

Annual Report

for the year ended 30 June 2013



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 October 2013 by the Fiordland Marine Guardians
c/- Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840, New Zealand

This document is available on the Fiordland Marine Guardians' website:
www.fmg.org.nz

ISBN 978-0-478-37290-8

MILFORD SOUND AND MITRE PEAK, FIORDLAND

Annual Report

for the year ended 30 June 2013



**Fiordland
Marine Guardians**
Beneath the Reflections

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BACK COVER IMAGES: Fiordland Coast, USA Yacht Tenayan Astronomer Point, Indian Island, Marta with BCO catch, *Steve Logie, MPI*. Bottlenose dolphin, *Steve Dawson / Hedgehog House New Zealand*.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Another year goes by and more discoveries are made within the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA). Every time a deep water survey is carried out, new species are found and there is no reason to think that this will stop. These discoveries and the fact that so many people have such an affinity with the area remind me of just how important the FMA is locally, nationally and internationally.

Over the last 12 months the terms of appointment for most of the Guardians expired. The Minister for the Environment carried out a public reappointment process and as a result we now have two new members sitting around the table; Dr Rebecca McLeod and Jonathan Clow. Profiles for each of them are included in this report. They each bring a range of knowledge and skills and will contribute greatly to the group in years to come. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the contributions of both Sir Alan Mark and Alan Key who have left us. Between these two gentlemen close to thirty years have been contributed to the cause of establishing and operating a better management regime for the Fiordland Marine Area. That is a huge commitment in time and effort and has been greatly appreciated.

In my report in the 2012 Annual Report, I said that "while it may not be apparent, we have also been working to consider and implement some of the recommendations for changes to fisheries regulations that came from last year's public consultation on the current rules. The wheels sometimes move slowly but I can assure you that progress is being made..." For those that have not become aware, those changes to the rock lobster regulations that will increase the daily bag limit within the inner waters, except for Milford Sound, have come to fruition and were introduced from October 1st 2013.

We have enjoyed huge support for the measures put in place in 2005 as a result of the recognition of the pressure that fish stocks in the inner fiords were under, so it is satisfying to be able to repay that support and the confidence shown in the Guardians.

Another aspect of that confidence in what we are trying to achieve has been the on-going support for the closure of the Doubtful and Milford Sounds blue cod fisheries to allow research to be carried out. During the year we concluded that we now had sufficient information at hand to make some recommendations on future management of these fisheries. So again, I assure you that progress is being made.

The assault on Undaria in Sunday Cove continued throughout the year with a very promising number of 'nil' counts found. It is too early to relax and say that it is beaten but things do look promising. Two of the people that have been instrumental in this programme have moved on during the year. The Guardians would like to acknowledge the efforts of Kath Blakemore from the Department of Conservation and Tim Riding from Environment Southland. Both have been involved with the Guardians for a number of years and have given great service.

At the Southland Environment and Conservation Awards in 2012, the Guardians were the recipients of the Environmental Achiever Award. While this was presented to the Guardians, in reality it should be taken as joint recognition of the efforts and support we receive from Government agencies and the public. There are now more than 450 people and organisations on our database. That means we have the ability to communicate with a wide range of people, which we mainly do through our newsletters and website. Chances are that if you are reading this you are on that list. I ask you to remember that it is a two-way street and that the Guardians need your opinion or feedback on any topics that you have views on.



Malcolm Lawson

Chairperson

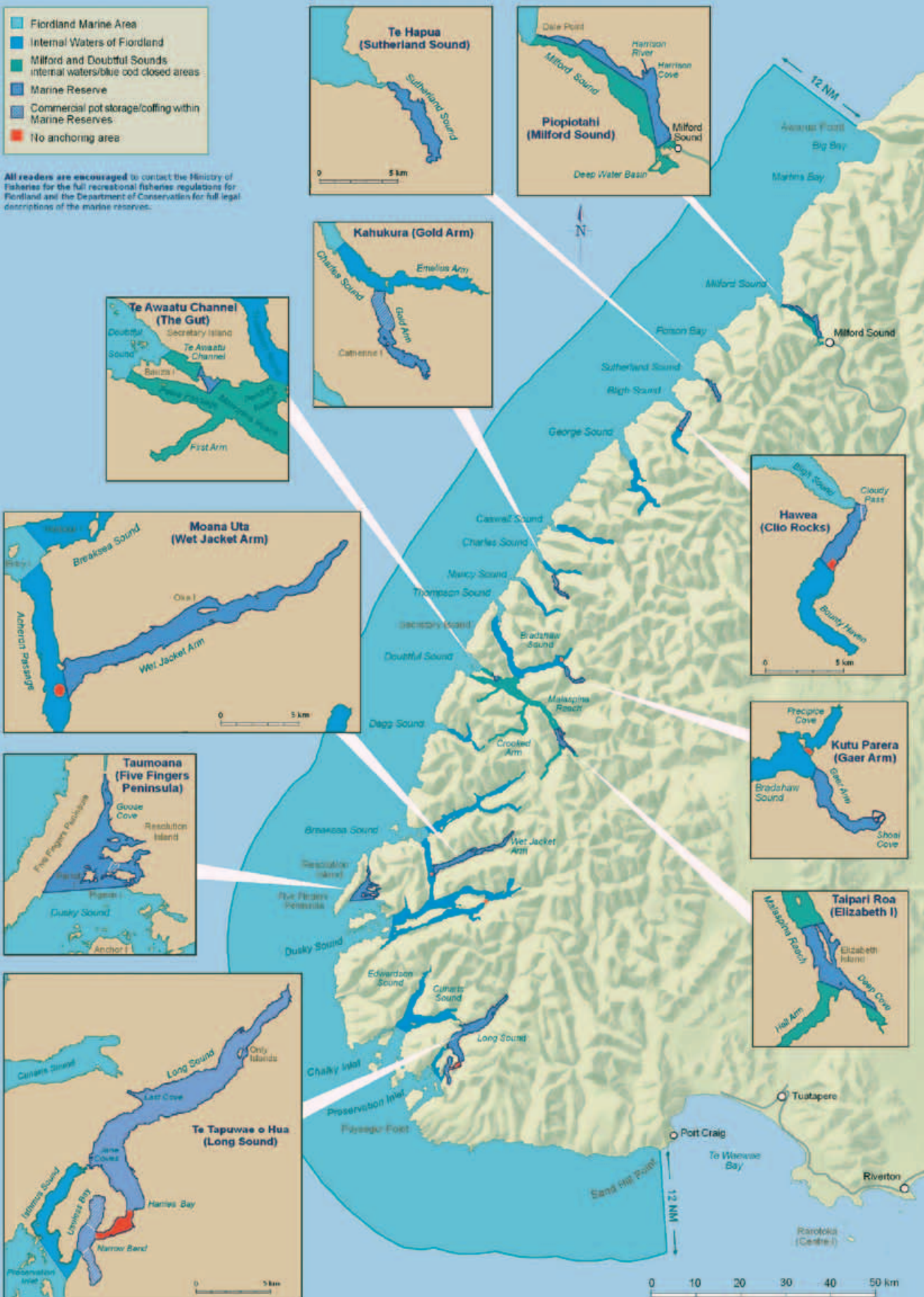


THREE FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUINS WALK TO THEIR NESTING SITES AFTER A DAY OF FISHING

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

From the first steps in 1995, the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment embarked on a unique journey. The goal was the protection of the region's marine environment by those who value and use it. It 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, developed an integrated management strategy and, with support from the management agencies¹, saw the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act enacted in 2005. The Guardians are now implementing the management programme.

The beginnings of an integrated approach

This process and its outcomes were a remarkable achievement. A variety of groups with very different interests had come together to share their views on how they could protect their own interests, and Fiordland, for the future. The groups included Te Rūnanga o Ngāi 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. Sharing 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.

Broadening the membership

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

Developing the draft conservation strategy in only two years required significant commitment. The group agreed on solutions for a number of issues. However, when one interest or sector benefited at the cost of another, the Guardians agreed that the advantaged party should give something in return, to help 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 vulnerable inner areas.

Areas that were biologically diverse were identified as deserving particular care and were designated marine reserves. Other fragile areas were identified as having special qualities and became known as 'china shops'. Some of these areas were deemed to be vulnerable to damage from anchors and were designated 'no anchoring' areas. For the strategy to succeed in an isolated area such as Fiordland, it was very important that all stakeholders respected the restrictions in these areas, and this meant they needed to support both the process and the philosophy that underpinned it. The Guardians worked with agency staff and encouraged them to look for solutions that crossed the usual boundaries between the different agencies' roles. This approach was new and refreshing, and fundamental to successful integrated management.

The 2005 Act

By 2003, the Guardians recognised the need for a way to protect the integrity of the whole package so that the balance of gifts and gains would not be compromised. The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 established the Fiordland Marine Guardians, and was the first legislation of its kind for the marine environment in New Zealand. It enshrines in statute a role for the community group to continue to provide oversight and direction.

¹ The management agencies are the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation and Environment Southland.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2012/13

Monitoring projects during 2012/13

The Guardians were involved in, and received reports on, the monitoring projects below. Each is discussed in further detail in Appendix 3 where management agencies provide reports on their activities.

Milford and Doubtful Sound blue cod monitoring

The Ministry for Primary Industries presented a comprehensive report detailing results from all of the research projects undertaken. In addition, data from independent research projects were also presented. This has allowed conclusions to be drawn on the current and future status of the blue cod stocks. See *Advice and recommendations given* for further details of management initiatives promoted by the Guardians based on these results and conclusions.

Biosecurity

The Guardians continued to receive reports on the monitoring of vessels in Bluff Harbour for *Undaria* (*Undaria pinnatifida*). The ongoing support and awareness of vessel owners is appreciated. Other reported topics included; progress on the commercial use policy for *Undaria*; the development of a policy on biofouling requirements for vessels arriving in New Zealand; range expansion of various marine pests; and the domestic marine pathways project.

Compliance

Feedback from the review of the rules governing the FMA identified the desire for an increase in compliance efforts to monitor fishing activity in Milford Sound, particularly over long weekends. The Guardians were pleased to hear that this has been occurring and also that the overall awareness of the fisheries regulations is high. In turn this has resulted in low levels of offences being detected.

Public forum

A public forum was held as an extension to the Guardians meeting held in Te Anau during July 2012. The forum was advertised locally and a number of people attended. The FMG and agency staff answered questions from the floor on a number of issues including:

- World Heritage listing for the FMA
- Oil Spill response in the FMA, and
- *Undaria* response programme.

Presentations to interested groups

Members of the Guardians presented to several groups during the year:

Malcolm Lawson gave a presentation to the Southern Institute of Technology Environmental Degree students in October 2012. The presentation provided background to the development of a collaborative management model and what this can achieve over more standard models of management.

Ecosphere paper

Sir Alan Mark co-authored a paper titled *Synthesis and Integration, Design principles for social-ecological transformation toward sustainability: Lessons from New Zealand sense of place*. Other authors were F. Stuart Chapin III, Robin A. Mitchell and Katharine J.M. Dickinson. The paper was published in the USA Journal "Ecosphere" and cites the Fiordland Marine Guardians as an example of a group charged with responsibility for contributing to the sustainability of an area of international importance.

Response from Minister of Conservation to visit to FMA

A letter was received from the then Minister of Conservation, Hon Kate Wilkinson in response to her trip into the FMA during July 2012 (reported in the Annual Report 2012). She thanked the Guardians for hosting her visit and stated that she was very impressed with what she had seen. She appreciated the positive and friendly nature of her discussion with the Guardians and agency staff, adding that the group was well focused and committed to working with the agencies and others to ensure that the Guardians' vision is realised.

Environment and Conservation Award

At the 2012 Southland Environment and Conservation Awards the Guardians were presented with the Environmental Achiever Award. The award was in recognition of the group's contribution to the management of the FMA as part of an ongoing collaboration with the Government agencies that have a management role in the area.

Recreational rock lobster regulation changes

In consultation with the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Guardians promoted a range of amendments to regulations governing recreational lobster fishing. As part of the review of the rules governing the FMA carried out in 2011, the Guardians received a number of requests to review the daily bag limit for rock lobster taken from the inner waters of the FMA. The limit of three with no provision for accumulation during a trip was implemented in 2005 in recognition of the depletion in numbers of rock lobsters in the inner waters at that time. Since then the rock lobster fishery throughout the FMA has undergone a significant rebuild in terms of abundance. As a result the Guardians recommended changes to the regulations pertaining to the inner waters and also to the regulations applying to the use of holding pots by recreational fishers, where more than one fisher is utilising a holding pot at one time.

Following support from the National Rock Lobster Management Group, the publication of an Initial Position Paper by the Ministry for Primary Industries was drafted and public consultation carried out. This package of amendments was approved by the Minister of Primary Industries to take effect from 1 October 2013. See *Advice and recommendations given* for further detail.

Domestic marine pathways project

Guardian Stewart Bull attended a workshop conducted by the Ministry for Primary Industries relating to managing the spread of marine pests. The workshop identified pathway mechanisms and vectors and assessed policy options for managing them. Stewart was able to bring his knowledge from similar work that has been carried out as part of managing biosecurity in the FMA.



THE FIORDLAND MARINE GUARDIANS



SNAKESTAR (*ASTROBRACHION CONSTRICTUM*)
ON BLACK CORAL, DOUBTFUL SOUND

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN

Resource consents

The Guardians responded to a number of resource consent applications during the year. These fell into three categories:

- non-notified, where the Guardians were identified as an affected party
- notified, where the Guardians felt that conditions imposed by current legislation, such as the Southland Coastal Plan, addressed all concerns, and
- notified, where the Guardians provided a submission.

Those of particular interest included the issues below:

Meridian Energy Ltd

Meridian Energy Ltd applied for variation of consent for an existing permit to discharge freshwater and contaminants to Doubtful Sound. The application was to provide for the alignment of two baseline and biological monitoring programmes – previously required under separate consent approvals – to be combined into one comprehensive programme taking in conditions from both consents.

The Guardians supported the proposed changes to the monitoring programme.

In relation to an associated consent held by Meridian Energy Ltd, the company informed the Guardians that they had exercised their Manapouri Tailrace Amended Discharge consent, which allowed for an increased discharge flow into Doubtful Sound from the Manapouri power station, for the first time during October 2012. Stakeholders had been alerted prior to the increased discharge events. No undue effects had been detected.

University of Otago – Department of Marine Science

The University applied for consent to place a mooring and acoustic receiver for research purposes in Preservation Inlet. The receiver is intended to record whale movements in the area.

The Guardians supported this application.



FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN PAIR (*EUDYPTES PACHYRYNCHUS*) PREENING



MILFORD WANDERER CRUISING IN DOUBTFUL SOUND

Real Journeys Ltd

During the year a number of applications for renewal or amendment to consents relating to the operation of the company's tourist vessels were received.

Island Escape Cruises Ltd

This company originally lodged an application to carry out commercial backcountry trips in Breaksea and Dusky Sounds using the *MV Island Passage* in 2009.

During 2013 a new application was lodged and the original withdrawn. The new application sought consent to operate in the northern fiords.

The Guardians were concerned that a vessel the size of the *MV Island Passage* would not be able to utilise existing mooring sites and needed to have a contingency plan in place in the event of adverse weather conditions. It was submitted that the applicants should carry out a navigational safety assessment as part of the consenting process. Guardian Mark Peychers subsequently provided detailed information to the applicant on the suitability of anchorages sites, the effect of varying weather conditions, and the impacts on navigational safety that may be encountered in each fiord.

The Guardians also supported the proposal to have the vessel hull cleaned and new anti-fouling applied in Nelson immediately before transiting to the FMA each year to begin the season of tourist trips.

Dive Otago Ltd

Dive Otago Ltd applied for consent to operate diving trips and training in Milford Sound utilising their own vessel. The Guardians submitted that because the applicant operates in an area where *Undaria* is well established, a biosecurity mitigation plan and a cleaning regime for the vessel (and any dive gear) is essential.

Review of the Southland Coastal Plan

The Guardians continued their involvement from 2011/12 on two proposals to amend the Southland Coastal Plan.

Vessel use in the FMA

Review of this policy was concluded in 2013. It entailed amending restrictions on the entry of larger vessels used in scientific research in support of government management agencies and for environmental clean-up purposes into some fiords. The Guardians recognise that there are instances where larger vessels provide efficiencies and opportunities not afforded by smaller vessels.

Deep Cove mooring and structure review

This review was also concluded during 2013. The Guardians had been instrumental in Environment Southland instigating this review to assess opportunities to better utilise the limited existing mooring space on the west side of Deep Cove and to also consider the provision for mooring structures in the Helena Anchorage area on the east side.

It is recognised that all structures and moorings within Deep Cove are subject to resource consent approval. One outcome from the review was to provide an opportunity for owners of vessels that occupied berths and moorings prior to 31st December 2010 priority in applying for consent for space to moor or berth their vessel.

Subsequent to this review MA and D Soper applied for consent for a mooring for their vessel at Helena Anchorage. The applicants are not on the list of vessel owners referred to above so their application attracted opposition, including from the Guardians. It was then brought to the Guardians attention that the applicants had been advised that compliance action may be taken as their vessel was moored without approval. The Guardians requested that appropriate Environment Southland staff work with the applicants to make them aware of all options open to them. This is ongoing.

VHF coverage in the FMA

During September 2012 the CRA8 Management Committee Inc.(the Southern rock lobster industry organisation) raised the issue of the limited VHF coverage within the FMA. This issue was highlighted during the search for the fishing vessel 'K Cee' when it was tragically lost along with its crew off Secretary Island in 2012. The Guardians supported the need for a review to current map coverage and to identify options to increase it to those areas where there is no coverage.

It was pointed out that as well as compromising the ability for Environment Southland to manage a maritime environmental incident in the FMA, the lack of coverage is a potential serious safety issue for commercial and private vessels. Many vessels travelling to the FMA from northern ports rely on VHF radio as their main means of communication and to receive weather forecasts.

The Guardians were pleased to find that Environment Southland had already carried out some preliminary work and a contract has now been let to progress the review of coverage and existing structures that may be used as sites for additional repeaters.

Increased coverage will also allow for the use of virtual navigation aids and the possibility for Automatic Identification Systems to be incorporated.

Environment Southland Long-Term Plan

The Guardians appeared before Southland Regional Council to give support to the submission to the Long Term Plan for the allocation of more funding towards biosecurity.

Major steps have been taken in recent years in relation to biosecurity, particularly in increasing awareness of the risks and in surveillance activities within the FMA.

Biosecurity remains one of the most important issues within the FMA and the Guardians are keen to see the focus continue. A further \$145,000 has been committed over three years.



Protection of Biodiversity of Seymour Island benthic habitats

During 2012 a project involving the use of a remote – operated vehicle (ROV) discovered new habitats adjacent to Seymour Island, Doubtful Sound during an assessment of the suitability of various areas for ship anchoring. The habitats were found to support high biodiversity. This project was reported in detail the 2012 Annual Report: Remote – operated vehicle extends our knowledge.

The Guardians and agencies considered the risks and threats to these habitats and identified that activities that impact the sea floor posed the greatest risk, these being anchors and anchor chains; and fishing activity. In respect of anchoring, Environment Southland undertook to amend the Deed of Agreement for Cruise Ships to prohibit anchoring in the area. In respect of fishing activity, rock lobster potting was identified as the main threat with other methods having little impact. The Guardians recommended that recreational rock lobster potting be prohibited within the identified area but no action was required on other fishing methods. Commercial fishing of any type is already prohibited in this area. This recommendation was included as part of the package of amendments to recreational rock lobster fishing that the Guardians had promoted.

Recreational rock lobster regulation changes

As a result of the significant increase in the abundance of rock lobsters within the FMA, including the inner waters, the Guardians recommended an amendment to recreational fishing regulations to increase the daily bag limit for rock lobsters from three to six in the inner waters. This recommendation would make the bag limit consistent throughout the FMA. The exception to this being the inner waters of Milford Sound where due to limited habitat the daily bag limit will remain at three to avoid localised depletion within the fiord.

In addition, the Guardians identified that the current restriction of the use of a maximum of two holding pots from a vessel causes issues of identification and ownership of rock lobsters when more than one person is utilising a holding pot. To address this it was recommended that a written record be kept onboard the vessel.

These amendments will be implemented on 1 October 2013. To help fishers comply with the new regulation, the Guardians will provide an example of a written record via their newsletter and website.

Blue cod management plan

The main findings and conclusions drawn from research projects carried out over seven years into the Doubtful and Milford Sounds blue cod fisheries were:

- abundance within the inner fiords has not increased in any major scale
- the size of individuals in the inner fiords has increased
- there is little indication of migration from the outer fiords or coast into the inner fiords
- abundance on the coast remains much higher than inner fiords
- it is likely that a closure of the inner fiord fisheries for many years would be required to assist a substantial increase in abundance in these habitats.

Based on this information, and comments received during the 2011 review of the rules governing the FMA, the Guardians have recommended the following:

- that the Milford and Doubtful Sound fisheries be reopened
- that bag limits in the above fisheries are restricted to either two or three fish with no accumulation allowed
- that the daily bag limit of 20 be retained for the outer fiords and coast to encourage fishing effort in these areas
- that due to the inter relationship of the fiords within the Doubtful Sound complex (Doubtful, Thompson and Bradshaw Sounds) that decisions should apply to all of the complex
- that fishers be encouraged to utilise the whole fish of any taken.

These recommendations, which will require amendments to existing regulations, will be considered for priority by the Ministry for Primary Industries. A public consultation process will take place.

PEST SEAWEED (*UNDARIA*) IN SUNDAY COVE, BREAKSEA SOUND

Progress report on the local elimination project

During the last 12 months excellent progress has been made towards the local elimination of *Undaria pinnatifida* within Sunday Cove. In total 1,887 *Undaria* individuals have been detected and removed since the inception of the response. Over the last seven months there has been a substantial decline in the number of plants found during the surveys, with only one trip finding and removing three juvenile plantlets. In contrast, 113 *Undaria* sporophytes were removed during the first six months of 2012.

The response appears to be eliminating the 'seed bank' that had established in Sunday Cove. Key factors contributing towards the success of this response include: early detection, rapid joint-agency response, knowledge of the life-history of *Undaria*, collaboration by stakeholders and management agencies, and innovation (e.g. the introduction of 35,000 kina as a bio-control agent).

During May of this year the joint-agency Response Strategic Leadership team met and agreed that the programme should continue in its current form until at least January 2015. This timing is largely due to *Undaria's* lifecycle as its microscopic life stage can persist in the marine environment for up to 2.5 years, and the last mature *Undaria* sporophyte was detected in January 2012.

The Guardians and the response team agency members from Environment Southland, Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries, believe local elimination is achievable and urged boaties to play an active part in ensuring no more *Undaria*, or any other marine pests, are transferred to the FMA. The agencies involved are also working collectively to prevent the re-invasion of *Undaria* and any other marine pests by exploring new ideas for pathway risk management. The response team also monitors other high-risk sites and structures like barges and lines in Fiordland for *Undaria* and any other marine pests.

It is hoped that within the next 1–2 years, Fiordland will once again be free of *Undaria*. This will be significant for the area's unique marine biodiversity as well as for its important commercial and recreational fisheries.



JENNIE BRUNTON



DIVE PARTY INSPECTION NO 4

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW GUARDIANS

Rebecca McLeod

I have been passionate about Fiordland since my first visit in 2003, when I was beginning my postgraduate research in Marine Science at Otago University. I have SCUBA dived extensively throughout the fiords and been involved in numerous research projects. Doing my research at a time when the Fiordland Marine Management Act was being implemented sparked an interest in marine management.

I currently work for a Dunedin-based business, Oritain Global, and we provide science-based solutions for food exporters who have concerns about fraud and counterfeiting of their valuable products. My expertise is in science and science communication: I strive to find a balance between scientific rigour and practical commercial solutions, and I think that these skills will contribute to the work that the FMGs do. I am so excited to be part of such a highly regarded team, and look forward to all of the learning and challenges ahead.

Jonathan Clow

Being appointed to the Fiordland Marine Guardians is an exciting personal achievement and challenge. I am looking forward to applying my skills and experience as a part of the Guardians team. My aim is to assist in safeguarding the Fiordland marine environment whilst trying to balance sensible commercial and recreational uses of the area.

I have a background as a professional seafarer, starting out life in the fishing industry before a 15 year career with the Royal New Zealand Navy and most recently in tourism. I also had the opportunity to explore the whole Fiordland area by boat – at which point my wife and I fostered ambitions to return.

My career in the Royal New Zealand Navy was that of a "Seaman Officer", or roughly a deck officer in merchant seaman parlance. My time in the military started out navigating warships worldwide in diverse settings, including Fiordland. It also included periods of time with the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy which offered incredible experiences not available in our region. Over time I progressed through selection and aptitude gates, entering a specialisation of an Advanced Navigator which qualified me as a Naval Pilot and also for work within Staff Group organisations. This involved planning, training, auditing, evaluating and performing technical tasks. Toward the end of my time with the Navy I completed training on the demanding 13 month NATO focused Principal Warfare Officers course at the Royal Navy. This career qualification is a major career step, as it affords a detailed grounding in many disciplines, centred around the conduct and control of security, warfare and operations.

Across this period of my life I have also gained experience of issues affecting New Zealand's maritime interests in a domestic and geopolitical sense. This has been acquired through tertiary training at university, career courses within the military and work with Government agencies.

Some years later my family and I decided on a sea change. This was the genesis for our move out of Auckland to a lifestyle block in Te Anau where I now work as the Marine Manager and Safe Ship Manager for Real Journeys Ltd. In this new role I have very close ties to the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA), on a day to day basis, through my responsibilities for vessels, people and compliance across the Real Journeys business. The Fiordland area supports a large chunk of Real Journeys activities; we are a key organisation and stakeholder. My work also affords me exposure to many other operators and groups with vested interests within the FMA.

I have a real passion for Fiordland and am very motivated to ensure that it is not subject to degradation or exploitation that will ultimately reduce its current state. As a very keen proponent of fishing and hunting I appreciate its value to the recreational user, but am also very aware of commercial values that may be derived without environmental cost.



REBECCA MCLEOD



JONATHAN CLOW

OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GUARDIANS

Meetings

Five meetings involving Guardians and management agencies were held during the year. Further details are in Appendix 2.

User guide

Sales of Beneath the Reflections – A User Guide continued but were slow. This indicates that it is likely to be reaching saturation point, after which occasional sales can be expected. Exposure of the user guide was increased with it now available in a range of retail outlets.

Newsletters

Two newsletters were produced during the year. The contact database for distribution now exceeds 450 organisations and individuals.

Electronic version of Annual Report

For the first time the 2012 Annual Report was available electronically. Those entities on the contact database that had previously indicated their preference for receiving the newsletter in an electronic format were sent a link to allow access to the Annual Report via the website.

The Gut Hut

During 2012 the Department of Conservation indicated their intention to remove the Gut Hut. Hut book records showed that few people were using the hut, preferring instead to use the Deas Cove hut. Further, the Department of Conservation has identified that the hut was in need of major repairs. However for a number of visitors this hut continues to be an important facility.

Following discussions, the Department of Conservation acknowledged that there was still an opportunity for consultation before a final decision was made. Mr Geoff Milne has approached the Department of Conservation and offered to take over responsibility for maintenance of the hut. The Guardians were able to support Mr Milne by publishing an article to this effect in a Guardian's Newsletter which elicited a range of responses from people and clubs interested in joining Mr Milne to ensure the future of the hut.

Meeting with the Minister for the Environment

The Chairman, Malcolm Lawson, met with the Minister for the Environment Hon Amy Adams in May 2013 to discuss the management of the FMA and various issues that had arisen, particularly the challenge of timely implementation of measures to protect newly discovered "china shops". They also discussed the impact that the Fiordland model has had in providing an example for other groups embarking on co-management initiatives.



SEA PENS (*SARCOPHYLLUM SP.*), GEORGE SOUND



MARK PEYCHERS IN DINGHY

LOOKING AHEAD – THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Trip to FMA

Part of the Environmental Achiever award presented to the Guardians in 2012 included goods provided by Real Journeys Ltd. The Guardians have chosen to use this prize to host a range of senior managers and management agency staff on an overnight trip in the FMA on board the tourist vessel 'Milford Wanderer' during September 2013. The trip will focus on marine biosecurity and will provide an opportunity to discuss threats to the biodiversity of the FMA and strategies to prevent the introduction of unwanted marine organisms.

Doubtful and Milford Sound blue cod management

Having considered the information available from a series of research projects, the Guardians will progress the management plan for the Doubtful and Milford Sound fisheries through the implementation of regulations to control future harvest from these areas. See Advice and recommendations given.

Southland Conservation Management Strategy and World Heritage proposal

The release of this document, anticipated to occur during 2012/13, was delayed. Submissions on the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), which includes a proposal for an application for World Heritage status for the waters and seabed of the fiords of Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) as an addition to the Te Wahipounamu – South Westland World Heritage Area is scheduled for consultation during July – September 2013.

The Guardians will consider the CMS during the consultation period, including the implications of the World Heritage listing proposal.

Distribution of DVD

A list of all libraries, schools and other interested organisations is being compiled to allow the distribution of the Guardians' DVD. It is available as a resource to organisations or individuals that are interested in visiting the FMA or learning about the co-management model.

Boat shows

The Guardians will continue to have a presence at boat shows within the Otago/Southland area to promote the FMA along with the work of the Guardians and management agencies. The dissemination of information regarding the FMA continues to be a priority.

Marine reserve markers

The first of the pou pou that will identify the boundaries of the marine reserves outside of the main fiords will be erected in the year to come. This has special significance for iwi and will be celebrated appropriately.

Seal diet research

Research into the diet of seals residing within areas of the FMA will be carried out by the Department of Conservation. There is little knowledge on the subject and questions were raised during the review of the rules governing the FMA as to whether the increasing seal population was likely to impact fish stocks.

APPENDIX 1: THE ACT – ITS PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

THE FIORDLAND (TE MOANA O ATAWHENUA)

MARINE MANAGEMENT ACT 2005

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 cooperation 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
 - (i) 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

In accordance with Section 20 of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, details of meetings held during the year are as follows:

2012

5 July	9.00 am – 3.15 pm (including a public forum)
11 September	10.00 am – 12.30 pm
27 November	10.00 am – 3.15 pm

2013

26 February	10.00 am – 3.40 pm
16 May	10.00 am – 4.00 pm



APPENDIX 3: AGENCY REPORTS



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Role

The Ministry for the Environment administers the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 (the Act) and is responsible for coordinating the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Communications Plan. The Ministry provides administrative and secretariat support to the Guardians, and ensures the Minister's obligations under the Act are met.

Achievements

The main achievement for the Ministry this year was the open nominations process which was run on behalf of the Minister for the Environment to identify potential new Guardians.

Two new Guardians, Dr Rebecca McLeod and Jonathan Clow have been appointed and have begun their terms. Both new Guardians bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. In particular, Rebecca has an extensive ecological research background in the FMA and Jonathan brings maritime and management experience as well as links to the tourism industry.

Looking ahead

We are looking to produce greater numbers of the Guardians' DVD *Beneath the Reflections: The story of the Fiordland Marine Guardians* so that these can be distributed to libraries, schools and other interested organisations.

Finishing the update of the structure and content of the Guardians' website will be a priority for the Ministry in the next 12 months. This will allow chapters of the DVD to be made available through the website and make it easier to add and find research reports and other material.



SEA KAYAKING,
DOUBTFUL SOUND



TUBE ANEMONE (*CERIANTHUS BOLLONSI*),
PRESERVATION INLET



WATERFALL, IRENE RIVER,
CHARLES SOUND



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Role

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for leading the implementation of a plan to monitor the state of the marine environment and biological diversity in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area (FMA). This plan is implemented with involvement and collaboration between all the key agencies managing the FMA, and with direct input from the Fiordland Marine Guardians. DOC is also responsible for managing Fiordland's 10 marine reserves and for the protection of marine mammals within the FMA.

Achievements

A significant time investment has again been made in the last 12 months for the joint-agency response to the incursion of the pest seaweed, *Undaria*, in Breaksea Sound. A separate report on the response is presented in this report but it has been another very positive year and the joint-agency initiative continues to be successful. DOC continues to be committed to the programme and feels very proud of the way that the response team continue to work together and maintain such a high level of surveillance.

In February of 2013 NIWA (contracted by DOC) looked in detail at four of the FMA's marine reserves. Six monitoring sites were surveyed inside and outside of Kahukura (Gold Arm), Kutu Parera (Gaer Arm), Moana Utu (Wetjacket Arm) and Taumoana (Five Fingers) Marine Reserves to build up a better picture of what is happening as the management of the FMA continues. The final report for the monitoring will be available in the spring of 2013.

DOC has continued with the monitoring of Fiordland's bottlenose dolphins in collaboration with Otago University researchers, and with support from the tourism industry. Three trips were carried out in both Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound over the course of the year. Numbers of dolphins born in Doubtful Sound over the last couple of years has been very positive and this last season saw a further eight new calves born. This is the highest number in one breeding season for some years and is very encouraging. Dusky Sound had six new calves which is a little lower than normal but not worryingly so.

Looking ahead

DOC will continue its involvement in the *Undaria* response in the coming year and is hoping to further increase the efforts in Sunday Cove. If the current run of results continues the project will be well placed to realise the goal of locally eliminating *Undaria* from Breaksea Sound.

DOC also hopes to start work on some research in to the diet of fur seals in the FMA. The question of what seals eat in Fiordland will help to increase our knowledge of the ecology of the fiords and the complex food web that exists.

DOC will continue to work with Otago University on bottlenose dolphin monitoring in Doubtful and Dusky Sounds, which has proved a very positive partnership. The coming year will also see the finalisation of a study in to the effects of vessels on the behaviour of dolphins in Doubtful Sound. This contract with Otago University was funded by the Marine Mammal Levy group and will help to feed in to the Code of Management review due in the winter of 2013.



MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) was formed through the merger of the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. MPI was launched on 30 April 2012.

MPI is focused on 'growing and protecting New Zealand'; the focus being to maximise export opportunities and improve sector productivity, to increase sustainable resource use, and protect from biological risk.

Key MPI functions of interest to the FMA include:

- providing policy advice and programmes that support the sustainable development of New Zealand's primary industries
- being the Government's principal adviser on fisheries and aquaculture management
- providing whole-of-system leadership of New Zealand's biosecurity system
- providing or purchasing services to maintain the effective management of New Zealand's fisheries.

MPI also works to ensure that fisheries and other resources are managed sustainably, using a Voluntary, Assisted, Directed, Enforced approach to compliance. Education and informing public and stakeholders is essential to ensuring effective compliance.



BIOSECURITY

Role

MPI is responsible for leading the development and maintenance of the biosecurity system that supports sustainable fisheries management. MPI will work with industry and other partners to agree and implement biosecurity planning that connects inter-agency activities aimed at minimising impacts of marine biosecurity risks to the FMA. The Investigation and Diagnostics Centres and Response Directorate is responsible for leading this work; teams include advisers and investigators with specialist skills in surveillance, investigation and incursion response to detect, eradicate or control the establishment and spread of marine pests and diseases.

Achievements

In 2009/10, MPI contracted the Cawthron Institute to develop recommendations for a 5-year risk management operational plan for Fiordland. The plan sets out recommended activities that MPI, other relevant agencies and the Guardians could take to achieve the goals identified in the Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Strategic Plan. In the past year, MPI has worked with the other agencies and the Guardians to implement planned biosecurity recommendations, including:

Vector management

- Vessel inspections for marine pests (ongoing since February 2010). Moored vessels in Bluff and at Stewart Island that are known to travel to the FMA are inspected on a monthly basis for the presence of marine pests. Antifoul condition and the level of general marine growth on vessel hulls are recorded during these inspections. Any marine pests found on vessel hulls and niche areas are removed by divers at the time. When a marine pest is detected, vessel owners are 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. Young Fishing Ltd is contracted by MPI to undertake these inspections.
- Joint-agency compliance and surveillance patrol. In December 2012 and April 2013, MPI also participated in the joint-agency compliance patrol from a Biosecurity perspective. Vessels and any artificial structures encountered during this patrol were inspected in-water to ensure they were free of marine pests. Vessel owners were also advised about marine biosecurity. This was a great way to raise awareness of the importance of keeping marine pests out of Fiordland and is significant because of the intensive effort currently applied to achieve local elimination of the invasive seaweed, *Undaria*, from Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound.
- Code of practice for bilge and ballast water (under way). MPI has contracted the Cawthron Institute to develop a code of practice for the management of seawater discharges in the FMA.

Communications

- A marine biosecurity message for Fiordland was placed on the marine pages of the Metservice webpage from October 2012 to April 2013. "The only things you should leave behind are ripples". If your boat and equipment haven't been properly cleaned and your hull antifouled before entering Fiordland, you could be spreading marine pests".

Joint-agency response to *Undaria* in Sunday Cove

MPI is working collaboratively with DOC and Environment Southland on the joint-agency attempt to locally eliminate the invasive marine pest seaweed, *Undaria*, from Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound. Significant efforts have been made over the past year to further improve the effectiveness of the dive surveys and to reduce the chance of any *Undaria* plants reaching maturity. Results to date are promising as there has been a significant reduction in the number of *Undaria* sporophytes found despite intensive search efforts (refer to the *Undaria* in Sunday Cove article for further information).

Marine Biosecurity signs have been placed on both structures in Sunday Cove to inform users of the area of the active local elimination programme.

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 Ports of Lyttelton, Dunedin and Bluff). This programme aims to achieve early detection of a range of unwanted marine pests in some of New Zealand's busiest, and therefore high-risk, locations – namely ports and marinas of first entry for international vessels. Undertaking surveillance in the Port of Bluff has benefits to the FMA, such as detecting new and emerging invasive marine species. No new marine pests have been found in the Port of Bluff by these surveys over the past year. The next round of surveillance in Bluff will be conducted between the 16 and 20 of September.

Draft Craft Risk Management Standard for vessel fouling

MPI has done considerable work over the past year on developing a draft Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS) for all vessel types, formerly referred to as an import health standard, under the Biosecurity Act. This standard is due to be applied later in 2013 and implementation will include a voluntary period of compliance aimed at educating and informing vessel owners and operators around requirements of the standard. Enforcement will begin after a lead-in period during which MPI will work with vessel operators to encourage their early compliance and help them identify options for becoming compliant. Further information can be found at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-bnz-std-biofoul>

Domestic marine pathway management

Marine pathway management is about controlling the spread, and consequently reducing the impact, of marine pests by managing the ways they move from place to place. For example, pathway management will include inspection of vessels travelling from Bluff Harbour to Fiordland, removing hull fouling to prevent the spread of *Undaria*. Proactive marine pathway management will limit the impacts of new introductions by keeping them contained as well as reducing the rate that established pests spread around New Zealand. The Pest Management National Plan of Action outlines national and regional leadership roles and accountabilities for marine pest management. Under this plan MPI will be working with relevant organisations to improve marine pest and pathway management.

To support the use of pathway management plans MPI has commissioned a report on the practical policy options and operational tools available for reducing the spread of unwanted marine species along domestic pathways. This report is due in August 2013 after which MPI will engage stakeholders to progress relevant management outcomes.

Vessel biofouling is a significant vector for marine pests. MPI worked closely with Australia to produce the Antifouling and in-water cleaning guidelines. These guidelines will support councils and vessel owners and operators in conducting best practice hull husbandry activities that minimise the biosecurity risks posed by biofouling.



MARTINS BAY, REC BOAT



STEVE LOGIE INSPECTING CRAY POT CATCH

FISHERIES

Achievements

Compliance

Throughout the past year the MPI Compliance, Southland Team has continued to lead and coordinate the multi-agency delivery of the FMA Integrated Compliance Plan. This involves both the sharing of relevant information and MPI Fishery Officers working closely with DOC rangers and Environment Southland officers to deliver where possible an integrated enforcement programme.

In early December 2012 a multi-agency team of DOC, MPI and Environment Southland officers undertook a 5-day sea patrol on board the DOC GV Southern Winds covering seven fiords and five marine reserves between Thompson Sound and Preservation Inlet. While the numbers of commercial fishing and amateur charter vessels were relatively low, pleasingly all inspection contacts were positive with no fisheries breaches detected. Combined with the compliance work, a total of 16 marine pest surveillance dives were made of likely structures, vessel and barge hulls and anchorage moorings as part of bio-security monitoring.

In late March 2013 a joint-agency team of MPI and ES staff joined the DOC GV Southern Winds for a 5-day Compliance sea patrol commencing from Bluff and finishing up at Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound on Easter Good Friday. The busy patrol covered eight fiords between Preservation Inlet and Thompson/ Bradshaw Sounds and included six marine reserves. A total of 19 manned vessels were inspected, including four commercial fishing vessels, five amateur charter fishing vessels, nine recreational vessels and one visiting North American yacht, resulting in a total of 94 persons contacted. Fisher compliance was again positive, reflecting the wide acceptance of the now-long established FMA fishing rules with only two relatively minor commercial fishing reporting breaches detected requiring remedial action.

Fisheries management and science

MPI completed work on fisheries initiatives including the rock lobster recreational daily limit applying within the internal waters (increasing from three to six and standardising the accumulation limit at 15, except for Milford Sound where the rules are unchanged) and restricting the use of rock lobster pots around Seymour Island in Pendulo Reach, Doubtful Sound. The new regulations are due to take effect from 1 October 2013.

The final report from blue cod monitoring undertaken in 2011 became available during the year. This The Guardians considered the report and have made a recommendation to MPI in response.

Looking ahead

With the anticipated 1 October 2013 introduction of amateur fishing regulation amendments, MPI Compliance will work collaboratively with the Guardians to provide the necessary advice to inform recreational fishers of the new FMGs sponsored changes to the internal waters rock lobster daily bag limit; the additional accumulation defence requirement to record all rock lobster stored in holding pots; and the new amateur potting prohibited area adjacent to Seymour Island in Pendulo Reach, Doubtful Sound. This will require work to update the relevant MPI recreational brochure, website and FMA joint-agency signage.

MPI will also be following up on the Guardians' recommendation in regard to blue cod closures in Milford and Doubtful Sound.

MPI (Biosecurity) will continue to work with the Guardians and other agencies to implement the risk management operational plan recommendations over the next year. MPI will also continue to work collaboratively with DOC and Environment Southland on the current response to achieve local elimination of *Undaria* from Sunday Cove.

As pathway management is key to protecting the FMA from marine pests, MPI will also support Environment Southland to progress a regional marine pathway plan for the FMA.

Further information on Fiordland marine biosecurity can be found on the MPI website at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/surv-mgmt/mgmt-partnerships/fiordland>



ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND

Achievements

Biosecurity

Environment Southland Biosecurity staff continued to liaise with the Guardians as well as with various management agencies, to develop collaborative approaches to deal with the risks posed by the incursion of marine pests into Fiordland.

Environment Southland is planning to hold a marine biosecurity industry meeting in late September 2013 to determine the most effective way of protecting Southland's coastal area from marine pests with special emphasis on Fiordland. Representatives from key stakeholders (FMG, MPI, DOC, Regional Councils and the maritime industry) from around New Zealand have been invited to attend this meeting.

In conjunction with MPI and DOC, inspections of vessels' hulls for marine pests continues, both on vessels within Fiordland, and on vessels arriving from national locations into Bluff. Environment Southland is increasing its activity in this area, with ongoing checks for invasive marine pests in Fiordland.



Environment Southland is also investigating the possibility of developing a vessel-cleaning facility near the Bluff Yacht Club boat ramp. It targets, in particular, the smaller vessels that may be intending to visit the Fiordland Marine Area. This cleaning facility will need to ensure that wastes and wastewaters do not enter the Coastal Marine Area. Usually this involves the construction of catch drains and collection trenches, pits or sumps covered by removable grating and fitted with screen or stainless steel mesh baskets to allow for inspection and removal of solids. A local engineer has undertaken a site visit and is working on a costing for the specified works. The landowners have been contacted and are happy for the installation of this facility to proceed on their property. The facility has strong support from the Bluff Yacht Club and a local engineering business which currently supplies and maintains a cradle for lifting vessels out of the water.

Environmental compliance

The Council's Compliance Division investigated a number of complaints in the Fiordland Marine Area in the last year:

- Deep Cove – a vessel had been moored under Helena Falls in Doubtful Sound for over a year. The owner applied for a consent and the vessel was moved to an unused registered site.
- Deep Cove – unauthorised excavations resulted in a retrospective consent being issued.
- Deep Cove – a yacht which was moored permanently under Helena Falls without consent was confirmed to be in breach of the Coastal Plan.
- A company undertaking commercial dives and operating a dive school in Milford Sound was found to be operating without resource consent. The company was carrying out 6-12 dives a year. An abatement notice was issued to cease and not undertake further commercial activity, and the owner subsequently applied for a consent.
- Complaints had been received about an unconsented vessel operating as a charter boat for about three months. The vessel operated out of Deep Cove, but was believed to be based in Picton. An investigation found that it was, in fact, a private vessel with no commercial activities being undertaken.

As part of annual inspections, staff interviewed vessel operators, checking for compliance with consents such as hull inspection requirements and operating limits. Structures were also inspected with no significant compliance issues found.

Oil spill response

Environment Southland was involved in several oil spill responses in the Fiordland Marine Area from July 2012 to June 2013:

- The fishing vessel *Sharcaree* was hit by a wave, capsizing at the entrance to Chalky Inlet, and was washed ashore at Landing Bay, on 22 July 2012. The vessel broke up, and although some diesel will have been released, the weather was too rough to mount a response, so any spill was left to disperse naturally. Considerable effort was put into ensuring the wreckage of the vessel was removed over the following months.
- Freshwater Basin, Milford Sound – a crane used for the wharf and breakwater realignment tipped over on 8 August 2012, and there was concern that the hydraulic fluid in the powerpac and the crane would spill, if the crane fell into the water. Booms were set around the fallen crane to contain any spill, but it was righted with little spillage.
- Breaksea Sound – the privately owned vessels *Karaka* and *Michelle* sank together on 7 September 2012. Both vessels were successfully salvaged without spillage, but the *Karaka* later sank while under tow, and has not been recovered.
- Two fishermen were lost when the fishing vessel *Governor* sank in about 45-50 metres of water, northwest of Milford Sound, on 15 September 2012. A 300m oil slick, with a smell of diesel, was noted by fishermen off Yates Point. Aerial observation confirmed the slick which was allowed to dissipate naturally without any impact on the shoreline.
- Freshwater Basin, Milford Sound – MDA staff noted a rainbow sheen in the harbour on 11 October 2012. The fuel/oil/bilge water was dispersed via prop wash and wave action, although the offending vessel was not identified.
- Broughton Arm, Breaksea Sound – the privately owned vessel *Matakana* dragged its anchor in high winds, and went aground on 1 June 2013. The ship was monitored by air for fuel spillage, but there was no indication of any spill and the vessel was towed into deeper water the following day, without further incident.

Resource consents

The Guardians are considered to be affected parties for any resource consent applications for the Fiordland Marine Area, and provide advice to Environment Southland. The Guardians consider the applications and report back to Environment Southland on the issues, or make a submission on the application, attending pre-hearing meetings and hearings, depending on the nature and extent of the proposed activities.

This year the Guardians were asked to provide input on the following consent applications:

- RJ Swale & PJ Egerton – to carry out commercial surface water activities in Milford Sound
- Real Journeys Ltd – to carry out commercial surface water activities in the FMA
- Cruising Milford Sound – to install a permanent swing mooring at Deepwater Basin, Milford Sound
- South West Helicopters Ltd – to moor the barge *Presse Puss* in Preservation Inlet
- Takapu Charters – to carry out commercial surface water activities in the FMA with the vessel *Takapu*
- Real Journeys Ltd – to carry out commercial surface water activities in the FMA – variation to existing consent
- Kuster & Ellis – to carry out commercial surface water activities in Milford Sound – guided scuba diving trips
- Department of Conservation – to replace an existing wharf with pontoon structures in Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound
- Invercargill Holdings Ltd – to land a float plane at various sites around Fiordland
- Dive Otago Ltd – undertake commercial surface water activities including diving trips and training in Milford Sound
- Island Escape Cruises Ltd – to carry out commercial surface water activities in the FMA using the vessel *Island Passage*
- MA & D Soper – to occupy the coastal marine area with a mooring, Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound
- Southern Discoveries Ltd – to carry out commercial surface water activities in Milford Sound – vessel *MV Discovery*.

Survey – Preservation and Chalky inlets

Environment Southland funded Land Information New Zealand to carry out preliminary survey work in Preservation and Chalky Inlets, prior to a major re-charting of these areas. The full survey will occur in the 2013/14 financial year, and will result in more accurate charts, improving safety for mariners.

Improving VHF Coverage

Environment Southland commissioned ASI Ltd to investigate the use of existing radio towers and other structures to mount new repeaters, to improve VHF radio coverage in the fiords. Preliminary analysis indicates that coverage can be improved significantly in the lower fiords. Environment Southland is funding equipment to be installed in the 2013/14 year, as well as providing funds to continue the study to fill in VHF coverage gaps in other locations. Some additional masts will be required in the medium-term beyond 2014, and further funding will be sought prior to the commencement of this stage. This work, like all of the Environment Southland coastal management, will be funded from the fees that cruise ships pay to access the fiords.

Looking ahead

Environment Southland will continue to work with the Guardians and the management agencies, to provide a local perspective in managing the coastal waters of the Fiordland Marine Area, supporting the Guardians in the fiords.



APPENDIX 4: GUARDIANS' BIOGRAPHIES



Stewart Bull

Stewart Bull has extensive knowledge of customary uses of Fiordland, particularly customary fishing. He is the chair of the Oraka-Aparima Rūnanga and is the Oraka-Aparima Rūnanga 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 Rūnanga representative on the Customary Fisheries Advisory Group. Stewart has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since its inception.



Jerry Excell

Jerry Excell 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 12 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 is also involved in research projects; collecting and providing data about the rock lobster fishery.



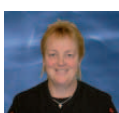
Ken Grange

Ken Grange is a marine ecologist, and the Regional Manager of NIWA Nelson. He has a broad understanding of general marine science and, in particular, the Fiordland marine environment. Ken was the first to describe scientifically 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.



Malcolm Lawson

Malcolm Lawson is the Chief Executive of the CRA8 Management Committee Inc. He is heavily involved in commercial fisheries management in Fiordland. He is a member of the New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council and the Operations Manager for the New Zealand Inshore Fishing Industry Council. Malcolm also sits on the ministerial advisory group for rock lobster and is a company director. Malcolm has previously worked for MFish. He is the chairperson of the Fiordland Marine Guardians.



Anne McDermott

Anne has significant experience of the area, having dived, fished and tramped in Fiordland for 20 years. She has dived in the fiords more than 350 times (in 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.



Mark Peychers

Mark has three decades of first-hand experience of the Fiordland marine environment, including 28 years as a commercial fisher. He was an original member of the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries. 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 Limited and is actively involved with fisheries management in Fiordland, as well as other areas of New Zealand. Mark was involved in the implementation of the first two marine reserves in Fiordland.



Jonathan Clow

Jonathan brings a wealth of maritime and management experience to the Guardians having started out life as a professional seafarer in the fishing industry followed by 15 years with the Royal New Zealand Navy. His military career was that of a Seaman Officer navigating ships worldwide, progressing to a career qualification of PWO(N+); Principal Warfare Officer, sub-specialised as Advanced Navigator or more commonly called Naval Pilot. Jonathan is now the Marine Manager and Safe Ship Manager for Real Journeys Ltd and is based in Te Anau. His responsibilities are centered on vessels, people and compliance across the business. This means that he has a vested interest and day-to-day involvement with the Fiordland Marine Area.



Rebecca McLeod

Rebecca has extensive knowledge of Fiordland from the rainforests to its unique marine environment, having actively conducted ecological research in the area over the last 10 years. She is Lead Scientist for Oritain Global Ltd, a postdoctoral fellow in the Chemistry Department at the University of Otago and also sits on the Marine Protected Areas Sub-committee of the NZ Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS). Rebecca was also previously an elected member of the NZMSS council.

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:



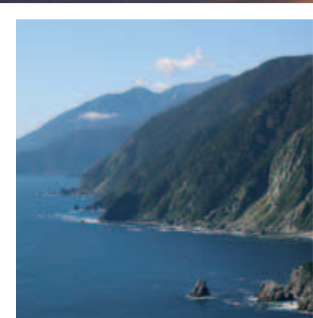
DOC's Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre
Lakefront Drive, Te Anau, phone: 03 249 7924,
email: fiordlandvc@doc.govt.nz

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



Or online at www.fmg.org.nz





**Fiordland
Marine Guardians**
Beneath the Reflections

www.fmg.org.nz