


24 June 2024



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 27 May 2024, in which you asked for information relating to the 2023 Wet Jacket aerial 1080 predator control operation.

Your question and our response are set out below:

- 1. Please will you send me all reports, data and meeting minutes concerning the outcome of the second aerial poisoning of the Wet Jacket area in Fiordland, that have been published/submitted/written or have otherwise occurred SINCE the June 2023 Report "Save Our Iconic Kiwi Fiordland 2020-2021" (which is the latest report I have).*

In response to your previous request, we provided you with the June 2023 *Save Our Iconic Kiwi – Fiordland 2022-23 Annual Report*. The 2023/24 report has not yet been written.

However, chicks have been monitored through the 2023/24 breeding season, following the second Wet Jacket aerial 1080 predator operation on 14 and 15 June 2023. As of 11 May 2024, out of 10 monitored chicks, 3 have survived to over 1kg, 4 are currently at around 500 grams, and three have died of misadventure (e.g., incidents such as drowning, starvation). Prior to the use of aerial 1080 predator control, chick survival in the area was zero.

The operational report for the Wet Jacket 2023 operation is publicly available on the EPA website at:

www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/1080-reports/1080-Operational-Reports/2342TEA01-Wet-jacket-Peninsula-2023.pdf

I am also providing you with additional stoat monitoring data in the table on the following page. Results are shown in tracking tunnel indices (the percentage of tracking tunnels in which stoats were detected). No stoats have been seen on a kiwi nest camera since the operation.

Wet Jacket stoat monitoring data

Date of monitoring	Results (tracking tunnel indices)
Pre-operation (May 2023)	25%
Post-operation (June 2023)	0%
August 2023	0%
November 2023	0%
February 2024	8%

You may also be interested in the following media release, which explains that thanks to aerial 1080 predator control, the population of Fiordland tokoeka at Shy Lake is now growing about 2% per year, officially turning the tide and reversing their decline:

www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2024-media-releases/remote-kiwi-population-growing-for-first-time-in-conservation-history/

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 Official Information Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai