

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/  
Conservation House 18  
Manners Street Te Aro,  
Wellington

6011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5525

29 August 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 2 August 2025, in which you asked for:

*“... any studies conducted by DoC or those contracted and trial/study associates of DoC for all trial and study documents for the meat bait trials and for the research into the effect of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) on the rakiura shellfish/fish/ bluff oyster/titi aka muttonbird and any other industries potentially affected by 1080 use, including yet not limited too it's persistence, cumulation in all tissues (bone/shell/muscle/organ/soft tissue) as well as any related risk assessment associated with mitigating these studies/trials effect on associated industries including economic risk/s.”*

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

We have interpreted your request to include research about the use of 1080 meat bait on Rakiura, and research into potential effects of 1080 on the seafood (or other) industry on Rakiura.

#### 1080 and the Rakiura seafood (or other) industry

With regard to research into the potential effects of using 1080 on Rakiura and the seafood industry, DOC does not hold, and is not aware of, any relevant research. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not currently exist.

Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP), on behalf of a collaborative project team including DOC, Ministry of Primary Industries and representatives from the wild catch and marine farming industries, has engaged Cawthron Institute to undertake scientific trials involving 1080 in the marine environment. This research is still in its initial phase, with the analytical method now developed. The first series of trials will measure the diffusion of 1080 from cereal pellets in sea water. The results will be made public once completed. The project team will use these results to inform the next steps for this research stream.

#### 1080 meat bait on Rakiura

A hand laid field trial of 1080 meat sausage bait was conducted on Rakiura in July – August 2023. I have included the *Readymade feral cat bait research trials - Operational Report Winter 2023*. This comprehensive operational report provides a detailed summary of the trial methodology and findings.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	20 March 2024	Readymade feral cat bait research trials - Operational Report Winter 2023	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA to prevent improper pressure on officials.

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

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

Nāku noa, nā



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