

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/  
Conservation House 18  
Manners Street Te Aro,  
Wellington  
6011  
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5358

22 July 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 24 June 2025, in which you asked:

*"When will helicopter flight paths and bucket logs be released?"*

*This data must be publicly released asap to ensure transparency and safety of recreational hunters holding an open zone permit.*

*ESPECIALLY when toxic loads commence.*

*Furthermore- HOW have operations started with out promised marine testing and marine species mitigation plans. The set backs are not enough to ensure fisherman's livelihoods are not put at stake.*

*Not carrying out these tests before commencing aerial 1080 is a breach of consultation with affected parties.*

*I would also like to know when the "fisheries and marine farming update" (dated 25th may) was released and why was it not publicly released, it's not only commercial fisheries that could be affected, recreational fishers and the wider community should have the right to be informed.*

*I request to be updated ASAP with flight paths and bucket logs to ensure my safety as a recreational open zone hunter and also a regular recreational and commercial fisherman."*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *When will helicopter flight paths and bucket logs be released?*

*This data must be publicly released asap to ensure transparency and safety of recreational hunters holding an open zone permit. ESPECIALLY when toxic loads commence.*

Up to date information about 1080 bait application within Rakiura National Park is publicly available at this this website: [Pesticide summaries: Animal pests](#). The Pesticide Summary is a regularly updated record of all toxin use on public conservation lands. It includes maps showing where pesticides including 1080 have been laid, or will be laid, on public conservation land anywhere in New Zealand. The website is updated every 24 hours.

A map of helicopter flight paths for the first bait application is also provided below. Maps for subsequent bait applications can be provided on request; however, it takes some time to convert the flight path data into a publicly viewable map. For this reason, the information available to you through the Pesticide Summary provides a faster, more easily accessible record of where any toxins have been laid on Rakiura.

2. *Furthermore- HOW have operations started with out promised marine testing and marine species mitigation plans. The set backs are not enough to ensure fisherman's livelihoods are not put at stake. Not carrying out these tests before commencing aerial 1080 is a breach of consultation with affected parties.*

One of the outcomes from consultation with the commercial wild catch and marine farming industries and Rakiura community was that a commitment was made not to sow toxic bait into the sea during the operation to protect pukunui in 2025.

At the request of fishing and marine farming industry representatives and the Rakiura community, freshwater will be tested for residue of 1080 where rivers meet the sea following both phases of this operation.

**All water samples taken to date from the Rakeahua River catchment following Phase 1 have tested negative for 1080.**

A sample was collected before the aerial toxin operation, as a control, and then at 2 hours, 8 hours, and 24 hours after toxic bait was applied. These water samples were immediately frozen to slow any 1080 residue present from breaking down in the sample. The samples were transported to Manaaki Whenua–Landcare Research for analysis.

The tests completed by Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research are highly sensitive, with a detection limit of 0.1 parts per billion—like finding a few drops of ink in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

3. *I would also like to know when the “fisheries and marine farming update” (dated 25th may) was released and why was it not publicly released, it's not only commercial fisheries that could be affected, recreational fishers and the wider community should have the right to be informed.*

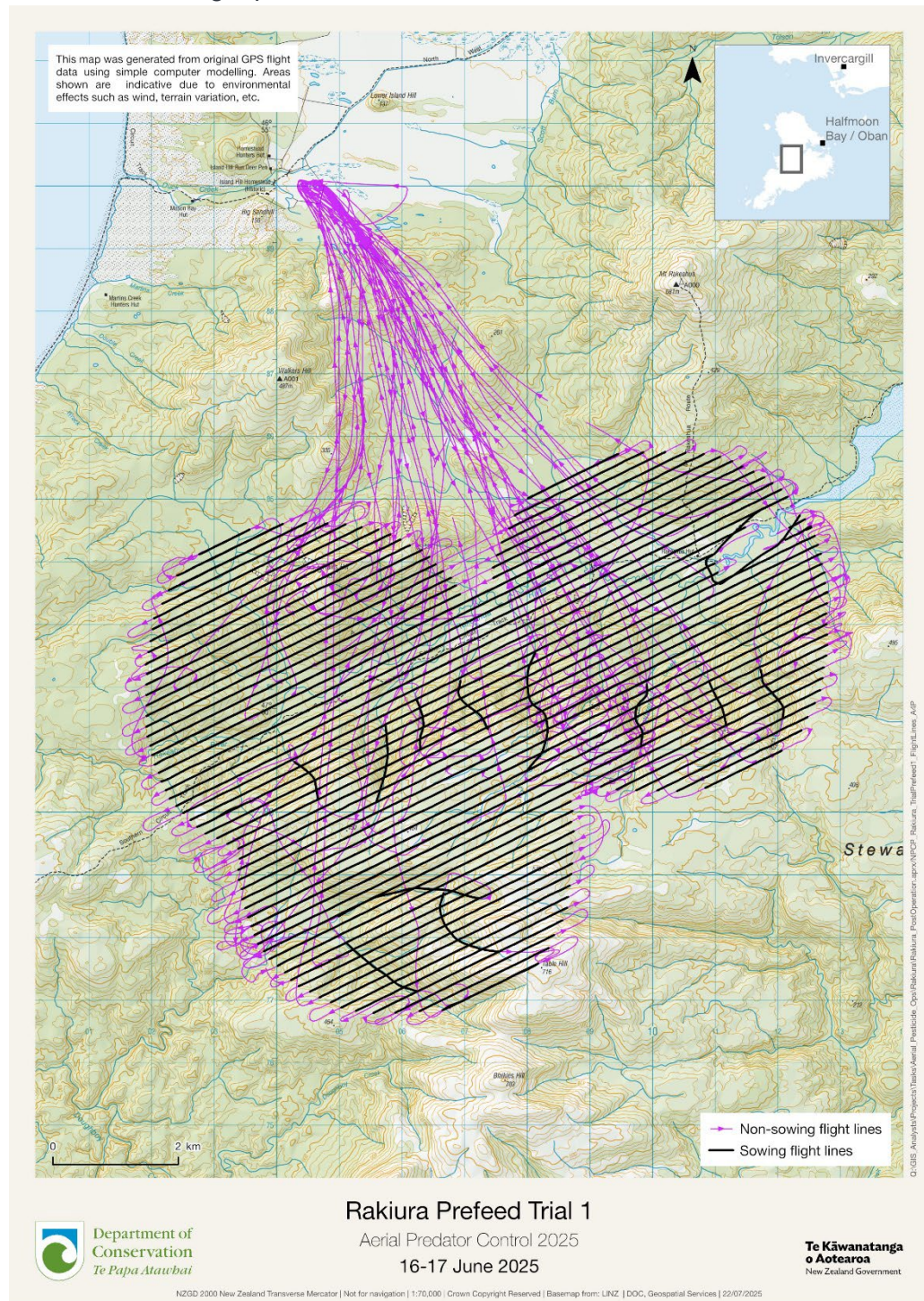
I assume the “fisheries and marine farming update” you are referring to is the slides/presentation from a consultation meeting held on 19 May 2025 with representatives from the wild catch and marine farming industries. Those slides were provided to those representatives after the meeting, with the open invitation to share with their networks. All the information contained within that presentation was also provided publicly via the notification key fact sheet (circulated on/from 24 May 2025) and at the local community hui (held 27 May 2025).

4. *I request to be updated ASAP with flight paths and bucket logs to ensure my safety as a recreational open zone hunter and also a regular recreational and commercial fisherman.*

To ensure public safety, information about where toxins have been laid on public conservation land on Rakiura, and advice for hunters and other park users is available on demand from this website: [Pesticide summaries: Animal pests](#).

The Pesticide Summary provides every member of the public with the most up to date information about toxin use on public conservation lands within 24 hours of bait being laid. A map of helicopter flight paths for the first bait application is also provided below; however, this repeats the information already available in the Pesticide Summary and it takes some time to convert the flight path data into a publicly viewable map, so this is a slower, less effective way of providing the information you are seeking.

Please find the flight path information below:



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ben Reddiex".

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