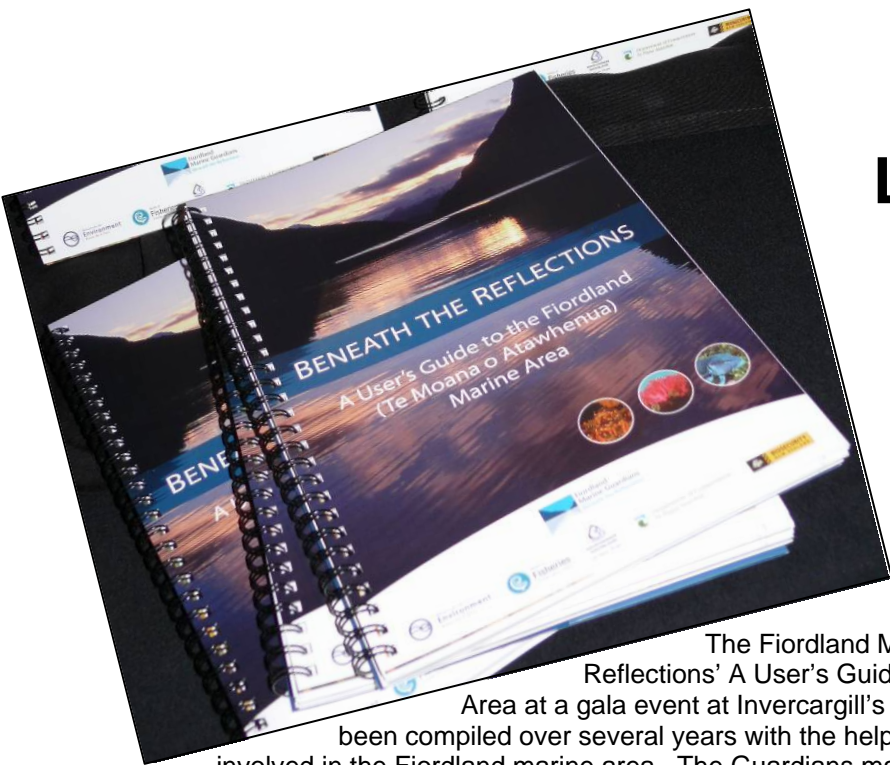


December 2008

The Guardians Newsletter

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are an advisory committee who work with government agencies and their Ministers on the management of the Fiordland marine area. The Guardians have had a very busy few months with the launch of their book "Beneath the Reflections", and also the production of their Annual Report which is included with this newsletter. They welcome this chance to keep you informed.



Launch of 'Beneath the Reflections'- A Users Guide to The Fiordland Marine Area

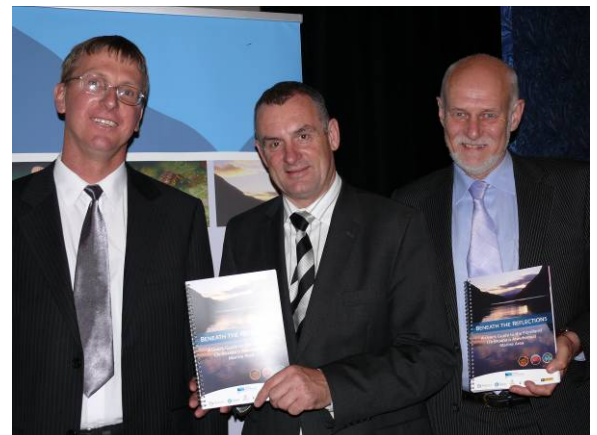
The Fiordland Marine Guardians launched their book - 'Beneath The Reflections' A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area at a gala event at Invercargill's Civic Theatre on the 16th October. This book has been compiled over several years with the help of local experts and the government agencies involved in the Fiordland marine area. The Guardians main aim for this publication was that it should be "a one stop shop" and contain all the relevant information about the area both practical and informative.

The former Ministers Trevor Mallard and Pete Hodgson joined with the Guardians and around 150 invited guests to launch the book, Both the Ministers were impressed with the publication and the wonderful collaboration between the Guardians and government agencies which had made it possible.

The book is fully water-proof and contains all of the main marine regulations, plus practical information including fiord by fiord maps, plus interesting information about the history, the environment and the establishment of the Fiordland Marine Area. It is interspersed with beautiful colour photographs of the area. There is also the opportunity to register for updates should there be changes in regulations in the future which will be sent to you for filing, in a specially designed pocket in the back of the book.

Copies of the book are only \$15 and are available from the Department of Conservation's Te Anau visitor centre, and also their Invercargill Office in Don Street. An order form is included along with your copy of our Annual Report. Order forms are also available on the Guardians website: www.fmg.org.nz

Alison O'Sullivan, Administrator.



Malcolm Lawson, Hon Trevor Mallard and Hon Pete Hodgson at the launch

Commercial Fishers Convicted for Excess Recreational Catch

In November, four CRA8 commercial fishermen appeared in the Invercargill District Court to face charges relating to the possession of excess rock lobster at Milford Sound in October 2008.

Following unloading of commercial catch, Fishery Officers stopped the fishermen's vehicle and found 76 rock lobsters in their possession. They claimed the unlabelled and unreported rock lobster was their recreational catch, which had been accumulated over multiple days.

Commercial fishers are fully entitled to claim a recreational catch in the course of their commercial fishing activity but in order to do so; they must comply with the amateur fishing regulations.

Key points to remember if you want to accumulate rock lobster catch:-

A daily limit of 6 rock lobster applies within the Fiordland Marine Area (this is reduced to 3 if taken within the internal waters).

Some provisions do exist to accumulate rock lobster over multiple days, but that is dependent upon the following conditions being followed:-

- (a) not more than 15 rock lobster are possessed; and
- (b) the daily limit for rock lobster was not exceeded; and
- (c) not more than 3 of the rock lobster possessed were taken from within the internal waters of Fiordland; and
- (d) the rock lobster are held in containers or bags that—
 - (i) contain only rock lobster taken on a single day; and
 - (ii) are clearly labelled to record—
 - (A) the individual fisher's full name; and
 - (B) the date on which that fisher took the rock lobster; and
 - (C) the number of rock lobster held in the container or bag; and
 - (D) the number of those rock lobster (if any) taken from within the internal waters of Fiordland.



Additional obligations are also imposed on commercial fishers who intend to claim a recreational catch when commercial fishing and they must first obtain approval from the Ministry of Fisheries (under section 111 of the Fisheries Act 1996). The approval includes conditions such as limiting commercial fishers to only one day's recreational catch limit (6 rock lobster per fisher) for each fishing trip and requiring all recreational catch to be recorded in their fishing log books (*Catch Effort & Landing Returns*).

The defendants in this particular case had failed to separate and bag and tag their recreational catch and also failed to record the catch in their fishing log book. Even if they had complied with all of these requirements they still would have exceeded their allowable catch by 16 rock lobsters. Each man was convicted and fined \$400 plus costs of \$230 and the commercial permit holder company was fined \$750 plus costs for failing to record the rock lobster on their fishing returns as required. The 4WD vehicle in which the rock lobster was found was also forfeited as a consequence of the convictions.

If you are unsure about any of these requirements, contact a Fishery Officer at the Invercargill Ministry of Fisheries Office.
Reece Murphy, Ministry of Fisheries

Boat Safety in Fiordland

Each year more recreational boats come into Fiordland – some are well prepared, others not so. Fiordland can be unforgiving for the novice boatie, so if you are deciding to bring your boat into the Fiords make sure you're well prepared:

- Take a trip with someone who knows the area first – soak up their expertise.
- Improve your boating knowledge by doing a Coastguard course – a minimum of Day Skipper or a Boatmaster course. It will stand you in good stead wherever you go boating, and boating education could save your life.
- Check through the Fiordland User Guide and keep a copy on the boat within easy reach. Note the safe anchorages and use them.
- Use the recommended radio channels, and make sure you monitor the weather forecasts.
- Carry up to date paper charts – your GPS might just fail when you most need it.

- Don't just carry life jackets – wear them. In an emergency a life jacket is no good stuck under the groceries up forward. Next year it will be compulsory to wear life jackets on all craft of 6m or less, so get into practice now.
- Don't drink alcohol until you're in a safe anchorage at night – don't touch it during the day.
- Keep a good lookout at all times.

Kevin O'Sullivan, Environment Southland

Meet the New Ministers

Minister for the Environment



Hon Dr Nick Smith - Nick was born and educated in North Canterbury and first stood for public office at the age of 18 for the Rangiora District Council while still at High School. Nick attended Canterbury University where he completed a Civil Engineering degree followed by a PhD in Landslides.

Nick joined the National Party as a teenager and has held governing positions through all levels of the organisation.

He entered parliament in 1990 and was the first National MP in Tasman since 1932, then following the MMP reforms in 1996 was elected the first Nelson National MP since 1954. He continues to hold the seat with a comfortable majority. A Minister in the previous National Government he has held the portfolios of Education, Corrections, Conservation, Assoc Minister of Immigration, Treaty Negotiations and Social Welfare.

He has a lifelong love of the outdoors and enjoys tramping kayaking and camping.

Minister for Biosecurity



Hon David Carter - was first elected to Parliament in 1994 as the Member of Parliament for Selwyn. In 1996 he won the Banks Peninsula electorate. In 1999 he became a list member based in Canterbury.

He was born in 1952, and attended St Bede's College in Christchurch.

He completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree at Lincoln University before embarking on a farming and business career. He established New Zealand's first commercial cattle embryo transplant company, and was instrumental in seeing cattle breeds such as Simmental, Charolais and Limousin established in both New Zealand and Australia.

David was Junior Government Whip in 1996, before being promoted to a Minister outside Cabinet in 1998. Ministerial responsibilities included Minister for Senior Citizens, Associate Minister for Food Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control, Associate Minister for Revenue, and Associate Minister for Education.

Minister of Conservation



Hon Tim Groser - was born in Perth, Scotland and came to New Zealand with his parents in 1958. After completing his education at Victoria University where he obtained First Class Honours, he served as a policy adviser in a number of key departments including Treasury, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Prime Minister's Advisory Group.

He was New Zealand's Chief Negotiator in the GATT Uruguay Round - which brought agriculture into the system of world trade rules for the first time and conferred substantial benefits on the NZ economy.

Until recently he was NZ's Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation, and Chair of Agricultural Negotiations for the WTO. Tim was elected to Parliament as a List MP in the 2005 General Election and again in 2008.



Minister of Fisheries

Hon Phil Heatley - Phil is 41 years old. He was born, raised and educated in Whangarei.

In 1990 he completed a Masters with honours degree majoring in Horticultural Engineering. After finishing his studies he returned to Whangarei. In 1993 he worked voluntarily with an international relief agency aboard a hospital ship and when in port joined the crew to undertake medical, agricultural and construction work in developing countries.

He returned to NZ in 1995 and worked as a Professional Engineer for a NZ Dairy Board subsidiary. Nationally, Phil was responsible for working on behalf of the dairy industry in relation to the Resource Management Act (1991).

Phil's personal interests include carpentry, tennis, boating and fishing.

Have your say in future newsletters!

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are always interested in your views on the Fiordland Marine Area. You may want to share your experiences of visits to Fiordland, or offer comments/views - these will be published in future newsletters. Please contact Alison at info@fmg.org.nz or write to Fiordland Marine Guardians, c/- Private Bag 90116, Invercargill.

Guardians Meetings

The Guardians hold regular meetings throughout the year and members of the public are welcome to attend them. The Fiordland Marine Guardians website is regularly updated with the dates of upcoming meetings along with information and research relating to the Fiordland marine area. www.fmg.org.nz

The next meeting will be held on Friday 12th December 2008 at 11am, in the Council Room, Environment Southland, cnr North Road and Price Street, Invercargill. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Guardians and Agency Staff would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season and thank for your continued support.