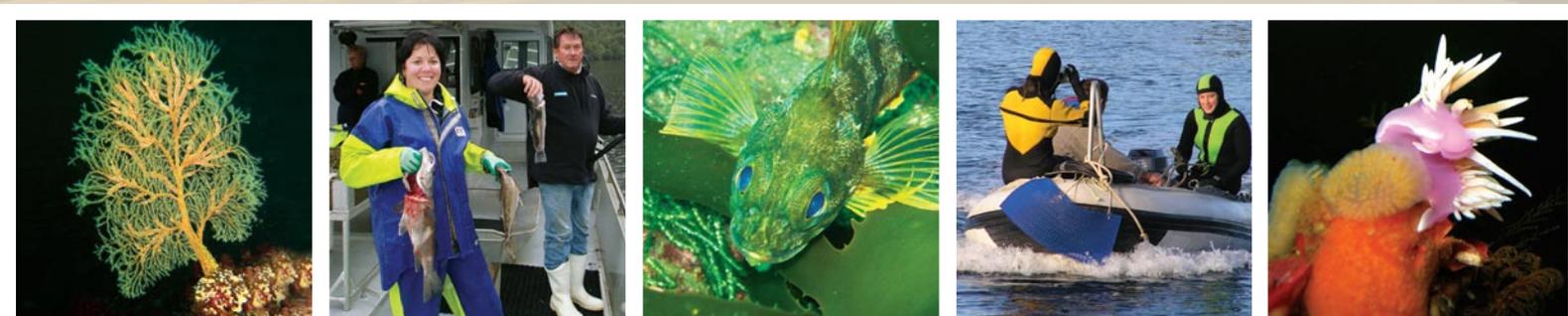


# Annual Report

for the year ended 30 June 2009



Fiordland  
Marine Guardians  
Beneath the Reflections

## The Guardians' vision

*"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."*

Published in September 2009 by the  
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# Annual Report

for the year ended 30 June 2009



**Fiordland  
Marine Guardians**  
Beneath the Reflections

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## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following who provided images for this annual report.

MAIN COVER IMAGE:

Doubtful Sound sunset, *Paddy Ryan*.

FRONT COVER IMAGES:

Gorgonian fan, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*; Recreational fishing, *Stephen Logie, MFish*;  
Jock Stewart, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*; Divers, *DOC*; Jasons Nudibranch, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*.

BACK COVER IMAGES:

Dead Mans Fingers, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*; Commercial fishing boat, *Stephen Logie, MFish*;  
Red Coral and snail, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*; Underwater surveying, *DOC*; Butterfly Perch and sponge, *Richard Kinsey, DOC*.

INSIDE FRONT COVER : *DOC*.

PAGE 2: *Jo Macpherson, DOC*. PAGE 3: No credit available. PAGE 6: *Ministry for the Environment*. PAGE 7: *Richard Kinsey, DOC*. PAGE 10: © *T&J Enderby*.  
PAGE 11: *Ken Grange, NIWA*. PAGE 14: *Richard Kinsey, DOC*. PAGE 17: *Stephen Logie, MFish*. PAGE 23: *DOC*



CHALKY ISLAND

## Chairperson's report

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In January I had the pleasure of spending a few days in Fiordland instead of the more usual short trips that seem to have been the norm in recent years. It was summer, so I didn't think it was unreasonable to expect some of the fine weather and clear skies that result in the picturesque photos we have all seen.

The reality could not have been more different. There was little wind, but there was plenty of rain, to the extent that the rock lobster fishermen stopped fishing because of the depth of freshwater they would have to pull their pots through. And that was on the outer coast. By mid-January over a metre of rain had been recorded at Milford Sound.

The fact is this is not unusual for Fiordland. It is easy to forget that the area gets more than six metres of rainfall a year and that calm days are also in the minority. Its many moods are what make Fiordland what it is, both above and below the surface of the tannin-stained water. Obviously we can't influence the weather, but the Fiordland Marine Guardians and government agencies are committed to working together to enhance those aspects we can influence so that people can enjoy the experience that Fiordland provides.

In October 2008 the culmination of the efforts of many people over a number of years saw around 150 people attend the launch of *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*, which brings together a wide range of information in one publication. The guide is printed on waterproof paper, and while it undoubtedly looks good as a coffee table book it will also stand up to the rigours of the Fiordland environment, and we want people to take it out with them and use it.

In early 2009 two survey trips were made to find out more about the biological diversity of the area. The first was a dive survey and the second involved the deployment of a remote operated vehicle (ROV) to deeper reef systems. These surveys have found new species and have added to the knowledge base, but they also remind us that there is still much to learn.

This building of our knowledge of the area will continue, not only in the following years but well into the future.

If you have not yet got yourself a copy of the *User's Guide* I encourage you to do so, and also to spend a little time learning more about the area. It will all help towards enhancing the Fiordland experience for you and others.



**Malcolm Lawson**

*Chairperson*

The Fiordland Marine Guardians would like to acknowledge the efforts of Paul Irving. During his time at the Ministry for the Environment he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Guardians' vision and made a significant contribution over a number of years to the development and implementation of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005.

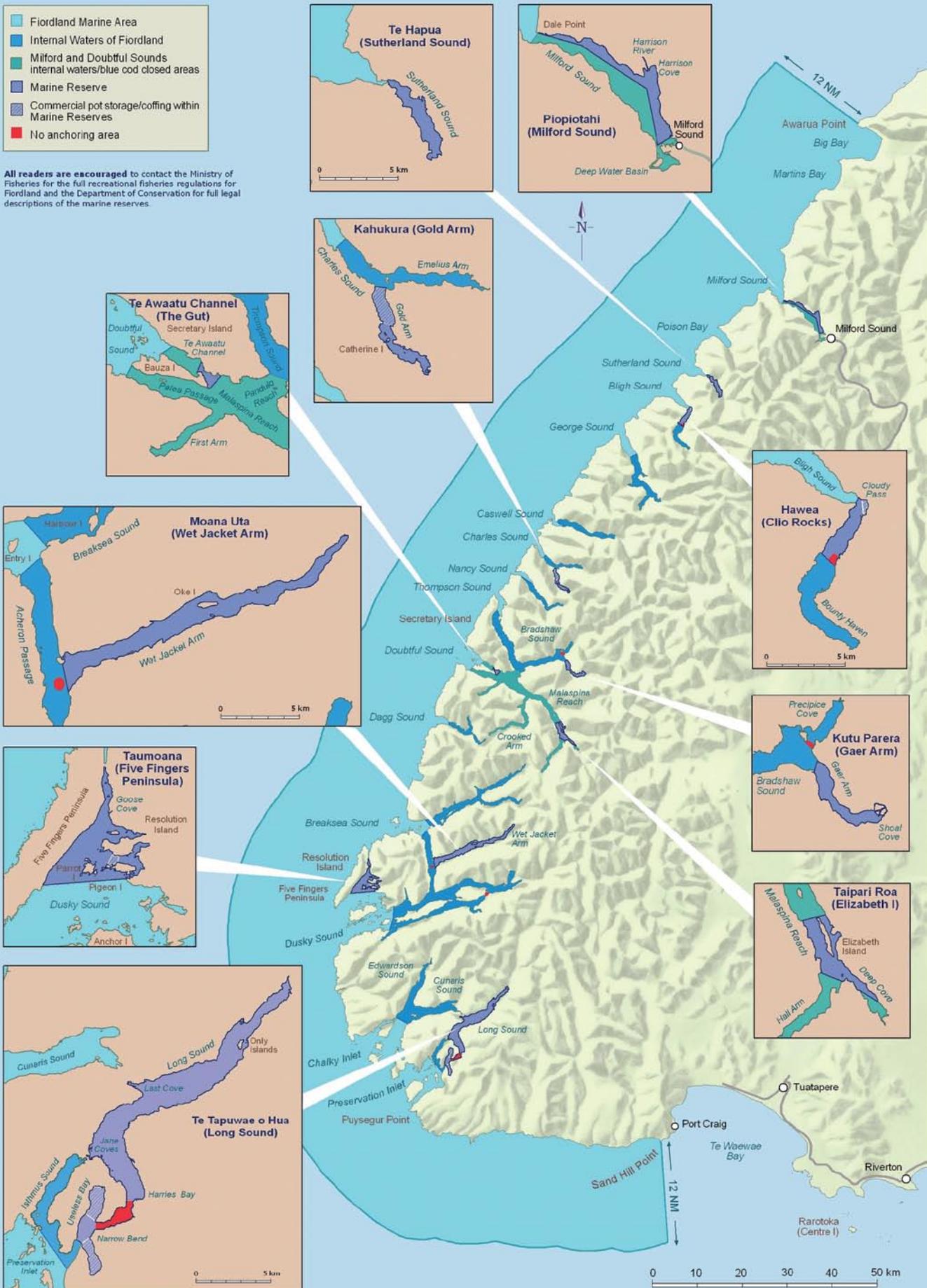


MILFORD SOUND/PIOPIOTAHU

# Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area

- Fiordland Marine Area
- Internal Waters of Fiordland
- Milford and Doubtful Sounds internal waters/blue cod closed areas
- Marine Reserve
- Commercial pot storage/coffing within Marine Reserves
- No anchoring area

All readers are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Fisheries for the full recreational fisheries regulations for Fiordland and the Department of Conservation for full legal descriptions of the marine reserves.



# History of the Fiordland Marine Guardians

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From the first steps in 1995, the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment embarked on a unique journey. Its goal was the protection of the Fiordland marine environment by those who value and use it. This was the genesis of today's Fiordland Marine Guardians (the Guardians). The original group, endowed with first-hand knowledge, experience and a passion for the Fiordland marine environment, went through the process of developing an integrated management strategy for Fiordland's marine environment. With support from the management agencies,<sup>1</sup> they saw the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act enacted in 2005. The Guardians are now implementing the management programme.

This process and its outcomes were a remarkable achievement. A variety of groups with very different interests in the Fiordland marine environment had come together to share their views on how they could protect their own interests, and Fiordland, for the future. The groups included Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, charter boat operators, tourist operators, marine scientists, and environmental and community interest groups.

The original vision adopted in 1995 remains the same for today's Guardians:

*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.*

A shared vision was a fundamental first step towards merging interests and creating a group that could interact freely and constructively. The sharing of information followed, and the value of first-hand knowledge and experience shone through. Gathering information from a wide range of sources also built up the cooperative team spirit.

In 2000, members of the regional (central and local government) agencies were invited to join the group in a supportive advisory role. A complementary relationship soon evolved: the Guardians share information the agencies need and the agencies provide significant support to the Guardians.

Developing the draft conservation strategy in only two years required a very significant commitment. For a number of issues the group agreed about what was needed. However, when one interest or sector benefited at the cost of another, the Guardians agreed that the advantaged party should give something in return. The aim was to ensure that the greater good of Fiordland took precedence over competing interests. This became known as the "gifts and gains" philosophy, which underpinned more difficult negotiations. For instance, when the commercial fishers volunteered to withdraw from fishing the inner fiords, recreational fishers volunteered to set stringent fishing rules for these more fragile inner areas.

Representative areas that were biologically diverse were identified as deserving particular care and were designated marine reserves. Other more discrete and fragile areas were identified as having special qualities and became known as "china shops". Some of these areas were deemed to be vulnerable to anchoring damage and were designated no-anchoring areas. For the strategy to succeed in an isolated area such as Fiordland, it was imperative that all stakeholders supported both the process and the philosophy that underpinned it. The Guardians worked with agency staff and encouraged them to operate outside their normal limits to search for solutions that crossed the usual boundaries. This was something new and refreshing, and fundamental to successful, integrated management.

By 2003 a new piece of legislation was considered necessary to implement the management strategy. The Guardians recognised that they needed a way to protect the integrity of the whole package so that the balance of gifts and gains would not be compromised. A central feature of the new legislation was a statutory role for a community group that would continue to provide oversight and direction. The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 established the Guardians, and is the first legislation of its kind for the marine environment in New Zealand.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry for the Environment, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Environment Southland and Ministry of Fisheries

# Achievements in 2008/09

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## Presentations to Interested Groups

The Guardians are regularly asked to speak to interested groups about the Fiordland initiative. One such presentation was made to a group of Cook Islands marine resource managers and policy developers in August 2008, who were interested to hear about the formation of the Guardians. The Guardians were able to share their experiences with the Cook Islands group and make suggestions regarding concerns over the Takitimu Lagoon, which is experiencing problems associated with pollution and the management of the area. The following day the Guardians accompanied the Cook Islands delegation into Doubtful Sound in the snow, which was a new experience for the group.

## User's Guide

One of the major achievements and highlights of the year was the launch of *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*. The book was the culmination of the work and commitment of many people over a considerable period of time.

Soon after their inception, the Guardians recognised that there was a need for a comprehensive book that would bring a range of information together for visitors to the Fiordland Marine Area. After months of hard work, the *User's Guide* was officially launched on 16 October 2008 at the Civic Theatre in Invercargill. The launch was attended by 150 guests, including past and present Guardians, tourism operators, Fiordland community members, commercial fishers, syndicate boat owners, recreational fishers, representatives from Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and management agency staff. The Hon Trevor Mallard and the Hon Pete Hodgson also attended in their capacities as the Ministers for the Environment and Fisheries respectively. Pete Hodgson has been a supporter of the Guardians since they originally formed as a voluntary group. That he took the time to attend and continue his link with the Guardians was appreciated.

Nearly 250 copies of the *User's Guide* have been sold, and it has received positive reviews in a number of newspapers and fishing magazines. The Guardians would like to acknowledge and thank the agency staff and all of those who contributed to the *User's Guide's* production.

## Marine Reserve Markers

The issue of whether or not marine reserves – particularly those outside of Doubtful and Milford Sounds – should be marked has been resolved to the satisfaction of both the Guardians and the Department of Conservation (see the "Advice and Recommendations Given" section for further details).



The Guardians at the launch of the *User's Guide* (left to right): Alison O'Sullivan, Mark Pechers, Stewart Bull, Jerry Excell, Malcolm Lawson, Anne McDermott, Ken Grange, Alan Mark, Alan Key.

## **Website**

The website ([www.fmg.org.nz](http://www.fmg.org.nz)) continues to be well patronised. One interesting trend has emerged: visits to the website increase in the days following the release of our newsletters. This suggests that the newsletter is prompting people to use the website as an additional source of information. This trend was also apparent after the launch of the *User's Guide*.

## **Meetings**

Five joint Guardians–agency meetings were held during the year. Further details are available in Appendix 2.

## **Newsletters**

Alison O'Sullivan has continued in her role as editor of the newsletter. Three newsletters were sent out during 2008/09 to about 350 people and organisations on the Guardians' contact database.



# Advice and recommendations given

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## Biosecurity

The Guardians see marine pest incursions as representing the largest and most immediate danger to Fiordland's marine waters and the rich biodiversity and unique marine ecosystems they support. Consequently, biosecurity matters have taken a prominent role in the last year.

### Interim Biosecurity Plan

Throughout the year MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) continued to manage the Interim Biosecurity Plan, which had been put in place to reduce the threat of the introduction of marine pests into the Fiordland Marine Area. Reports were regularly received on the Bluff vessel and port monitoring results, and the Guardians provided comments on this plan.

### Strategic Plan

The five-year *Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Strategic Plan (2009/10 – 2013/14)* was agreed to by MAFBNZ, the Guardians and other management agencies in March 2009. This plan will guide operational activities related to marine biosecurity.

### Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Risk Management Operational Plan

The Guardians provided background information as well as comments on recommendations for this plan that were developed during the year by the Cawthron Institute under contract to MAFBNZ. This will replace the interim plan and will provide specific objectives towards the aim of reducing the marine pest threat. The Guardians will continue to be involved as each of the objectives is implemented. Some of the objectives also formed the basis of the Guardians' submission to Environment Southland's Long Term Council and Community Plan.

### Environment Southland Long Term Council and Community Plan (LTCCP)

The Guardians' submission on the LTCCP focused on three areas in relation to biosecurity management in Fiordland.

#### ***In the immediate future***

There needs to be:

- enforcement of the marine biosecurity conditions routinely included on resource consents, and compliance with the provisions of the Regional Pest Management Strategy, through staffing and operational funding
- a commitment to provide resources (both staffing and funding) to carry out work in the event of a report of a marine pest incursion. This would initially involve investigation, followed by action if an incursion is confirmed.

The Guardians submitted that there is little point including conditions on resource consents or in the Regional Pest Management Strategy if education and compliance monitoring are not carried out.

#### ***In the medium term (two to three years)***

There needs to be:

- development and introduction of a permit system for all vessels entering the Fiordland Marine Area.

The issue of a permit system is a direct result of the development of the operational plan. The aim of introducing a permit system for vessels travelling to Fiordland is not to restrict vessels. It is to have a system whereby vessels can be identified, to ensure that operators are fully aware of the biosecurity risks and their legal obligations, and that they have measures in place to mitigate the risks. The system recognises that vessels can travel directly to the Fiordland Marine Area from various parts of the country already affected by marine pests and that a major public awareness campaign will be necessary to prevent their spread into the Fiordland Marine Area.

### *Styela clava*

During the year MAFBNZ staff reported that the sea squirt *Styela clava* had spread to Otago Harbour. The Guardians are concerned that little is being done to contain the spread, particularly as some vessels are known to leave directly from this port to travel to Fiordland. The Guardians have asked MAFBNZ staff to raise this issue with Port Otago and the Otago Regional Council.

## Communication

On 16 October 2008 *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area* was launched. (For further details see the "Achievements in 2008/09" section.)

## Compliance

Levels of compliance with the various regulations pertaining to the Fiordland Marine Area continue to increase. Knowledge of the specific requirements that apply within the area is becoming widespread, and this is reflected in compliance levels. The Guardians are also aware that many users of the area are taking on the responsibility of informing others of these requirements, and the Guardians would like to express their appreciation for the efforts of the community.

### Rock lobster holding pots

During the year the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) released a consultation paper on the proposal to expand the use of potting as a legal fishing method to incorporate a larger range of fisheries than is currently allowed. Any formal proposals would mean that the current legal definition of a rock lobster pot would require amendment.

The Guardians took the opportunity to submit that the strict interpretation of the current legal definition of a rock lobster pot means that any pot, whether for capture or for storage, falls under this definition. The result of this is that any holding pots used to store live rock lobster during a multi-day trip have to be included in the three rock lobster pots that are allowed per boat, thereby reducing the number of active "catching pots" that can be deployed. This restriction was not contemplated by the Guardians when the regulations for the Fiordland Marine Area were put in place. The Guardians submitted that an amendment to the regulations be introduced allowing the use of holding pots within the area while not reducing the number of active catching pots. A final decision from the Minister of Fisheries is yet to be received.

### Extension to Doubtful and Milford Sounds blue cod fishery closure

The closure of the blue cod fisheries for Doubtful and Milford Sounds was due to lapse at the end of June 2009. MFish had proposed the closure be reinstated with an open end date instead of having to revisit it on a regular basis.

It has always been the Guardians' intention to put a management plan in place for these fisheries using data from research projects that have been carried out. Thus far the results have been equivocal regarding whether a rebuilding of the fisheries is occurring and if the fisheries are sustainable. Further research is planned, and the Guardians will have input into their design.

A review of the management regime for the Fiordland Marine Area will be carried out next year (for further details see the "Looking Ahead – The Next 12 Months" section). As part of this, the public will be asked for their views on what measures should be included in a management plan for the blue cod fisheries. For this reason the Guardians have supported the proposal that the fisheries remain closed for the immediate future (see the media release next page).

### PAUSA (Fiordland) Fishery Plan

Mark Peychers has been involved with the multi-stakeholder group that is developing a fishery plan for the Fiordland paua fishery under the guidance of MFish.

## Marking of Marine Reserves

The Guardians' advice to DOC has always been that the boundaries of all the marine reserves in the Fiordland Marine Area should be marked. This provides some consistency for compliance purposes by clearly showing the boundaries and also serves to remind people that they are in special areas that must be respected. The Guardians also support the concept that any markers should not detract from the nature of the area.

The Guardians recommended to DOC that they consider erecting pou pou – traditional Maori posts that mark areas of significance. They would also recognise Ngai Tahu's traditional connection with the Fiordland Marine Area and the importance of it to tangata whenua. DOC has accepted this idea for the reserves outside of Doubtful and Milford Sounds. The design of the pou pou and a timetable for their manufacture and placement are still to be decided. The marine reserves within Doubtful and Milford Sounds will continue to be marked with standard markers.

## Fiordland blue cod closures extended

Closures in Milford and Doubtful Sounds to amateur fishing for blue cod have been extended to allow fish stocks to rebuild the Ministry of Fisheries and Fiordland Marine Guardians announced today.

Both Milford and Doubtful Sounds have been closed to amateur blue cod fishing since 2005, following recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries from the Fiordland Marine Guardians.

All Fiordland's inner sounds have been closed to commercial fishing since 2005 and Milford Sound has been closed to commercial fishing since 1994.

The Ministry of Fisheries has been monitoring blue cod stocks in Milford and Doubtful Sounds since the summer of 2005/06, to see how they were responding to the amateur fishing closures.

"We have been monitoring the blue cod population in the closed areas for around four years but we are not yet seeing a clear trend in blue cod numbers" said Inshore Fishery Manager Rose Grindley.

"The fisheries will continue to be monitored by the Ministry of Fisheries with a research project planned for the 2009 summer" she said.

"It has always been the intention of the Guardians to put a long-term management plan in place, based on the results of the monitoring programme. This is still the case but the reality is that we are dealing with a relatively slow growing fish so these things take time" said Fiordland Marine Guardians Chairman Malcolm Lawson.

The Fiordland Marine Guardians is a group of community representatives who advise central and local government agencies on how to manage the Fiordland marine environment. They were formed in 1995 (as the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries Inc), in response to concerns about the escalating pressures on the Fiordland marine area. There were several reasons for those concerns – increasing human activity; the need for improved integrated management of the area; and a desire that the local community be more involved in the management of Fiordland's marine environment.

"Next year the Guardians will be undertaking a review of the overall management plan of Fiordland's marine environment. It will be five years since its inception and we will be asking the public and user groups for their views on the current provisions and for future management ideas. The long term plan for the blue cod fishery in Milford and Doubtful Sounds will be part of this review" said Mr Lawson.

It would be unwise to reopen these areas prior to receiving as much information as possible from the research programme and before undertaking the review" he said.

The Guardians were given formal recognition with the enactment of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005. Appointed by the Minister for the Environment, current guardians include commercial and recreational fishers, environmentalists, marine scientists, and community and tangata whenua (Ngai Tahu) representatives.



BLUE COD : © T & J ENDERBY

## Resource Consents

The Guardians commented on a number of resource consent applications throughout the year, including the following.

### Island Escape Cruises

This application was with regard to the *MV Island Passage*. As well as commenting on biosecurity concerns, the Guardians had serious misgivings relating to the operation of this vessel in adverse weather conditions. The *Island Passage* is considerably larger than others operating as charter vessels in the Fiordland Marine Area. The list of proposed anchorages also caused concern as some are not suitable for this vessel due to their size and location and could potentially cause problems for other vessels.

### Nigel Lamb

The Guardians supported the application for consent from Nigel Lamb for both the wharf and the slipway in Deep Cove. They commend Nigel for the maintenance work he has carried out.

### Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

The Guardians supported the application from LINZ for the installation of a tsunami monitoring gauge at Welcome Bay, Preservation Inlet.

### Otago University – Dr Stephen Dawson

The Guardians signed off this non-notified consent for the installation of up to eight temporary subsurface moorings in Doubtful Sound, and up to five in Dusky–Breaksea Sound for the purpose of attaching dolphin echolocation detectors.



### OP Marine Ltd

This application is for consent to operate a smaller sized cruise ship, the *Oceanic Discoverer*, in areas outside the Cruise Ships Deed of Agreement. The Guardians have concerns about the size of the vessel, anchorage difficulties and navigational safety during mooring. They believe that many of the proposed anchorages are unsuitable. The Guardians also advised that there is a need to bear the zoning principles of the national park in mind when considering this application. The Guardians question the appropriateness of the presence of ships of this size in an area that is possibly to be rezoned as a "wilderness area" where the values of isolation and remoteness must be retained.

### Meridian Energy Ltd

During the year the Guardians received a number of presentations from Meridian Energy Ltd in preparation for the filing of their application to amend their present resource consent. If approved, the amended resource consent will allow an increased discharge of fresh water from the Manapouri Power Station tailrace into the waters of Doubtful Sound at Deep Cove. While neither supporting nor opposing the application, the Guardians made a submission on three areas that they believe Environment Southland needs to consider:

- biological effects on the marine environment
- effects on the bottlenose dolphin population
- effects on other users, particularly kayakers.

Regarding the effect on the marine environment, the Guardians are concerned about the potential ecological effects of an increased and perhaps even more permanent low salinity layer as it moves down the fiord. Accordingly, if the consent is granted the Guardians support increased biological monitoring around the mid-fiord area (near Crooked Arm), which appears to be a transition zone at present. The Guardians also support monitoring of shallow soft-sediment habitats of the inner fiord.

Regarding the bottlenose dolphin population, various reports have indicated the precarious state of the resident population. The Guardians believe that the recent decline in the population is probably caused by a variety of factors, but what those factors are has not been established. In 2007 DOC produced the *Doubtful Sound Bottlenose Dolphin Threat Management Discussion Paper*, which proposed various measures to limit the impacts of vessels on dolphin behaviour. As part of that process, three marine mammal experts (Markowitz, Schneider and Marsh) were asked to review the research and submissions made in relation to this paper. All three experts identified the need for further studies into any relationship between dolphin health and freshwater input from the Manapouri Power Station.

Regarding the effect on other users, and particularly recreational kayakers and commercial kayaking businesses that operate from Deep Cove, the Guardians are concerned about adverse effects that higher flows may have.

An oral submission will be made at the formal hearing.

## Monitoring

The monitoring plan over the last year has focused on two surveys carried out by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), under contract to the Department of Conservation (DOC), in areas that had not been covered by earlier work. Perhaps not unexpectedly, a range of new species has been found as a result of these surveys.

### China shop survey

The Guardians were involved in the planning of the first dedicated survey of the "china shop" areas that were identified in the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy by the original Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment. China shops are discrete areas of special significance due to the abundance and/or diversity of species and communities found in a small area. A total of 17 china shops were surveyed and their unique characteristics recorded.

### Deep reef survey

The Guardians were also involved in the planning of the first survey of deep reef systems in Dusky and Doubtful Sounds. All previous surveys had been done by divers, but this project examined the ecosystems to a depth of 200 metres by using a remote operated vehicle (ROV) and a baited video camera. Each of these surveys was carried out from the GV *Southern Winds*. Guardian Mark Peychers and original Guardian Peter Young were on board for these trips as the vessel's skipper and crew, and were able to provide first-hand knowledge and advice of the areas.

# Other activities undertaken by the Guardians

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## Guardians' Appointments

Six of the Guardians have been reappointed over the past financial year. In September 2008 the Minister reappointed Malcolm Lawson and Ken Grange for three-year terms and Alan Mark for a two-year term. In June 2009 Anne McDermott and Alan Key were reappointed for three-year terms, and Stewart Bull was reappointed for a further four years.

## Meeting with Southland Conservation Board

A meeting was held with the Southland Conservation Board in April 2009. The aim of the meeting was to discuss matters of common interest between the two organisations and to receive feedback from the Southland Conservation Board on how the Guardians were perceived. Matters discussed included the Meridian Energy Ltd resource consent application (see the "Advice and Recommendations Given" section), marine pests and management of the Doubtful Sound bottlenose dolphin population. Board members commented that the Guardians have set a benchmark for interaction with the community, such that members of the public are more likely to engage with them and pass on concerns about the area.

During the meeting the Guardians confirmed that they had accepted the invitation from the Southland Conservation Board to be appointed as the marine reserves advisory committee for Fiordland's marine reserves (see below).

## Fiordland Marine Reserves Advisory Committee

The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act provides for the Guardians to be appointed by the Southland Conservation Board as the marine reserves advisory committee for Fiordland's marine reserves. During the year this invitation was extended to, and accepted by, the Guardians.

The current Conservation Management Strategy for Southland and Otago does not include a management plan for the Fiordland marine reserves. This will be one of the Guardians' priorities. A management plan will include strategies for compliance, monitoring, public awareness, and assessment of applications for research within the reserves. The Chairman of the Southland Conservation Board is to write to the Minister of Conservation advising him of the appointment.

## Fiordland Explorer Charters Display Facilities

Fiordland Explorer Charters Ltd has invited the Guardians to provide material for their new display area, integrating material from the government agencies involved and raising the profile of the Guardians. A display board has been designed and will be installed at Fiordland Charters early in the 2009/10 year. Thank you to Nigel Lamb for making this space available and for his ongoing support of the Guardians.

## Requests for Guardians' Participation

Due to continued requests for Guardians' participation, particularly with regard to government projects, an amendment to the protocol between the Guardians and management agencies has been made to enable appropriate funding from the agencies to cover Guardians' expenses.

## Kina Industry Plans

A presentation was received from Alan MacDonald of the SUR South Island Association regarding the commercial kina industry plans. The Association is proposing changes to the current management of the southern kina quota management area (SUR5) to allow more economic return from the Fiordland kina stocks. The proposal includes an increase in fishing to take advantage of abundance and changes to current harvesting controls.

## CRA8 Fishery

Malcolm Lawson gave a presentation to the Guardians and agency representatives at the December 2008 meeting on the changes to the CRA8 rock lobster fishery over recent years and the management strategy that is now in place.

## Looking ahead: The next 12 months

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### **2010 Ministerial Review of the Act**

Next year marks the five-year anniversary of the enactment of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act. One of the requirements of the Act is that the Minister for the Environment must initiate a review to determine the effectiveness of the management of the Fiordland Marine Area. The terms of reference for this review are currently being developed, and a person or group will be appointed by the Minister to carry out the review. A full range of users and stakeholders will be asked for their opinions on the current management regime.

### **Review of the Fiordland Marine Area Rules**

Following the Ministerial Review, the Guardians intend to conduct a review of the actual management measures that are in place. It is important that the rules for the area keep up to date with changes that have occurred. For example: are the daily bag limits appropriate given the state of the fisheries? The development of a management plan for Milford and Doubtful Sounds' blue cod stocks will be part of this review.

Results from the biological monitoring, user survey and recreational fishing survey, as well as the results of the Ministerial Review, will be considered as part of this. The intention is that as many people as possible will be given the opportunity to express their views.



## **Marking of Marine Reserves Boundaries**

The pou pou that will be used to mark marine reserves outside of Doubtful and Milford Sounds will be designed during the year after consultation with tangata whenua. Decisions on materials will also be made. It is likely that the erection of these will be progressive, as resources allow.

## **Meeting with the Minister**

The Guardians are looking forward to meeting with the Hon Dr Nick Smith (the Minister for the Environment) in Te Anau in July 2009. A trip to Doubtful Sound for the Minister has been arranged. He will be accompanied by the Guardians and representatives from the management agencies.

*As this report goes to print, the Guardians can report that they enjoyed a productive weekend with Hon Dr Nick Smith. A full report will be included in the 2010 Annual Report.*

## **Southland Boat Show**

The biennial Southland Boat Show is scheduled to take place on 1 and 2 August 2009. The Guardians will again have a stand after a very successful show in 2007. This is an important forum for the Guardians as it draws together boaties from across Southland. Arrangements are being made to ensure that the government agencies involved with the Guardians have supporting stands near the Guardians' stand.

*As this report goes to print, the Boat Show has been held and was a very successful event for the Guardians. A full report will be provided in the 2010 Annual Report.*

## **Marine Pests**

The Guardians will continue to have input into finalising the long-term biosecurity operational plan that is being developed by MAFBNZ. The recent report that the sea squirt *Styela clava* has been found in Otago Harbour indicates that the threat from marine pests is increasing. The Guardians will continue to support programmes that raise awareness and encourage practices that reduce this risk. The Guardians will also be making a submission on the MAFBNZ Review of the Undaria Commercial Harvest Policy.

## **Southland Regional Policy Statement and District Plan Reviews**

Environment Southland and the Southland District Council are holding joint consultation for the reviews of the Southland Regional Policy Statement and the Southland District Plan. The Guardians will be making a submission on the review of the coastal section of the Southland Regional Policy Statement.

## **Marine Reserves Management Plans**

As the advisory committee for the Fiordland marine reserves, the Guardians will consider management strategies for the reserves with a view to developing a medium-term plan.

## **Monitoring Surveys**

The Guardians will be involved in planning biological monitoring surveys that will be carried out in the summer of 2010. DOC, as lead agency in the monitoring plan, will be developing and managing these surveys. The surveys will repeat the earlier work done to establish biological baselines, and this will be the first opportunity to see whether any changes have occurred since the baselines were established.

## **Blue Cod Survey**

The Guardians will be involved in the development of the blue cod research survey, which will be led by the Ministry of Fisheries.

## **Presentation to Biosecurity Conference**

In October 2009 Malcolm Lawson will give a presentation at the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute Conference in Queenstown. Malcolm will discuss the Guardians initiative and their involvement in developing biosecurity strategies for the Fiordland Marine Area.

# Appendix 1: The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005

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## Section 3: Purpose of the Act

In recognition of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area's local, national, and international importance, unique marine environment, distinctive biological diversity, and outstanding landscape and cultural heritage, this Act—

- (a) establishes the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area and 8 marine reserves in that area;
- (b) implements measures to assist in the preservation, protection, and sustainable management of the marine environment and biological diversity of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
- (c) establishes the Fiordland Marine Guardians to provide advice on fisheries management, biosecurity, sustainable management, and marine preservation and protection;
- (d) facilitates and promotes co-operation between the Guardians and management agencies, to assist in achieving the integrated management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
- (e) acknowledges the importance of kaitiakitanga.

## Section 13: Functions of Guardians

- (1) The functions of the Guardians are—
  - (a) to advise and make recommendations to management agencies and Ministers who exercise functions under the enactments listed in Schedule 13, to achieve the purpose of this Act, including, but not limited to,—
    - (i) advice and recommendations on the effectiveness of the management measures in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
    - (ii) advice and recommendations on activities occurring outside of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area if those activities impact, or are likely to impact, on the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
    - (iii) advice and recommendations on likely threats to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
  - (b) to facilitate and promote the integrated management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
  - (c) to obtain, share, and monitor information on the state of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
  - (d) to assist management agencies to—
    - (i) prepare and disseminate information about the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area, including educational information;
    - (ii) monitor the state of the marine environment and biological diversity in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
    - (iii) plan for the enforcement of, and compliance with, the management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
  - (e) to conduct any reviews instituted under section 25 that they—
    - (i) are invited by the Minister to conduct; and
    - (ii) agree to conduct;
  - (f) to perform any other functions given to them under this or any other Act.
- (2) Advice and recommendations under subsection (1)(a) may be given on the Guardians' own initiative or at the request of—
  - (a) a management agency; or
  - (b) the Minister; or
  - (c) the Minister for Biosecurity; or
  - (d) the Minister of Fisheries; or
  - (e) the Minister of Conservation.

## Appendix 2: Meetings – dates and times

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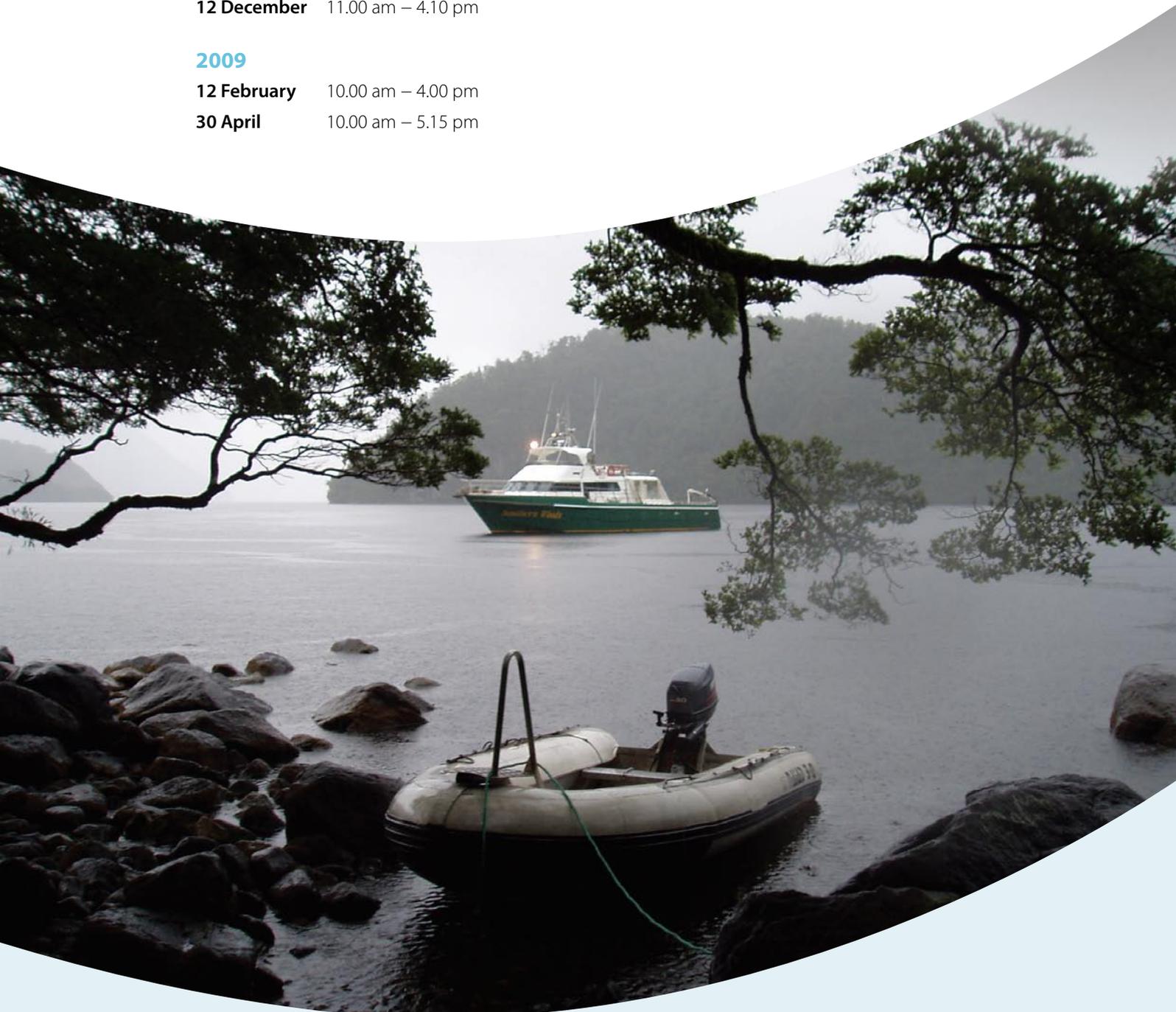
In accordance with section 20 of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act, details of meetings held during the past year are as follows.

### 2008

- 21 August** 10.00 am – 4.05 pm
- 23 September** 10.00 am – 2.15pm (Compliance sub-committee meeting)
- 3 October** 10.00 am – 3.00 pm (Monitoring sub-committee meeting)
- 16 October** 11.00 am – 4.45 pm
- 12 December** 10.00 am – 11.00 am (Biosecurity sub-committee meeting)
- 12 December** 11.00 am – 4.10 pm

### 2009

- 12 February** 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
- 30 April** 10.00 am – 5.15 pm



## Appendix 3: Agency reports

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### Ministry for the Environment

The Ministry for the Environment administers the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act and is responsible for coordinating the Fiordland Marine Area Communications Plan. The Ministry also provides administrative and secretariat support to the Guardians and ensures the Minister's obligations under the Act are met.

The change of government after the 2008 election has seen the Hon Dr Nick Smith appointed as Minister for the Environment. As a long-standing supporter of collaborative governance and the Fiordland Marine Guardians, he is planning to travel to Te Anau to meet with the Guardians and management agencies in early July.

#### Achievements

The development of a comprehensive user's guide for the Fiordland Marine Area has been a major project, which the Ministry has coordinated over the past few years. After many months of research, writing, editing and design, *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area* was published in October 2008. The Ministry organised a launch event for the User's Guide in Invercargill on 16 October, which was attended by 150 guests including past and present Guardians, representatives of stakeholder groups, management agency representatives and government ministers.

Six of the Guardians have been reappointed for further terms over the past year. In September 2008 Malcolm Lawson and Ken Grange were reappointed for a further three years, and Alan Mark was reappointed for a two-year term. In June 2009 the Minister reappointed Anne McDermott, Stewart Bull and Alan Key to the Guardians for terms of three, four and three years, respectively. These six reappointments provide valuable continuity in the lead-up to the 2010 Ministerial Review.

Part of the Ministry's role in implementing the Communications Plan is the production of a quarterly newsletter. The newsletters are prepared by Alison O'Sullivan, the Guardians' secretary, and are distributed to the 350-strong (and growing) mailing list of interested parties. These newsletters provide regular updates on management activities in Fiordland, notices to users of the area (informing them of rules, information from agencies, etc) and upcoming events which the Guardians and management agencies are involved in. This regular point of contact keeps people engaged in the management of the Fiordland Marine Area, and congratulations must go to Alison for her hard work in creating such an interesting and informative read every few months.

#### Looking ahead

The Ministry for the Environment is currently preparing for the 2010 Ministerial Review of the effectiveness of the management of the Fiordland Marine Area. This review is required under the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act and allows the Minister for the Environment to gauge how effective the current management regime has been in achieving the intentions of the Act. Draft terms of reference to guide the review are being developed by the Guardians and the management agencies, and these will go to the Minister shortly for his approval. The review will be initiated in April 2010, five years after the Act was passed by Parliament, and it is expected to take around six months before being reported back to the Minister.

During the second half of 2009 the Ministry will review the protocol between the Guardians and the management agencies (the parties). The protocol was originally written to define how the parties would work together and to ensure that the spirit of cooperation which characterised the Fiordland initiative continued into the new management regime. This aim has been far exceeded over the last four years, and the review provides an opportunity to update the protocol to better reflect the collaborative arrangements in place.



## Ministry of Fisheries

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) has responsibility for maximising the value New Zealanders obtain through the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources while protecting the aquatic environment. Working with the Guardians and other management agencies assists MFish to meet this responsibility within the Fiordland Marine Area. Among other things, the integrated approach to management of the area enables MFish to look for opportunities to coordinate its research and compliance activities with those of other agencies.

### Achievements

Work has continued over the 2008/09 year on the development of a fisheries plan for paua in the Fiordland area. A Guardians representative (Mark Peychers) is on the fisheries plan advisory group working on the paua plan. Another Guardian, Stewart Bull, is also on the group as a tangata whenua representative. The group has made significant progress, and expects to talk to the community about the draft plan soon. A draft shellfish plan for the southern region, which includes the Fiordland Marine Area, has recently been completed and is being consulted on.

On the Guardians' recommendation the blue cod recreational fishing closures in Milford and Doubtful Sounds were extended indefinitely by the Minister of Fisheries in June 2009. The closures were originally put in place in 2005 to allow blue cod stocks in the areas to rebuild. The closures have been extended because ongoing monitoring of blue cod abundance has not shown any clear trend and there is no evidence that stocks have yet recovered. The Guardians have indicated that they will be reviewing the closures over the next year or so in order to provide further advice to the Minister of Fisheries on the long-term management of the areas. The monitoring work will continue, but will also be reviewed by the Guardians and MFish to ensure that it provides quality information to inform future management decisions.

During this past year an opportunity to share resources arose with the Dusky Sound blue cod stock assessment work being carried out by an MFish contractor. DOC was able to utilise the same researcher to do some blue cod research of its own in the same area. This is a great example of how the integrated management approach is working in the Fiordland Marine Area.

MFish and the other participating agencies also continue to employ a collaborative approach to the delivery of compliance strategies and enforcement services for the Fiordland Marine Area. In March 2009 a joint agency team comprising fishery officers, DOC and Environment Southland personnel conducted a waterborne patrol from Bluff to Doubtful Sound using the DOC GV *Southern Winds*. The team was joined by a member of the Royal New Zealand Navy as a means of further developing the relationship between the agencies and the New Zealand Defence Forces.

Several other waterborne patrols were carried out throughout the year as the compliance presence in the area was maintained, and the committed effort of the agencies resulted in an increased number of fisheries inspections. It has been particularly pleasing to note that fisheries inspection compliance rates have continued to improve steadily every year since the five-year integrated compliance plan was formulated back in 2005. Fisheries-related infractions over the past year have been comparatively few, and those detected have been generally minor.

Management agencies continue to educate users and deliver information about the rules that apply within the Fiordland Marine Area. Once again, *Coastwatch* episodes featuring compliance staff at work in Fiordland gained prime-time screening on national television. It is not unreasonable to conclude that the considerable time and effort spent in promoting the Fiordland rules and regulations, coupled with the valuable information tools such as the *User's Guide* and respective websites, signage and brochures, are all now beginning to have an effect on the improving compliant behaviour that is becoming evident.

### Looking ahead

MFish anticipates a busy year ahead with the Guardians and other agencies, particularly with the review of the effectiveness of the management of the Fiordland Marine Area to prepare for.



## Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for leading the implementation of a plan for monitoring the state of the marine environment and biological diversity in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area. This plan is implemented with the involvement of, and collaboration between, all the key agencies managing the Fiordland Marine Area, and also with direct input from the Guardians. DOC is also responsible for managing Fiordland's ten marine reserves.

### Achievements

Over the past summer, two biological field surveys have been carried out in the Fiordland Marine Area by DOC and NIWA (the contractor for both projects). The first project involved a comprehensive survey of the "china shop" areas of the fiords (areas notable for containing particularly high diversity or a high abundance of a particular species). The second project involved utilising two types of remote camera systems to survey life in the deeper areas of the fiords, down to 200 metres in some places. One camera system was a manoeuvrable ROV (remote operated vehicle), which was manoeuvred down the fiord walls from the boat by an operator watching a screen displaying the live video. The second system was deployed independently from the boat, and contained a video camera attached to a frame that also had bait attached to attract scavenging fish and invertebrates, so that they could be caught on camera. In addition to the great information that has been gained from both trips on the community composition and diversity of the fiord ecosystem, a number of new organisms have been found, including ascidians (sea squirts), seaweeds, a seapen, and possibly a new species of fish.

The matter of marking Fiordland's marine reserves has been under discussion between DOC, the Guardians and Southland Conservation Board for some time now. DOC has been reluctant to install boundary markers at marine reserves outside of Milford and Doubtful Sounds for aesthetic reasons and due to the wilderness values of these areas. However, recent discussions have resulted in agreement that the other two marine reserves in Doubtful Sound should be marked to be consistent with The Gut Marine Reserve (currently marked), while the marine reserves in the other fiords will be marked with a type of pou pou. It is felt that this type of marker will not detract from the wilderness values in these areas, while promoting the presence of the reserves to boaties and other visitors.

Another major milestone was reached over the past 12 months with the completion and publication of *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland Marine Area*. DOC was heavily involved in the User's Guide's production, from the development of text and the production of maps, to the overall progression of the book to publication stage. DOC is proud to have worked alongside the Guardians and other agencies in producing this valuable resource for the area, and believes the book is a testament to the successful working relationships that have developed in managing the area and implementing the Fiordland Marine Management Act. DOC now manages the sale and distribution of the book on behalf of the group, and is working alongside the Guardians and other agencies in publicising the book.

Management of the Fiordland bottlenose dolphins, particularly the declining Doubtful Sound population, has continued to be a high priority over the past year. The implementation of specific protection measures aimed at reducing the potential impact of boats on the Doubtful Sound dolphins has continued and has received good support from most vessel operators. The Guardians' continued support of this plan is valuable. These vessel restrictions are currently being reviewed to determine the best course of action going forward.

In parallel to these protection measures, DOC is continuing the population monitoring work of both the Doubtful Sound and Dusky/Breaksea Sound dolphin populations. This involves tracking changes in abundance and calf survival rates in Doubtful Sound and establishing baseline information on these parameters in the Dusky/Breaksea population for comparison.

### Looking ahead

Over the coming 12 months work will continue on analysing and reporting on the information collected during this year's field surveys of the "china shops" and deep reef areas of the fiords. Planning will also begin for repeating two monitoring projects – social and biological – over the coming year, and the field work for these will be carried out during the early part of 2010. DOC is looking forward to working alongside the Guardians and other management agencies in preparation for the review of the management of the Fiordland Marine Area scheduled to start in April 2010, and will continue to foster the great working relationships that have developed in the joint management of the Fiordland Marine Area.



## MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) is responsible for leading the development and implementation of a biosecurity plan that provides a framework for inter-agency activities to manage marine biosecurity threats to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area.

### Achievements

#### Strategic Plan

MAFBNZ has worked with relevant agencies and the Guardians to develop the five-year *Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Strategic Plan (2009/10–2013/14)*. This document provides a framework to develop inter-agency operational activities in relation to marine biosecurity. All agencies and the Guardians have signed up to this strategy.

#### Risk Management Operational Plan

MAFBNZ has contracted the Cawthron Institute to develop a five-year risk management operational plan for Fiordland which sets out the recommended activities that MAFBNZ, other relevant agencies and the Guardians could undertake to achieve the goals identified in the strategy.

The plan is pathway-based in that it aims to reduce risk from a wide range of potential invasive species, irrespective of the source region. Recommended activities focus on reducing risk from pest pathways such as vessel bio-fouling, ballast water discharge, equipment transfers, bilge water and fouled dive gear. It recommends that most effort be directed to vector management, with supporting measures in terms of surveillance and agency coordination, alongside a communications strategy that engages regional and national stakeholders in a participatory process to discuss and provide feedback on proposed measures.

Included in the plan are recommendations for owners and operators of vessels and gear, including cruise liners, commercial paua and cray fishers, commercial tourism operators, and recreational yachts and launches. It also includes those who use trailers to transport boats and gear to Milford Sound or Deep Cove, and people delivered by helicopter for remote diving, fishing and hunting.

#### Joint-agency marine biosecurity response agreement

To support the risk management operational plan, MAFBNZ, DOC and Environment Southland are working together to develop a joint-agency marine biosecurity response agreement. The agreement will provide a framework for investigating and responding to new-to-Fiordland marine risk organisms and will be based on the MAFBNZ Biosecurity Response System. It will include:

- response measures that could be applied to a range of scenarios, from a small localised incursion through to a large, widespread incursion
- decision-making and cost-sharing arrangements
- operational roles and responsibilities.

#### Interim measures

Since 2007 MAFBNZ has implemented interim biosecurity measures to address immediate concerns from stakeholders about the risks which marine organisms pose to Fiordland. This programme consisted of generic measures (an education and compliance programme, and pest control, including pile-wrapping, monitoring and vessel inspections) to reduce the immediate risk of potential marine pests from Southland spreading into Fiordland. These measures will be replaced by the risk management operational plan.

Over the past 18 months vessel and wharf structure inspections for marine pests in Bluff have been occurring on a monthly or bimonthly basis. *Undaria* was the only marine risk organism found during the survey work.

Monitoring of the pile-wrapping treatment of several wharves and jetties in the inner Bluff Harbour area was undertaken during the port inspections. These areas were identified as being the main berthing locations for vessels that are likely to visit Fiordland and were wrapped in plastic to smother marine pests. Due to strong tidal flows and storm weather in Bluff Harbour a number of pile wrappings have come loose, and these have either been removed completely or repaired. *Undaria* has also re-established on a number of piles.

MAFBNZ has produced a generic "Clean your Hull" sign for installation at marinas, boat harbours and ramps contributing to swing moorings to address hull cleaning, anti-fouling, equipment cleaning, fouling disposal and pest reporting. As well as in Bluff harbour, signs are now installed in four locations on Stewart Island.

## Surveillance

Biological baseline surveys for non-indigenous marine species in 16 major ports and marinas of international entry (including Milford Sound) have been completed and reports produced. A report describing the results of the first baseline survey of Milford Sound, undertaken in June 2006, is available from the MAFBNZ website at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/technical-papers>.

## Looking ahead

The primary focus for protecting the Fiordland Marine Area is on prevention activities, and so implementation of the long-term risk management operational plan will be a priority once it is agreed to by the relevant parties. To achieve the objective of maintaining Fiordland's unique biodiversity, all users of the marine environment need to understand their roles and responsibilities in its protection.

Work will continue towards finalising the joint-agency marine biosecurity response agreement, and to further refine the agreement MAFBNZ will hold a marine simulation for the relevant parties to participate in.



## Environment Southland

### Achievements

#### Biosecurity

Environment Southland biosecurity staff have continued to liaise with the Guardians, as well as other agencies, to develop collaborative approaches for dealing with the risks posed by the incursion of marine pests into Fiordland. This has involved participation in the consultation processes surrounding the Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Strategic Plan, a Fiordland marine biosecurity risk management operational plan, and the MAFBNZ response model to deal with marine pest incursions in Fiordland. The planning processes have been led by MAFBNZ and some significant progress has been made. Environment Southland is seeking ways to optimise the resources employed by a range of organisations which operate in the Fiordland Marine Area, and, where possible, to use some of these to pursue marine biosecurity risk management objectives. Environment Southland staff also provided support to the Fiordland Marine Guardians with the preparation of a submission to the Council's Long Term Community Consultation Plan.

#### Enforcement

Joint agency patrols were undertaken with Ministry of Fisheries and DOC staff in Fiordland. A key focus during these patrols is compliance with commercial surface water activities and the Coastal Plan. The sharing of resources and staff helps to make compliance monitoring a viable option in the remote fiords. From time to time council staff conduct other monitoring activities, such as the three-yearly inspections of structures in the coastal marine area. The structures checked by staff are primarily wharves, jetties, moorings, consented discharge points into the Fiordland Marine Area, and whitebait stands in the Hollyford River.

Three incidents were reported by members of the public during the year: two reports of illegal surface-water activities, and one of a small diesel spill that had the potential to get into water at Deepwater Basin in Milford. A further breach was prevented when staff became aware of an individual's intention to install a mooring in Deep Cove, and advised the person that this is an activity that requires a consent.

A prosecution has been initiated for a non-consented activity in the Fiordland area. The matter is currently before the District Court in Invercargill and relates to the illegal operation of a vessel for charter purposes. The case has been before the court for some time and is not expected to be resolved until late 2009. Evidence for this case was collected by council staff, who applied for, and got, a search warrant to gain access to the vessel and a private residence. The evidence collected from both sites included papers and electronic records (which were taken from computers found at the property).

#### Oil spill response

Environment Southland was involved in an incident in Doubtful Sound from 27 November 2008 when the *Waverley*, a passenger vessel, sank after hitting a submerged object. The ship released an estimated 600 to 700 litres of oil, principally diesel, at the time it sank. Environment Southland initiated an oil spill response, using

helicopter reconnaissance and the assistance of DOC, which provided staff and the *GV Southern Winds* for an on-water investigation, as well as helping response staff with a shoreline assessment. The sinking (and the oil slick) was more than 5 km from any of the fiord's marine reserves or china shops, and follow-up protection of sensitive areas was not deemed necessary as the diesel dissipated quickly.

### **Navigation safety bylaws**

New bylaws are now in place, which include the no-anchoring provisions that arose from the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005 and the subsequent amendments to the Southland Regional Coastal Plan. These no-anchoring provisions reinforce the Plan provisions and underline the need to protect these areas.

### **Weather Station – Milford Sound**

Environment Southland and the Milford Sound Development Authority have installed a weather station at Copper Point in Milford Sound to provide real-time information on wind speed and direction via VHF radio and a link to the visitor centre at Freshwater Basin, Milford Sound.

### **Milford Sound Emergency Management Group**

To aid the work of the newly formed Milford Sound Emergency Management Group, Environment Southland has contributed a significant proportion of the start-up costs, including the local communication system, which utilises the DOC paging system.

### **Looking ahead**

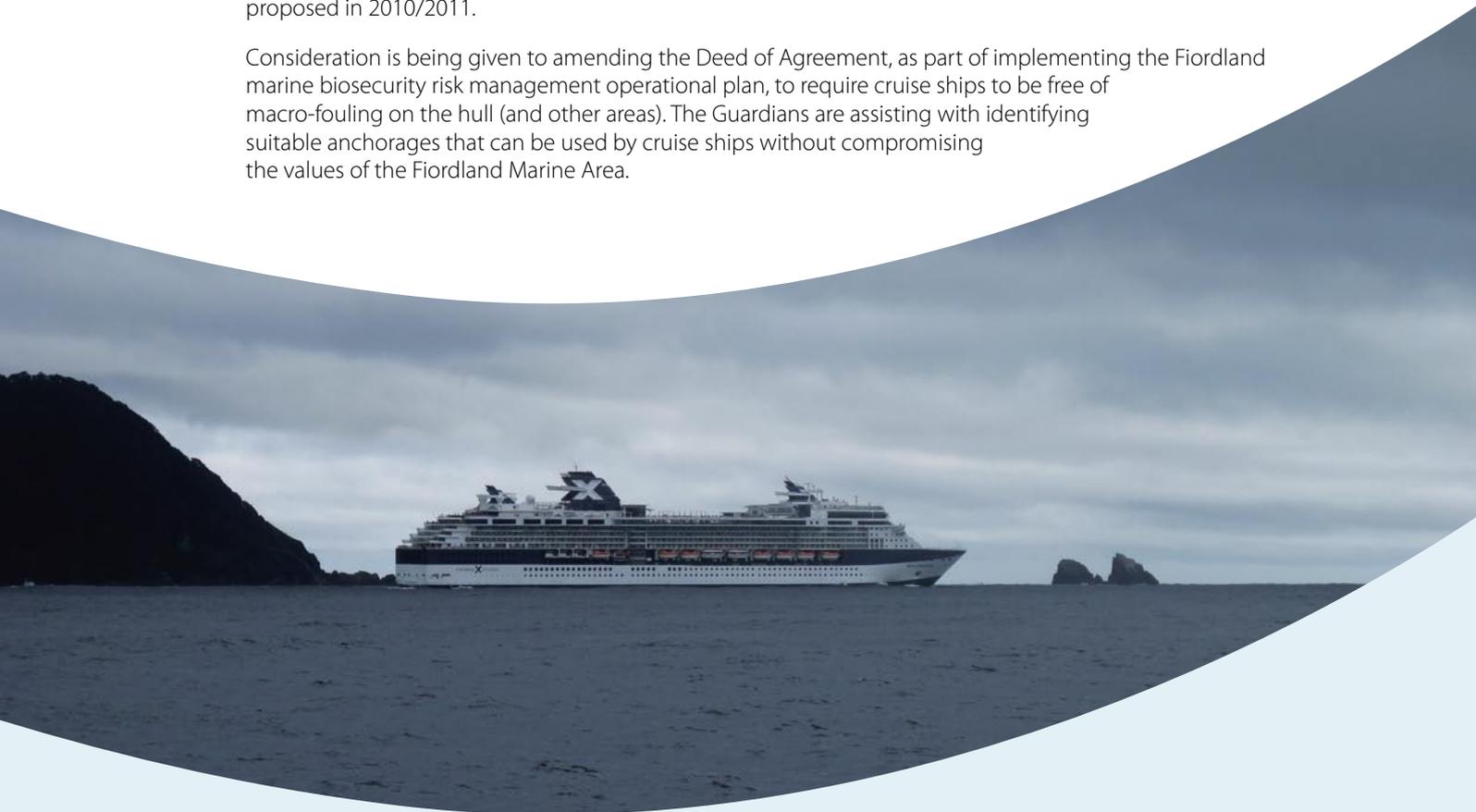
#### **Automatic identification system**

Automatic identification systems (AIS) are used to identify and locate vessels, and provide information such as vessel identification, position, course and speed. They work by integrating a VHF transceiver with an electronic navigation system. Environment Southland has invested in an AIS system, provided by Kordia, which will allow surveillance in Fiordland when a new repeater is installed in February 2010 (AIS is in use by Environment Southland for other Southland waters).

#### **Cruise ships**

Fiordland is an important feature of any visit by cruise ships to New Zealand, and the numbers have been increasing each year, with 44 visits to Fiordland in the 2007/08 season and 67 in 2008/2009. However, the forecast numbers are reducing in the next two seasons, with 52 visits planned for 2009/2010 and 46 visits proposed in 2010/2011.

Consideration is being given to amending the Deed of Agreement, as part of implementing the Fiordland marine biosecurity risk management operational plan, to require cruise ships to be free of macro-fouling on the hull (and other areas). The Guardians are assisting with identifying suitable anchorages that can be used by cruise ships without compromising the values of the Fiordland Marine Area.



## Appendix 4: Guardians' biographies

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### **Stewart Bull**

Stewart Bull has extensive knowledge of customary uses of Fiordland, particularly customary fishing. He is the chair of the Oraka-Aparima Runanga, the Oraka-Aparima Runanga representative on the Board of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, and also the Oraka-Aparima Runanga representative on the Customary Fisheries Advisory Group. Stewart is a tangata tiaki, appointed by the Minister of Fisheries in recognition of his particular expertise in local customary fishing management and resource issues. He has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since their inception.



### **Jerry Excell**

Jerry Excell is a commercial rock lobster fisherman operating out of Deep Cove and the director of a family fishing and quota-owning company. Jerry has fished for more than 12 years in Fiordland and is heavily involved in the CRA8 rock lobster fishery as a member of the board of the CRA8 Management Committee Inc. He is also involved in research projects through the collection and provision of data relating to the rock lobster fishery.



### **Ken Grange**

Ken Grange, a pre-eminent marine scientist, is the Regional Manager of NIWA Nelson. He has a broad understanding of general marine science and the Fiordland marine environment in particular. Ken was the first to scientifically describe the unique marine environment of Fiordland and is an internationally recognised expert on black coral. He is a member of a number of societies, institutions and committees, including the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society and the Royal Society of New Zealand.



### **Alan Key**

Alan Key has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since their inception, having fished recreationally in Fiordland for the last 30 years. He is a long-term recreational fishing representative and a current or past member of the Southland Sports Fishing Club, the Ministry of Fisheries South Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Southern Blue Cod Advisory Committee, the Foveaux Straits Oyster Management Group and the Southland Marine Recreational Fishers Association. Alan was also involved in the Paterson Inlet Marine Reserve working group.



### **Malcolm Lawson**

Malcolm Lawson is the Chair of the Fiordland Marine Guardians. Malcolm is also the Chief Executive of the CRA8 Management Committee Inc. (the southern commercial rock lobster industry organisation). He is heavily involved in commercial fisheries management in Fiordland. He is also involved with the Otago Rock Lobster Industry Association and is a member of the New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council. Malcolm sits on the ministerial advisory group for rock lobster and is also a company director. Malcolm previously worked for MFish.



### **Alan Mark**

Alan Mark is an Emeritus Professor of botany at the University of Otago. He has been heavily involved in conservation management for 30 years and is highly respected in this field. Alan has been a long-term member of many conservation organisations, including the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the New Zealand Ecological Society. He was Chair of the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri, Monowai and Te Anau from 1973 to 1999. Alan has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since 2001.



### Anne McDermott

Anne McDermott has significant experience of the Fiordland Marine Area, having dived, fished and tramped in Fiordland for 20 years. She has a wealth of first-hand experience of the Fiordland marine environment after hundreds of dives in Preservation, Chalky, Dusky, Breaksea, Doubtful, Nancy, Charles and Caswell Sounds. Anne and her husband own a boat, and she has many contacts among the Southland recreational fishing, boating and diving sectors.



### Mark Peychers

Mark Peychers has three decades of first-hand experience of the Fiordland marine environment and was an original member of the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries. Mark fished commercially in Fiordland for 28 years. Since retiring from commercial fishing he has worked as a relief skipper for Fiordland Ecology Charters and Mitre Peak Cruises. He now skippers on DOC's vessel in Fiordland. Through his work in Fiordland Mark has built up positive relationships with DOC, MFish, and Environment Southland. He is a shareholding director of Fiordland Lobster Company Ltd and is actively involved with fisheries management in the Fiordland area as well as other areas of New Zealand. Mark was involved in the implementation of the first two marine reserves for the Fiordland area.

# BENEATH THE REFLECTIONS

A User's Guide to the Fiordland  
(Te Moana o Atawhenua)  
Marine Area



This **fully water-proof** 'one-stop shop' guide will help you get the most out of your visit to Fiordland.

**It contains information on:**

- how the Fiordland Marine Area was established
- the history and physical and biological environment of the Fiordland Marine Area
- relevant Fiordland marine regulations
- practical information on visiting the area.

ON SALE AT:



DOC's Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre  
Lakefront Drive, Te Anau, phone: 03 249 7924,  
email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

DOC's Invercargill Office  
Level 7, 33 Don Street, Invercargill



Or online at [www.fmg.org.nz](http://www.fmg.org.nz)





**Fiordland  
Marine Guardians**  
Beneath the Reflections

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