

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/  
Conservation House 18  
Manners Street Te Aro,  
Wellington  
6011  
doc.govt.nz  
Ref: OIAD-6045

Tēnā koe

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

1. *Confirm whether any assessment of the marine contamination pathway (via ground water discharge) has ever been conducted for 1080 operations*
2. *If no such assessment exists, explain how the Department satisfies itself regarding New Zealand's obligations under UNCLOS, the convention on Biological Diversity, and the London Protocol*
3. *Provide any internal communications, advice, or assessment regarding the 99.9% vertical infiltration finding from the Srinivasan – Suren (2018) study*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Confirm whether any assessment of the marine contamination pathway (via ground water discharge) has ever been conducted for 1080 operations*

DOC holds no assessment of marine contamination pathways via groundwater discharge from 1080 operations beyond what is publicly available in the 1080 Pesticide Review which was previously provided to you within OIAD-5445 on 7 August 2025.

DOC has not commissioned any further assessment of this risk, as available research indicates that 1080 operations are unlikely to contaminate ground water<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the timeframe associated with groundwater reaching the marine environment (if any groundwater contamination was to occur), and the dilution when it reached the marine environment means DOC does not consider this poses a risk.

You may wish to direct any further questions regarding toxin regulation or environmental risk assessment to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), which is the agency responsible for the approval and regulation of vertebrate toxic agents in New Zealand, including 1080.

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<sup>1</sup> Bowman, R.G. 1999. Fate of sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) following disposal of pest bait to a landfill. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 23: 193-197.

Eason, C.T.; Wright, G.R.; Fitzgerald, H. 1992. Sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) water residue analysis after large-scale possum control. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 16: 47-49

2. *If no such assessment exists, explain how the Department satisfies itself regarding New Zealand's obligations under UNCLOS, the convention on Biological Diversity, and the London Protocol*

DOC is satisfied that our operations do not contaminate the marine environment with 1080 because:

- Operations adhere to measures that avoid or minimise the risk of applying baits directly into the sea.
- 1080 leaches quickly from baits in water.
- The level of dilution is such that any resulting 1080 concentrations in waterbodies are very low, rapidly drop to undetectable levels, and are considered toxicologically insignificant.
- 1080 is quickly defluorinated in natural water, meaning accumulation is not possible.

For broader regulatory matters relating to environmental fate or toxin risk assessment, requestors may wish to raise their concerns with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), which is responsible for the approval and regulation of vertebrate toxic agents in New Zealand.

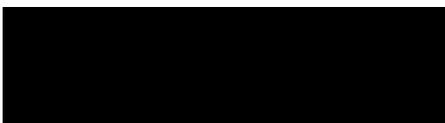
3. *Provide any internal communications, advice, or assessment regarding the 99.9% vertical infiltration finding from the Srinivasan – Suren (2018) study*

This question is refused under section 18 (e) of the OIA. This is on the basis that no related information is held.

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 OIA.

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

Nāku noa, nā



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