

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2006



**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.”



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c/- Private Bag 90116
Invercargill

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

Chairperson's Report

It is with much pleasure that the Fiordland Marine Guardians present their first Annual Report to the Minister for the Environment.

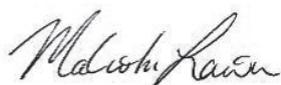
It is appropriate that I acknowledge the vision and commitment of a number of people over the last 11 years. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the original Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment, who worked so long to develop the integrated Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy. Secondly, I acknowledge the politicians, particularly Marian Hobbs and Pete Hodgson, who committed to seeing the Strategy translated into the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005. Thirdly, and by no means least, central and local government agencies also provided support in so many ways.

The first year was always going to be one where we were finding our feet and developing synergies among the Guardians and management agencies. I must pay tribute to Laurel Teirney, the inaugural chairperson, who provided direction and leadership during these formative stages prior to her resignation during the year. As the facilitator of the original group and the principal author of the Strategy, her input since the beginning has been invaluable.

I also acknowledge the individuals who were appointed as the Fiordland Marine Guardians. They dedicated a large amount of time and effort over the year. In fact, this year has probably been more demanding than we envisaged. Therefore, it is to the Guardians' and management agencies' credit that the focus of achieving the best future for the Fiordland Marine Area has been maintained. This attitude has certainly made my position easier.

During this first year, the Guardians have been involved at an "operational" level, while the management agencies developed and initiated their various plans. From now on it is likely that we will adopt a more "strategic" view and look to provide guidance into the planning processes of the agencies. As with anything new, there were always going to be a few teething issues, but I believe we are entering this next phase in a position of strength.

The unique principle of "gifts and gains" instilled in the Strategy has meant that while there have been give and take situations, Fiordland will continue to be the winner. I hope that everyone who has been involved will look back and reflect on the first year with a sense of satisfaction.



Malcolm Lawson
Chairperson

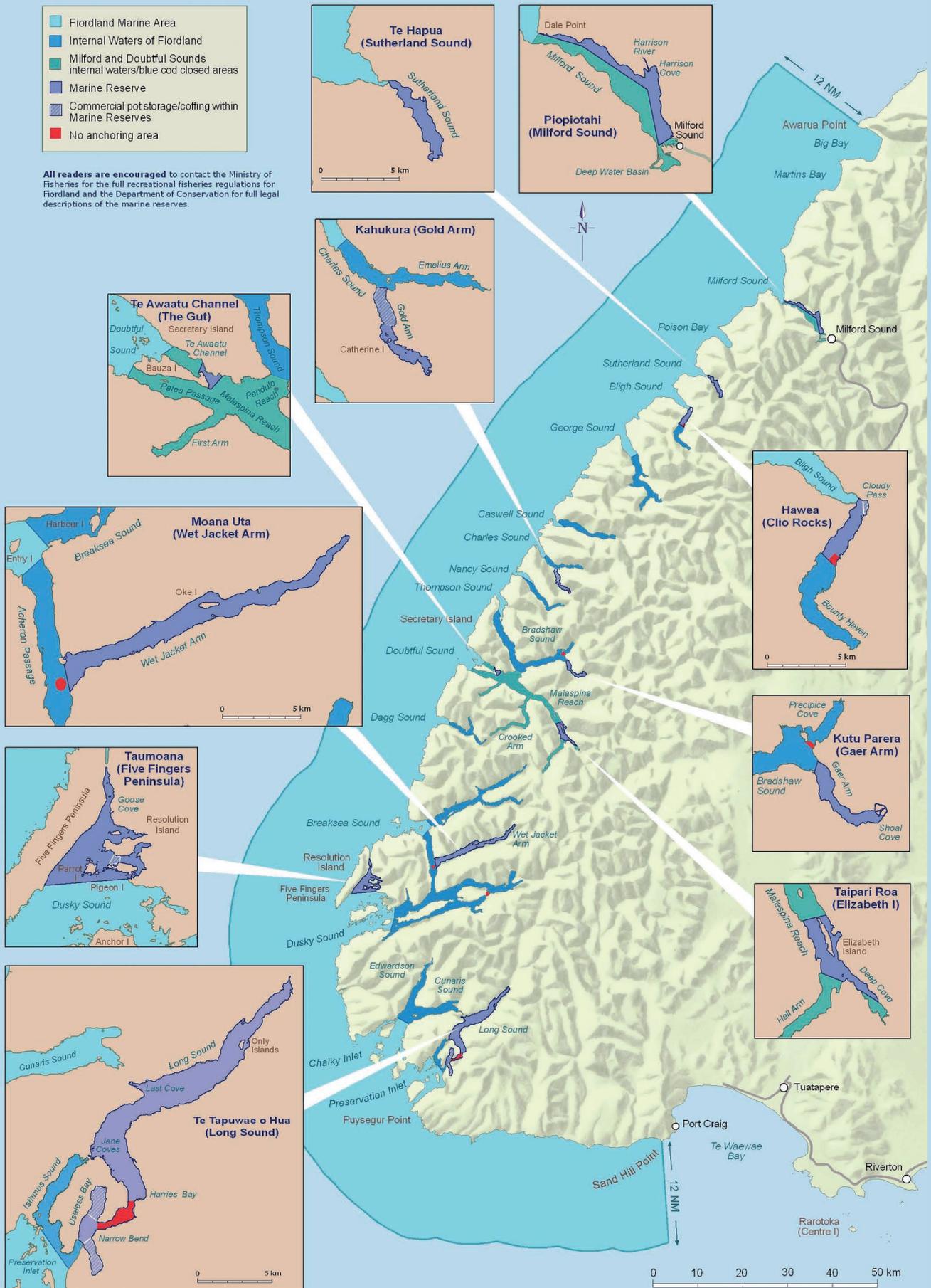
The Fiordland Marine Guardians

Malcolm Lawson (chairperson)
Stewart Bull
Ian Buick
Ken Grange
Alan Key
Alan Mark
John Steffens
Laurel Teirney (resigned May 2006)

The Fiordland 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.



Introduction – The Genesis 1995–2005

The Fiordland Marine Guardians (“the Guardians”) feel that it is important in our first annual report to place this year’s endeavours into the context of our forerunners’ achievement – producing the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy.

From a blank canvas in 1995, the Guardians of Fiordland’s Fisheries and Marine Environment embarked on a unique journey. This centred on looking after the Fiordland marine environment and those who value and use it. This was the genesis of today’s Fiordland Marine Guardians. This original group, endowed with first hand knowledge, experience and a passion for the Fiordland marine environment, went through the process of developing an integrated management strategy for Fiordland’s marine environment. With support from the management agencies, they saw the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act enacted in 2005. The Guardians are now taking part in implementing the management programme.

This process and its outcomes were a remarkable achievement. A variety of groups with very different interests in the Fiordland marine environment had come together to share their views about how they could together protect their own interests, and Fiordland, into the future. Participants included Te Runanga o Oraka/Aparima and Murihiku, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, charter boat operators, tourist operators, marine scientists, environmental and community interests.

The original vision, adopted 11 years ago, remains the vision for today’s Guardians:

“That the quality of Fiordland’s marine environment and fisheries, including the wider fishery experience, be maintained or improved for future generations to use and enjoy.”

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

In 2000, members of the regional (central and local government) agencies were invited to join the group in a supportive advisory role. A complementary relationship soon evolved – the Guardians shared information that the agencies needed and the agencies in turn provided significant support to the Guardians.

The Guardians established a way to engage with each other in a friendly and cooperative way, despite the variety of interests that each person brought. For the Guardians this meant giving up something for the greater good of the Fiordland marine area. In doing so, they came to recognise how this brought greater gains. This negotiating term was christened by the Guardians as “Gifts and Gains”.

“Gifts and Gains”

The concept of gifts and gains is central to the culture of the Fiordland Marine Guardians. This relationship framework provided a means of addressing issues and led to identifying issues in a methodical and ordered way. The participating interests had a list of things to be done and could now engage in “gifts and gains”. Management changes were starting to take place. Much goodwill and generosity were displayed in resolving the issues. Indeed, resolving issues in the best interests of Fiordland’s fisheries and the marine environment was the sole focus.

The Guardians worked with agency staff and encouraged them to operate outside of their usual limits to search for solutions that crossed all the usual boundaries. This was something new and refreshing, and is fundamental to successful integrated management.

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

The Act

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
 - (ii) agree to conduct.
 - (f) to perform any other functions given to them under this or any other Act.
- (2) Advice and recommendations under subsection (1)(a) may be given on the Guardians' own initiative or at the request of –
- (a) a management agency; or
 - (b) the Minister; or
 - (c) the Minister for Biosecurity; or
 - (d) the Minister of Fisheries; or
 - (e) the Minister of Conservation.



Achievements in 2005–2006

Internal Operating Procedures

As a new organisation with no blueprint to follow, the Fiordland Marine Guardians had to develop their own procedures. These set out how we would operate as a group, and how we would operate in conjunction with the management agencies. Procedures were developed for the following:

- roles and responsibilities
- operating procedures
- administration and funding
- information flow.

It was also important that the Guardians established a sense of identity. To achieve this, the following actions were taken:

- logo developed
- contact details finalised
- website development started
- email address established.

Establishment of Sub-Committees

The Guardians recognised that the management agencies are often performing under tight time constraints. Sub-committees were established to expedite the flow of information and decision-making relating to each of the operating plans (see next section). Decisions were then able to be made in a timely manner, reported back and ratified at full Guardians meetings.

Protocol

Section 27 of the Act provides for the development of an agreement between the chief executives of the management agencies and the Guardians about the way in which the parties will work together to achieve the integrated management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area. The protocol took many months to develop, but is now in the final stages of being signed off by agency chief executives.

Pamphlets, Publications and Signage

A number of pamphlets, publications and signs were produced by the management agencies. The Guardians had major input into the information and detail contained in each. We acknowledge the efforts of the management agencies in producing these publications within very short time frames and to such a high quality:

- the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area information pamphlet
- the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Reserves information book
- the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Recreational Fishing Rules pamphlet
- the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Recreational Fishing Rules Information signage.

Integration of Management Agencies' Planning and Operational Processes

One of the foremost objectives of the Fiordland model has been to introduce a more integrated process among the management agencies that hold statutory roles and responsibilities in Fiordland. This has only been possible through the commitment of the management agencies and their willingness to adopt a new level of integration and a new way of planning that would achieve the most effective results for the Fiordland Marine Area.

Advice and Recommendations Given

Implementation of operating plans

The Act provides for integrated operating plans to be developed by the agencies with regards to their major statutory responsibilities in Fiordland. Four plans were developed with the input of the Guardians. The most important aspect of these plans was that they required the agencies to include the roles of each agency within the one plan.

The Guardians identified the priorities within these plans which gave direction to the management agencies when they considered implementation within funding constraints. The four plans are:

- Monitoring
- Compliance
- Biosecurity
- Communication.

Resource Consents and Surface Water Activities

Four consent applications were received for comment from Environment Southland. The main focus for the Guardians for three of these submissions was on the need for operators to be aware of the new management regime. The Guardians emphasised the changes relating to fishing rules, the new marine reserves and the need to take precautions to prevent the potential transport of marine pests to and within the Fiordland Marine Area.

The fourth application was for a non-notified consent to allow National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) to operate a commercial vessel within Milford Sound. The objective of this operation was to carry out a marine pest surveillance operation of sites in Milford Sound. The Guardians supported this application.

Meridian Energy Applications

Meridian Energy applied for a non-notified consent to allow the discharge of quantities of fresh water in excess of their resource consent into Doubtful Sound over three short periods. The intention was to conduct high flow trials from the Manapouri Power Scheme and to monitor the geographical and biological effects in Doubtful Sound of the increased discharge rates. The Guardians supported the application. The trials were not undertaken within the period covered by this Annual Report.

Meridian Energy also applied for a variation on an existing consent to allow the installation of an extra rockwall mounted monitoring device in Doubtful Sound. These devices are part of Meridian Energy's ongoing programme to monitor the effects of the freshwater discharge from the Manapouri Power Scheme into Doubtful Sound. The decision to install a further device was brought about following discussions with a commercial rock lobster fisher. The fisher had expressed concerns relating to the possible effects of fresh water in the outer part of Doubtful Sound since the commissioning of the second tail race tunnel in 2004. The Guardians supported this application.

Biosecurity Application

Biosecurity New Zealand received an application from Meridian Energy in respect of *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo). The establishment of Didymo in the Upper and Lower Waiau Rivers and in some areas of Lake Manapouri meant that Meridian Energy, which operate the Manapouri Power Scheme, was required to apply to Biosecurity New Zealand for a permit under section 52(d) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

This permit was required to operate the power scheme and take measures against the potential spread of Didymo – being an unwanted organism – to Doubtful Sound via the tail race tunnel that discharges water from the Manapouri Power Scheme into Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound.

The Guardians concurred with the assessment by Biosecurity New Zealand that the benefits of continuation of the Manapouri Power Scheme outweighed the risk in relation to the threat imposed by the possible establishment of Didymo on the western shores of Lake Manapouri, in the Deep Cove tail race and the wider Deep Cove–Hall Arm area, including the Lyvia River, in Doubtful Sound.

The Guardians supported the mitigation measures applied to the permit recommended by Biosecurity New Zealand and also recommended further monitoring sites in the freshwater rivers and streams that flow into the upper reaches of Doubtful Sound and additional reporting procedures in the event of Didymo being detected in these areas.

Benthic Protection Areas Plan

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) called for submissions on the Benthic Protection Areas Plan.

The Deepwater Stakeholder Group, representing commercial fishing interests, proposed a plan for the protection of the biodiversity of the benthic environment through the prohibition of bottom-trawling and dredging in a range of areas within and around New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This plan included an area referred to as the "Fiordland Transect" which was proposed to begin at the mean high water mark between latitudes 45°S and 46°S and proceed west to a boundary beyond the EEZ. Part of the area is currently utilised by the inshore trawler operations. The basis of the Guardians' submission was to ensure that:

- the fishers who would be potentially affected had been consulted
- that an analysis of the effect of displacing fishing effort on the affected fishers was carried out
- an analysis on the effect of displacing fishing effort on the sustainability of the species in the balance of the quota management areas was carried out
- a number of options were provided that would mitigate any adverse effect on fishers or the fisheries, while preserving the integrity of the plan by protecting the areas with high biodiversity values.

Monitoring Research Tender

The first biological monitoring research project (to establish baseline biodiversity data) was developed by Department of Conservation (DOC) and let to tender during the year. The members of the Guardians monitoring sub-committee provided advice on the aims of the project, conditions of the tender and commented on the tender applications received.

Fisheries Research Tender

The first fisheries research project to monitor the stocks of blue cod and by-catch species in Doubtful Sound and Milford Sound was developed by MFish and let to tender during the year. The members of the Guardians monitoring sub-committee provided advice on the conditions of the tender and commented on the tender applications received.

Other Activities Undertaken By The Guardians

Meeting with Minister and Chief Executives

In February 2006 the Guardians met with the Minister for the Environment and the chief executives of the management agencies. Due to an unforeseen urgent commitment the time with the Minister was abbreviated, but the Guardians made a short presentation to him of their work to date.

Presentations detailing the development of each of the four integrated plans were given to the chief executives. A general discussion was held around future support for the Fiordland initiative and the possibility of adapting parts of the Fiordland model into the development of other environmental planning processes.

Meeting with Southland Conservation Board

The Guardians met with members of the Southland Conservation Board in April 2006. Presentations were given by each group to detail the areas of responsibility that each hold. Discussions were then held on how to integrate and complement the decision-making processes of each group.

Keynote Address – Dune Management Conference

Laurel Teirney provided the keynote address at the Dune Management Conference in Invercargill in March 2006. Her address focused on the development of the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy and the “bottom-up” approach that was used in this community-driven initiative.

Address – International Marine Protected Areas Conference

Fiordland Marine Guardian John Steffens addressed the International Marine Protected Areas Conference in Melbourne in October 2005. His address focused on the development of the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy and the importance of community involvement in the marine management process.

Presentation from Meridian Energy

As one of the major companies with a stake in the Fiordland area, particularly through the Manapouri Power Scheme, a working relationship with Meridian Energy is considered to be of utmost importance.

Staff from the Meridian Energy Natural Resources team provided an overview of the company’s business in Fiordland, including the conditions of the resource consents held, environmental monitoring studies being undertaken and potential future developments.

Other Presentations and Published Articles

- ▶ The South East Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee is one of a number of committees established by the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) to provide feedback and advice to MFish on matters pertaining to recreational fishing. Fiordland Guardian Alan Key, who is also a member of the committee, has provided them with regular updates on the work of the Guardians.
- ▶ A presentation was made to the Te Anau Rotary Club by John Steffens.
- ▶ The CRA8 Management Committee Inc. is the commercial rock lobster industry organisation in Southland and Fiordland. Fiordland Guardian Malcolm Lawson made a presentation to the management committee’s annual general meeting and has provided updates to the executive meetings.
- ▶ Well-known recreational fishing writer Daryl Crimp accompanied the team carrying out the blue cod research survey in Doubtful Sound and Milford Sound. From this he produced an article for a fishing magazine.
- ▶ MFish produced an article in conjunction with the Guardians for Seafood NZ magazine.

Issues Identified

Undaria (Undaria pinnatifida)

The Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy identified the introduced invasive seaweed Undaria as a major potential threat to the Fiordland Marine Area. The Guardians remain particularly concerned about this risk. Control of Undaria was halted in 2004 as a result of a Cabinet decision to remove funding. Since that time it has proliferated in Bluff Harbour and Stewart Island (two of the major departure points for vessels travelling to Fiordland).

Information received by the Guardians suggests that it is not yet too late to control Undaria in Bluff Harbour and Stewart Island. However, if it is left for one more growing season then that stage will have been reached. If this happens, despite mitigation measures, it is almost inevitable that Undaria will establish in Fiordland. Based on studies made on the effects of Undaria invasion in other areas, the Guardians are concerned that it may have a devastating ecological effect on Fiordland's rock wall communities and on the species dependent on these communities.

This issue has been raised with the Minister for the Environment and with Biosecurity New Zealand representatives attending Guardians meetings. It remains one of the most important issues.

Administration Support

The appointment of an administration support person for the Fiordland Marine Guardians was not completed in the first year, despite funding for the position being available. A number of legal and practical complexities regarding the appointment of a secretary resulted in significant delays. The lack of an administrative support person was one of the factors that led to Laurel Teirney's decision to stand down as chairperson. For an organisation that is literally starting from scratch, the need to have adequate support cannot be overstated. This point is emphasised for the benefit of other groups and organisations looking to use the Fiordland model.

Notwithstanding the comments made above, the Guardians are grateful for the extremely professional support provided by Environment Southland staff at meetings. It is pleasing to note that a secretary for the Guardians is likely to be appointed in September 2006.

Looking Ahead – the Next 12 Months

Meeting with Stakeholders

A continuing challenge for the Guardians is to remain credible and accessible in the eyes of the stakeholders who have an interest in Fiordland, and with the public in general. Therefore, over the following year it is intended that meetings will be held with iwi and with invited members of stakeholder groups. Consideration will also be given to including a public forum session during some scheduled meetings.

Perceptions Survey

A social science based survey will be undertaken to ascertain the perceptions of users of the Fiordland Marine Area. The Guardians and the management agencies aim to find out the extent that users understand the changes that have been introduced, and the rationale supporting these changes. The results of this survey will have a major impact on how the Guardians and management agencies develop their operational strategies.

Meeting with Minister and Chief Executives

A meeting on an annual basis with the Minister for the Environment and chief executives of the management agencies is also envisaged. An additional meeting will be held with the Minister for the Environment to discuss the content of this annual report.

Presentation to Interested Groups

The Fiordland model has created a large amount of interest from a range of groups and individuals within New Zealand. It is likely that the Guardians will be called upon to share their experience and make presentations to some of these groups.

Research Results

As results from research surveys carried out in the first year are received, these will inform the Guardians and will assist in providing direction in the planning processes of the management agencies.

Administration Support

This position will be filled in September 2006.

Guardians Vacancy

This position will be filled in October 2006.

Website

The website will become operational during the 2006/07 calendar year. The address for the website will be www.fmg.org.nz. An email address will operate in conjunction with the website: info@fmg.org.nz.

Fiordland Integrated Information Book

A priority for the Guardians is the production of a book that will draw together relevant information on the Fiordland Marine Area. This book will provide a single reference document for any person entering the Fiordland Marine Area. Ministry for the Environment is taking the lead in the drafting and publication of the book.

Building Efficient Integrated Management

The Guardians will be aiming to build upon the already significant advances made in inter-agency cooperation and operational efficiencies in Fiordland.

Appendix 1: Meetings – Dates And Times

In accordance with Section 20 of the Act, details of meetings held during the year are as follows:

2005

30 July	12.40 pm – 2.39 pm
18 August	1.35 pm – 4.40 pm
19 August	8.30 am – 1.30 pm then 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm (Monitoring)
21 September	12.45 pm – 3.10 pm then 3.26 pm – 5.00 pm (Biosecurity)
22 September	8.30 am – 12.22 pm (Monitoring)
31 October	8.37 am – 5.00 pm
1 November	8.40 am – 1.15 pm

2006

7 February	10.30 am – 2.00 pm (Meeting with Minister and CEOs)
2 March	10.35 am – 4.40 pm
20 April	10.35 am – 4.17 pm
19 May	10.20 am – 4.03 pm

Appendix 2: Agency Reports



BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND

Achievements

In 2005/06 Biosecurity New Zealand led the development of a biosecurity plan for Fiordland's marine environment. The cooperative approach being taken to implement the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy has enabled Biosecurity New Zealand to gather advice and information from the Fiordland Marine Guardians and the other management agencies to inform the development of the biosecurity plan. The plan identifies a range of issues to be addressed and opportunities for agencies and stakeholders with interests within the Fiordland Marine Area to contribute to marine biosecurity activities. Biosecurity New Zealand sought and received funding to support the implementation of the plan.

With support from the Guardians, priority was given to undertake a risk assessment to determine what species pose the greatest risk to Fiordland. Biosecurity New Zealand has initiated the risk assessment, and the draft results of the ecological component of the risk assessment were presented to the Guardians in July 2006.

Over the past year, Biosecurity New Zealand also provided input to the Monitoring, Communications, and Compliance plans being developed by the other management agencies.

Looking ahead

Members of Biosecurity New Zealand's policy team will finalise the biosecurity plan by October 2006. Our Pest Management Team will be working with the Guardians, agencies and stakeholders to develop and implement an operational plan to put recommendations from the biosecurity plan into effect.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Over the past year an enormous amount of work has gone into implementing the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 and all of its components. This work has been accomplished through the extensive cooperation, hard work and commitment demonstrated by the Guardians-agency project team. The Department of Conservation (DOC) is proud to have been involved in the significant achievements made to date. Already, we have experienced and observed benefits from a more closely integrated approach to management of the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA) and can only see such benefits occurring more often and with even better results in the future.

The past year has been a time of relationship consolidation and role clarification between government agencies, the Guardians and the regional council. Advice received from the Guardians has been extremely valuable in, among other things, developing each of the key work programmes, raising issues of concern to the users of the Fiordland Marine Area, and coming up with pragmatic solutions to any problems encountered. The forum provided by the Guardians-agency meetings has been extremely useful for sharing information and ideas and ensuring that the FMA is managed effectively. The establishment of specialised sub-committees of Guardians members has enabled more detailed input into many aspects of our work in the FMA.

Achievements

The Department's primary responsibility over the past year has been to work with the Guardians and other agencies to lead development of a scientific marine monitoring programme for the area and implement the first stages of that programme, as well as playing a key role in educating the public about the changes to marine management in Fiordland. As well as leading on the monitoring strategy, the Department is the government agency responsible for managing Fiordland's 10 marine reserves. In addition we have contributed to the development and implementation of the other work programmes for the FMA (compliance, education and biosecurity).

A huge amount of work has gone into each of these programmes including an extensive subtidal baseline biodiversity survey of over 40 sites throughout Fiordland involving measurements of both biological and physical parameters. These data will serve as an excellent platform from which to compare future data collected in the FMA and assess any changes that may occur there over time under the new management regime.

Looking ahead

DOC sees the year to come as an exciting time for the Fiordland Marine Area. We expect that relationships will continue to consolidate and that the Guardians-agency team will further increase outputs and efficiencies. We hope to continue progressing the monitoring programme and leading the development of the collection of baseline information on many social aspects of importance in the FMA. We anticipate that the year ahead will entail similarly significant achievements. We look forward to meeting the challenges it will bring, working with the Guardians and other agencies to together manage the FMA in a way that fully considers the extensive ecological, cultural, social and economic values that the unique Fiordland marine environment provides.



ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND

Environment Southland is pleased to have been closely associated with the Fiordland Marine Guardians since the group's inception in 2005, and with their predecessors, the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment Inc. It is a significant accomplishment for a group of dedicated individuals from various interests and backgrounds to have put together the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy, which has had such far reaching consequences, including legislation to protect the Fiordland marine environment. We are particularly pleased that this has been achieved in Southland by local people.

Achievements

Environment Southland has participated fully in the implementation of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, working with the other agencies – Biosecurity New Zealand, the Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment, as well as with the Guardians themselves. This has been a very good example of local and national groups working together in harmony for a common goal.

In consultation with the other agencies we have prepared a Communications Plan and have been instrumental in putting together the Guardians' website. We also provide facilities to accommodate the Guardians meetings, as well as staff for administrative support.

Southland Regional Coastal Plan

The Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005 implemented amendments to the Southland Regional Coastal Plan to achieve the objectives of the Act – these changes related to a variety of activities in the Fiordland Marine Area, including anchoring and mooring provisions, discharges, structures, and hull cleaning.

In the future we will be consulting with affected parties, as well as the general public, to make further changes to the Coastal Plan to ensure consistency with the changes introduced through the Act.

Environment Southland look forward to continuing the good relationship we have with the central government agencies, and the Guardians, to continue to implement the vision that has been such a feature of this group.



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The 2005–2006 year marked the beginning of an exciting new phase for the Fiordland Marine Guardians as they took up their statutory advisory roles. The Ministry for the Environment was pleased to see the Guardians and management agencies strengthen existing relationships as they worked together to find collaborative solutions to the various challenges facing the Fiordland marine environment.

Achievements

The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for providing the Guardians with administrative support and leading the implementation of a Communications Plan for the Fiordland Marine Area.

As part of its administrative responsibilities, the Ministry has led the development of a Protocol that sets out how the Guardians and management agencies will work together to achieve the integrated management of the Fiordland Marine Area. The Ministry has hosted several productive meetings of the management agencies to discuss Fiordland issues and coordinate our feedback to the Guardians. We have also been managing the process of appointing a new Guardian, following the resignation of Laurel Teirney. Finally, despite a number of complexities slowing the process of hiring a secretary, the Guardians' administrative support person is expected to start work in September 2006.

The Ministry's communications role has included working closely with Environment Southland to develop a Fiordland Marine Guardians website. We are currently pulling together a full colour Fiordland Marine Environment user's guidebook. The book and the website will provide information on biosecurity threats, fishing regulations, marine reserves, cultural uses of the Fiordland marine area and the history of the Fiordland initiative.

A highlight of the year has been the production of a logo and letterhead for the Fiordland Marine Guardians. The Guardians' logo will feature on all future publications and correspondence.

Looking ahead

The Fiordland model, which emphasises community involvement in management that has been traditionally undertaken by central and local government agencies, has attracted significant interest from around New Zealand. This is a positive reflection of the initiative's success. The Ministry for the Environment is looking forward to building on the progress made this year as the Guardians turn their focus to the strategic issues facing Fiordland's marine environment.



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tongarua

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

During the past year the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) has been an active participant in the Guardians-agency project team tasked with implementing the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005. We have enjoyed being part of a collaborative initiative which has enabled us to work more closely with our stakeholders, have greater interaction with other agencies and to achieve a common goal. We acknowledge the huge benefits a collaborative approach can bring in identifying and delivering on management objectives.

We have also welcomed the wider benefits this approach has brought. The formation of the Fiordland Marine Guardians (FMG) has provided MFish with a key contact group that are knowledgeable about a wide range of issues, well resourced, representative of the entire Fiordland Marine Area and who are committed to the ongoing management of the area. The Guardians-agency meetings have provided an excellent forum to share information and ideas and to work collectively through the management issues for the area.

Achievements

MFish has a key responsibility to ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources. We also have an important role in contributing to the protection of the aquatic environment within the Fiordland Marine Area.

Over the past year we have had two main responsibilities. The first has been to act as lead agency in developing and implementing a compliance regime for the area. Much of the work over the past twelve months has been spent on preparing an integrated compliance plan for the region while ensuring all stakeholders are aware of the implications of the management changes brought about by the Act. The compliance plan was finalised in June of this year. Leaflets and signage have been produced to help inform potential users of the changes to the management of the marine environment in Fiordland. We have also attended community meetings to discuss the changes. A significant amount of time has also been spent undertaking surveillance and monitoring patrols in the area. The vast and remote marine landscape poses a major challenge to achieving an effective level of compliance and MFish are strongly reliant on the support of the Guardians and the wider Fiordland community to achieve this.

MFish has also worked closely with the Department of Conservation to develop and implement the scientific marine monitoring programme for the area. MFish is responsible for the delivery of the fisheries research projects within this broader monitoring programme. In the past twelve months MFish and the Guardians have carried out year 1 of a three year monitoring programme for blue cod in Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound. Research is also about to start on a programme to monitor recreational fishing in the Fiordland Marine Area.

Looking ahead

MFish is proud of these achievements during the first twelve months and looks forward to building on these successes over the coming year. Our key work programmes will include implementing the integrated compliance plan for the area and working with FMG and agency representatives to ensure its success. We will continue to deliver the recreational fishing research programme and to work with both the FMG and agencies to investigate the social perceptions of the users of this unique marine environment. MFish are pleased to be part of this and look forward to the ongoing challenge of collectively managing Fiordland's unique marine environment.

Appendix 3: Guardians' Biographies

Ian Buick

Ian Buick manages a helicopter operation from Te Anau and has strong contacts with aviation and charter operators in Fiordland. Ian has been involved in the aviation business for 30 years. He is the managing director and chief executive of the South West Helicopter Group, which operates helicopters for agricultural, commercial, medical, fire fighting, flight training, conservation and flight seeing purposes. Ian is a member of the New Zealand Aviation Industry Association Helicopter Division Committee, the Fiordland Health Centre Trust and the St John's Ambulance Fiordland Area Committee.

He is the chair of the Great Fiordland Coastal Clean-up committee, the South West New Zealand Endangered Species Charitable Trust and is a member of the Southland Conservation Board, the Whenua Ho Committee and the Te Anau Land Care Group. Ian was a member of the original Guardians group.

Stewart Bull

Stewart Bull has extensive knowledge of customary uses of Fiordland, particularly customary fishing. Stewart is the chair of the Oraka-Aparima Runanga and is the Oraka-Aparima Runanga representative on the Board of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. Stewart has particular expertise in customary fishing issues, and is the Oraka-Aparima Runanga representative on the Customary Fisheries Advisory Group.

He is also an honorary Fisheries Officer for the Ministry of Fisheries. Stewart has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since their inception.

Ken Grange

Ken Grange, a pre-eminent marine scientist, is the Regional Manager of NIWA Nelson. He has a broad understanding of general marine science and 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. Ken 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, and he chairs the Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee.

Alan Key

Alan Key has fished recreationally in Fiordland for the last 28 years. He is a long term recreational fishing representative and is a current or past member of the Southland Sports Fishing Club, the Ministry of Fisheries South Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Southern Blue Cod Advisory Committee, the Foveaux Straits Oyster Management Group and the Southland Marine Recreational Fishers Association. He has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since their inception and was involved in the Paterson Inlet marine reserve-working group.

Malcolm Lawson

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

Alan Mark

Alan Mark is an Emeritus Professor of botany at the University of Otago. He has been heavily involved in conservation management for 30 years and is highly respected in this field. Alan has been a long-term member of many conservation organisations including the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Royal Society of New Zealand and the New Zealand Ecological Society. Alan was chair of the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau for the first 26 years and has been a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority. He has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since 2001.

John Steffens

John Steffens has been a commercial fisher in Fiordland for 25 years. He has been involved in a number of fishing organisations including the New Zealand Fishing Industry Board, the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council and the New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council. John founded the CRA8 (rock lobster) Management Committee and is its current chair. He was the founding director of the Fiordland Lobster Company, and is a current director. John is also a past chair of the Guardians of Fiordland and has been a driving force behind their process. John led the process that resulted in the formation of the first two Fiordland marine reserves, Milford Sound (Piopiotahi), and The Gut (Te Awaatu Channel). John is also a past vice president of the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen and past president of the Fiordland Fishermen's Association. John is the senior pastor at Te Anau Christian Centre. He serves on the Te Anau Community Board and is a board member of Venture Southland.



**Fiordland
Marine Guardians**
Beneath the Reflections