



Annual Report **2017/18**



Contents

3	Vision and purpose
3	Statement of responsibility
4	Chairperson's report
5	Working together for the good of Fiordland
6	The Fiordland Marine Guardians
8	Agency representatives
9	Our year in review
12	Focus on marine biosecurity
15	Future challenges for the Fiordland Marine Area
16	Looking ahead – the next 12 months
17	Resource consents
18	Meetings
19	Agency Reports
19	Ministry for the Environment
20	Department of Conservation
23	Environment Southland
26	Ministry for Primary Industries





Vision and purpose

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

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

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

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

Our challenge is ensuring the values of Fiordland are protected as the area faces increasing pressure from competing interests.

Statement of responsibility

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are proud to present, in compliance with section 20(1) of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, the annual report for the Fiordland Marine Guardians for the year ended 30 June 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca'.

Rebecca McLeod, PhD

Chairperson

Fiordland Marine Guardians

Chairperson's report



Tēnā koutou katoa

The Guardians have always taken a proactive approach to conservation, by setting a vision for the future, and then taking steps to ensure that vision will be realised. We continue to look to future risks and pressures that the region will face, and take steps to mitigate these.

Since the Fiordland Marine Management Act was implemented in 2005, international visitor numbers to Aotearoa/New Zealand have nearly doubled. In the year to February 2018, 3.78 million visitors came to New Zealand, and numbers are expected to reach 5 million in 5 years.

As our society becomes increasingly urbanised, people are seeking to immerse themselves in nature. New Zealand's national parks and remote areas are experiencing huge increases in visitors, which is wonderful, but at the same time presents some significant challenges.

People on the water in Fiordland will tell you that there is more vessel traffic than ever before, and not just in the visitor hotspots of Piopiotahi/Milford and Patea/Doubtful sounds. The once-deserted southern fiords are getting busier, as people seek that 'wilderness experience'. With increased traffic comes pressure on Fiordland's fisheries, higher biosecurity risks, pressure on safe anchorages, and a shift in the nature of the visitor experience.

The Guardian's work is currently focused on assessing and responding to this changing scene, and we are leading or contributing to a number of projects that you can read more about on page 16. I also invite you to get up to speed with the efforts that we are making, in collaboration with a number of others, to keep marine pests out of Fiordland (pages 12-13).

We were delighted that Guardian Stewart Bull was honoured with a Queen's Service Medal for his services to conservation and Māori. Stewart has been involved with the Guardians since its inception, and continues to advocate for sensible and responsible conservation solutions in Fiordland, and beyond with his many other governance roles.

In April we farewelled Richard Bowman, Biosecurity Manager at Environment Southland, as he embarked on his retirement. Richard's involvement in Fiordland's marine conservation extends well before the Fiordland Marine Management Act. We thank Richard for his advocacy and service and wish him all the best.

My sincere thanks to the Guardians and our dedicated team of representatives from the agencies for their work over the past year.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Rebecca McLeod
Chairperson



Working together for the good of Fiordland

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

Sub-committees focus specifically on biosecurity, monitoring, and communication and engagement with users, and progress matters outside of the main meeting. Representatives from the Guardians and each agency sit on these sub-committees. In 2017, we convened a sub-committee specifically to spear-head our involvement in the review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland.

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

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

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

The Fiordland Marine Guardians



Dr Rebecca McLeod (Chairperson)

Rebecca has extensive knowledge of Fiordland, from the rainforests to its unique marine environment, having conducted ecological research in the area for many years. Rebecca began her career in academia, transitioned into the commercial sector, and is currently a Science Advisor for New Zealand's Antarctic Research Programme. Rebecca was awarded a PhD from the University of Otago and has received high profile honours and awards that recognise her scientific accomplishments and strengths in communication. She is a keen scientific and recreational diver and boatie, and is passionate about New Zealanders getting into the great outdoors and being able to 'fish for a feed'.



Jerry Excell

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



Stewart Bull

Stewart has extensive knowledge of the 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 and the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative to the Southland Conservation Board. Stewart has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since its inception and in 2018 was awarded a Queens Service Medal for his services to conservation and Māori.



Dr Ken Grange

Ken is a marine ecologist, and recently retired from NIWA in Nelson. He has an in-depth understanding of the Fiordland marine environment, being 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. In 2017, Ken was awarded the New Zealand Marine Science Medal (the John Morton Award) for his outstanding contribution to marine conservation in New Zealand.



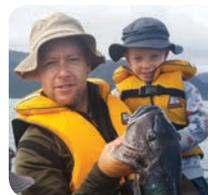
Anne McDermott

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



Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill

Kerri-Anne's career in applied conservation ecology spans over 22 years, with 15 years working in Fiordland. Kerri-Anne holds a PhD in Zoology (in seabird ecology), and has worked on a diverse range of threatened species and island eradication programmes from the Kermadec Islands north of New Zealand to the sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia. In 2013 she established her own consultancy business, in partnership with her husband, where she focuses on strategic planning, community engagement, and writing. Kerri-Anne is a keen trumper and sea kayaker and is looking forward to more time kayaking in the fiords with her family as her son gets more adventurous.



Jonathan Clow

Jonathan brings a wealth of maritime and management experience to the Guardians, having started out as a professional seafarer in the fishing industry followed by 15 years with the Royal New Zealand Navy as a Seaman Officer, and then 5 years as the Marine Manager and Safe Ship Manager for Real Journeys Ltd in Te Anau. Most recently Jon has undertaken a change in career moving into the software industry as a software developer, but remains in Te Anau and attached to the Fiordland Marine Area.



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 positive working relationships with the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, 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 and Australia. Mark was involved in implementing the first two marine reserves in Fiordland and is a trustee of the Southern Coastal Charitable Trust that operates the coastal clean ups in Fiordland and Stewart Island.

Agency representatives

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

Rosalynn Anderson Lederer

Analyst – Hono Tahua – Communities
and Freshwater Investments

Ministry for the Environment (to February 2018)

Allison Bockstruck

Fiordland Marine Guardians Secretariat

Ministry for the Environment

Richard Bowman

Biosecurity Manager

Environment Southland (retired April 2018)

Jen Brunton, Senior Adviser

Animal and Marine Biosecurity Response

Biosecurity NZ

Ministry for Primary Industries

Lyndon Cleaver

Regional Harbourmaster/Maritime Officer

Environment Southland

Ian Coard

Deputy Regional Harbourmaster

Environment Southland

Chloe Corne

Ranger Operations

Department of Conservation

Shaun Cunningham

Biosecurity Officer

Environment Southland

Annabelle Ellis

Manager – Hono Tahua – Communities
and Freshwater Investments

Ministry for the Environment

Mark Geytenbeek

Senior Fisheries Analyst – Inshore Fisheries Management

Fisheries NZ

Ministry for Primary Industries

Courtney Guise

Consents Officer

Environment Southland

Matt Hoffman

Consents Officer

Environment Southland (to June 2018)

Richard Kinsey

Senior Ranger Operations

Department of Conservation

Stephen Logie

Chief Compliance Officer – MPI Compliance
Directorate: Southland

Ministry for Primary Industries

Ali Meade

Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations Manager

Environment Southland (since June 2018)

Donna Shepard

Statutory Manager, Operations, Southern South Island

Department of Conservation

Our year in review



July 2017 – The Guardians launch a second edition of *Beneath the Reflections: A user's guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area* at The Rock FM Boat Show Southland. We share a stand with Environment Southland and use this valuable platform to connect with our community. The Boat Show Southland is the largest event of its kind in the region with over 5000 people coming to see national and local exhibitors over three days.

August 2017 – The Guardians and agency representatives review the results of a delimiting survey for the pest seaweed *Undaria* in Te Puatiha/Breaksea Sound and discuss proposed management options. Users who operate in Beach Harbour, the site of the new *Undaria* infestation detected in May 2017, also attend.

September 2017 – Fiordland College invite the Guardians and agency staff to contribute to their Year 12 Environmental Studies Programme on the Fiordland Marine Area, the Act, and the role of the Guardians and agencies in achieving a shared vision for the FMA.

October 2017 – The Guardians respond to a request from the Rakiura/Stewart Island community for advice about establishing a Rakiura Marine Guardians group. We participate in Conservation Week functions in Southland, engage with the Southland Regional Development Strategy about aquaculture in Fiordland, and contribute to the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge second stage strategy development.

November 2017 – Dr Thomas Mattern, Oceania Representative – Global Penguin Society, and University of Otago researcher, presents interim monitoring results from a 5-year study of the marine ecology and breeding biology of the tawaki/Fiordland crested penguin at the joint Guardians – Agency meeting. The Guardians travel into Te Puatiha/Breaksea and Tamatea/Dusky Sounds for three days on board the *GV Southern Winds*. We visit sites that have been the focus of considerable discussion and work over the past few years.

December 2017 – *Te Panui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua*, the newsletter of the Fiordland Marine Guardians is re-launched with a new name and new look. We reach out to key members of the new Government about the *Undaria* infestation in Te Puatiha/Breaksea Sound. We advocate for a Controlled Area in the sound to slow its spread and provide time for a control and research/monitoring plan to be developed. The Guardians present at an Environment Southland Council meeting in support of expediting the Controlled Area notice before Christmas.

January 2018 – The Guardians participate in preliminary stakeholder engagement for a review of the Cruise Ship Industry Deed of Agreement. The Guardians attend the first Breaksea *Undaria* Management Options Hui in Dunedin along with representatives from Environment Southland, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries, and the University of Otago's Department of Marine Science.

February 2018 – Representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the University of Otago's Department of Marine Science attend the joint Guardians-Agency meeting to progress the *Undaria* incursion and response plan. Growing concern about the availability of facilities for hauling out vessels on to the hard in Bluff prompts the Guardians to work with community leaders to review whether existing facilities in Bluff are sufficient to mitigate what we see as significant marine biosecurity and operational/safety risks.

March 2018 – The Guardians are among attendees at a Fiordland community engagement evening at DOC Te Anau with Minister Sage. We make a formal submission in support of the review of the Cruise Ship Industry Deed of Agreement.

April 2018 – The Guardians and agencies look back at the first 12 months since the launch of the Pathways Plan and the requirement for all vessels entering the Fiordland Marine Area to have a Clean Vessel Pass. Long-serving Environment Southland Biosecurity Manager Richard Bowman retires, and the Guardians acknowledge the huge service that Richard has paid to the Fiordland Marine Area.

May 2018 – The Milford Opportunities Project team invite the Guardians to connect with their work and to familiarise them with the history of the Fiordland Marine Area, the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005, and role of the Guardians. The Guardians submit on an ecosystems discussion paper as part of Environment Southlands review of the Regional Coastal Plan.

June 2018 – Users engage with the Guardians over concern for declining recreational wet fish stocks inside the habitat lines in southern Fiordland. We receive the Meridian Marine Programme Review (2015–2018) and the annual results from the physical and biological monitoring of Patea/Doubtful Sound undertaken for Meridian Energy Ltd by Cawthron Institute. The Guardians present at the PA2050 conference *Towards implementing a 2050 Vision for the protected areas of Aotearoa/New Zealand*. We release our June edition of *Te Panui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua*.







Focus on marine biosecurity

A large proportion of the Guardians' work in the past year has related to marine biosecurity. This work has been both reactionary, responding to immediate threats and events, and future-focused.

Marine pests have long been considered by the Guardians as one of the biggest risks for Fiordland. Considerable effort is being directed to dealing with the one identified pest species that is known to be present in the Fiordland Marine Area, and putting procedures in place to prevent any further incursions.

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

The Guardians and management agencies have communicated extensively over the past year on the *Undaria* (Asian kelp) infestation in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound. In August 2017, once the full extent of the infestation was known, it became apparent that eradication of *Undaria* from Breaksea Sound would not be achievable with current tools and technology. Attention quickly turned to what could be done to slow the spread of *Undaria* and buy the time necessary to develop an effective control programme, supported by research to identify the most likely places for the weed species to establish beyond the current infestation.

Central to achieving this plan was engaging with users who regularly occupy and/or operate from the Beach Harbour – John Islands area about the need to establish a Controlled Area under the Biosecurity Act 1993, and limit

what activities were permissible based on the risk of spreading *Undaria*. By Christmas 2017, the Controlled Area was in place. The Guardians continue to support the agencies' work to communicate with frequent users and visitors to ensure people know about the Controlled Area and are adhering to the requirements.

On the back of the first 'Breaksea *Undaria* Management Options Hui' in Dunedin in January 2018, Dr Chris Hepburn (Department of Marine Science, University of Otago) and Derek Richards, Nigel Scott, and Dr Daniel Pritchard (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu) participated in the joint Guardians-Agency meeting in February. The discussion focussed on the control of *Undaria* at the Acheron Passage/Saturday Cove edge of the infested area and on reducing the biomass of mature/reproductive plants in the heavily infested areas. The goal would be to take management steps to contain the infestation. Both approaches would help address spore dispersal and limit the chance of reproductive plants drifting out of the existing infested area.

The necessary research to support both the control effort and the development of a long-term containment plan for *Undaria* will be led by the University of Otago and Ngāi Tahu, while the agencies take a joint lead on containment and control.

Tracking uptake of the Pathway Management Plan

The Guardians have kept a close eye on the Fiordland Regional Marine Pest Pathways Plan, following its launch in April 2017, and are particularly interested in the uptake of the clean standards of the plan and associated Clean Vessel Pass.

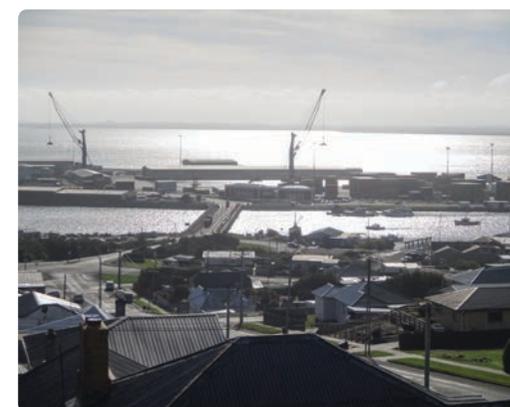
While more than 250 Clean Vessel Passes were issued to June 2018, it was disappointing to learn about the number of operators who didn't have Clean Vessel Passes in a recent inspection. The Guardians are working with the agencies to raise awareness of the Pathways Plan among all users including the requirement for a Clean Vessel Pass. The Guardians are emphasising their desire for more frequent compliance patrols in the coming year and support cost-recovery of inspections to those who aren't compliant.

One of the challenges with the Pathways Plan is that for the Plan to be effective in keeping pests from being transported into the Fiordland Marine Area, vessel operators must be made aware of the requirements well in advance of their passage to the region. The Guardians firmly believe that the Fiordland Plan must be supported in a wider national context, such as a national pathways plan. Such an approach would facilitate information sharing across regional councils, marinas, ports and stakeholders, which would deliver clear and consistent messages to vessel operators.

Availability of haul out facilities for vessel operators

There is a need to look well beyond the Fiordland Marine Area when it comes to protecting Fiordland's precious marine environment from marine pests. The implementation of the Pathways Plan has resulted in a heightened demand for vessels to be taken out of the water, often at short notice, to meet clean hull standards.

In November 2017, feedback from vessel owners prompted the Guardians to become concerned about the availability of facilities for hauling out vessels on to the hard in Bluff. Since then, the Guardians have been working with leaders in the community to raise the issue and centralise the discussion, with a goal of motivating action on future planning about the availability of facilities.





Future challenges for the Fiordland Marine Area

The Guardians are active in the area of risk identification and threat management, in accordance with our functions under the Fiordland Marine Management Act. The challenges below were key topics identified and discussed during the year and will help guide our activities.

Increase in visitor numbers to the Fiordland Marine Area

Growing visitor numbers bring pressure to the finite resources within the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA).

Whether it is tourists visiting for one day or those staying longer, the effects over time will place increased pressure on what is a unique and fragile environment. Increasing numbers of visitors, both local and international, are cumulative and bring pressure on fish stocks, anchorages, and moorings, as well as berths in both Piopiotahi/Milford Sound/ and Patea/Doubtful Sound. The Fiordland Marine Guardians are focusing on these effects and their impacts on the finite resources of the FMA.

The inner fiords are particularly vulnerable to localised depletion. Habitats contained within them cannot support large populations of finfish stocks, so even modest increases in fishing pressure can quickly result in sharp declines of fish populations.

Fiordland is experiencing a spill-over in visitors from Piopitahi/Milford Sound to the Patea/Doubtful complex and fiords to the south. At the same time the Guardians are receiving reliable reports of increased fishing activity in the southern fiords and resulting effects on the abundance of key species such as blue cod.

The 'Fish for a Feed' philosophy must continue to be the persistent message, and the Guardians may need to consider a revision of the recreational bag limits both inside and outside the habitat lines, together with the allowances set around accumulation limits, throughout the FMA in the near future.

Salmon farming in fiords still a possibility

The Southland Regional Development Authority (SoRDS) has indicated to the Guardians that they are open to considering conducting further investigations into the feasibility of salmon farming in Taiari/Chalky and Rakituma/Preservation inlets.

We have indicated to SoRDS and Environment Southland (the statutory authority) that any proposals for aquaculture inside the fiords would need to pass a very high bar for environmental and aesthetic risks and impacts. We do not believe that farming of salmon, using current practise and technology, would be capable of meeting this standard. However, should SoRDS wish to proceed with further investigations, we will work in collaboration to ensure the process is appropriately targeted.

SoRDS are following Norwegian technological developments that may make offshore farming of finfish a possibility in Southland. The ability to move the activity away from sensitive coastal ecosystems seems like a positive step.

Looking ahead – the next 12 months

The coming year will be another busy one for the Guardians. Anticipated work will focus on future strategy and risk mitigation, and responding to a biosecurity incursion in the region, underpinned by ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with the users of Fiordland’s marine environment.

The Guardians will continue to engage in Environment Southland’s review of the Regional Coastal Plan over the next year. The Regional Coastal Plan for Southland lays the foundations for matters such as the level of commercial activity permitted in Fiordland.

This important document is now 10 years old, and is drastically in need of an update. As discussed previously, visitor numbers to Fiordland have increased enormously over this period, and we will be cognisant of projected visitor numbers as we contribute to this review. We are also working with the Milford Opportunities Project, which is tasked with developing a plan for the area, and will continue to consult with Environment Southland over the revision of the Deed of Agreement for visiting cruise ships.

In response to recent engagement with users, we are investigating reports of declining recreational wet fish stocks in southern Fiordland. It is imperative that these stocks are managed sustainably, and so we will be reviewing whether the recreational fishing rules and regulations are fit for purpose, both currently and with projected increases in visitor numbers. A number of options could be pursued to ensure that action is taken before the situation gets too dire. We value the engagement of the fishing community and will also work

with Fisheries New Zealand to ensure the fishery remains healthy for the future.

We will continue to support and champion the efforts of the agencies, the University of Otago’s Marine Science Department and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to put a management and research plan into action in response to the *Undaria* incursion in Te Pūaitaha/Breaksea Sound.

It is hoped that the agencies will increase compliance patrols in the Fiordland Marine Area over the next couple of years in response to a request from the Guardians. This request was motivated by the new biosecurity regulations associated with the Pathways Plan and anecdotal reports of declining wet fish stocks. We want to be sure all users are behaving in a way that is consistent with our vision for the region.

An early deliverable in the coming year will be a new-look website for the Fiordland Marine Guardians. The website will be a valuable improvement to the Guardians communication tool box, which now includes regular issues of the newsletter *Te Panui Kaitiaki o Ata Whenua*, and the updated user’s guide *Beneath the Reflections*. In 2019, we will establish a social media presence to promote our vision for the area and raise more awareness with younger and international visitors.





Resource consents

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

These fell into three categories:

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

These applications are listed in Environment Southland's report on page 23.

Meetings

Fiordland Marine Guardians general meetings

Four meetings involving Fiordland Marine Guardians and management agencies were held during the year.

11 August 2017	Invercargill
16 November 2017	Invercargill
23 February 2018	Te Anau
1 June 2018	Invercargill

Sub-committee meetings

We operate the following sub-committees, which are attended by representatives from the Guardians and management agencies:

- **Biological monitoring** (Convenor: Richard Kinsey, Department of Conservation)
- **Biosecurity** (Convenor: Jen Brunton, Ministry for Primary Industries)
- **Coastal Plan Review** (established November 2017; Convenor: Mark Pechers, Fiordland Marine Guardians)
- **Communications and Engagement** (Convenor: Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill, Fiordland Marine Guardians)
- **Compliance** (until January 2018; Convenor: Stephen Logie, Ministry for Primary Industries).

The Guardians sub-committee members are:

- **Dr Ken Grange** – Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Jerry Excell** – Compliance
- **Mark Pechers** – Coastal Plan Review, Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Stewart Bull** – Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Jon Clow** – Compliance, Communications and Engagement
- **Anne McDermott** – Communications and Engagement
- **Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill** – Communications and Engagement
- **Dr Rebecca McLeod*** – Monitoring, Biosecurity, Coastal Plan Review

**The Chair, by virtue of that position, has oversight of all sub-committees.*

Sub-committee meetings held during the past year included:

Biosecurity sub-committee meeting

15 November 2017 Invercargill

Communications sub-committee meeting

22 February 2018 Te Anau





Agency Reports

Ministry for the Environment

Role

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

Achievements

Website

We are working with the Guardians to improve the layout and accessibility of the Fiordland Marine Guardians website. This includes creating a new structure to make it easier to navigate and find information, reviewing and rewriting much of our content, and redesigning the website with a modern look.

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

We worked closely with the Guardians to update *Beneath the Reflections: A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*. The Ministry took the lead on managing the revised content and new design with input from the Guardians, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, and Environment Southland.

Beneath the Reflections provides an introduction to the Fiordland Marine Area including information about activities permitted in the fiords, biosecurity regulations, and information on fishing in the area.

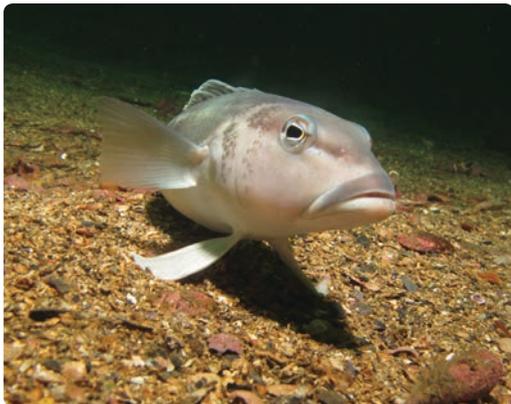
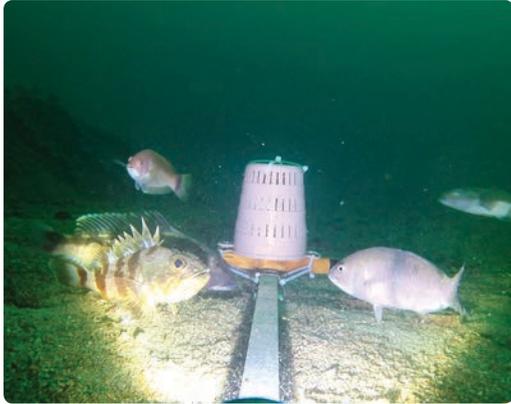


Looking ahead

Nominations for new Fiordland Marine Guardians

The terms of three Fiordland Marine Guardians end in October 2018. The selection process to replace those Guardians is underway, with the Minister for the Environment scheduled to make his recommendations to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee in September 2018.

Following the 2018 appointments, the next round of appointments will occur in 2020.



Department of Conservation

Role

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

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

Achievements

DOC has worked on a number of interesting projects in the past year including:

- exploration of deep reef areas in the FMA with Victoria University of Wellington
- humpback whale monitoring with the University of Auckland
- bottlenose dolphin monitoring with the University of Otago
- re-evaluating the *Undaria* project in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound undertaken in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries and Environment Southland.

We continue to collaborate with our agency partners and the Guardians on issues that will have a strong bearing on the future of the FMA. These areas include the interest in aquaculture in the fiords, a review of Environment Southland's Deed of Agreement for cruise ships, and the Regional Coastal Plan review.

DOC was also very pleased to facilitate the Guardians visit into Tamatea/Dusky and Te Puaitaha/Breaksea sounds in November on board our vessel *GV Southern Winds*. It is important for the Guardians to spend time in the area as a group and any chance the Department has to help with this is incredibly valuable.

Victoria University Deep Reef Contract

In July 2017, Victoria University of Wellington was awarded a contract to undertake deep reef survey work in the FMA. It was exciting to bring a new group of scientists to the fiords and hopefully inspire future research and fresh perspectives around our monitoring programme.

The fieldwork was carried out in February 2018 from the *Southern Winds*. Time was spent surveying in Patea/Doubtful Sound, Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound, and Tamatea/Dusky Sound. Fish assemblages were monitored using a baited underwater video (BUV) and the rock wall communities were monitored with a remote operated vehicle (ROV).

Thirty-six BUV deployments and 25 ROV deployments took place; the BUV was deployed at depths ranging from 32–309 metres and the ROV surveyed depths from 30–130 metres.



The results from the survey are still being analysed but early signs suggest differences in fish assemblages and rock wall communities between fiords and an abundance of species well below 100 metres.

The final report from Victoria University is due in September 2018 and will be available via a link on the FMG website.

Humpback whales in Fiordland

There has been a marked increase in the number of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) sighted in Fiordland over the past 10 years. Humpback whale numbers have been steadily increasing in Australasian and Pacific waters since whaling stopped, the likely reason why Fiordland is seeing more and more migrating down the coast to their summer feeding grounds in the Antarctic. There are two main populations of Humpback whales that migrate through New Zealand waters, one from Eastern Australia and one from the Pacific. Currently it is not known which population the whales in Fiordland are from, so DOC along with Auckland University organised a trip to try and find out.

In October, a team of scientists from the University of Auckland and DOC spent 10 days in the fiords taking biopsies and photo identification of whales they encountered. Twelve tail fluke photographs and six biopsies were collected from whales between Patea/Doubtful and Tamatea/Dusky sounds.

Samples are being processed; to date none of the samples match any of the known populations in Australia or the wider Pacific. This preliminary result may be because the Eastern Australian humpback population is now so large the genes of the 'Fiordland' animals are not represented in the genes from animals previously sampled from around the Pacific. Further work is needed (and planned) to increase the sample size of whales from Fiordland.

Fiordland bottlenose dolphin population monitoring

Long-term population monitoring of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) populations in Patea/Doubtful and Tamatea/Dusky sounds continued in 2017/18, with surveys carried out three times in both fiord complexes.

The current estimates for the two populations are 69 individuals in Patea/Doubtful Sound and 124 for Tamatea/Dusky Sound, with three calves born into each population over the summer of 2017/18. These figures represent an estimated increase in the bottlenose population in Doubtful Sound of three individuals and a decrease of two in Tamatea/Dusky Sound.

There are still some large knowledge gaps within the population data for the Tamatea/Dusky Sound bottlenose dolphin population, particularly about the gender of known dolphins. Research has been undertaken by the University of Otago to predict gender; however, definite confirmations would help to determine the demographic structure of this population. Currently we are relying quite

heavily on opportunistic observations and data collection, in conjunction with a photo-ID picture of each dolphin. Future objectives for this programme include exploring non-invasive methods for confirming gender in the Dusky Sound population.

The Department would like to acknowledge the Marine Mammal Levy group (which is made up of the local tourism operators) for support with funding our work and the University of Otago for analysing the population data.

Review of the Doubtful Sound Marine Mammal Code of Management

DOC have been reviewing the Marine Mammal Code of Management (COM) for Patea/Doubtful Sound with help from the Guardians. It has been a number of years since details of the COM have been evaluated. Input from the tourism operators, local stakeholders and the Guardians will enable us to determine what, if any, changes to the COM are required. The findings of the review will be available in late 2018.

Undaria pinnatifida in Breaksea Sound

The discovery of a new *Undaria* infestation in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound in April 2017 marked an extremely low point for us all. After taking stock of the situation, which included a delimiting survey of the wider area, we turned our attention to developing a new plan to control the current infestation and slow down the spread of *Undaria* throughout the fiord complex. This work provided us with a renewed sense of purpose around managing *Undaria* in



Fiordland. We remain hopeful that the previous seven years of effort removing *Undaria* from Sunday Cove will not have been in vain. Undoubtedly a great deal was learned through this eradication effort and we can apply this knowledge to the wider containment and research programme being developed for Beach Harbour.

We will continue to work with Environment Southland, Biosecurity NZ (MPI), the Guardians, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and research agencies to develop this containment and research plan alongside the Controlled Area for Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound and the Pathways Plan.

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

DOC's contributions to wider reviews in the region

We have and will continue to contribute to both Environment Southland's review of the Regional Coastal Plan and review of the Cruise Ship Industry Deed of Agreement. Our input provides the Department with an opportunity to comment on important priorities for the future. We have also been involved in ongoing discussions about investigations in to the potential for aquaculture in the FMA.

Understanding the issues, threats and pressures that may be faced in the FMA over the coming years is an important part of our role.

Looking ahead

The coming year is going to be a very important year for the Department with the initiation of the review of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan (written in 2007), which is expected to take two to three years. This review will help to set the direction for managing the park over the next 10 years.

Several new monitoring/research projects are planned within the FMA and we will continue a number of our existing ones: further deep reef survey work, re-surveying rock lobster monitoring in and adjacent to the Piopiotahi Marine Reserve in Milford Sound, and collaborating with the University of Otago on baited underwater video studies of seven gill sharks. These projects, coupled with ongoing humpback whale and dolphin monitoring and placing the wooden pou pou in both Patea/Doubtful and Piopiotahi/Milford sounds will deliver another busy year for DOC in coastal Fiordland.

If you would like to know more about these projects or become involved in future DOC projects please contact the marine team at the District Office in Te Anau.





Environment Southland

Role

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

Achievements

Biosecurity

Undaria pinnatifida incursion Breaksea Sound

In April 2017, divers on a joint-agency compliance trip found mature *Undaria pinnatifida* (*Undaria*) on a mooring line in Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound. This discovery was followed up with a Breaksea Sound wide delimitation survey to determine the extent of the *Undaria* infestation. The results of the survey confirmed the establishment of *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound. The population is beyond eradication with current resourcing and technology, and, therefore the Sunday Cove *Undaria* eradication programme was terminated.

Later in the year, Environment Southland with support from the Guardians, MPI and DOC declared a Controlled Area under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to address the

transport of *Undaria* from the infested area on vessels and equipment to other areas of Fiordland. The Controlled Area puts specific rules on vessel and gear movements and more details can be found on Environment Southland's website. It is important that vessels abide by these rules, and more signage will be installed shortly along with an amendment to the *Beneath the Reflections* Fiordland Marine Guardians user guide to reflect the rule changes for the Beach Harbour and Sunday Cove areas.

To further address the *Undaria* incursion, Environment Southland, the Guardians, MPI, DOC, the University of Otago and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have met and agreed to investigate the control of *Undaria* in Fiordland. Currently, interim control work is being carried out on a monthly basis, and the feasibility of a removal programme is being investigated in conjunction with hydrodynamic modelling to support the control programme.

Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan

The Pathways Plan and its associated Clean Vessel Pass has now been in effect for over a year. From our compliance trips we have had great adherence to the clean hull standard of the plan, and uptake of the Clean Vessel Pass has been decent with over 250 passes issued to date. This is a good number; however, we are still coming across vessels (both local and visiting) without a pass. We plan to address this issue with better communications, further compliance patrols, and cost-recovery of inspections to those who aren't compliant.

Environmental compliance

Compliance in the Fiordland Marine Area is predominantly assessed by monitoring surface water activity logs. A high level of compliance was achieved by most consent holders during 2017/2018; however, issues were raised with a small number of operators. This primarily included operators not supplying logs, submitting incomplete logs, and providing logs outside of the required timeframes. A small number were also found to be operating outside of their consented limits, that is, exceeding the allowed frequencies in certain areas.

On-water patrols were completed during December 2017 and April 2018. Several commercial and non-commercial vessels were inspected during these patrols, along with moorings, buoys and structures. All commercial vessels were operating in compliance with their resource consents, and education was provided from the various agencies on-board regarding hunting permits, fishing regulations, and clean vessel passes. A small number of structures were found without the correct identification, and the Compliance team are currently investigating incidents relating to an unconsented mooring and a barge which is potentially operating outside of consent conditions.

Harbourmaster activities

In September Environment Southland engaged consultants Morrison Low to provide a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities of the cruise ship industry to Southland and ensure the Environment Southland Cruise

Ship Industry Deed of Agreement with the cruise industry is fit for its intended purpose in the lead up to the DOA's full 10-yearly review in October 2018.

To support the review of the Deed and negotiations with the Deed signatories, Environment Southland needed to better understand the cruise ship industry. Two workshops were held for identified stakeholders in the cruise industry in Southland to understand their role, and test the Deed and the issues and opportunities that could be seen in the upcoming review of the Deed.

An opportunity was given to all stakeholders to provide additional comments and feedback on the Deed. Written responses were received from the Department of Conservation and the Fiordland Marine Guardians.

To support the work that Morrison Low have completed so far, Environment Southland is producing a work stream which will include developing partnership and collaboration projects with stakeholders.

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

A newly established VHF repeater site on Mt Clerke, Dusky Sound has now been fully commissioned following some initial lightning damage to the foundations.

Resource consents

Under the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 (FMMA), the Guardians may provide advice to Environment Southland, which Council must then take into account. A process has been developed to facilitate the requirements of the FMMA. This process will be reviewed in early 2019 to assess its effectiveness.

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

For the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, Environment Southland received the following applications within the Fiordland Marine Area:

- **Clint Tauri for Te Tauri Trust (APP-20171579)**
To install and exclusively occupy the coastal marine area with a pontoon boarding structure at Deep Cove. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **Island Escape Cruises Limited (APP-20171370)**
To replace three existing coastal permits, to carry out commercial surface water activities within the internal waters of Fiordland with a vessel 49 metres long, with a single permit. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **Milford Sound Tourism Limited (APP-20171474)**
To undertake commercial surface water activities, with a vessel up to 6.6 metres long, for the purpose of ferrying passengers across Freshwater Basin. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.



- **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20171362)**
To temporarily occupy the coastal marine area with a floating pontoon at Deep Cove. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **Real Journeys Limited (APP-20181278)**
To temporarily occupy the coastal marine area with a floating pontoon at Deep Cove. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **S Schreck & L McKirdy (APP-20171460)**
To undertake commercial surface water activities with a vessel up to 9 metres long within the internal waters of Fiordland from Yates Point to Flat Point. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **Takapu Charters Limited (APP-20171387)**
To undertake commercial surface water activities with a vessel up to 22 metres long within the internal waters of Fiordland from Yates Point to Puysegur Point. Replacement activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.
- **Tourism Milford Limited (APP-20171525)**
To install and exclusively occupy the coastal marine area with a pontoon boarding structure and walkway at Deepwater Basin. New activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.





Ministry for Primary Industries

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

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

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

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



Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Biosecurity

Role

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

Achievements

Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan 2015/16-2020/21

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



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

- *Vessel inspections*: Biosecurity New Zealand contracted work to undertake hull inspections for marine pests on moored vessels based in Bluff and at Stewart Island that are known to travel to the FMA. These vessels are inspected each month for the presence of marine pests, and an assessment of antifoul condition and level of general marine growth. When a marine pest is detected, it is removed from the vessel (if not widespread) and the vessel owner is informed and advised of what action to take before their next visit to Fiordland to ensure their vessel is clean and free of marine pests. Monthly inspections have stopped from May to October 2018; however, vessels owners can still request an inspection before taking their vessel to the FMA.
- The importance of having a clean hull before visiting the FMA was communicated through an ad on MetService App and marine pages from October 2017 to April 2018, and at the 2017 Southland boat show.
- Biosecurity New Zealand participated in the April 2018 joint-agency compliance and marine surveillance patrol by partaking in the hull inspections for marine pests (with an Environment Southland biosecurity diver) and communicating marine biosecurity messaging (see [Fisheries compliance](#) for further information).
- *Future management of Undaria in Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound*: Due to the widespread population of *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound, the Sunday Cove eradication response

has been officially closed to move focus and effort towards the long-term management of *Undaria*. Our work has included supporting Environment Southland to implement the Controlled Area Notice for Te Puaitaha/Breaksea Sound, participating in dive surveys, and developing a 5-year science led management strategy to manage *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound.

Targeted marine pest surveillance

As part of a National Marine High Risk Site Surveillance Programme, MPI undertakes bi-annual surveys (winter and summer) in 11 locations around New Zealand (including the South Island Ports of Bluff, Dunedin, Lyttelton, Picton/Waikawa and Nelson). This programme aims to achieve early detection of new unwanted marine pests in some of New Zealand's busiest and therefore high-risk locations – namely ports and marinas of first arrival for international vessels. Undertaking surveillance in the Port of Bluff has benefits to the FMA, such as the early detection of new and emerging marine pests.

No new-to-New Zealand species were detected during these surveys, however, several range extensions of non-indigenous species occurred including the:

- ascidian *Ciona savignyi* from Otago Harbour and Picton Marina – this species looks very similar to another non-indigenous species *C. intestinalis* which has been found previously, so it may have been present at these locations for some time

- hydroid *Ectopleura larynx* was found for the first time in the Nelson Harbour
- colonial light bulb ascidian *Clavelina lepadiformis* was identified for the first time in Purau Bay – Lyttelton Harbour, attached to a moored yacht.

Interestingly, an indigenous sponge *Polymastia cf. fusca* was found in Bluff Harbour for the first time and represents a considerable southern range extension for this species, having only previously been reported from Cape Reinga, Three Kings Islands, Bream Bay, Ahipara Bay, and Spirits Bay. This species is not known to display pest characteristics.

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

Interesting observations

New recruits (young individuals) of the clubbed tunicate *S. clava*, which is widespread in the Port of Lyttelton, were observed on wharf piles, including one hitching a ride on the carapace of a masking crab *Notomithrax minor*.





What's new?

We have recently upgraded the marine biosecurity porthole website. This website was developed by MPI and NIWA.

The marine biosecurity porthole includes information about the distribution of marine pests already in New Zealand, and the role people can play in protecting our unique environments. New features include the ability to search and download data on the distribution of species, identification guides, information and video on key marine pests, and an easy click-through service to report anything suspicious. You can also find news about current management and research initiatives in marine biosecurity and source relevant reports and papers.

See <https://marinebiosecurity.org.nz>

Implementing the Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling on vessels arriving from overseas

As of 15 May 2018, the [Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling](#) (CRMS) is now being enforced, following a four year lead-in period. The CRMS requires all vessels arriving in New Zealand from the territory of another country to take preventative measures to manage biofouling before arrival. These measures have been put in place to manage the biosecurity risk associated with international biofouling. Under the CRMS, all international vessels visiting Fiordland and other places not approved as places of first arrival are subject to stricter requirements, and must provide evidence that the hull is clean of all fouling in excess of a slime layer and goose barnacles.

During the lead-in period to the enforcement date of the CRMS, MPI took action on vessels presenting a severe biosecurity risk. In October 2017, MPI took action on the research vessel *Marcus G. Langseth*, which was severely fouled. The vessel had intended to conduct research activities near Fiordland. The vessel was directed to remain outside of New Zealand Territory until the fouling was managed. The vessel was cleaned outside of the territory, following which it was allowed to arrive in New Zealand and continue on its itinerary.

MPI continues to engage with international vessels intending to visit Fiordland, to ensure these vessels are clean before visiting the FMA. This has included the cruise and fishing industries, NZ Navy, and other vessel operators developing [Craft Risk Management Plans](#) to comply with the CRMS. Craft Risk Management Plans must be approved by MPI, and must be sufficient to show the biosecurity risk presented by biofouling is managed before entering the FMA.

In addition, MPI has developed extensive guidance to help vessels comply with the new requirements. Although this guidance is mainly targeted at international commercial vessels, it is publicly available and may be adapted for education/awareness in domestic pathways, as well.

Examples of guidance developed by MPI include:

- [Guidance on best practices](#) (see Appendix 1)
- [Guidance for hull inspections](#)
- [Guidance on developing Biofouling Management Plans](#)
- [Guidance for risk-assessments on commercial vessels.](#)



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Fisheries management

Role

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

Achievements

Fisheries New Zealand and the Guardians continue to work together to better understand the impact of increasing recreational fishing activity including the impact of increasing amateur charter vessel operations in the Fiordland area. Work is progressing on how best to monitor and manage this in Fiordland.

The proposed National Blue Cod Strategy currently under development includes options and tools that can be applied to the Fiordland blue cod fishery. These options will have benefits to other fisheries in the Fiordland area, and the Guardians are involved in this process.

See www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



MPI Fisheries compliance

Role

Despite the recent establishment of the new MPI branded business unit Fisheries New Zealand, the fisheries compliance service function remains a core component of the MPI Compliance Services Directorate, within the MPI Operations Branch. The Compliance directorate is responsible for the operational delivery of compliance inspection services and investigations across fisheries, animal welfare, biosecurity, food, forestry, and other legislation that MPI administers.

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

Since the 2005 Fiordland Marine Area establishment, the Southland district Fisheries Officer team coordinates and contributes to delivering an Integrated Compliance Plan in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Environment Southland.

MPI Fishery Officers work closely with DOC Compliance Rangers and Environment Southland Compliance Officers when the need arises, to optimise agency enforcement activities. This can include joint-agency seaborne patrols and the sharing of information to assist directed enforcement by either one, or a combination of the agencies.

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

Achievements

Owing to the Stewart Island *Bonamia ostreae* oyster disease response in mid-2017, local Fishery Officers and their patrol vessel *Ahuriri* were deployed on Stewart Island from June to September, which severely impacted work time in Fiordland.

Fishery Officers together with Wellington-based marine biosecurity staff participated in the 2017 Boat Show Southland, held over 12–13 August at Stadium Southland. The MPI stand promoted the local fisheries regulations, including the tailored Fiordland fishing rules, together with marine biosecurity key messages.

Throughout the year, Fishery Officers regularly performed port landing vessel inspections at Milford Sound, Deep Cove, Riverton, and Bluff of commercial fishing vessels returning from Fiordland fishing waters. This mainly

involved CRA8 rock lobster, pāua and kina, blue cod, set net and longline fishing operators and on the whole compliance was high with only the odd exception.

MPI Fishery Officers also conducted several waterborne fisheries patrols, into Piopiotahi/Milford Sound in late August, over Labour weekend (October 2017), in mid-January, and over Waitangi weekend (February 2018). Any detected fisheries offences resulted in infringement or warning notices being issued.

Multi-agency compliance and marine biosecurity seaborne patrol

In early December 2017, a team of Compliance Officers from MPI, DOC and Environment Southland conducted a successful multi-agency seaborne patrol utilising the Department of Conservation *GV Southern Winds*. The 5-day patrol took in seven fiords including the Southern fiords and five marine reserves, boarding 14 vessels, including five amateur fishing charter vessels, interacting with 71 persons engaged in a mix of fishing, diving and cruising. Overall compliance was excellent with only minor offending detected.

In April 2018, a multi-agency team of Compliance and Biosecurity Officers from MPI, DOC and Environment Southland conducted a 5-day seaborne patrol aboard the DOC *GV Southern Winds*. Departing Bluff, the patrol took in seven fiords between Preservation Inlet and Thompson Sound. In all, 33 vessels were boarded and inspected,

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



including seven commercial fishing vessels, 10 amateur fishing charter vessels, three houseboat barges, and 14 recreational vessels. Of the latter, four were visiting motor cruising boats, or yachts from various ports including Porirua and Nelson. As a result, 203 persons were inspected, primarily engaged in rock lobster diving, potting, blue cod fishing, and deer hunting. By and large fishing compliance was good with the exception of several detected offences. This resulted in five people in three separate offences, receiving \$250 infringement notices and another four fishers issued warning notices for fisheries breaches.

Looking ahead

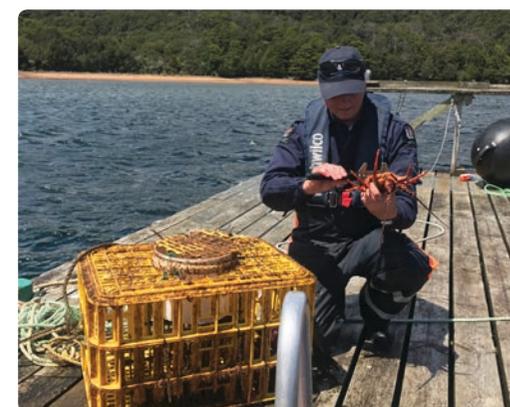
During the year ahead, Biosecurity New Zealand will continue to work with all Fiordland partners to implement the Biosecurity Plan recommendations including developing and implementing the long-term programme to manage *Undaria* in Te Pūaitaha/Breaksea Sound.

Further information on Fiordland marine biosecurity can be found on the [Biosecurity New Zealand website](#).

Over the weekend 10–11 August 2019, Invercargill's Stadium Southland will be hosting the Southland Boat Show 2019. Local MPI Fishery Officers and Biosecurity New Zealand staff from Wellington are again planning to promote MPI fishing rules and marine biosecurity measures encouraging boaties to ensure vessel hulls and gear are free of marine pest fouling.

Local MPI fisheries compliance representatives will facilitate a further Interagency Compliance Working Group meeting, involving Department of Conservation and Environment Southland compliance and biosecurity staff to review and rewrite the Integrated Compliance Plan. The plan will replace the original 2005–2010 plan that still remains in effect.

Fisheries New Zealand will undertake consultation on the measures recommended by the National Blue Cod Strategy in the later part of this year. The Guardians will have an opportunity to support these measures if they are considered appropriate for the required fisheries management outcomes. This on-going input and participation is achieved by Fisheries New Zealand management staff regularly attending Guardians meetings and sub-committees, providing information and advice on fisheries management issues.





Thank you to the following for providing photos in this year's report: Abi James, Anne McDermott, Barry Harcourt, Chloe Corne, Cawthron Institute undertaking Meridian marine monitoring, Department of Conservation, Gerard Hill, Geoff Read, Jen Brunton, Jon Clow, Kerri-Anne Edge Hill, Kelvin Wadsworth, Malcom Francis, Ministry for Primary Industries, NIWA, Prue Salt, Rebecca McLeod, Richard Kinsey, Rosco's Milford Kayaks, Thomas Mattern, Victoria University of Wellington, Shaun Cunningham, Stephen Logie, University of Otago, Vincent Zitzen.

This year's cover image is by Kelvin Wadsworth, commercial diver and photographer, Southern Diving.



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

Fiordland Marine Guardians
PO Box 213
Te Anau 9640

info@fmg.org.nz
www.fmg.org.nz

ISBN: 978-1-98-852588-4 (print)
978-1-98-852589-1 (online)

Published September 2018