (i.e. records from the retired hoiho database) have been error-checked and some were informed by post-mortem reports as part of a MPI contract. However, records from 2020/21 onward are recorded in seasonal spreadsheets and have not yet been error-checked. Furthermore, bycatch figures from our dataset appear lower than MPI records. This is because we only report bycatch records that DOC holds in the retired hoiho database and seasonal spreadsheets. Please compare these with the publicly available data on the MPI website.

### Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	10 September 2025	Department of Conservation hoiho expenditure summary 2019 - 2025.xlsx	Released in full
2	10 September 2025	Death data hoiho 1999-00 until 2024-25.xlsx	Released in full

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



Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kirstie Knowles'.

Kirstie Knowles  
Director Biodiversity System and Aquatic  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*