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## Vision and purpose

The Fiordland Marine Guardians (the Guardians) were formally recognised in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005.

Our vision is that the quality of Fiordland's marine environment and fisheries, including the wider fishery experience, be maintained or improved for future generations to use and enjoy.

Our focus is the Fiordland Marine Area, which extends from Awarua Point on the West Coast to Sandhill Point, Te Waewae Bay and to 12 nautical miles offshore. However, we frequently address issues at a regional and national level if we believe they are of consequence to the Fiordland Marine Area.

We work closely with the agencies that have an interest in the Fiordland Marine Area, to align focus and strategy and enhance collaboration in the region. We also engage with the wider community to ensure our focus remains relevant and directed towards the future.

Our challenge is ensuring the values of Fiordland are protected as the area faces increasing pressure from competing interests and a changing physical environment.

## Statement of responsibility

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are proud to present, in compliance with section 20(1) of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, the annual report for the Fiordland Marine Guardians for the year ended 30 June 2019.

**Rebecca McLeod, PhD**

Chairperson

*Fiordland Marine Guardians*

## Chairperson's report



### Tēnā koutou katoa

If I had to use one word to describe the theme of the Guardians' work over the past year, it would have to be 'change'. Or, two words: 'rapid change'. This year, more than ever, we are aware of just how quickly the scene has ramped up out there on the water. More vessels, with more visitors, going further into the nooks and crannies of the fiords, with heightened levels of activity not just during the summer but throughout the year.

More people on the water can quickly change the level of pressure on fish stocks, the pressure on anchorages, and invariably changes in the way people experience Fiordland. And chugging along behind, is the slow and thorough process of reviewing and revising the mechanisms that can regulate (to a degree) the level of human activity in the Fiordland Marine Area thereby protecting and enhancing the values that we all hold for this special part of Aotearoa.

We're working hard to provide accurate and robust information, knowledge and advice to inform mechanisms like the Southland Regional Coastal Plan, to ensure they will be able to respond to current challenges, whilst mitigating future risks and providing for future opportunities. There are a number of reasons that these processes are slow-moving, one of which being the important need for meaningful and thorough consultation.

We look forward to working with operators of amateur charter vessels to review the way they operate, and ensure we are continuing to fish towards a future that we all want for Fiordland. This work is in direct response to concerns raised from the sector about sustainability and I invite you to read more about this mahi on page 15.

And as always, we are very much focused on marine biosecurity. On page 12 we outline the changes in the ongoing programme to respond to *Undaria* in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound, and a new incursion in Taiari/Chalky Inlet.

There has been a change of the guard this year, with Guardians Anne McDermott and Dr Ken Grange stepping down in October, and Alison Ballantine and Peter Young joining us. Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill was reappointed for another term. We gratefully acknowledge the many years of service and commitment that Anne and Ken have dedicated to Fiordland and the Guardians and wish them all the best for their next adventures. We welcome Ali and Pete and value their wealth of knowledge and experience, and are delighted to continue working with Kerri-Anne.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Alison O'Sullivan in mid-July. Alison was the Guardians' Secretariat for many years and was extremely passionate about the work of the group and her part in it. Alison recently retired to Northland with her husband Kevin, to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to Kevin and family.

Many thanks to the team of hard-working representatives from the agencies for their mahi over the past year. We face some tough challenges, but collectively and with the input of the wider community we are navigating through them guided by our future vision for the Fiordland Marine Area.

Ngā mihi nui

**Dr Rebecca McLeod**  
Chairperson



## Working together for the good of Fiordland

The Guardians work closely with agencies with an interest in the Fiordland Marine Area, to align focus and strategy and enhance collaboration in the region. Representatives from each agency attend our meetings, to report on progress and engage on matters of concern.

Sub-committees focus specifically on biosecurity, monitoring, compliance, communication and engagement with users, and progress matters outside of the main meeting. Representatives from the Guardians and each agency sit on these sub-committees. In 2018, we convened a working group specifically to spearhead our involvement in the review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland.

The working relationship between the Guardians, the Ministry for the Environment, Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry for Primary Industries is outlined in a protocol. The purpose of the protocol is to facilitate and promote cooperation between the Guardians and agencies to integrate management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area.

The Guardians acknowledge the relationship between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, as tangata whenua, and Te Moana o Atawhenua. An expression of this special relationship is a requirement under the Act that one member of the Guardians is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The Ministry for the Environment administers the Guardians and provides a budget to support the functions of the Guardians. Each of the other agencies contribute funding and resources to enable the Guardians' vision to be realised.

# The Fiordland Marine Guardians



## Dr Rebecca McLeod (Chairperson)

*Guardian since 2012*

Rebecca has chaired the Guardians since 2015. She is a science advisor, specialising in southern marine ecosystems, and has been involved with shaping New Zealand's Antarctic science programme. Rebecca was working on her PhD in Fiordland when the Fiordland Marine Management Act was established. Her research informed the Fiordland strategy, and she feels very honoured to be in a position to ensure the Guardians vision for the area is realised. Rebecca is a keen diver and boatie and enjoys getting out on the water with her young family.



## Peter Young

*Guardian since November 2018*

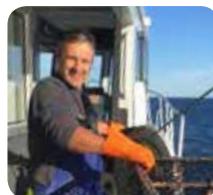
Pete has worked on boats since he was 15-years-old. He lives in Te Anau and works in the fiords as a commercial fisher and skipper for charter vessels. He is also a very keen recreational fisher and hunter. For more than a decade, he crewed and subsequently skippered the DOC vessel *GV Southern Winds* where he was involved in marine research and monitoring programmes conducted throughout the Fiordland Marine Area. Pete was an original 'Guardian of Fiordland', contributing to the development of the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy. He was also one of the original instigators of the Fiordland Coastal Clean Up in 2003 that now manages the regular coastal clean ups of both Fiordland and Stewart Island.



## Dr Ken Grange

*Guardian until October 2018*

Ken is a marine ecologist, and has recently retired from NIWA in Nelson. He has an in-depth understanding of the Fiordland marine environment having been the first person to scientifically describe this unique marine environment. Ken is an internationally recognised expert on black coral. He is a member of numerous societies, institutions and committees, including the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society and the Royal Society of New Zealand. In 2017, Ken was awarded the New Zealand Marine Science Medal (the John Morton Award) for his outstanding contribution to marine conservation in New Zealand.



## Jerry Excell

*Guardian since 2007*

Jerry is a commercial rock lobster fisherman operating out of Deep Cove. He is the director of a family fishing and quota-owning company. Jerry has fished for more than 23 years in Fiordland and is heavily involved in the CRA8 rock lobster fishery as a member of the CRA8 Management Committee Inc Board (the southern commercial rock lobster industry organisation). He has dived throughout the fiords as recreation since childhood, and uses his experience to help in research projects, collecting and providing data about the rock lobster fishery.



## Jonathan Clow

*Guardian since 2012*

Jonathan brings a wealth of maritime and management experience to the Guardians, having started out as a professional seafarer in the fishing industry followed by 15 years with the Royal New Zealand Navy as a Seaman Officer, and then five years as the Marine Manager and Safe Ship Manager for Real Journeys Ltd in Te Anau. Most recently, Jon has undertaken a change in career moving into the software industry as a software developer, but remains in Te Anau and attached to the Fiordland Marine Area. In his downtime Jon enjoys exploring Fiordland whilst hunting, boating and fishing.



## Ali Ballantine

*Guardian since November 2018*

Ali's passion for and interest in Fiordland began when she moved to the area in the early 1980s. During her tenure as Environment Southland Chairman and Councillor, she advocated for the formation of the Guardians and for the ongoing support and assistance the Council provides for them. Under her watch as Chairperson, biosecurity threats in Fiordland were prioritised, which resulted in the initiation of the Fiordland Marine Pathways Plan. Ali has been involved in wilding conifer issues in Southland and nationally for over 20 years, chairing the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust since its formation in 2007. She also holds governance responsibilities for the Ministry for Primary Industries' National Wilding Conifer Control Programme.



## Stewart Bull

*Guardian since 1995*

Stewart has extensive knowledge of the customary uses of Fiordland, particularly customary fishing. He is the chair of the Oraka-Aparima Rūnaka and is the Oraka-Aparima Rūnaka representative on the Board of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Stewart is a Tāngata Tiaki, appointed by the Minister of Fisheries, in recognition of his particular expertise in local customary fishing management and resource issues. He is the Oraka-Aparima Rūnaka representative on the Customary Fisheries Advisory Group and the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative to the Southland Conservation Board. Stewart has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since its inception and in 2018 was awarded a Queens Service Medal for his services to conservation and Māori.



## Anne McDermott

*Guardian until October 2018*

Anne has significant experience of Fiordland, having dived, fished and tramped in the region for 30 years. She has dived in most of the fiords during that time (Preservation, Chalky, Dusky, Breaksea, Doubtful, Nancy, Charles and Caswell Sounds), giving her first-hand experience of the Fiordland marine environment. Anne and her husband own a boat and she has many contacts among the Southland recreational fishing, boating and diving sectors.



## Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill

*Guardian since 2015*

Kerri-Anne has worked in applied conservation ecology for more than 22 years, with 16 years working in coastal Fiordland. While working for the Department of Conservation she was part of many threatened species programmes and island eradication and restoration programmes. She now works as a strategic planner, writer and outreach specialist, and runs her own environmental consultancy from Te Anau. Kerri-Anne is an enthusiastic trumper and sea kayaker and loves being in the water. Kerri-Anne holds a PhD in Zoology from the University of Otago in seabird ecology.



## Mark Peychers

*Guardian since 1995*

Mark was a commercial fisher for almost 30 years working throughout the Fiordland area. He is a shareholding director of the Fiordland Lobster Company. Mark has been a Guardian since the group began in 1995 and was involved in setting up Fiordland's first two marine reserves. Mark has built strong relationships with our partner agencies (Department of Conservation, Fisheries New Zealand and Environment Southland). He is actively involved with fisheries management in Fiordland and other parts of New Zealand. Mark is also a trustee of the Southern Coastal Charitable Trust, which manages the coastal clean ups of Fiordland and Stewart Island.

# Agency representatives

The Guardians acknowledge the dedication of the agencies to achieving the Guardians' vision for the Fiordland Marine Area, specifically the efforts contributed by these representatives, who regularly attend our meetings.

**Ali Meade**

Biosecurity and Biodiversity Operations Manager  
*Environment Southland*

**Allison Bockstruck**

Fiordland Marine Guardians Secretariat  
*Ministry for the Environment*

**Annabelle Ellis**

Manager – Hono Tahua – Communities and Freshwater Investments  
*Ministry for the Environment (to September 2018)*

**Chloe Corne**

Ranger Operations  
*Department of Conservation*

**Courtney Guise**

Consents Officer  
*Environment Southland*

**Donna Shepard**

Statutory Manager, Operations, Southern South Island  
*Department of Conservation*

**Ian Coard**

Deputy Regional Harbourmaster  
*Environment Southland*

**Jen Brunton**

Senior Adviser – Long-term Programmes  
*Biosecurity New Zealand  
Ministry for Primary Industries*

**Lyndon Cleaver**

Regional Harbourmaster/Maritime Officer  
*Environment Southland*

**Mark Geytenbeek**

Senior Fisheries Analyst – Inshore Fisheries Management  
*Fisheries NZ  
Ministry for Primary Industries*

**Matt Hoffman**

Senior Policy Planner  
*Environment Southland (to June 2019)*

**Nicola Scott**

Manager – Land and Air Policy 2  
*Ministry for the Environment (from October 2018)*

**Richard Kinsey**

Senior Ranger Operations  
*Department of Conservation*

**Robert Win**

Biosecurity Officer (Marine and Biodiversity)  
*Environment Southland (from June 2019)*

**Shaun Cunningham**

Biosecurity Officer  
*Environment Southland (to February 2019)*

**Stephen Logie**

Chief Compliance Officer – MPI Compliance Directorate:  
Southland  
*Ministry for Primary Industries*



# Our year in review

**July 2018** – Important updates to the User Guide *Beneath the Reflections* are published concerning the Controlled Area for *Undaria* in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound.

The second issue of *Te Pānui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua* is released.

**August 2018** – The Guardians continue to work with community leaders to review existing vessel maintenance facilities in Motupōhue/Bluff.

Lance and Simone McKirdy, Descend Scuba Diving, meet with the Guardians to share their observations of changes in marine life in Piopiotahi/Milford Sound.

Dr Colin Miskelly, Te Papa, presents the findings of seabird survey work undertaken in the fiords to the Guardians.

Dr Randall Bess, The Nature Conservancy, engages with the Guardians about the Fisheries Project and a peak body for recreational marine anglers in the South Island.

We farewell Guardians Dr Ken Grange and Anne McDermott.

**September 2018** – The Guardians travel to Wellington to meet with the Minister for the Environment Hon David Parker, the Minister for Fisheries Hon Stuart Nash, and the Minister of Conservation and Associate Minister for the Environment Hon Eugenie Sage. We meet with senior staff at Fisheries NZ Tini a Tangaroa, Biosecurity NZ Tiakitanga Pūtaiaoa Aotearoa, Ministry for the Environment Manatū Mō Te Taiao, and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawahai.

The Guardians attend the Destination Fiordland Tourism Expo and the Southland Community Environment Awards; Anne McDermott receives a commendation at the awards for her services to the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA).

We engage with the Milford Opportunities governance group.

Stewart Bull receives a Queens Service Order for services to conservation and Māori.

**October 2018** – The Guardians submit on the Southland Regional Pest Management Strategy.

We congratulate Environment Southland on taking out the Supreme Award at the 2018 New Zealand Biosecurity Awards for the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.



**November 2018** – The Guardians hold their annual strategy meeting. Ali Ballantine Timms and Peter Young are appointed to the Guardians, and Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill is reappointed for a second term.

**December 2018** – The Guardians submit on the Draft Strategic Direction for the Southland Coastal Plan Review and the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Biosecurity Strategy for Otago.

**February 2019** – Larncé Wichman, Chair of the Kaikoura Marine Guardians (KMG), attends a joint Guardians-agency meeting and describes the work the KMG are undertaking with the community and Kaikoura Fishing Charter Group to address fisheries sustainability concerns in the region.

The Guardians launch their new website and submit on the proposed TACC (total allowable commercial catch) review for CRA8.

We farewell Environment Southland representative Shaun Cunningham who takes up a new marine science position with the Cawthron Institute in Nelson.

**March 2019** – The Guardians submit on the national review of the blue cod fishing regulations and release their third issue of *Te Pānui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua*.

Guardian Stewart Bull attends the first meeting of the South Island marine recreational fisheries working group.

**April 2019** – The Guardians are disappointed to receive news of a new *Undaria* incursion in North Port, Taiari/ Chalky Inlet. Concurrently, the *Undaria* infestation in Breaksea Sound is reported to have spread beyond the Controlled Area that was established in December 2017.

**May 2019** – The Guardians announce plans to formally engage with amateur charter vessel operators in Fiordland to help prepare advice for the Minister of Fisheries.

We welcome Paul Mitchell and Peter Archibald from Fiordland Charters to the May meeting to discuss their concerns with the future of fisheries in the FMA.

**June 2019** – The Guardians are interviewed for TV3 series 'Ocean Bounty' with a lead story about the FMA screening in September.





## Focus on marine biosecurity

A large proportion of the Guardians' work relates to marine biosecurity. This work is both reactionary, responding to immediate threats and events, and future focused. Marine pests have long been considered by the Guardians as one of the biggest risks for Fiordland. Considerable effort is being directed to dealing with the one identified pest species that is known to be present in the Fiordland Marine Area, and putting procedures in place to prevent any further incursions.

### A close call and stark reminder

The detection of suspected Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) on the hull of a vessel in the southern fiords in January is a stark reminder that the responsibility for keeping marine pests out of Fiordland rests with every vessel operator.

The boat was discovered as part of a joint agency compliance trip, and the owners were upset to discover they had transported a potentially high-risk species into the area. They were directed out of the area to Motupōhue/Bluff to have their hull cleaned, which curtailed their planned voyage around Fiordland and Rakiura. The vessel's Clean Vessel Pass had expired, and the owners were charged for the costs of the vessel inspection and incursion management.

Marine pests like this Mediterranean fanworm are present in many ports around New Zealand, and are literally only one boat ride away from invading the precious Fiordland coastline.

### Responding to *Undaria* outbreak in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound

Over the past year, the focus of the Guardians and agencies has been on containing the *Undaria* (Asian kelp) infestation within Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound. The ongoing monitoring and removal programme has concentrated on two fronts: the northern entrance to Breaksea Sound, to prevent *Undaria* spreading to the outer coast, and the area where the fiord intersects the Acheron Passage to maintain a 'buffer zone' that is free from *Undaria*. We are conscious that if *Undaria* spreads out of Breaksea Sound, it is likely to then start spreading down the Acheron Passage towards Wet Jacket Arm and, eventually, has the potential to spread throughout the entire Tamatea/Dusky Sound complex.

Whilst *Undaria* spreads by itself by releasing spores into the water column, the rate of spreading can be increased dramatically if the weed is carried around on vessel hulls and gear such as anchor lines and pots.

The Guardians have been working with Environment Southland to review the operation and management of vessels visiting Breaksea Sound, to ensure that the risk of *Undaria* transfer is minimised.

We thank the visitors to the area for their cooperation over this time, and will no doubt continue to place special conditions on this area in an attempt to contain *Undaria* for as long as possible.

### Taiari Chalky Inlet incursion

As part of the overall compliance of the FMA, a routine patrol discovered another *Undaria* plant on a mooring rope of the *Stella* in North Port, Taiari/Chalky Inlet. In June, a delimiting survey was carried out on the site with Guardians and various agency staff involved. Twenty-nine immature *Undaria* sporophytes were found and removed along with the mooring line that contained the original plant. The area will continue to be carefully monitored to determine if further management is required. The Guardians are extremely disappointed about this incursion as it could have so easily been prevented by adhering to the requirements of the Clean Vessel Pass.

### Marine pest eradication in the future?

Examples of the eradication of marine pests in natural habitats (such as reefs) are very few, even at a global scale. Once a pest has established itself beyond a vessel, wharf piling, or other structure, we have no practical means to effectively seek and destroy the pest; the necessary tools and technology do not exist.

There are numerous examples, however, where national and local government agencies initiate comprehensive and often resource-heavy responses to terrestrial pests on land. The approach for marine pests is not as well defined or resourced. Marine pest management, particularly eradication, typically falls into the 'too hard' basket, and is also appearing to suffer from out of sight, out of mind mentality.

Fiordland is a world-renowned and unique underwater environment that people hold dear to their hearts. The Guardians are convinced that marine pest management and responses should be afforded funding and support comparable to projects on land to help protect this unique environment. What price can be put on not only a national treasure but also an irreplaceable piece of the world, such as Fiordland?

Two things we know for sure: the longer we wait to tackle an incursion, the harder it will be to deal with it in the future; and it's easier to keep these pests out in the first place. The Guardians would like to see a greater focus on developing methods that will enable fast and effective responses to marine pest incursions along New Zealand's coastlines. We desperately need new technologies to be developed to make our fight against marine pests in the natural environment something that can be won.





## Focus on fisheries

The genesis of the Guardians and the Fiordland Marine Management Act were a group of fishers with concerns about the sustainability of stocks in the area. It was identified early on that parts of Fiordland were vulnerable to localised depletion of popular species like blue cod and rock lobster.

Over many years, the group grew, diversified, and formed a set of measures that were deemed sufficient to ensure the fisheries remained healthy for future generations to use and enjoy. Some of these measures, like the no accumulation rule and reduced bag limits, were conservative, and collectively they were extremely innovative.

But what few people truly appreciated at the time was just how much the boat traffic would increase in the future and how fast that would change. We regularly receive reports of the once-deserted southern fiords absolutely buzzing with vessel traffic.

It's great that more people are getting to experience this special part of the world, but this does raise concerns about the sustainability of species targeted by recreational fishers and the realisation of the Guardian's vision. Each recreational fisher is only allowed to take a small number of fish home with them, but when you start multiplying that by the number of visitors it soon can add up to a significant amount of fish being taken out and high fisheries pressure overall inside the habitat lines. Signs are emerging that the fish stocks cannot handle this increasing pressure.

Experience from other parts of the country demonstrates that key fish species certainly can get 'fished out' by

recreational fishing pressure alone. Operators in Fiordland are telling us loud and clear that they are noticing the fish stocks declining, and they want us to do something about it before it is too late. Fortunately, our community brought into the philosophies of fishing for a feed and fishing for the future long ago. Here are a couple of ways the Guardians are working to ensure that Fiordland's fish stocks are being managed adaptively and responsibly.

### Consultation with operators of amateur charter vessels

The charter fishing industry is alive and well in Fiordland, offering recreational fishers a quality experience exploring and fishing throughout the fiords. Business is also booming in Kaikoura, but unfortunately the ease of access there has led to rapid expansion and a high-level pressure on fish stocks.

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are collaborating with the Kaikoura Marine Guardians to consult with operators in both regions. Our kaupapa is to define the issues and risks, and work towards solutions that will future proof the industry and ensure sustainability.

We will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries later in 2019 to this effect.

### National Blue Cod Strategy

Fisheries New Zealand are focusing on the sustainability of blue cod, and in December 2018, Stuart Nash, Minister of Fisheries, endorsed the National Blue Cod Strategy. This focus is due to increasing concern about the sustainability of blue cod stocks in coastal waters, particularly here in the south where blue cod is the most popular recreational finfish species.

The National Blue Cod Strategy aims to have a management approach that is more consistent nationally than it currently is, and one that allows local issues to be addressed more efficiently. Key components of the strategy include managing blue cod at a smaller spatial scale than the *status quo* and introducing a traffic light system that will indicate the local health of the fish stocks and determine bag limits. The addition of an accumulation rule, like that in Fiordland, and a requirement to land fish in a measurable state are also being proposed.

The Guardians are encouraged by the approach that Fisheries New Zealand has taken, including extensive public consultation, and hope that the result will be a more flexible management system that enables a faster response to variations in stocks. As always, our focus is on managing Fiordland to ensure the marine environment, fisheries and the wider fishing experience is maintained or improved for future generations to use and enjoy.



## Looking ahead – the next 12 months

Some key pieces of work planned for the year ahead will require a significant amount of effort from the Guardians. This work is vital to ensuring the vision of the Guardians is realised: the quality of Fiordland’s marine environment and fisheries, including the wider fishery experience, is maintained or improved for future generations to use and enjoy.

In May, the Guardians committed to the Minister of Fisheries that they will work with the Kaikoura Marine Guardians to provide advice and recommendations about the future of amateur charter vessel operations by October 2019. To ensure this advice is robust and the recommendations workable, the Guardians will hold a workshop with amateur charter vessel operators and relevant representatives from the agencies in August. This significant piece of work will focus on protecting the value of this industry whilst ensuring ecological sustainability.

The Guardians are building on recent investments in communications, namely an updated user guide to the fiords, website and newsletter, to gain greater visibility among the recreational fishing sector. One way we aim to grow our reach with this group nationally is through regular articles and advertising in *The Fishing Paper & New Zealand Hunting News*. In July this year, we launch a 12-month campaign to shine a spotlight on fishing and biosecurity in Fiordland, the FMA and the role of the Guardians.

We will continue to work closely with Biosecurity New Zealand, Environment Southland and the Department of Conservation as they navigate the ongoing matter of *Undaria* incursions in Fiordland. In Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound, some big decisions will need to be made regarding the future of the response. We continue to push for these decisions to be supported by robust scientific information, and to be made at a very senior level within each agency. We all want the best outcome for Fiordland – the challenge is in trying to find a solution that is achievable given the remote location and challenges that come with controlling marine pests in underwater environments.

The review of the Southland Regional Coastal Plan is well underway. We will provide information and advice to Environment Southland over the coming year, on topics ranging from biosecurity to commercial surface water activities and resource use to ecosystems and biodiversity. We are mindful that as we advise council, we are carefully considering what the future may hold 10–30 years from now.



## Resource consents

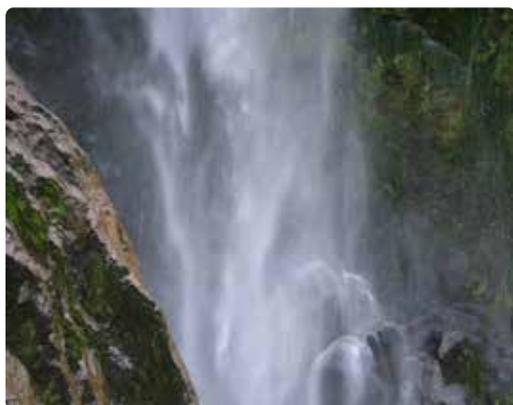
The Guardians responded to a number of resource consent applications to Environment Southland during the year.

These fell into three categories:

- (1) Non-notified, where the Guardians were identified as an affected party. The Guardians considered and responded to four non-notified applications during the year.
- (2) Notified, where the Guardians felt that conditions imposed by current legislation, such as the Southland Coastal Plan, addressed all concerns and as a consequence did not provide a submission.
- (3) Notified, where the Guardians provided a submission with recommendations for conditions that should be included in any consent granted. The Guardians considered and responded to two applications of this nature during the year.

These applications are listed in Environment Southland's report on page 30.





## Agency reports



### Ministry for the Environment

#### Role

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) administers the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 (The Act). In this capacity the Ministry provides secretariat support to the Fiordland Marine Guardians and supports the Minister for the Environment in fulfilling their obligations under the Act.

#### Achievements

##### Website

Over the past year the Ministry has led the redevelopment of the Guardian's website, which was launched in April 2019. The updated site better reflects the current research underway and provides more relevant information to visitors of the Fiordland Marine Area.

#### Fiordland Marine Guardian Appointments

In September 2018, the Cabinet Appointments and Honours committee confirmed the reappointment of Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill, and the appointment of Peter Young and Alison Ballantine as new Guardians. Each of these appointments were made for a four-year term that will expire on 31 October 2022.

The Ministry helped the Minister for the Environment run an open public process for seeking nominations for these appointments.

#### Looking ahead

##### Nominations for new Fiordland Marine Guardians

The terms of four Guardians are due to end in October 2020. The Ministry will begin work on the appointment process in early-2020 ahead of the Minister for the Environment making recommendations to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours committee later in 2020.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Department of Conservation

### Role

When the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act came into force in 2005 the Department of Conservation (DOC) lead the monitoring plan for the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA). The plan encompasses all aspects of monitoring in the FMA and was developed primarily to focus on the state of the marine environment and biological diversity in the FMA. The key agencies work together to implement the plan, with direct input from the Guardians.

DOC is also responsible for managing all of its other pieces of legislation within the FMA including Fiordland's 10 marine reserves and the protection of marine mammals.

### Achievements

This year, like the last couple of years, has proven to be a year of two steps forward and one step backwards. We have continued with some interesting and valuable work in the FMA, including the conclusion of Victoria University's Deep Reef contract, another round of Auckland University's humpback whale monitoring and the erection of the wooden poupu in Patea/Doubtful Sound. However, this work has been somewhat overshadowed by the continued proliferation of *Undaria pinnatifida* in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound and the new incursion in Taiari/Chalky Inlet, which is proving incredibly frustrating.

Time will tell how much of a setback these latest findings will be for the future of *Undaria* in the FMA, but we are continuing to work hard with Environment Southland (ES) and Biosecurity New Zealand.

DOC continues to work with agency partners and the Guardians on many other projects that will have a strong bearing on how the FMA could be shaped in the future. We have been working closely with ES, providing feedback on reviews of the Coastal Plan and the Cruise Ship Deed of Agreement, which is vitally important for safeguarding the FMA and how it can be best managed. Over the next year or so, we will also begin the review of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan.

The highlights of our projects are:

#### **Pouwhenua erected in Patea/Doubtful Sound**

At the end of November 2018, a team of DOC staff went into Doubtful Sound to replace the existing white triangle marine reserve markers with wooden poupou. All of the pou were fresh from a makeover and ready to stand as kaitiaki over the three marine reserves.

The installation trip went well and all but one of the poupou are now in place, with one pou on the northern side of the Gut Marine Reserve proving a little stubborn. Next, we'll install poupou for Piopiotahi/Milford Sound and the wharves of Deep-water Basin, Fresh-water Basin and Deep Cove.

#### **Victoria University Deep Reef Contract**

At the beginning of the 2017/2018 financial year, Victoria University were awarded the contract to run more deep reef survey work in the FMA, following on from the work NIWA conducted in 2009/2010.

The final report for the work proved there is plenty of life below the water's surface, down to well below 100 metres. The remote operated vehicle (ROV) sampling showed that at shallower depths, rock wall communities are dominated by coralline algae (down to about 40 metres), which phases into communities of suspension feeding organisms such as bryozoans, sponges and tubeworms (40–80 metres). Although bare rock increases at depths of around 100 metres, there are still plenty of invertebrates living down in the depths.

The baited underwater video used on the trip found a similar composition of fish species to previous studies. The greatest variation of species was found in shallower deployments whereas hagfish tended to dominate the deeper reef.

Future research may focus on more of the deep reef as it is still very poorly understood.

A bonus for DOC and the Guardians from this research is that it has enabled Dr James Bell and his team at Victoria University to see the fiords first hand, fostering an interest around how they function and how they might be affected by climate change in the future. DOC was able to provide Victoria University with a further opportunity in February 2019 to come back to the FMA and begin some longer-term research, which is hopefully the start of a very exciting partnership with Dr Bell and the University.

#### **Humpback whales in Fiordland**

After the success of the humpback whale monitoring trip in 2017, DOC once again partnered with Auckland University in November 2018 to collect additional data on where whales visiting Fiordland might be coming from.

The trip was incredibly successful with 30 whale sightings over the five-day trip. The trip travelled south to Preservation Inlet and back up to Doubtful Sound (see map 1), although most action was just outside Doubtful Sound.

In total, the team took biopsies of 29 whales, photographed 19 flukes and encountered two mother-calf pairs. Six of the individuals were also re-sighted over a two-week period indicating that some whales are hanging around for a while off the coast before continuing their journey south to Antarctica.

Dr Rochelle Constantine and one of her students will be processing the samples over the coming year.



#### Additional Fiordland marine mammal work

In addition to the humpback whale monitoring mentioned in the previous section, DOC have continued with a number of projects in the marine mammal field.

The bottlenose dolphin population monitoring in both Doubtful Sound and Tamatea/Dusky Sound has been ongoing, with three trips into both fiords. These trips have continued our partnership with Otago University and both populations are currently stable and doing well. The Doubtful Sound population estimate<sup>1</sup> is currently 68 individuals and the Dusky Sound population is 121 individuals. The funding for this monitoring is split between DOC, Otago University, and the local tourism operators.

The review for the Doubtful Sound Marine Mammal (and other wildlife) Code of Management (COM) has been ongoing (although slow going) this year. The COM is a voluntary set of rules to reduce the potential threat vessels have on marine mammals in Doubtful Sound. No drastic changes are likely, but the review is well overdue.

In November 2018, DOC introduced SMART marine mammal courses to Fiordland vessel skippers for the first time. SMART is a four-hour DOC programme aimed at raising awareness of the Marine Mammal Protection Regulations. Topics covered include compliance with the legislation, good vessel behaviour, marine mammal identification, biology and behaviour.

<sup>1</sup> Otago University 2017 population estimate.

Two courses were run (one in Milford township and one in Te Anau) with 48 attendees completing the course. Feedback from the course attendees was very positive. DOC plan to continue running SMART courses on an annual (or as-needed basis), with the next course date planned for 27 August 2019.

#### *Undaria pinnatifida* (*Undaria*)

There has been a continued effort by DOC, ES and Biosecurity New Zealand this year to try and control *Undaria* within Breaksea Sound, with the goal of keeping it from spreading to the wider Dusky Sound complex. *Undaria* was initially limited to the southern side of Breaksea Sound until divers in December 2018 found it had also spread to the northern wall of the fiord. To make matters worse, a surveillance trip into Chalky Inlet in April 2019 discovered a separate outbreak of *Undaria* in Northport.

Although there is currently no long-term plan for how *Undaria* will be managed, DOC, ES, and Biosecurity New Zealand, with the support of the Guardians, are working hard to develop a set of recommendations that will complement the existing Controlled Area and the Pathways Plan.

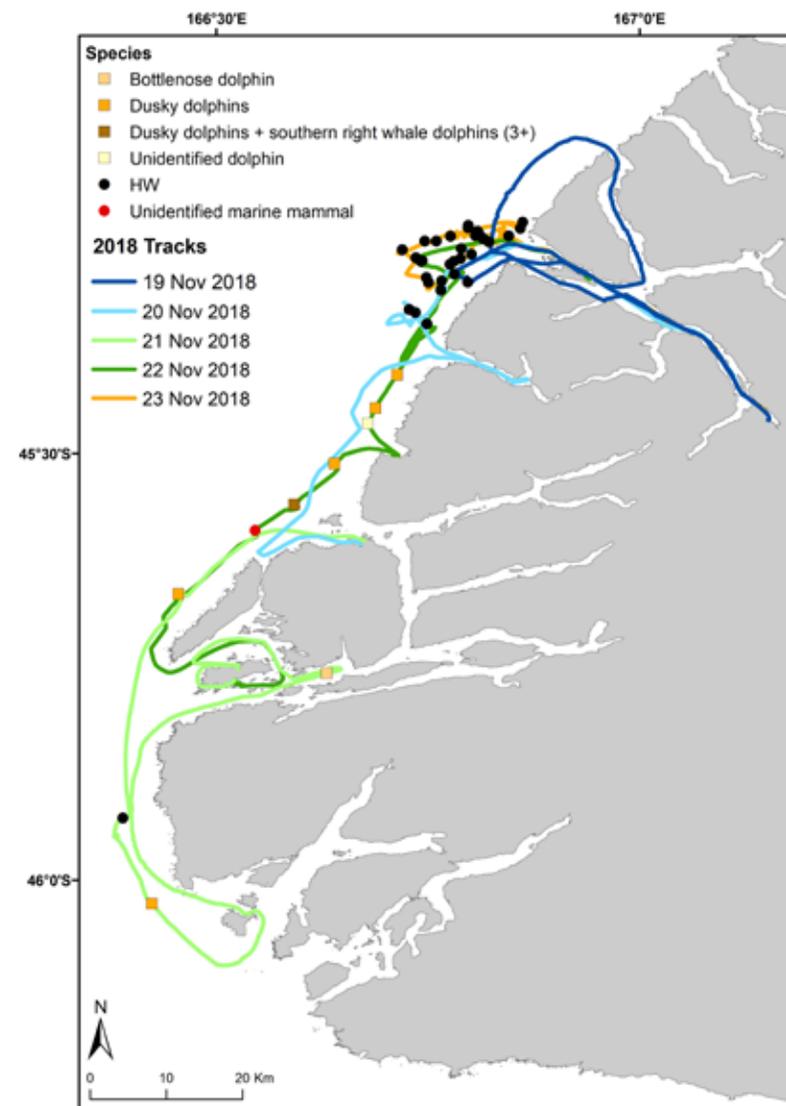
DOC would like to once again thank all those companies, contractors, staff, stakeholders and interested parties for their help throughout this year with the *Undaria* programme.

Lastly, DOC would like to acknowledge two leading lights of conservation in the Te Anau Area, who retired this year. Greg Lind, DOC Te Anau Operations Manager, retired in March after working in conservation since before DOC was formed in 1987. Greg will be sorely missed and has left a legacy at DOC that will be remembered for years to come.

Secondly, Lindsay Wilson, Principal Biodiversity Ranger, who left in April (not quite retired). Lindsay, like Greg has been involved in conservation since before DOC began and had been in the Principal Ranger role in Te Anau for 10 years. Lindsay's vision and biodiversity knowledge has helped drive many conservation projects within the fiords.

Many thanks to you both for your efforts at DOC across so many differing roles and responsibilities.

**Map 1:** Whale sightings with the Fiordland Marine Area, Auckland University survey results, November 2018



Note: HW = humpback whale





## Environment Southland

### Role

As a regional council, Environment Southland is responsible for the sustainable management of Southland's natural resources – land, water, air and coast – in partnership with the community. Environment Southland has an important role to play in managing Southland's coastal marine area, including marine biosecurity, navigational safety, and managing consents (and their compliance) within the Fiordland marine environment. This role is most successful when we work in collaboration with other key agencies and organisations.

### Achievements

#### Marine biosecurity

##### *Undaria pinnatifida* incursion Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound

Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and Biosecurity New Zealand have been working to transition from an eradication programme to long-term control programme as the *Undaria* population inside Breaksea Sound is beyond eradication with current resourcing and technology (see map 2). Long-term control poses several new challenges, and we have used the 2018–19 season to scope possible future objectives and develop management options. Interim control work has been carried out monthly to contain the population as much as possible while planning work continues.

An EnviroLink-funded report on the feasibility of biomass removal was completed by the University of Otago. Recommendations from this report are being considered when making decisions about the feasibility of undertaking control activities in the future.

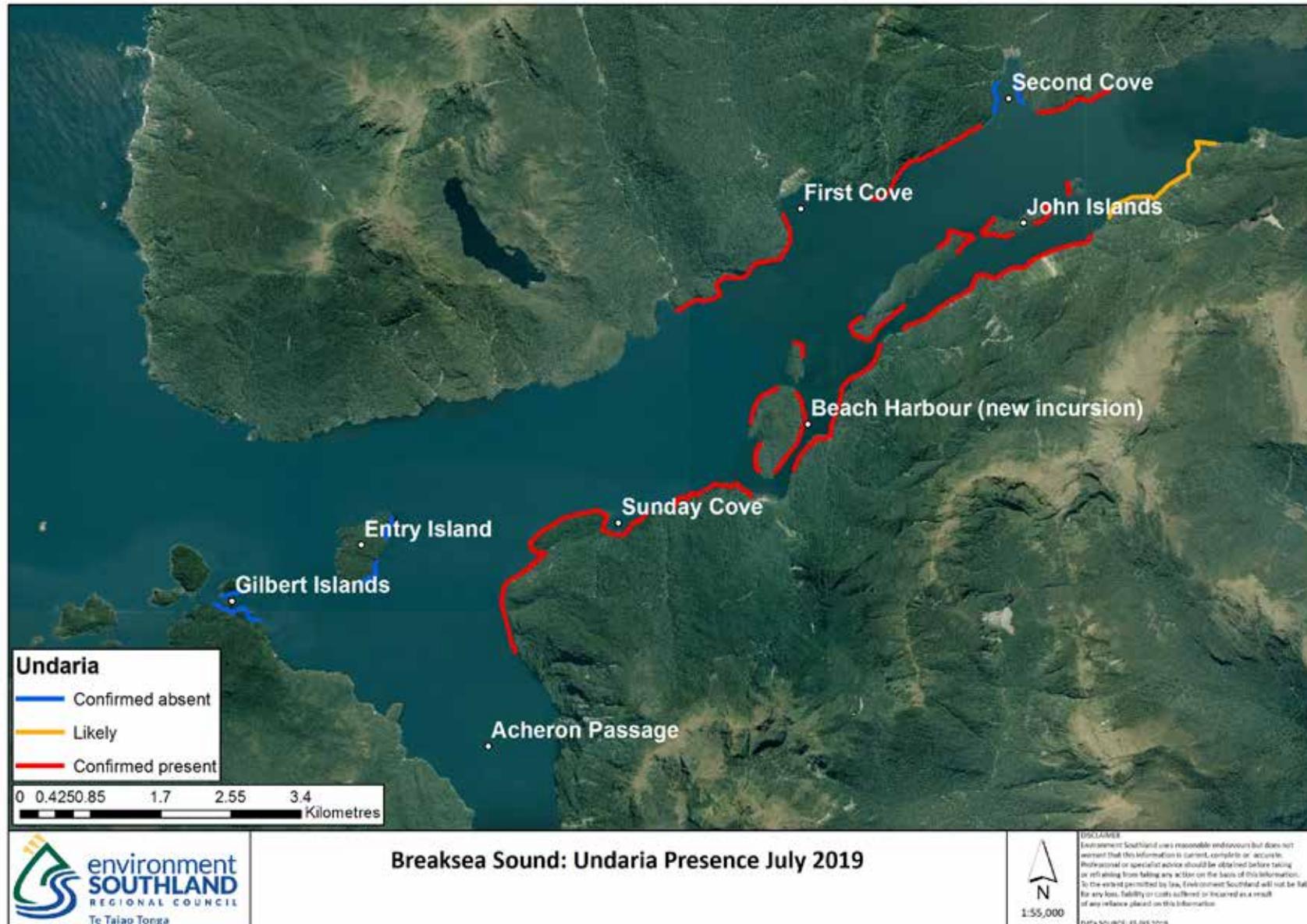
##### *Undaria pinnatifida* incursion Taiari/Chalky Inlet

During April 2019, a compliance trip was undertaken where moorings, artificial structures, and habitat around common anchorages were inspected for marine pests. On 10 April, the compliance trip carried out inspections in Chalky Inlet. Unfortunately, divers found one mature *Undaria* specimen and 10 plantlets on the line that runs from the bow of the *Stella* (a wreck lying on its side on the shore in North Port, Chalky Inlet to the shore (see map 3). The *Stella*, nearby substrate and Island close by were all searched and nothing else was found.

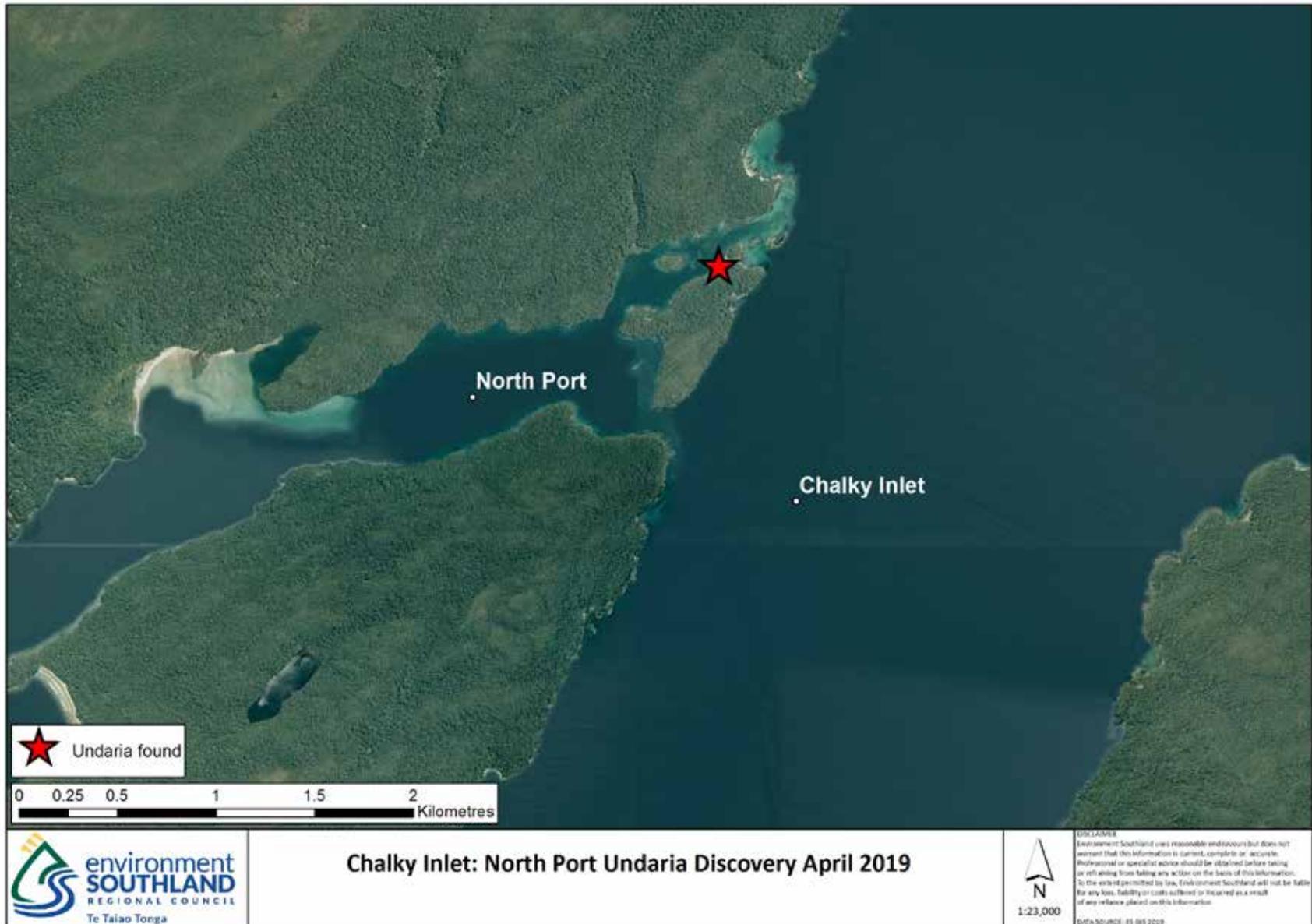
North Port and the *Stella* are checked as part of the standard Biosecurity inspections of the area. This is the first time *Undaria* has been found within Chalky Inlet and the find is being treated as a new incursion that is discrete from the Breaksea Sound *Undaria* population. The infestation pathway cannot be confirmed but it is likely to have been brought to Chalky Inlet on dirty gear or an infested vessel.

Biosecurity New Zealand, DOC and ES staff are investigating future management options. In late June 2019, a delimitation survey was undertaken in Chalky Inlet.

**Map 2:** Breaksea Sound, July 2019, showing the extent of *Undaria* infestation



**Map 3:** Location of *Undaria* incursion in Chalky Inlet



A mix of artificial (*Stella*, mooring lines) and natural habitats were searched. Twenty-nine immature *Undaria* sporophytes were found and removed from the line (the same place as the April finds) that was attached to the *Stella* and the shore. The line was removed and not replaced as we understand it is not used by operators in Chalky Inlet. The dive team also searched other identified high-risk sites with no other *Undaria* found. With these results in mind, the scale and feasibility of future management will be determined once the results from the survey have been collected and analysed.

#### *Controlled Area Notice*

In 2017, a Controlled Area Notice was placed over the southern shore of Breaksea Sound. This notice limits mooring and anchoring in the area to less than 48 hours.

In November 2018, a potential over-stayer was reported to Biosecurity New Zealand who passed the report to Environment Southland. Environment Southland contacted the vessel owner and the owner of the mooring. The vessel had broken down and was tied up waiting for parts. Fortunately, the vessel had been recently cleaned and the *Undaria* control team were working in Breaksea Sound at the time and able to inspect the vessel's hull. The vessel was found to meet clean hull standards and therefore deemed to pose a minimal risk as a vector.

The owners were given a warning about adhering to the Controlled Area Notice and Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan. The vessel was removed from the mooring as soon as it was fixed.

#### *Southland Regional Pest Management Strategy/Regional Pest Management Plan*

In May 2019, the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan (SRPMP) was adopted by Environment Southland with new rules for *Undaria* management in Fiordland (see appendix A). This plan replaces the Southland Regional Pest Management Strategy and comes into operational effect on 5 July 2019.

The SRPMP has established a Breaksea Sound *Undaria* Exemption Area and sets goals to progressively contain *Undaria* and reduce geographical extent (Plan Objective 7 of the SRPMP, Appendix A). The new exemption area is designed to replace the Controlled Area Notice (2017). Environment Southland plans to remove the Controlled Area Notice over the next few months.

#### *Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan*

The Pathways Plan has now been in effect for two years. Two compliance trips, (in conjunction with DOC and Biosecurity New Zealand) were carried out, one in January and one in April. Compliance trips reveal that there has been satisfactory adherence to the clean hull standards of the plan, and the uptake of the Clean Vessel Pass has continued to increase.

As at July 2019, there were 281 current passes with 200 passes applied for in 2019 (see table 1 for the breakdown comparison per month). In 2019, there has been a significant rise in applications for clean vessel passes, which was attributed to the publicity following the January 2019 compliance trip when cost recovery for inspections on non-compliant vessels was used for the first time.

Clean vessel pass advertisements have been focusing on recreational users who access Fiordland during the roar and trailer boats. A full page in the *Professional Skipper Magazine* was published in June. Environment Southland is also working to contact marinas (nationwide) to remind them about the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan and the importance of Clean Vessel Passes (CVP).

#### **Compliance and marine biosecurity surveillance trips**

In January and April 2019, on-water patrols were completed in cooperation with DOC, the Ministry for Primary Industries and Biosecurity New Zealand. These on-water patrols covered several northern fiords in January for the first time in several years, and several southern fiords in April. Fifty vessels were intercepted and inspected during the two compliance trips. Of these 38 received a hull inspection. A total of 14 vessels didn't have a CVP, including six recreational trailer boats. A summary of the vessel inspections is detailed in the table 2.

The 2018/2019 year has been the first year when these trips have been used to actively enforce the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan. As a whole, compliance with the plan has been satisfactory and cost recovery was applied in only five cases. Of these cases, one (vessel 11) was a serious breach of the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan Clean Hull Standards as well as the Southland Regional Pest Management Strategy.

### Vessel 11

Vessel 11 was intercepted by the *Southern Winds* while in Breaksea Sound and heading towards the Acheron Passage. This vessel is a 12 metre recreational yacht originating from Northland. It had left Northland a year ago and had an expired CVP. Before arriving in Fiordland, the vessel had been around the top of the South Island and various other North Island ports, including Northland and Auckland.

Divers inspected the hull and noted biofouling (large oysters, mussels, barnacles and sponges) in the niche areas (rudder, prop, keel, intakes and anodes) and a 12 cm tubeworm. The tubeworm was suspected to be Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*), which is a pest in the Southland Regional Pest Management Strategy. Divers removed the tubeworm, and the biosecurity officer directed the vessel to Sunday Cove for further inspection in a calmer area.

Upon further inspection divers removed five to 10 smaller tubeworms, and took samples and photographs of the biofouling. Much of the biofouling appeared non-viable likely due to freshwater exposure. For example, attached oyster shells were empty. Tubeworms were preserved in formalin for identification by the Marine Invasive Taxonomic Service. Identification confirmed the sample to be a *Sabella* species but it was impossible to tell the species type from the sample.

Officers then decided that remaining biofouling was low risk, however, not low enough that the vessel should stay in Fiordland. They delivered a Notice of Direction under the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the vessel to travel to Bluff as safety allows for a haul out and hull clean before proceeding to Stewart Island and out of Southland. This direction was fulfilled on 18 January 2019. The owner will cover the costs of the hull inspection and cost recovery of staff hours.

### Harbourmaster activities

November 2018 saw the last of the seven transformers for the Meridian power station being delivered by ship via Deep Cove. On this particular delivery, there were four transformers unloaded and delivered by heavy haulers over the Wilmot Pass and into the power station over two to three days.

Work began on stage 3 of the Fiordland VHF Project to install a repeater on Mt Grono, Patea/Doubtful Sound. A pad for the repeater site has been laid and then once the weather improves the cabinet and associated equipment will be put in place. This will provide a very important VHF safety link through to Bluff for mariners and land users. We hope to have this site commissioned early 2020 if not sooner.



A Fiordland cruise ship risk assessment was completed in October 2018 by consultancy firm Navigatus. This very important piece of work was developed to determine the level of risk and consider what mitigations, including planning, rules and limits may need to be considered with the increasing numbers of cruise ships visiting Fiordland. This will also be used for the Fiordland/Stewart Island Safety Management System currently being developed.

### Resource consents

Under the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 (FMMA), the Guardians provide advice on resource consents to Environment Southland, which Council must then take into account. All applications in Fiordland, lodged and accepted by Council, are sent to the Guardians for comment.

The Guardians may also make submissions on publicly-notified applications or attend pre-hearing meetings and hearings for which they have provided submissions.

For the year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, the Council received and processed the following applications within the Fiordland Marine Area:

- **Brian Humphrey (APP-20181542)**  
To undertake commercial surface water activities in the coastal marine area between Yates Point and Puysegur Point, Fiordland.
- **Fiordland Discovery Limited (APP-20181745)**  
To carry out commercial surface water activities in Fiordland.
- **Fiordland Lobster Company Limited & William Hansen (APP-20181604)**  
To occupy the coastal marine area with a helipad, walkway and floating jetty at Taiporoporo/Charles Sound, Gold Arm, Fiordland.
- **Maria Kuster and Sean Ellis (APP-20181624)**  
To operate a commercial surface water activity (charter vessel) in Fiordland from Yates Point to Puysegur Point.
- **Milford Sound Tourism Limited (APP-20181542)**  
To upgrade an existing structure with a canopy over a wharf at Piopiotahi/Milford Sound.
- **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20181697)**  
To exclusively occupy part of the Coastal Marine Area adjacent the Meridian Energy Wharf with a pontoon and to replace an existing walkway, floater unit, fender system and diffuser outfall structure at Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound.
- **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20181939)**  
To carry out a commercial surface water activity in the Coastal Marine Area of Piopiotahi/Milford Sound.
- **Robert C Eymann (APP-20191048)**  
To carry out commercial surface water activities, namely the operation of a vessel in Fiordland, except for parts of the general area of Doubtful Sound.
- **Ricky Stenton & Daryl Bevin (APP-20181665)**  
To install, maintain and exclusively occupy a permanent mooring for a 14 metre vessel in Deepwater Basin Piopiotahi/Milford Sound.
- **Te Anau Helicopter Services Limited (APP-20191368)**  
To install a new pontoon structure and associated moorings to be used as a helicopter landing pad within Shark Cover, Tamatea/Dusky Sound.
- **Totally Tourism Limited (APP-20191120)**  
To undertake commercial surface water activities being the operation of two vessels for tours/cruises at Freshwater Basin, Piopiotahi/Milford Sound.

### Staff changes

Shaun Cunningham left Environment Southland in February 2019 to take a position at Cawthron Institute in Nelson. Environment Southland would like to acknowledge Shaun's work on marine biosecurity in Southland and his tireless efforts to eradicate *Undaria* from Fiordland.

Robert Win is the new Marine Biosecurity Officer at Environment Southland. Robert has an MSc in Marine Science from Otago University and has most recently been working as a Marine Biologist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife undertaking monitoring and management of California's Marine Protected Areas. Previously he worked with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council as a coastal scientist.

**Table 1: Clean Vessel Pass statistics at 17 July 2019**

Breakdown of applications received 2018	Breakdown of applications received 2019
December 2017 – 10 (online 6)	December 2018 – 21 (online 14)
January 2018 – 29 (online 13)	January 2019 – 35 (online 24)
February 2018 – 13 (online 8)	February 2019 – 31 (online 18)
March 2018 – 14 (online 8)	March 2019 – 49 (online 30)
April 2018 – 20 (online 17)	April 2019 – 31 (online 16)
May 2018 – 28 (online 12)	May 2019 – 35 (online 20)
June 2018 – 22 (online 14)	June 2019 – 16 (online 12)
July 2018 – 3 (online 1)	July 2019 – 5 (online 4)

**Table 2: Vessel inspection record from April 2019 compliance trip**

Date	Vessel	Location	Origin	Vessel type	Clean Vehicle Pass	Hull inspection	Action
12/01/2019	1	Doubtful	Fiordland	Charter vessel	Y	Y	
12/01/2019	2	Doubtful	Manapouri	Trailer boat	N	N	Education
12/01/2019	3	Doubtful	Fiordland	Recreational vessel	Y	Y	
12/01/2019	4	Doubtful	Fiordland	Fishing vessel	Y	Y	
12/01/2019	5	Doubtful	Wellington	Recreational yacht	N	Y	Education, vessel had evidence of recent antifoul and inspection before leaving for Fiordland
13/01/2019	6	Dusky	Canterbury	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	
13/01/2019	7	Dusky	Bluff/Stewart Island	Fishing vessel	Y	Y	

Date	Vessel	Location	Origin	Vessel type	Clean Vehicle Pass	Hull inspection	Action
13/01/2019	8	Dusky	Auckland	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	
13/01/2019	9	Dusky	Fiordland	Charter vessel	Y	Y	
13/01/2019	10	Dusky	Fiordland	Commercial vessel	N	Y	Education and minimum cost-recovery
14/01/2019	11	Breaksea	Northland	Recreational yacht	N	Y	Inspection result: potential Mediterranean fanworm and additional fouling. Re-inspection, plus removal of fouling of concern, photographs and samples taken. NOD to leave Fiordland and vessel haul out. Cost-recovery of staff hours, and clean at owners cost.
15/01/2019	12	George	Wellington	Recreational powerboat	N	Y	Education and minimum cost recovery
16/01/2019	13	Doubtful	Fiordland	Fishing vessel	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	14	Doubtful	Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	N	
16/01/2019	15	Doubtful		Trailer	N	N	Expired – education and has reapplied
16/01/2019	16	Doubtful	Fiordland	Charter vessel	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	17	Doubtful	Fiordland	Charter vessel	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	18	Doubtful	Wellington	Recreational yacht	N	Y	Evidence of recent hull inspection and antifoul. Education
16/01/2019	19	Doubtful	Bluff/ Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	20	Doubtful	Fiordland	Fishing vessel	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	21	Doubtful	Fiordland	Recreational vessel	N	Y	Education – low risk
16/01/2019	22	Doubtful	Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	
16/01/2019	23	Doubtful	Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	

Date	Vessel	Location	Origin	Vessel type	Clean Vehicle Pass	Hull inspection	Action
16/01/2019	24	Doubtful	Fiordland	Charter vessel	Y	Y	
09/04/2019	25	Preservation Inlet	Southland	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
09/04/2019	26	Preservation Inlet	Fiordland	Trailer	N	N	Educational information and provided paper Clean Vehicle Pass application
09/04/2019	27	Preservation Inlet	Fiordland	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
09/04/2019	28	Chalky Inlet	Southland	Charter	Y	Y	Educational information
10/04/2019	29	Chalky Inlet	Southland	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
10/04/2019	30	Chalky Inlet	Fiordland	Charter	Y	N	Educational information. Hull inspected in January 2019 and very clean, not deemed necessary on this occasion
10/04/2019	31	Dusky Sound	Fiordland	Charter	Y	Y	Educational information
10/04/2019	32	Dusky Sound	Fiordland	Charter	Y	Y	Educational information
10/04/2019	33	Dusky Sound	Stewart Island	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
10/04/2019	34	Dusky Sound	Stewart Island	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
11/04/2019	35	Dusky Sound	Wellington	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	Educational information
11/04/2019	36	Dusky Sound	Fiordland	Other	Y	N	Educational information. Hull was inspected in January and satisfactory. Not deemed necessary on this occasion
11/04/2019	37	Entrance to Acheron (Breaksea)	Fiordland	Charter	Y	Y	Educational information
11/04/2019	38	Entrance to Acheron (Breaksea)	Fiordland	Charter	Y	Y	Educational information. Hull was also inspected in January and satisfactory then too

Date	Vessel	Location	Origin	Vessel type	Clean Vehicle Pass	Hull inspection	Action
11/04/2019	39	Breaksea Sound	Fiordland	Fishing	Y	Y	Educational information
11/04/2019	40	Breaksea Sound	Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	Y	Educational information
11/04/2019	41	Breaksea Sound	Fiordland	Recreational	N	Y	Educational information and cost recovery for inspection
11/04/2019	42	Breaksea Sound	Southland	Fishing	N	Y	Educational information and cost recovery for inspection
12/04/2019	43	Doubtful Sound	Fiordland	Charter	Y	N	Educational information. Hull was inspected in January and satisfactory. Not deemed necessary on this occasion
12/04./2019	44	Doubtful Sound	Dunedin	Trailer boat	N	N	Educational information and Clean Vehicle Pass application
12/04/2019	45	Doubtful Sound (First Arm)	Bay of Plenty	Research vessel	Y	Y	Educational information
12/04/2019	46	Doubtful Sound (First Arm)	Bay of Plenty	Special purpose vessel	Y	Y	Educational information
13/04/2019	47	Doubtful Sound		Trailer boat	N	N	Educational information
13/04/2019	48	Doubtful Sound	Fiordland	Recreational powerboat	Y	N	Educational information
13/04/2019	49	Doubtful Sound	No home port	Recreational powerboat	Y	N	Educational information
13/04/2019	50	Doubtful Sound	Otago	Trailer boat	N	N	Educational information

## Appendix A – Southland Regional Pest Management Plan 2019–2029

### *Undaria pinnatifida* management rules

Plan objective 7	Principal measures to be used
<p>Over the duration of the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of <i>Undaria</i> within Southland to protect the Fiordland Marine Area (Map 5a – Appendix 1);</li> <li>(ii) prevent any further <i>Undaria</i> infestations within the Southland region;</li> </ul> <p>to minimize or prevent adverse effects on the marine environment.</p>	<p>Appropriate measures drawn from the suite of activities listed under <b>requirement to act, council inspection, service delivery, advocacy and education</b> described in section 5.3 of the SRPMP will be used to by Environment Southland to achieve objective 7.</p> <p><b>Alternatives considered</b></p> <p>Relying on voluntary control is unlikely to result in efficient levels of control and requiring owners and/or occupiers to undertake control is not considered equitable. This is because many of the benefits of control accrue to persons other than to the owners and/or occupiers with <i>Undaria</i>. It is therefore preferable for beneficiaries to fund Environment Southland or other control organisations for control activities.</p> <p>There are no alternative measures that provide for satisfactory inspection, education or advocacy measures.</p>

Plan Rule 12	Explanation of Rule
<p>Any person who detects or suspects the presence of <i>Undaria</i> outside of known <i>Undaria</i> sites (Map 5b – Appendix 1), must immediately report the pest’s presence and location to Environment Southland.</p> <p>Known sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breaksea Sound;</li><li>• Bluff;</li><li>• Waipapa Point;</li><li>• Ruapuke Island;</li><li>• Oban;</li><li>• Patersons Inlet;</li><li>• Big Glory Bay;</li><li>• Port Adventure.</li></ul>	<p>The reason for this rule is to assist Environment Southland in detecting the presence of any <i>Undaria</i> in order to help Environment Southland to effectively undertake the progressive containment programme for <i>Undaria</i>.</p>

Plan Rule 13	Explanation of Rule
<p>No person other than an authorized person shall possess, keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour <i>Undaria</i> within the Southland region.</p>	<p>The reason for this rule is to prevent humans actively establishing <i>Undaria</i> within the Southland region.</p>
<p>Vessels solely operating inside the Southern <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area (Map 5c – Appendix 1) are exempt from this rule.</p>	<p>Exemptions to the rule will cater for case-by-case applications if appropriate.</p>
<p>Vessels must be free of <i>Undaria</i> when they leave the Southern <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area.</p>	<p>It is in the long-term interests of the region's inhabitants that biodiversity and economic well-being values are protected from the adverse effects brought about by the presence of <i>Undaria</i>.</p>
<p>All marine gear and equipment, including but not limited to lobster pots, mooring lines and dive gear, must be free of <i>Undaria</i> when it leaves Southern <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area.</p>	
<p>All on-board residual seawater collected in the Exemption Area must be treated or discarded within the Southern <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound <i>Undaria</i> Exemption Area.</p>	
<p>A breach of this rule creates an offence under Section 154N (19) of the Act.</p>	

#### Advice Notes

- (1) Sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, which prevent the communication, release, spread, sale and propagation of pests, must be complied with. These sections should be referred to in full in the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- (2) Sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act apply to the communication, release, spread and propagation of pests present on vehicles or equipment.
- (3) An owner or person in charge of a vessel entering the Fiordland Marine Area is subject to rules relevant to *Undaria* management under the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan 2017. Those rules should be referred to in full in that document.
- (4) The rules in the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan apply in conjunction with Plan Rules 12 and 13.



**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



## Ministry for Primary Industries

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and our four branded business units, Biosecurity New Zealand, Fisheries New Zealand, Food Safety New Zealand, and Forestry New Zealand help to *grow and protect* New Zealand's primary industries. Our role is to maximise export opportunities and improve sector productivity, increase sustainable resource use, and protect from biological risk.

Key MPI functions of interest to the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA) include providing:

- policy advice and programmes that support the sustainable development of New Zealand's primary industries including on fisheries and aquaculture management
- whole-of-system leadership of New Zealand's biosecurity system
- purchasing science services to maintain the effective management of New Zealand's fisheries.

MPI works to ensure fisheries and other resources are managed sustainably, using a 'voluntary, assisted, directed, enforced' approach to compliance. Education and informing the public and stakeholders is essential to ensuring effective voluntary compliance.



**Biosecurity New Zealand**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

## Biosecurity

### Role

Biosecurity New Zealand is responsible for leading development and maintenance of the biosecurity system that supports sustainable fisheries management and protects the environment and resources from biological risk. This includes working with industry and other partners to agree and implement biosecurity planning, and on inter-agency activities aimed at minimising impacts of marine biosecurity risks to the FMA. The Readiness and Response Services Directorate is responsible for leading this work; teams include advisers who are preparing for and managing responses, and coordinating recovery and long-term management activities.

### Achievements

#### *Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan 2015/16–2020/21*

Biosecurity New Zealand continued to take the lead on implementing the *Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan 2015/16–2020/21* together with partner agencies and the Guardians. The Biosecurity Plan takes a 'pathways' approach to biosecurity where management tools that aim to reduce or prevent the spread of pests can be applied to pathways or parts of pathways. The activities set out in the Biosecurity Plan address the full spectrum of the biosecurity system: reduction, readiness, response, recovery and resilience.

Key biosecurity achievements under this Plan over the last year include:

- *Vessel inspections*: Biosecurity New Zealand contracted work to undertake hull inspections for marine pests on moored vessels based in Bluff and at Stewart Island that are known to travel to the FMA. These vessels are inspected on a routine monthly basis (excluding May to October) for the presence of marine pests, and an assessment of antifoul condition and level of general marine growth. When a marine pest is detected, it is removed from the vessel (if not widespread) and the vessel owner is informed and advised of what action to take before their next visit to Fiordland to ensure their vessel is clean and free of marine pests. Routine monthly inspections stopped over winter from May to October 2019, however vessels owners can still request an inspection before taking their vessel to the FMA.
- The importance of having a clean hull before visiting the FMA was communicated through an advertisement on MetService App and marine pages from October 2018 to April 2019.

Biosecurity New Zealand participated in the January and April 2019 joint-agency compliance and marine surveillance patrols by inspecting hulls for marine pests (with an Environment Southland biosecurity diver (January) and DOC contracted diver (April)).

High risk anchorages and structures were also inspected for marine pests. Biosecurity New Zealand staff also helped communicate marine biosecurity messaging and implement the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan (see Fisheries Compliance, page 42, for further information). Marine biosecurity inspections on these patrols are proving to be very important as on the January patrol a vessel was detected to be carrying a suspected marine pest, and in April *Undaria* was detected on a line in Taiari/Chalky Inlet.

- *Future management of Undaria in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound and Taiari/Chalky Inlet*: Biosecurity New Zealand has taken the lead (while working with ES and DOC) on developing recommendations for the future management of *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound and also Chalky Inlet when *Undaria* was found in April 2019. Our work has also included supporting the ongoing dive surveys in Breaksea Sound and supporting ES on the implementation of the Controlled Area Notice for Breaksea Sound.

Further information on Fiordland marine biosecurity can be found at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fiordland](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fiordland).

#### *Targeted marine pest surveillance*

As part of a National Marine High Risk Site Surveillance Programme, MPI undertakes bi-annual surveys (winter and summer) in 11 locations around New Zealand (including the South Island ports of Bluff, Dunedin, Lyttelton, Picton/Waikawa and Nelson).

This programme aims to achieve early detection of a range of new unwanted marine pests in some of New Zealand's busiest, and therefore high-risk locations – namely ports and marinas of first arrival for international vessels. Undertaking surveillance in the Port of Bluff has benefits to the FMA, such as the early detection of new and emerging marine pests.

Over the past year, no new-to-New Zealand species were detected during these surveys, however, several range extensions of non-indigenous species occurred in the South Island including the:

- striped sand goby, *Acentrogobius pflaumii* (Nelson Harbour)
- hydroid, *Ectopleura crocea* (Nelson Harbour)
- nudibranchs, *Polycera fujitai* and *Polycera hedgpethi* (Nelson Harbour).

Key marine pest species, such as the Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* and clubbed tunicate *Styela clava* continue to be detected at South Island ports. Vessels arriving to Fiordland from such ports, including those in the North Island are at risk of transporting these and other marine pests to the Fiords.

#### *What's new?*

The marine pest ID guide has recently been updated and can be found on the [Ministry for Primary Industries website](#).



All the reports for the original marine biosecurity baseline surveys that were completed throughout a number of New Zealand ports and high-value locations in the early 2000s are now on the marine biosecurity porthole [www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz](http://www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz). This includes one baseline survey of Bluff in 2003 and one baseline survey of Stewart Island in 2006.

See: [www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz](http://www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz).

### Enforcement of the Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling on vessels arriving from overseas

The first year of enforcement of the [Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling](#) (CRMS) saw a high rate of compliance with the new requirements, with only 18 notices of direction issued to non-compliant commercial vessels over the first 12 months. Recreational vessels had an even higher rate of compliance, with only two incidences of non-compliance in the first year. In addition to taking action on non-compliant vessels, MPI also issued education and advice to vessels regarding best practice hull maintenance and good record keeping, to promote improved hull maintenance practices in the international fleet which visits New Zealand.

During the 2018–2019 cruise season, MPI required all cruise vessels visiting places not approved as places of first arrival (non-Point of First Arrivals), including Fiordland and Stewart Island, to operate under an MPI-approved Craft Risk Management Plan (CRMP) to meet the biosecurity requirements for topsides and biofouling.

Craft Risk Management Plans outline the specific management actions which will be undertaken by the vessel operator to manage biosecurity risks before arrival and during the cruise season, and are approved by MPI before the vessel's arrival to New Zealand.

During the 2018–2019 season, all cruise vessels visiting non-POFAs successfully applied for and complied with an approved CRMP, leading to 100 per cent compliance of cruise vessels for this season. In addition to operating under a CRMP, all cruise vessels arriving directly into non-POFAs, such as Fiordland, must also apply for and be issued approval for that arrival, and must meet additional conditions imposed by MPI for that arrival. MPI has already begun receiving and approving CRMP applications for the 2019–2020 cruise season.

MPI continues to engage with stakeholders about the CRMS. These include vessel operators, shipping agents, commercial diving companies, importers, haul out facility operators and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, the CRMS implementation team regularly engages with domestic and international regulators, including Australia, California and Hawaii, to promote the development of biofouling regulations elsewhere in the Pacific.



**Fisheries New Zealand**

Tini a Tangaroa

## Fisheries management

### Role

Fisheries New Zealand continues to be committed to the sustainable management of New Zealand's fisheries resources. Our long-term goal is New Zealanders maximising benefits from the use of fisheries within environmental limits. In line with this goal, the Guardians are charged with providing advice and recommendations to management agencies and Ministers for the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA).

### Achievements

Fisheries New Zealand and the Guardians continue to work together to better understand the impact of increasing recreational fishing activity. This includes hosting an upcoming workshop to better understand and manage the impact of increasing amateur charter vessel operations in the Fiordland area.

The National Blue Cod Strategy, which has been endorsed by the Minister of Fisheries, has a range of tools that can be applied to the Fiordland blue cod fishery. Public consultation on the bag limits and other measures that are a result of the Strategy has been completed, and recommendations are being developed. The Guardians are involved in this process.

See [www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod).



**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



### MPI Fisheries compliance

#### Role

The MPI Compliance Directorate, part of the new MPI Compliance and Governance Unit, is responsible for the operational delivery of compliance inspection services and investigations across fisheries, animal welfare, biosecurity, food, forestry, and other legislation that MPI administers.

At a regional level the MPI Fisheries Compliance team (based in Invercargill) is responsible for the operational delivery of fisheries compliance services within the Fiordland and Southland coastal area. A small six person Fishery Officer team enforces the Fisheries Act 1996 and fisheries regulations by conducting routine surveillance patrols and vessel inspections, carrying out investigations and intelligence analysis across the fisheries spectrum of commercial, recreational and customary fishing.

Since the 2005 FMA establishment, the Southland Fisheries Officer team coordinates and contributes to delivering an Integrated Compliance Plan in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Environment Southland. As a result, MPI Fishery Officers work closely with DOC Compliance Rangers and Environment Southland Compliance Officers when needed, to optimise agency enforcement activities. This can include joint-agency seaborne patrols and the sharing of information to assist directed enforcement by either or a combination of the agencies.

As a result of the *Undaria* pest seaweed detections, marine biosecurity compliance together with marine pest dive surveillance of vessels, structures, moorings and anchorage sites has become a major focus, requiring the collaboration and input of all three compliance agencies.

In terms of reporting, a senior MPI Fisheries Compliance representative attends Guardians-Agency meetings, providing regular report updates of all relevant fisheries compliance matters, including non-compliance or emerging risks.

#### Achievements

##### *Multi-agency compliance and marine biosecurity seaborne patrols*

In mid-January 2019 a team of Compliance Officers from MPI (including Biosecurity New Zealand), DOC and Environment Southland conducted a successful multi-agency seaborne patrol utilising the Department of Conservation *GV Southern Winds*. The six-day patrol took in nine fiords between Tamatea/Dusky Sound and as far north as Hawea/Bligh Sound, including six marine reserves. Eighteen vessels were inspected, including three commercial fishing vessels, four amateur fishing charter vessels, and 11 recreational craft that included six visiting yachts/motor cruising vessels. Eighty-one persons were encountered, engaged in a mix of fishing, diving and cruising. Overall compliance was generally excellent with only minor breaches detected resulting in either infringement or warning notice action.

In early April 2019, a second multi-agency seaborne compliance patrol was conducted aboard the DOC *GV Southern Winds* involving a team of Compliance and Biosecurity Officers from MPI (including Biosecurity New Zealand), DOC and Environment Southland. The six-day patrol took in six fiords between Patea/Doubtful Sound and Preservation Inlet including five marine reserves. Twenty-five vessels were boarded and inspected, including six commercial fishing vessels, six amateur fishing charter vessels, three houseboat barges, and 14 recreational vessels. Of the latter category, two were Syndicate recreational vessels and a mix of trailer boats and tender runabouts. As a result 178 persons were inspected, primarily engaged in rock lobster diving, potting, blue cod fishing, and deer stalking during the peak of the autumn hunting roar. Happily, fisheries rules compliance was again found to be high apart from a couple of minor offences resulting in warning notices.

Throughout the year Fishery Officers regularly performed port landing vessel inspections at Piopiotahi/Milford Sound, Deep Cove, Riverton and Bluff of commercial fishing vessels returning from Fiordland fishing waters. This involved inspections of CRA8 rock lobster, pāua and kina, blue cod, set net and longline fishing operators, checks to ensure both commercial catch landings and recreational crew catch is correctly reported.

One significant commercial offence incident was detected in July 2018 and investigated with potential charges pending. MPI Fishery Officers undertook several dedicated land and waterborne patrols into either Piopiotahi/Milford Sound, Deep Cove and Manapouri in November and December 2018, February (Waitangi weekend), and March 2019, with fisheries compliance being generally high with only the odd exception.

### Looking ahead

A key focus for Biosecurity New Zealand over the coming year is to work with Environment Southland and DOC on implementing the recommendations made on managing *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound and Chalky Inlet. Biosecurity New Zealand will also continue to work with all Fiordland partners to implement the Biosecurity Plan recommendations.

During the weekend of 10–11 August 2019, Invercargill's Stadium Southland will be hosting the Southland Boat Show 2019. Local MPI Fishery Officers, Biosecurity New Zealand and Fisheries New Zealand staff are again planning to participate in a boat show stand. They will promote MPI fishing rules and marine biosecurity measures and encourage boaties to ensure vessel hulls and gear are free of marine pest fouling. The Fiordland Marine Guardians will be joining this stand with the agencies.

In early August, the Guardians and Fisheries New Zealand will be hosting a two-day workshop in Te Anau with amateur fishing charter vessel operators to better understand and manage the impacts of increasing amateur charter vessel operations on finite fish stocks within the fiords and Fiordland coastal area.

On 11 July 2019, Agency compliance and biosecurity officers from MPI, DOC and Environment Southland took part in an annual Interagency Compliance Working Group meeting, which a Fiordland Marine Guardians Compliance Sub-Committee representative attended. Facilitated by MPI, the Working Group meeting debriefed the past years compliance activities including the two multi-agency patrols, plan for next years and begin revising the original Fiordland Marine Area Integrated Compliance Plan, setting out a timeline for the Compliance Plan completion.



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This year's cover image is by Shaun Cunningham.



The Fiordland Marine Guardians welcome feedback on our work. We invite you to contact us directly with questions or concerns about the Fiordland Marine Area.

Fiordland Marine Guardians  
PO Box 213  
Te Anau 9640

[info@fmg.org.nz](mailto:info@fmg.org.nz)  
[www.fmg.org.nz](http://www.fmg.org.nz)

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