

[Redacted]

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

30 September 2025

6011  
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5625

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 2 September 2025, in which you asked for information related to water sampling during phase 1 and phase 2 of the recent predator control operation of Rakiura.

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

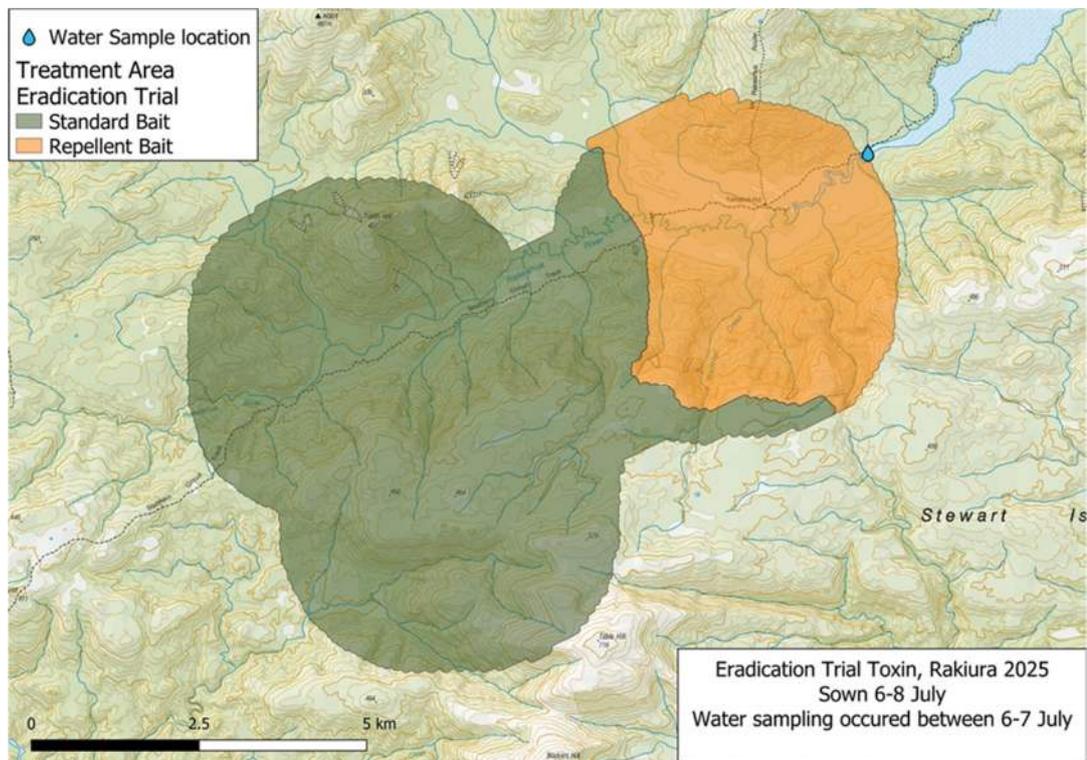
1. *Please provide the exact GPS location of where each and every water sample was taken?*

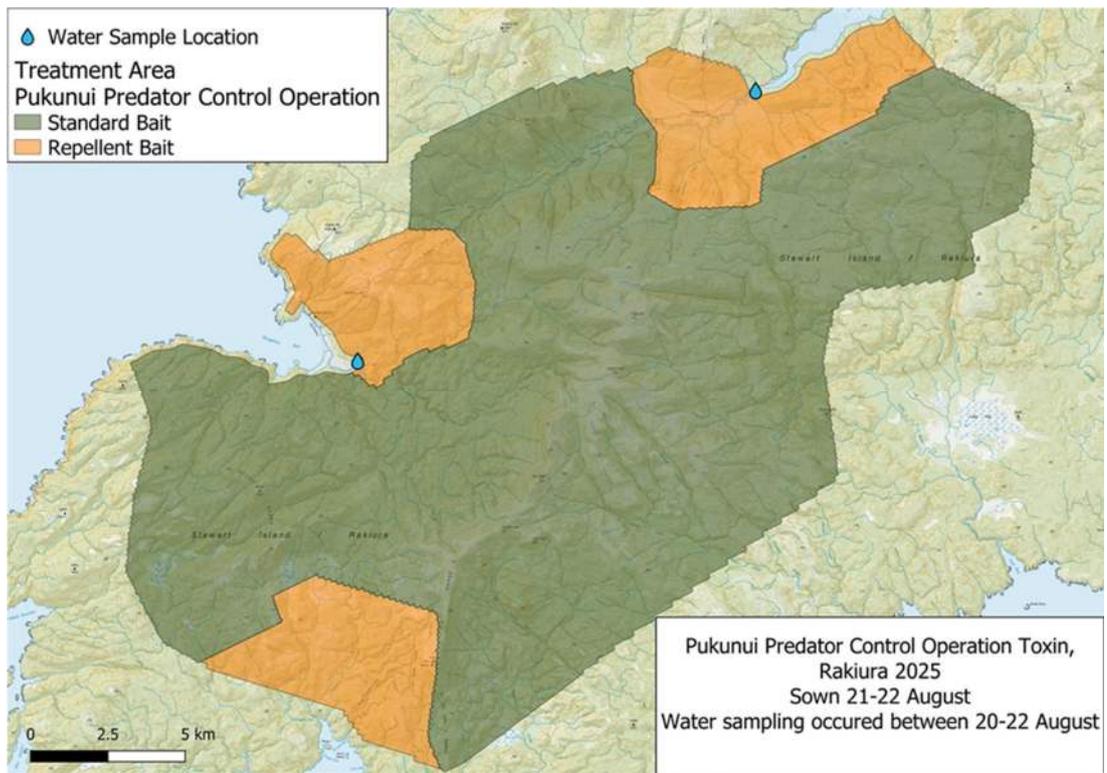
All water samples were taken at one of two locations.

Rakeahua: E 1212249, N 4784869

Doughboy: E 1199368, N 4776039

2. *Map plotting the location of where each and every water sample was taken?*





3. *Who authorised and / or was responsible for determining the exact locations for the water samples.?*

ZIP determined water testing locations for the operation. These locations were shared with the wild catch and marine farming industries as the proposed sites prior to the operation.

4. *How many samples were taken for each location?*

During **Phase One**, 4 samples were collected at the Rakeahua River location.

- Control (before baiting)
- 2hr
- 8hr
- 24hr

During **Phase Two**, 9 samples were collected between Rakeahua River and Doughboy Creek locations.

4 samples at the Doughboy location:

- Control (before baiting)
- 2hr

- 8hr
- 24hr

5 Samples at Rakeahua:

- Control (before baiting)
- A sample at the time sowing finished over the water sampling catchment
- 2hr
- 8hr
- 24hr

5. *What time was each water sample taken using the 24 hour clock?*

**Phase One**

- A pre-operational sample was collected at 13:20 Sunday 6 July 2025
- 2-hour water sample collected 17:10 Sunday 6 July 2025
- 8-hour water sample collected 23:20 Sunday 6 July 2025
- 24-hour water sample collected 15:10 Monday 7 July 2025

**Phase Two**

- Pre-operational samples were collected at Rakeahua at 12:40 and Doughboy at 14:56 Wednesday 20 August 2025

Rakeahua

- An additional sample was taken at 12:50 on Thursday 21 August 2025 (*please note this was an additional sample taken due to a miscommunication. It was not scheduled in the original programme but was tested and featured in the Manaaki Whenua report, so it is included here for completeness.*)
- 2-hour water sample collected 14:50 on Thursday 21 August 2025
- 8-hour water sample collected 20:50 on Thursday 21 August 2025
- 24-hour water sample collected 12:50 on Friday 22 August 2025

Doughboy

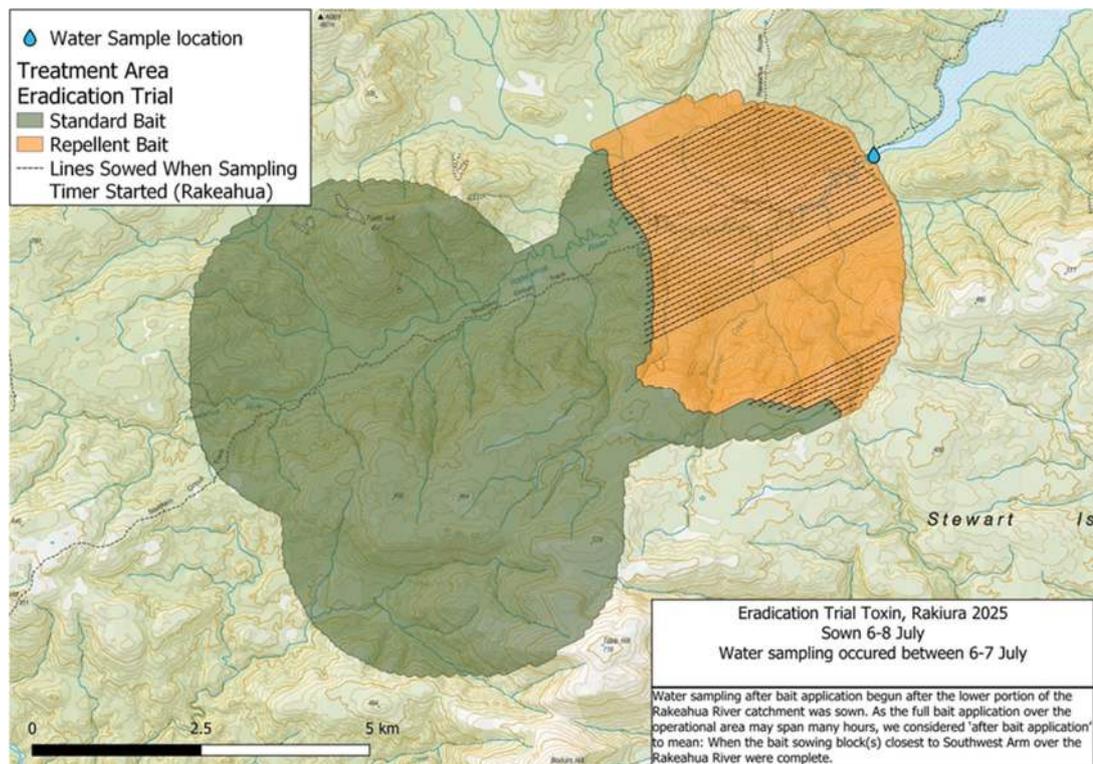
- 2-hour water sample collected 17:05 on Thursday 21 August 2025
- 8-hour water sample collected 23:05 on Thursday 21 August 2025
- 24-hour water sample collected 15:05 on Friday 22 August 2025

6. Status of the aerial operation at the time each water sample was taken (e.g. fully completed, partially completed, not yet commenced)?
7. Status of aerial operation in relation to each location where sampling took place?

### Phase One

- Please see Map 1 below, which identifies which area had been sown before water sampling commenced.

The operation was ongoing at the point the 2-, 8- and 24-hour water sampling was completed.

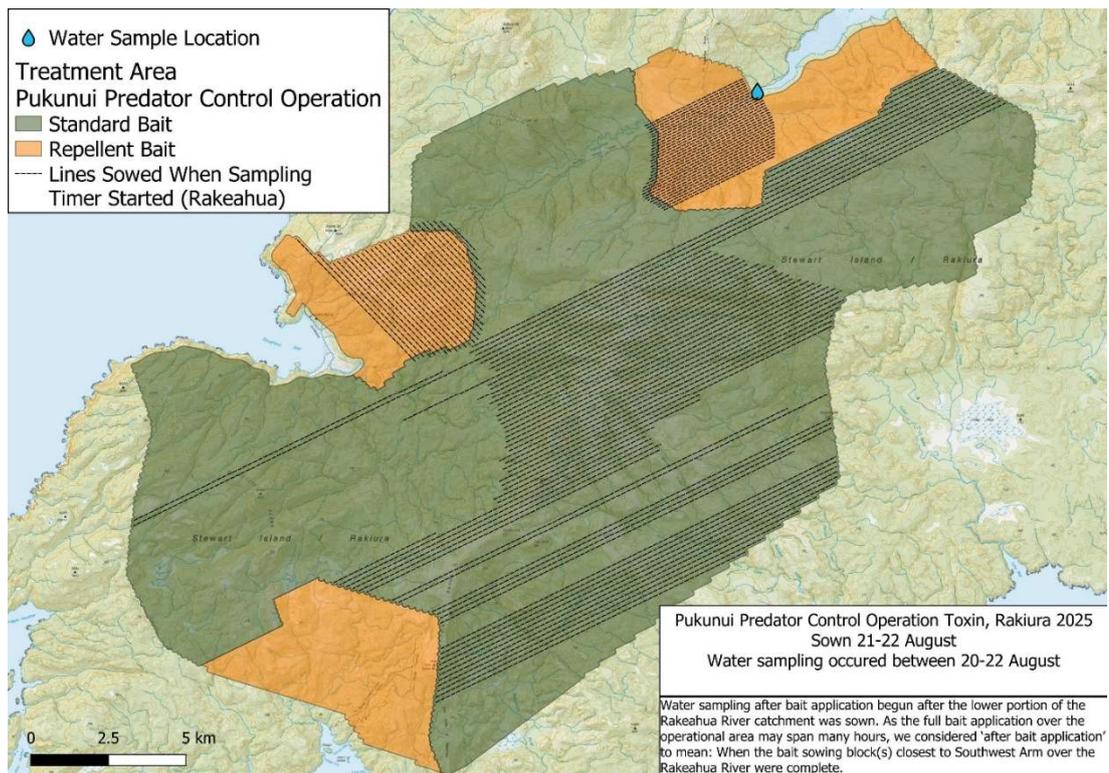


Map 1: Key areas sown within Phase 1 before water sampling timer began – Rakeahua.

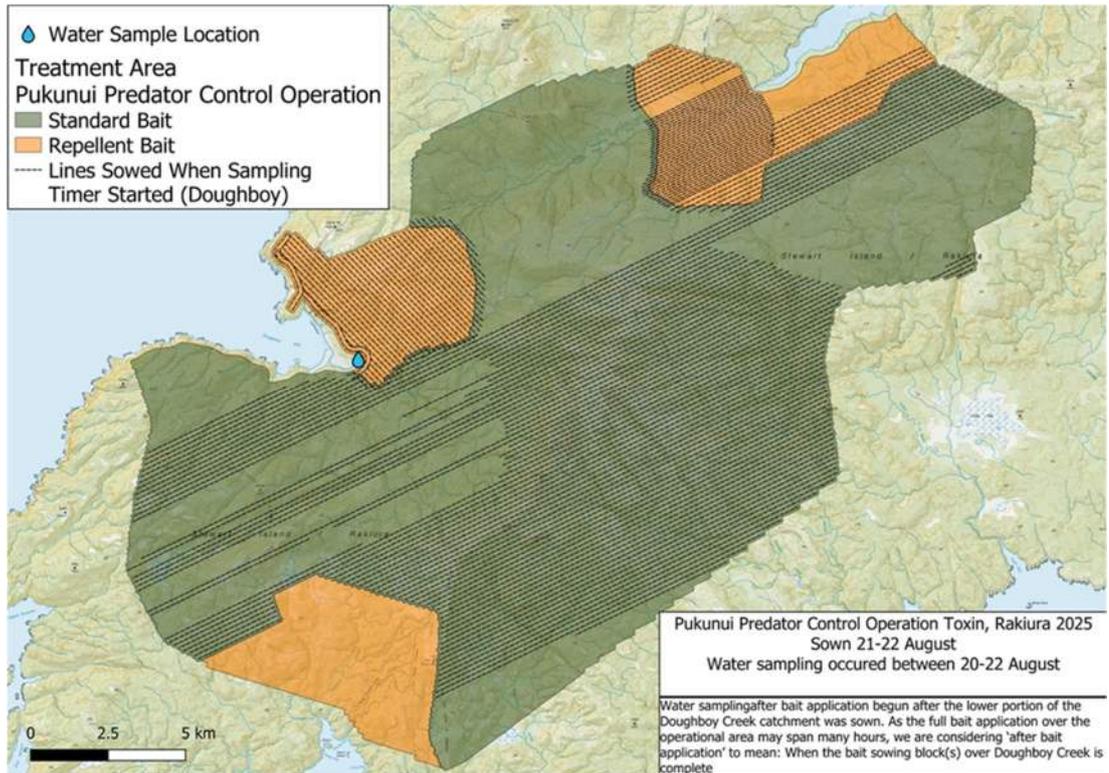
## Phase Two

Please see Map 2 & Map 3 below, which identifies the area that had been sown before water sampling commenced, at Rakeahua and Doughboy respectively.

The operation was ongoing at the point the 2-, 8- and 24-hour sampling was undertaken at the Rakeahua location. The operation was ongoing at the point the 2- and 8-hour sample were taken at Doughboy. The operation was completed when the 24-hour Doughboy sample was taken.



Map 2: Key areas sown within Phase 2 before water sampling timer began—Rakeahua.



Map 3: Key areas sown within Phase 2 before water sampling timer began – Doughboy.

8. *In relation to each sample - what date and time aerial 1080 operations commenced*

### Phase One

- Toxic sowing began at 14:15, Sunday 6 July 2025.

### Phase Two

- Sowing began at 09:40, Thursday 21 August 2025.

9. *In relation to each sample - what date and time aerial 1080 operations ceased in the entire area?*

**Phase One**

- Sowing of the entire Eradication Trial area ceased at 09:46 Tuesday 8 July 2025.

**Phase Two**

Rakeahua

- Sowing of this area was completed at 12:50 on Thursday 21 August 2025.

Doughboy

- Sowing of this area was completed at 15:05 on Thursday 21 August 2025.
- Sowing of the entire Pukunui Predator Control Operation area ceased at 13:21 on 22 August 2025.

10. *Who took the samples? Were they accompanied by anyone else and if so whom?*

Samples were collected by ZIP team members. During Phase Two, samples collection after baiting was also observed by 1x DOC team member at each site.

11. *How did they take the samples - what ACTUAL procedures did they follow to take the samples?*

Samples were taken following the Manaaki Whenua Guideline for sampling and testing water associated with monitoring of aerial 1080 baiting operations (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). These are publicly available at: [Guideline for Sampling and Testing of Water associated with Monitoring of Aerial 1080 Baiting Operations 4th edition](#)).

12. *What containers did they use?*

250ml, plastic screw top sampling containers were used.

13. *How did they collect the sample?*

As outlined above, samples were taken following the Manaaki Whenua Guideline for sampling and testing water associated with monitoring of aerial 1080 baiting operations (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). These are publicly available at: [Guideline for Sampling and Testing of Water associated with Monitoring of Aerial 1080 Baiting Operations 4th edition](#)).

14. *Did they take photos of each sample taken?*

Photos were not taken of each sample.

15. *What time after taking samples were they stored?*

Post bait operation samples were placed into a freezer within 5 to 20 minutes of being collected.

16. *What storage means were used to store each sample?*

A portable freezer was used.

17. *if frozen - what time did freezing commence - 24 hour clock and date.*

Samples were placed into a portable freezer within 5 to 20 minutes of collecting the water sample, after which freezing began.

18. *What temperatures was each sample frozen and where?*

The samples were frozen below 0 degrees.

19. *When was each sample transported to Landcare (time - 24 hour clock and date?)*

#### Phase One: Eradication Trial

- Samples returned to Oban at approx. 16:30, Monday 7 July 2025. These were kept in a freezer at ZIP base over night.
- On Tuesday 8 July 2025, samples were packed in an insulated box with freezer packs, flown to Invercargill via the 09:30 Stewart Island Flights, then flown to Christchurch with a ZIP team member, where they were placed in a freezer at ZIP Lincoln by 13:30. Samples remained frozen during this journey.
- Samples were dropped to Manaaki Whenua on the morning of 9 July 2025.

#### Phase Two: Pukunui

- Samples returned to Oban at approx. 16:30, Friday 22 August 2025. These were kept a freezer at ZIP base.
- On 25 August 2025 samples were packed in an insulated box with freezer packs, flown to Invercargill via the 09:30am Stewart Island Flights, then flown to Christchurch with a ZIP team member where they were placed in a freezer at ZIP Lincoln by 13.30. Samples remained frozen during this journey.
- Samples were dropped to Manaaki Whenua at 10:15am on the morning of 26 August 2025.

20. *Was each sample frozen when transported to Landcare and if so at what temperature?*

All samples remained frozen at below 0 degrees until they were transported to Manaaki Whenua.

*21. Full Results of all water sampling.*

Please see the below document schedule which outlines the documents in scope. I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents, subject to information being withheld under 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA – to protect officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment.

*22. Who paid for the water samples.*

ZIP paid for the water samples.

*23. What was the purpose of the water samples e.g.: - To provide assurance to the fishing industry? To provide assurance to the wider public? To provide assurance to recreational users of the national park / conservation estate?*

In response to interest from the Rakiura community and the wild fishers & Aquaculture sector, an agreement was made to test for 1080 residue at two freshwater sites.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	26 August 2025	Toxicology Laboratory Analysis Report -T8788	Released in part
2	26 August 2025	Toxicology Laboratory Analysis Report -T8789	Released in part
3	9 July 2025	Toxicology Laboratory Analysis Report -T8756	Released in part

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.

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) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Reddiex".

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