

Annual Report **2016/17**



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.

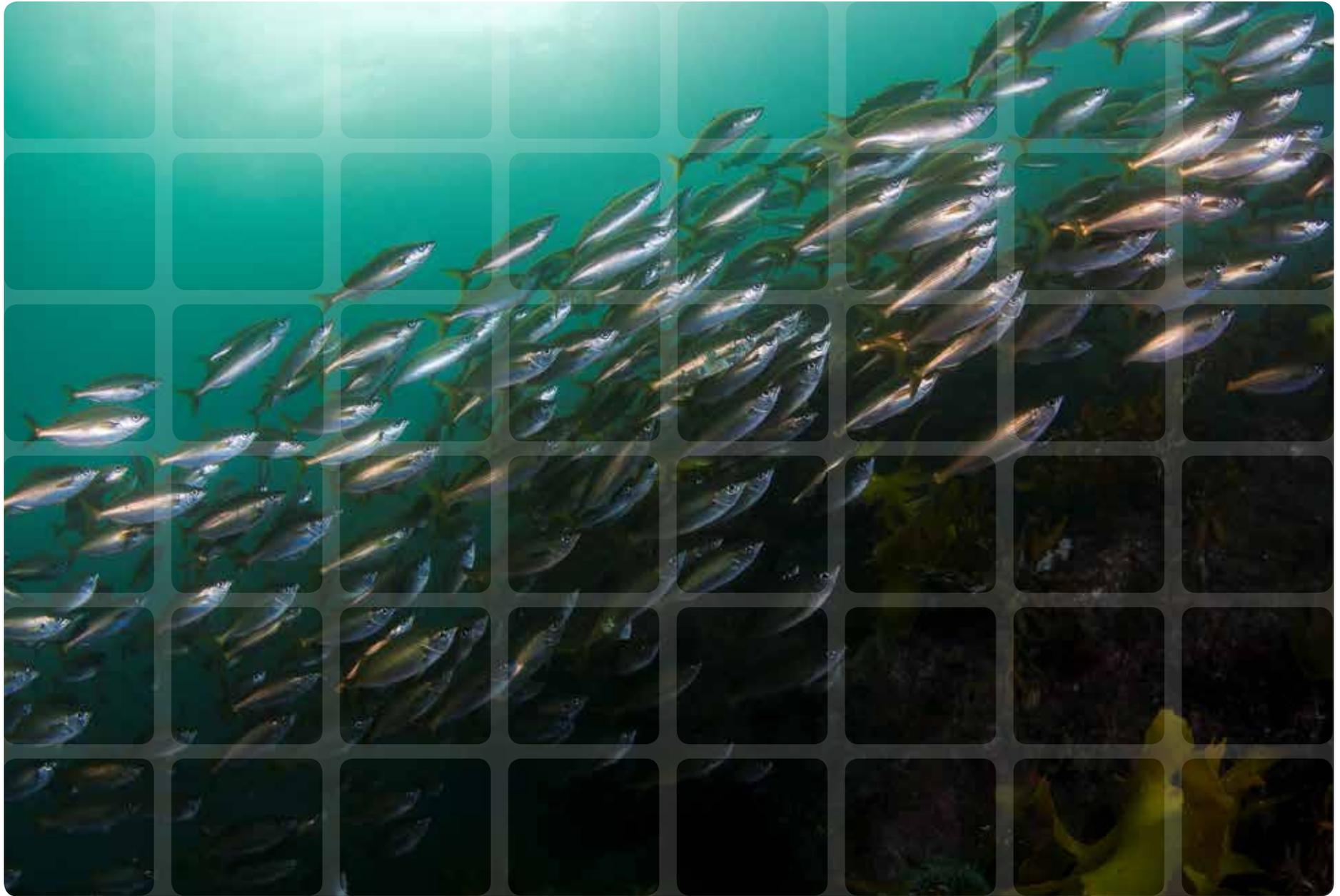
Statement of responsibility

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 2017.

Rebecca McLeod, PhD

Chair

Fiordland Marine Guardians





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Chairperson's report



A number of matters this year have highlighted the strength of a shared vision and high degree of trust that exists between the Guardians and our partner agencies – the Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Ministry for the Environment.

After many years of work, the group presented the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan to the Council of Environment Southland. The benefits of this proactive and innovative plan to keep marine pests from being taken into the area on vessels extend further than biosecurity – through the consultation process we have reconnected with the community. Boaties from the recreational, fishing and tourism sectors helped us find a way through the curly problem of keeping the pests out, united by the best interests for Fiordland, and during that process we achieved buy in from the community.

I personally feel a far greater level of understanding about our purpose and approach having been involved in this project, and gained a huge amount from working alongside some of the visionary 'old guard', including Laurel Tierney and Allan Key. I thought Laurel summed it up beautifully, "...harness all the knowledge, all the passion and all the energy, and you'll find innovative solutions for even the most difficult issues". It was thoroughly educational, enjoyable, and immensely satisfying to be part of another initiative that will protect Fiordland's marine environment.

Somewhat ironically, the week we officially launched the Pathway Plan, a new large incursion of the Asian seaweed *Undaria* was discovered in Breaksea Sound. This is devastating news for all involved, particularly given the enormous and promising efforts to rid Sunday Cove of *Undaria* since a small outbreak was detected in 2010. And so, we spent the morning celebrating the launch of the plan, and the afternoon around the boardroom table, using our collective knowledge and experience to nut out a plan to tackle the new incursion.

It will be some months until we determine the full extent of this incursion and until then it is impossible to know exactly what the response will entail. But despite the rather depressing topic that day, I couldn't help but feel proud of the way our group is once again working together to tackle this issue. We couldn't be better placed to respond to this latest challenge.

Another big job has been the republishing of *Beneath the Reflections: A user's guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area* in July. The updates to this very popular book required input from all of our agency partners and a great amount of support from the Ministry for the Environment in particular.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ian Leask in February. Ian made an enormous contribution to the foundational work of the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005, which led to the recognition of the Guardians. Our sympathies are with Meri and the family.

I would like to thank the Guardians and our fantastic team of agency representatives for their efforts over the past year. We have another big year ahead and I look forward to working with and learning from you all.

Dr Rebecca McLeod
Chair



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 the Guardians' meetings, to report on progress and engage on matters of concern.

Sub-committees focus specifically on compliance, biosecurity, monitoring, and communication, and progress matters outside of the main meeting. Representatives from the Guardians and each agency sit on these sub-committees.

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 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 (Chair)

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.



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 assist in research projects, collecting and providing data about the rock lobster fishery.



Stewart Bull

Stewart has extensive knowledge of the customary association and use of Fiordland, and is a tangata tiaki/kiatiaki for the Fiordland area out to 200 miles (ie, management of customary fisheries). He is the Deputy Chair of Oraka-Aparima Rūnanga and is a member of the Southland Conservation Board. Stewart is a board member of Te Ao Marama Inc and sits on the resource management committee. He chairs the Rakiura Titi Committee and is a member of Rakiura titi island administering body. Stewart is a member of the CRA8 Board and has been a member of the Guardians of Fiordland since its inception.



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.



Anne McDermott

Anne has significant experience of the area, having dived, fished and tramped in Fiordland for 30 years. She has dived in the fiords more than 400 times (in Preservation, Chalky, Dusky, Breaksea, Doubtful, Nancy, Charles and Caswell Sounds), giving her first-hand experience of the Fiordland marine environment. Anne and her husband own a boat and she has many contacts among the Southland recreational fishing, boating and diving sectors.



Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill

Kerri-Anne's career in applied conservation ecology spans over 20 years, with 12 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 science communication and brokerage.



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. Most recently Jon and his family relocated to Te Anau where he worked within the tourism industry for a number of years before starting a second career in software development at Wherewolf.



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

Rose Bird, Adviser

Long-term Incursion Management
Ministry for Primary Industries

Allison Bockstruck

Fiordland Marine Guardians Secretariat
Ministry for the Environment

Richard Bowman

Biosecurity Manager
Environment Southland

Jen Brunton, Senior Adviser

Animal and Marine Biosecurity Response
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
Ministry for Primary Industries

Courtney Guise

Consents Officer
Environment Southland

Matt Hoffman

Consents Officer
Environment Southland

Richard Kinsey

Senior Ranger Operations
Department of Conservation

Stephen Logie

Chief Compliance Officer – MPI Compliance Directorate: Southland
Ministry for Primary Industries

Kevin O'Sullivan

Regional Harbourmaster
Environment Southland (retired December 2016)

Donna Shepard

Statutory Manager, Operations, Southern South Island
Department of Conservation

Our year in review



November and December 2016 – The Guardians attended the launch of the Tamatea Art and Conservation Exhibition launch at Parliament House and the opening at Southland Museum and Art Gallery in Invercargill. The story of the Fiordland Marine Area and the Guardians is celebrated through the display of two Te Pou pou o Rua o Te Moko (pou pou), kaitiaki of marine reserves throughout Fiordland. The pou pou and the Guardian's story will travel with the exhibition throughout Aotearoa New Zealand in 2017.

December 2016 – We contributed to a scoping exercise for the upcoming review of the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.

February 2017 – Interested members of the public met with us in Invercargill to discuss topical matters.

February 2017 – Stainless steel Te Pou pou o Rua o Te Moko (pou pou) marine reserve markers were installed throughout Fiordland.

February 2017 – Scientists from NIWA presented a report to the Guardians of the findings from recent monitoring of multiple marine reserves in Fiordland.

March 2017 – The Southland Regional Development Authority invited us to join a consultative group that will meet regularly to discuss progress of the Southland Aquaculture Project.

May 2017 – The Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan was formally launched in Te Anau. We joined Environment Southland councillors and staff and other agency and industry representatives to celebrate this milestone. The Plan is a first for New Zealand under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

May 2017 – The Guardians and agency representatives met to consider the best course of action following the discovery of large numbers of mature *Undaria* plants in Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound.

June 2017 – Supported by agency staff and the Communications Team at the Ministry for the Environment we completed the long awaited revision of *Beneath the Reflections – A User's Guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*. It is 10 years since the guide was first published and the second edition is due to be released in July 2017.

Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan

We were delighted when, in February, the Environment Southland Council gave the final seal of approval to a practical plan to keep marine pests well away from Fiordland. The Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan aims to protect the unique and nationally significant area from marine pests which can be carried in on local and visiting vessels.

The Plan was developed over several years by a partnership group, including Environment Southland, the Fiordland Marine Guardians, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, and Ngāi Tahu. The group consulted a range of experts from biosecurity research and boating sectors, and sought feedback from the fishing, tourism and recreational sectors throughout the development of the plan.

The goal was to find a simple, effective and workable way to prevent vessel operators from transporting marine pests into the Fiordland Marine Area. A number of introduced marine species are now established around the country, and due to Fiordland's unique ecology and environment, it is unpredictable how they would alter the system should they be introduced. This plan provides a solid way to ensure that we don't find out.

The plan sets out rules and standards that must be met by all vessels entering within one nautical mile of the landward boundary of the Fiordland Marine Area and requires vessel operators to obtain a clean vessel pass.

Once again, Fiordland is leading by example – this is the first regional pathway management plan to be actioned in New Zealand. Environment Southland is now working to implement the Plan, with the support of the Guardians, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Department of Conservation.



Rebecca McLeod, Fiordland Marine Guardians Chair and Nicol Horrell, Environment Southland Chair launch the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.



Monitoring for change in Fiordland's marine reserves

Since the establishment of eight marine reserves under the Fiordland Marine Management Act 2005, the Guardians' Monitoring Sub-committee has been working to determine how the ecosystems in the marine reserves have responded to increased protection.

In February 2016, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) was awarded the contract to survey five of the marine reserves. The aim of the survey was to describe changes to the marine reserve communities over time due to protection, and whether there were any differences to abundance and size of key species inside and outside the reserves.

Monitoring was undertaken using underwater visual census methods using divers to count fish and invertebrates in a structured and scientific way, ensuring similar habitats were sampled inside and outside reserves.

The results appeared surprising at first. After 10 years of full protection, there was no evidence of strong differences in fish assemblages, or abundances of key species among reserve and non-reserve sites. Similarly, an analysis comparing fish assemblages and densities at sites with long-term monitoring data showed little evidence of changes over time.

We asked why no changes were apparent when traditionally marine reserves are well-known to result in more and bigger fish. The answer is likely to have something to do with the unusual marine environment of the fiords. Perhaps changes occur more slowly in the fiords, and we are yet to see any 'recovery'. Some of the first marine reserves around the country took upwards of 15 years for signs of recovery of fish stocks to become apparent.

Or perhaps, the management measures were put in place early enough to prevent the fish stocks declining to low levels. While the numbers and sizes of some exploited species, such as rock lobster, have increased, they appear to have increased both inside and outside the marine reserves, a testament to the success of the management options that have been implemented.

On-going monitoring will help answer the question around how long it will take for full recovery or restoration in this special ecosystem. But we need to keep in mind that marine reserves aren't always put in place with fisheries outcomes in mind – they are there to preserve the entire ecosystem, from seaweed to corals, and from snails to fish. And that is exactly what these reserves in Fiordland are doing.



Diver assessing the extent of mature *Undaria* plants at Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound. Here the large blades of kelp commonly identified as *Undaria* have died off after releasing their spores, leaving only the base of the mature plant, the sporophyte or 'pineapple'.

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 Act. The challenges below were key topics identified and discussed during the year and will help to guide our activities in the future.

Aquaculture investigations in Southland

Over the past 12 months, the Southland Regional Development Strategy Authority (SoRDS) have been investigating several options around coastal Southland that may support aquaculture in its present and future forms. As part of that process, sites in southern Fiordland were initially investigated by the group to assess their potential in supporting this industry.

It took some time for the Guardians to be included in the conversation, but this began when representatives from SoRDS and Ngāi Tahu presented the strategy at a Guardian's meeting. An initial assessment was made of sites in Preservation and Chalky Inlets, involving measurements of the physical environment and biology present. The focus has now shifted away from Fiordland and on to sites at Stewart Island and we sit on a steering committee focused on aquaculture development in Southland.

To date, we have refrained from declaring support or opposition to the proposition of marine farming in the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA). This approach is consistent with the way we have responded to matters in the past – we wait until we have all of the information before making a thorough assessment of the benefits and risks.

We have informed SoRDS that we are prepared to provide advice, and that we see our role as ensuring that information is collected using sound scientific method and good process.

Should the sights once again turn towards Fiordland we will proactively engage with the process and seek information so we can assess any proposal assessed on its individual merits and impacts.

Increased number of moorings

A gradual proliferation of moorings throughout the FMA has come to our attention especially in those areas where there is limited anchoring space. It is concerning that moorings may hinder the safe operation of vessel operators throughout the FMA especially in and around 'all weather anchorages'.

With the increasing length of new vessels being operated both by the tourism industry and other users, there needs to be a more holistic approach taken to alleviate congestion and cater for future needs of all mariners. We are keeping a watching brief on all moorings throughout the FMA, with the view to applying more stringent rules around their placement should the situation require.

We have brought our concerns to the attention of Environment Southland, and will seek to encourage changes to the Southland Coastal Plan when it is reviewed over the next couple of years.

New *Undaria* outbreak in Breaksea Sound

During a biosecurity surveillance trip in April 2017, divers discovered a previously unknown incursion of the Asian seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida* in Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound. Further investigations in May unfortunately found the seaweed to be widespread and dense along the southern wall of this fiord.

Despite our desire to keep marine pests out of Fiordland, all parties agree there is currently no suitable method for eradicating this latest incursion. The Guardians are working with the agencies to determine how to manage the incursion, which will likely focus on trying to slow the spread of *Undaria* from Breaksea Sound into other parts of Fiordland.

The future challenges for the Guardians and agency partners are two-fold: effectively managing the incursion in Breaksea Sound, and working to implement the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan to ensure no other marine pest incursions occur.

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.





Meetings

Fiordland Marine Guardians general meetings

Five meetings involving Fiordland Marine Guardians and management agencies were held during the year, as detailed below.

3 August 2016	10.00am – 3.35pm, Invercargill
7 October 2016	10.30am – 3.15pm, Invercargill
8 December 2016	10.45am – 3.20pm, Invercargill
24 February 2017	11.00am – 3.40pm, Invercargill
11 May 2017	10.00am – 3.20pm, Te Anau

Sub-committee meetings

We operate four sub-committees, which are attended by representatives from the Guardians and management agencies. Each sub-committee works to a plan, which is typically reviewed every four to five years.

These align with the requirements of the Act to develop plans and disseminate information on:

- **Biological monitoring** (Convenor: Richard Kinsey, Department of Conservation)
- **Biosecurity** (Convenor: Jen Brunton, Ministry for Primary Industries)
- **Compliance** (Convenor: Stephen Logie, Ministry for Primary Industries)
- **Communications** (Convenor: Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill, Fiordland Marine Guardians)

The Guardian sub-committee members are:

- **Dr Ken Grange** – Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Jerry Excell** – Compliance
- **Mark Peychers** – Compliance, Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Stewart Bull** – Monitoring, Biosecurity
- **Jon Clow** – Compliance, Communications
- **Anne McDermott** – Communications
- **Dr Kerri-Anne Edge Hill** – Communications
- **Dr Rebecca McLeod*** – Monitoring, Biosecurity

**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

6 October 2016 1.30pm – 3.30pm, Invercargill

Biological monitoring sub-committee meeting

7 December 2016 9.00am – 2.30pm, Invercargill

Communications sub-committee meeting

23 February 2017 11.00am – 4.00pm, Invercargill

Looking ahead – the next 12 months

The next year is set to be busier than usual for the Guardians with two major bodies of work underway; implementing the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan and reviewing the Southland Coastal Plan. Both are seen as cornerstone projects where community engagement, communication and careful, balanced review are paramount.

The Marine Pathway Plan rollout will continue to be core work for the group, ably led by Environment Southland, and including the Ministry for Primary Industries, DOC, and other stakeholders.

This exciting and forward-looking initiative to keep marine pests out of the region has never been more important following the very concerning discovery of the Asian seaweed *Undaria* across a large part of Breaksea Sound in May 2017. We expect to be engaged in implementing the plan and responding to the new *Undaria* incursion at all stages and most importantly providing an avenue for open community communication and support.

We are aware of developing tensions in the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA), mainly driven by an increase in the scale and scope of vessel operations. The Coastal Plan review represents a rare opportunity to address some of these tensions and problems at the policy level. The Coastal Plan underpins many oversight and control mechanisms that govern human use in the FMA, and as such is fundamental to the Guardians' role. We will work hard to ensure the community's concerns and opinions are represented in the review process.

Monitoring and reporting will be a feature of the coming year. Together with stakeholder agencies, we continue to evaluate information requirements needed to support effective decision making. In an environment of necessarily constrained public expenditure, decisions on which research programmes to pursue are difficult yet vitally important.

In response to accelerating changes, an early deliverable in the coming year will be the publishing of the second edition of *Beneath the Reflections: A user's guide to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area*. This key document will form part of a wider update on the way we communicate and can be reached – a constant challenge for a dispersed group. Among the changes will be updates to the website and presence in modern communication channels.





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, the Ministry provides administrative and secretariat support to the Guardians, coordinates the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Communications Plan, and supports the Minister for the Environment in fulfilling their obligations under the Act.

Achievements

Nominations for new Guardians

The reappointment of four Guardians in 2016 and the reappointment of one Guardian in 2017 were approved by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee, following recommendations from the Minister.

Website

The website has been updated throughout the year to reflect current research and important information relevant to visitors of the Fiordland Marine Area.

Looking ahead

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

This publication, initially produced in 2008, is currently being updated for release in 2017.



Department of Conservation

Role

When the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act came into force in 2005 the Department of Conservation (DOC) was 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 within the FMA.

Achievements

The 2016/17 year has been an up and down year for the Department, but as always it has been a busy one.

Good news stories include the completion of the baseline monitoring contract with NIWA, the repeat of the rock lobster survey in Te Awaatu Channel (The Gut) Marine Reserve, installation of new stainless steel poupou marine reserve markers, and the finalisation of the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.

However, this year has been overshadowed by the finding of a new population of *Undaria pinnatifida* in Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound, which, after seven years of controlling *Undaria* in Sunday Cove is incredibly galling

for all involved. It is unknown yet what the outcome of the finding will mean for the *Undaria* programme in Breaksea Sound.

NIWA monitoring contract

In November of 2016, NIWA provided DOC with the final report from the monitoring contract. This contract was the fifth time many of the monitoring sites have been resurveyed since they were initiated in 2006/07, but also included new sites to aid with future comparison. It concentrated on five of the Fiordland Marine Area's 10 marine reserves: Te Tapuwae o Hua (Long Sound) Marine Reserve; Taumoana (Five Fingers Peninsula) Marine Reserve; Kutu Parera (Gaer Arm) Marine Reserve; Kahukura (Gold Arm) Marine Reserve; and Hawea (Clio Rocks) Marine Reserve.

Overall, no significant changes were observed in 2016 when compared with previous years and no significant changes were found comparing effects inside and outside the marine reserves. This does not mean there will never be differences between the marine reserves and the rest of the fiords but highlights the importance of long-term monitoring and checking for trends over time.

Te Awaatu Channel (The Gut) Rock Lobster Survey

In May 2017, DOC staff spent a week in Doubtful Sound/Patea counting and measuring rock lobster at six sites (three inside the marine reserve and three outside) around the Te Awaatu Channel (The Gut) Marine Reserve. The lobster survey was initially set up in 1999, six years after the reserve was established in 1993, to look at whether the creation of the reserve influenced rock lobster numbers.



The trip data have not yet been analysed, but initial numbers seem to be down since the last survey in 2010. This could be due to several reasons but until the data have been looked at it is too early to speculate.

During the survey, many of the divers did comment on how beautiful the diving is in the Te Awaatu Channel. Its steep walls and strong current make it a beautiful place to spend time.

Changing of the guard

In February 2017, a combined DOC, iwi and Fiordland Marine Guardians team aboard the Department's vessel *MV Southern Winds* spent a week replacing the wooden marine reserve markers (poupou) with stainless steel ones. All of the marine reserves outside of Piopiotahi/Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound/Patea were changed.

The existing individually carved wooden poupou, installed in 2014, were replaced with the stainless steel poupou as it was decided they would last much longer in Fiordland's remote coastal environment. The stainless steel poupou were modelled on the initial wooden ones and look similar.

Over the next couple of years the wooden poupou will be strengthened and installed in the Piopiotahi/Milford Sound Marine Reserve and the marine reserves of Doubtful Sound/Patea. Many more visitors will be able to view them in these fiords and appreciate the connection that the local Runaka have with the Fiordland Marine Area.

The Department would like to thank Meridian Energy for sponsoring the stainless steel poupou, as without their funding the project would not have happened this year.

Fiordland bottlenose dolphin population monitoring

The long-term monitoring of the bottlenose dolphin populations in Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound continued this year, with surveys carried out three times in both fiord complexes. The Dusky Sound population reached its 10-year monitoring milestone this year.

The current estimates for the two populations are 69 for Doubtful Sound and 122 for Dusky Sound. Figures 1 and 2 show population abundance estimates for each population since monitoring began (note that Dusky Sound has total population abundance and Doubtful Sound has adult abundance only).

2016/2017 has been particularly exciting for the Doubtful Sound population, as some of the dolphins were photographed in Dagg Sound in December 2016. Dolphins from the Doubtful Sound group have only been officially documented outside of Doubtful Sound three times since monitoring began, despite numerous anecdotal reports. There have also been several monitoring trips over the past couple of years where part of the population has been absent from Doubtful Sound, but have reappeared during subsequent monitoring trips. Every new piece of information gained aids in building an accurate picture of dolphin habitat use.

The Department would as always like to acknowledge the Marine Mammal Levy group (which is made up of the local tourism operators), and Otago University for help with the funding and analysis of the population work.

Figure 1: Dusky Sound Bottlenose Dolphin total abundance 2007 – 2016

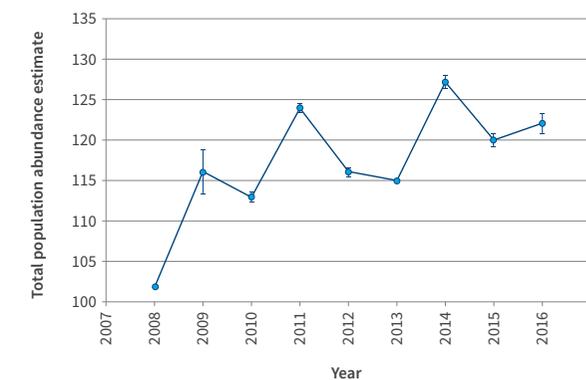
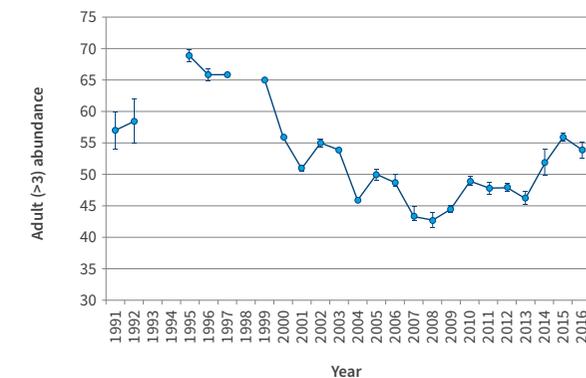


Figure 2: Doubtful Sound Bottlenose Dolphin adult abundance 1991 – 2016



Note: Abundance estimates are based on dolphins classed as 'adults' that is, more than 3 years old, as juveniles and calves were not included in abundance estimations until recent years.



***Undaria pinnatifida* (Undaria) in Breaksea Sound:**

DOC has continued its work with Environment Southland and the Ministry for Primary Industries on attempting to eradicate the unwanted pest seaweed *Undaria* from Sunday Cove. Now in its seventh year this year, initial findings were very positive. The summer months yielded only 16 immature *Undaria* which meant the team were still on track to keep Sunday Cove clear of this invasive weed.

However, in April 2017 during a routine surveillance dive in Beach Harbour (further east in Breaksea Sound from Sunday Cove), divers found mature *Undaria* growing on a mooring line. Since then a delimiting survey has shown that *Undaria* is widespread in Beach Harbour, a real disaster for the programme. It is unclear what this will mean for *Undaria* management in the area in the future but after so much effort in Sunday Cove it is heart breaking to find another incursion so close.

DOC would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all of those companies and contractors who have been instrumental in helping the programme in Sunday Cove, your help has been invaluable.

Marine Pathway Plan: On a more positive note for biosecurity in the Fiordland Marine Area, DOC would like to congratulate Environment Southland in completing the Pathway Plan. So much hard work has been put in to the programme over the past three years from agency staff, the Guardians, and members of the public. It is fantastic to be leading the way in New Zealand stopping the transfer of

marine pests. Hopefully it will become a shining example of what can be achieved for marine biosecurity with the right rules and mindset.

Looking ahead

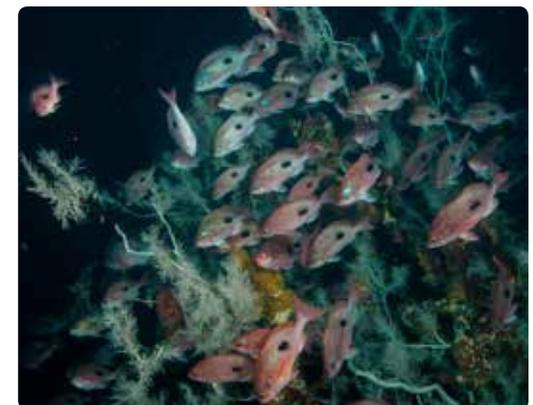
The 2017/18 year is shaping up to be an exciting year for DOC with a number of projects planned that could yield fascinating results.

There is currently a tender out to continue research in to the deep reef areas within the Fiordland Marine Area. Look out for more amazing images of deep sea critters in the New Year and potentially some new species.

In October, it is hoped that DOC will help with humpback whale research to look at the origins of where the whales on the coast come from. With this species making a comeback since the whaling days, more and more humpbacks are appearing in the fiords and we don't really know if they come from the Pacific Islands or from Australia.

As well as the projects mentioned above, work will continue with monitoring the dolphin populations, erecting the poupou, *Undaria* management in Breaksea Sound, rock lobster surveys in Piopiotahi (Milford Sound) Marine Reserve, and a host of other things.

If you would like to be involved or would like further information on anything that DOC does, please contact the Te Anau District office.





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

Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan

Since early 2014 a steering group comprising of representatives from Environment Southland, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, Ngāi Tahu, and the Fiordland Marine Guardians has been working together to form a Regional Pathway Management Plan (the Pathway Plan). The idea of the plan is to minimise the risk of marine pests being transported to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area (FMA). The plan was consulted on and approved by Environment Southland in April 2017. The plan is now in effect, which is a major step forward towards protecting Fiordland from further marine biosecurity threats. The Pathway Plan is described in more detail on page 12.

Following Environment Southland's decision to move forward with the Pathway Plan in March 2016, our staff and councillors processed submissions, held hearings and deliberations, and ensured the proposed plan stacked up against the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993. Additionally, communications to stakeholders and the wider public, and setting up the online system for the Clean Vessel Pass just before implementation were major jobs carried out by our staff.

The next step is effective implementation which will continue to be a joint-agency approach. The major changes to the Fiordland marine biosecurity programme as a result of the Pathway Plan include:

- far-reaching communications on Fiordland marine biosecurity
- administering and improving the Clean Vessel Pass online system
- increasing our on-water compliance
- broadening our surveillance for marine pest species.

New incursion of Undaria pinnatifida in Breaksea Sound

In April 2017, the Asian seaweed *Undaria* was positively identified in Beach Harbour, Breaksea Sound. This was followed up with a delimiting survey of Breaksea Sound. Results from the survey found that *Undaria* is widespread throughout the Beach Harbour and Johns Islands area. This new site is approximately 2-3km from the original Sunday Cove site in which *Undaria* was found in 2010. At this stage, deciding to eradicate *Undaria* from Beach

harbour is very unlikely as it is so widespread; however, other options are available. Cooperation from commercial fishers, charter operators, and recreational boaties will be crucial.

Since 2010, divers have worked to manually eradicate *Undaria* from Sunday Cove. The response team went from removing hundreds of plants per trip from Sunday Cove at the early stages of the response to removing only a handful a year in recent years, showing that local elimination of this highly invasive species is possible following early detection.

It is unfortunate that another incursion has occurred in the Fiordland Marine Area; however, the long-term commitment of the agencies (Environment Southland, DOC and the Ministry for Primary Industries), contractors, and those associated with the programme to attempt eradication must be recognised and commended – it's not very often such effort is put into controlling an invasive species in the marine environment.

Although this new incursion may well put a stop to *Undaria* eradication in Breaksea Sound, lots of positives have come out of this project with the most important being the relationships built among the agencies and stakeholders, and the development of marine biosecurity control and response tools.

The new incursion shows how vital the need for vector management is of vessels coming into and those within the Fiordland Marine Area. All going well the newly developed Fiordland Marine Pathway Plan will help reduce the risk of new invasive species being transported to the area.

Lastly, a big thanks goes out to our dive team, those who have skippered and crewed on the project, Southern Lakes Helicopters for their support especially Richard Hayes for the use of the Uni, Meridian Energy for their logistical help crossing Lake Manapouri, and the many others who have had a vested interest in the *Undaria* programme. The work and commitment put in over the years towards this project was fantastic, and very much appreciated.

Environmental compliance

This year the compliance division has seen the departure of Maria Reed from our technical team. Maria was in charge of overseeing the consents for many of the activities in the Fiordland Marine Area. Kathryn McLachlan will now be taking on that part of Maria's workload.

Compliance is currently investigating incidents in Blanket Bay regarding unconsented extensions being added to a coastal marine area structure and an outdoor fire place burning plastics. Both incidents are currently awaiting follow up.

Annual inspections included:

- monitoring in Fiordland with Ministry for Primary Industries, DOC and Environment Southland biosecurity in April 2017. Compliance staff were predominantly monitoring charter vessel operating consents, some structures and moorings
- monitoring structures in Fiordland in association with the Land Information New Zealand trip.

On both trips a high level of compliance was found.

Harbourmaster activities

Work has begun on stage two of the Fiordland VHF (very high frequency) project to install a repeater on Wednesday Peak (southern fiords) linking through to Mt Clerke on Resolution Island, Dusky Sound.

A new weather station at St Anne Point, Milford Sound, commissioned in late 2016 provides comprehensive weather information to local and visiting vessels.

Land Information New Zealand carried out pre-survey work in the northern fiords, which ties in with their five year Long Term Survey Programme for Fiordland.

Two minor oil spills occurred in Freshwater Basin during vessel fuel transfers. These were attended by Milford Sound Tourism Ltd, and cleaned up by the operators responsible.

Resource consents

The Guardians may be considered to be affected parties for resource consent applications for the Fiordland Marine Area, provided they fit the criteria for affected parties set out in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Under the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005, the Guardians may provide advice to Environment Southland, which Council must then take into account. 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 2016 to 30 June 2017, the Guardians were asked to provide input on the following consent applications as affected parties:

- **Fiordland Marine Limited (APP-20169967)**

To undertake commercial surface water activities in the coastal marine area adjacent to Fiordland National Park from Yates Point to Puysegur Point, with one vessel of up to 22.1 metres, registered length and 133 gross tonnage, with up to 15 passengers, and up to three crew; one tender vessel up to 6 metres long; and up to four kayaks; for the purpose of undertaking backcountry trips.

Replacement permit for an existing operation.

Processed on a limited notified basis, no hearing required.

- **Genesis Charters Limited (APP-20169686)**

To undertake commercial surface water activities in the coastal marine area adjacent to Fiordland National Park from Yates Point to Puysegur Point, with one vessel of up to 22 metres, registered length, with up to 10 passengers, and up to five crew; and up to two kayaks; for the purpose of undertaking backcountry trips.

Replacement permit for an existing operation.

Processed on a non-notified basis.

- **Island Escape Cruises Limited (APP-20169593)**

To undertake commercial surface water activities, in the coastal marine area adjacent to Fiordland National Park within Doubtful Sound and Thompson Sound, with one vessel of up to 49 metres, registered length (hereafter the 'main vessel'), with up to 34 passengers, and up to

15 crew; and up to two tender vessels up to 9 metres long; for the purpose of picking up or offloading passengers and supplies.

Up to 48 transits into and out of Doubtful Sound are allowed each year. The Consent Holder is not permitted to operate in the arms of Doubtful sound, nor past Elizabeth Island.

Permit for a new activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.

- **Russell Keen (APP-20169724)**

To install and exclusively occupy the coastal marine area with a mooring near Brasell Point, Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, for the purposes of mooring a vessel of up to 20 metres length overall.

Permit for a new activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.

- **The Alpine Group Limited (APP-20169558)**

To take off and land a helicopter on the beach and foreshore of Musket Bay within the coastal marine area, for the purpose of servicing traps for pest control with charter clients.

The consent excludes take-off and landing of a helicopter in this area for any other purpose, including commercial or tourism activities where no servicing of pest control traps will occur.

Permit for a new activity. Processed on a non-notified basis.

- **The Alpine Group Limited (APP-20169909)**

To undertake commercial surface water activities, in the coastal marine area adjacent to Fiordland National Park from Yates Point to Puysegur Point, with one vessel up to 24 metres in length; one 8.6 metre tender vessel, for the transfer of passengers to shore, supervising kayaking activities and fishing; and up to six kayaks.

The consent holder may undertake up to two day trips per day with up to 36 passengers, and up to 52 backcountry trips per year with up to 12 passengers.

Permit for a new activity. Processed on a limited notified basis, no hearing required.

Looking ahead

Environment Southland looks forward to continuing our work, and furthering our great relationship with the Guardians and other management agencies, providing a local perspective in managing the Fiordland Marine Area.



Ministry for Primary Industries

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI's) purpose is 'growing and protecting New Zealand'; the focus is to maximise export opportunities and improve sector productivity, to increase sustainable resource use, and protect from biological risk. Key MPI functions of interest to the Fiordland Marine Area include:

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

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

Biosecurity

Role

MPI is responsible for leading development and maintenance of the biosecurity system that supports sustainable fisheries management and protects the environment and the resources from biological risk.



MPI works 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. The Readiness and Response Services Directorate is responsible for leading this work; teams include advisers who bring together critical capability to effectively prepare for and manage responses, and to coordinate recovery and long-term management activities, working across biosecurity, food, primary production, and trade systems.

Achievements

Review of the Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan

MPI (Marine Biosecurity) continues to implement the Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan. 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.

MPI is the lead agency for implementing the Biosecurity Plan but activities for the other relevant agencies and the Guardians are also outlined to help mitigate biosecurity risks to Fiordland.

Operational activities

Over the last year, MPI has worked with the other agencies and the Guardians to implement operational biosecurity recommendations, including:

Vector management

Vessel inspections for marine pests (ongoing since February 2010). Moored vessels in Bluff and at Stewart Island that are known to travel to the Fiordland Marine Area are inspected each month for the presence of marine pests. Antifoul condition, presence of a marine pest, and the level of general marine growth on vessel hulls and niche areas are recorded during these inspections. 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.

Communications

A marine biosecurity message for Fiordland "The only things you should leave behind are ripples. If your boat and equipment haven't been properly cleaned and your hull antifouled before entering Fiordland, you could be spreading marine pests", was placed on the marine pages of the Metservice web page from October 2016 to April 2017.

Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan

MPI has been integral in developing and supporting the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan (refer to the [Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan](#) section for further information).

Joint-agency response to *Undaria pinnatifida* in Sunday Cove

MPI continued to work collaboratively with DOC and Environment Southland on the joint-agency attempt

to locally eliminate the invasive pest seaweed, *Undaria pinnatifida* from Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound. Significant efforts have been made over the last year to further improve the effectiveness of the dive surveys and to reduce the chance of any *Undaria* specimens reaching maturity.

MPI is also working with Environment Southland and DOC to determine the extent of the new infestation of *Undaria* in Breaksea Sound, and to recommend future management options.

Targeted marine pest surveillance

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

No new marine pests were identified in the Ports of Bluff, Lyttelton or Dunedin by these surveys over the past year; however, the clubbed tunicate *Styela clava* continues to increase in distribution and number within Otago harbour. The invasive Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) continues to expand its range around New Zealand, especially in the North Island, and top of the south, as well as Lyttelton where it has been found since 2008.

Vessels arriving into Fiordland from many locations outside of Southland could now potentially transfer this highly invasive species to the fiords.

Progress with implementing the Craft Risk Management Standard for fouling on vessels arriving from overseas

MPI has issued new border requirements on levels of biofouling on international vessels arriving to New Zealand. These are set out in the [Craft Risk Management Standard](#) which will become mandatory in May 2018. This standard requires all vessels arriving into New Zealand to have a 'clean hull'.

During the current lead-in period, MPI has been engaging with vessel sectors on how they can best comply with the standard. This includes talking to Cruise NZ and the main cruise lines about the provision that any first arrivals to Milford will be required to meet the long-stay threshold for biofouling, which is more stringent (slime only on the hull) than that applying to vessels only visiting designated Ports of First Arrival.

MPI will soon start to require biofouling management information from ships as part of the existing Ballast Water Declaration that must be supplied to MPI with the Advance Notice of Arrival. This information will help MPI monitor improvement in biofouling management practices by vessel operators and could help identify vessel operators for targeted education.

Fisheries

Role

MPI (Fisheries Management) is 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 Fiordland Marine Area.

The recreational fisheries in Fiordland continue to grow in popularity as visitor numbers increase. MPI and the Guardians work together to better understand the impact of this increasing activity and how best to monitor and manage this.

MPI Fisheries Management is responsible for providing input and information into all aspects of fisheries management including new ways of monitoring individual fisheries. One example of this is the proposed National Blue Cod Strategy that MPI is currently developing.

The Guardians have already been at the forefront of blue cod management in Fiordland. The National Blue Cod Strategy could help provide better reporting of recreational blue cod and other catches that occur in Fiordland as part of a wider national programme.

This on-going input and participation is achieved by MPI Fisheries Management staff regularly attending Guardians meetings and contributing to the monitoring sub-committee meetings.

Achievements

Compliance

MPI's Compliance Directorate is responsible for the operational delivery of fisheries compliance services within the Fiordland Marine Area. A small team of Southland based Fishery Officers are tasked with enforcing fisheries regulations by conducting surveillance patrols, inspections, investigations and intelligence analysis across the fisheries compliance spectrum of commercial, recreational, and customary fishing.

The Southland Fisheries Compliance team leads and coordinates the delivery of an Integrated Compliance Plan in collaboration with DOC and Environment Southland.

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

MPI Compliance provide regular updates to the Guardians of all relevant fisheries compliance matters including any non-compliance or emerging issues.

Over the reporting year Fishery Officers regularly conduct port landing inspections at Milford Sound, Deep Cove, Riverton, and Bluff of commercial fishing vessels returning from the Fiordland fishing grounds. This mainly involves CRA8 rock lobster, pāua and kina, blue cod, set netting, and longline fishing operators and on the whole compliance is

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



normally high. There has however been the odd exception, which has resulted in successful Court proceedings against two operators in relation to rock lobster and pāua misreporting.

Compliance patrols

MPI conducted several waterborne patrols in the Fiordland Marine Area focused solely on fishing activity during the year. During these patrols, Fishery Officers inspected vessels that were fishing for commercial and recreational purposes. Detected amateur fishing offences resulted in one fisher's Court conviction and dive gear forfeiture, along with several fishers receiving infringements and official warnings.

In addition, Compliance and Biosecurity Officers from MPI, DOC and Environment Southland collaborated on a compliance and marine biosecurity patrol in April 2017. Seven fiords were visited over five days, resulting in interactions with 37 vessels, inspections of structures and shore installations, and biosecurity surveillance dives on a range of vessels, moorings, and structures.

Looking ahead

MPI Marine Biosecurity will continue to work with all Fiordland partners to implement the Biosecurity Plan recommendations over the next year including implementing the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan. MPI will continue to work collaboratively with DOC and Environment Southland on *Undaria pinnatifida* management in Fiordland.

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

In August 2017, Invercargill's Stadium Southland will host the Southland Boat Show 2017. Local MPI fishery officers and MPI marine biosecurity staff from Wellington will be there to promote MPI fishing rules and marine biosecurity measures encouraging boaties to ensure vessel hulls and gear are free of marine pest fouling.

During the year ahead local MPI fisheries compliance representatives will facilitate a further Interagency Compliance Working Group meeting to review and rewrite the Integrated Compliance Plan. While the original 2005-2010 plan focused on implementation, we now have the benefit of 12-years application and hindsight. To ensure the new compliance plan is fit for purpose, the process will require input and agreement between the three enforcement agencies and the Fiordland Marine Guardian's Compliance Sub-committee.



Appendix 1: The Act – its purpose and function

The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005

Section 3: Purpose of the Act

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

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

Section 13: Functions of Guardians

(1) The functions of the Guardians are –

- (a) to advise and make recommendations to management agencies and Ministers who exercise functions under the enactments listed in Schedule 13, to achieve the purpose of this Act, including, but not limited to, –
 - (i) advice and recommendations on the effectiveness of the management measures in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
 - (ii) advice and recommendations on activities occurring outside of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area if those activities impact, or are likely to impact, on the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
 - (iii) advice and recommendations on likely threats to the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
- (b) to facilitate and promote the integrated management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
- (c) to obtain, share, and monitor information on the state of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;

(d) to assist management agencies to –

- (i) prepare and disseminate information about the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area, including educational information;
- (ii) monitor the state of the marine environment and biological diversity in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;
- (iii) plan for the enforcement of, and compliance with, the management of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area;

(e) to conduct any reviews instituted under section 25 that they –

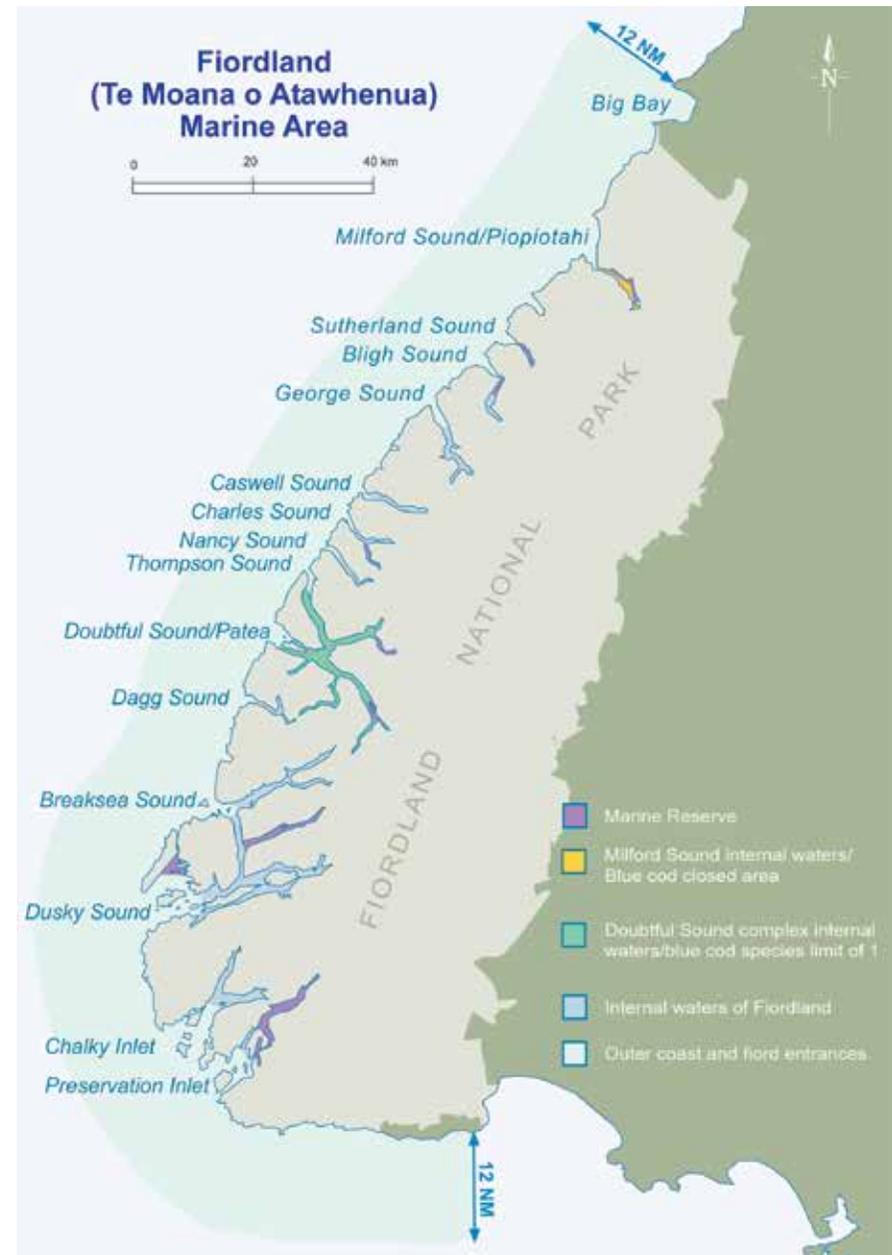
- (i) are invited by the Minister to conduct; and
- (ii) agree to conduct;

(f) to perform any other functions given to them under this or any other Act.

(2) Advice and recommendations under subsection (1)(a) may be given on the Guardians' own initiative or at the request of –

- (a) a management agency; or
- (b) the Minister; or
- (c) the Minister for Biosecurity; or
- (d) the Minister of Fisheries; or
- (e) the Minister of Conservation.

Appendix 2: Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area



Appendix 3: History of the Fiordland Marine Guardians

From the first steps in 1995, the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment embarked on a unique journey.

The goal was the protection of the region's marine environment by those who value and use it. It was the genesis of today's Fiordland Marine Guardians (the Guardians). The original group, endowed with first-hand knowledge, experience and a passion for the Fiordland marine environment, developed an integrated management strategy and, with support from the management agencies,¹ saw the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act enacted in 2005. The Guardians are now implementing the management programme.

The beginnings of an integrated approach

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

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

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

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

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

Broadening the membership

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

Developing the draft conservation strategy in only two years required significant commitment. The group agreed on solutions for a number of issues. When one interest or sector benefited at the cost of another, however, the Guardians agreed that the advantaged party should give something in return, to help ensure that the greater good of Fiordland took precedence over competing interests. This became known as the 'gifts and gains' philosophy, which underpinned more difficult negotiations. For instance, when the commercial fishers volunteered to withdraw from

fishing the inner fiords, recreational fishers volunteered to set stringent fishing rules for these more vulnerable inner areas.

Areas that were biologically diverse were identified as deserving particular care and were designated marine reserves. Other fragile areas were identified as having special qualities and became known as 'china shops'. Some of these areas were deemed to be vulnerable to damage from anchors and were designated 'no anchoring' areas.

For the strategy to succeed in an isolated area such as Fiordland, it was very important that all stakeholders respected the restrictions in these areas, and this meant they needed to support both the process and the philosophy that underpinned it. The Guardians worked with agency staff and encouraged them to look for solutions that crossed the usual boundaries between the different agencies' roles. This approach was new and refreshing, and fundamental to successful integrated management.

The 2005 Act

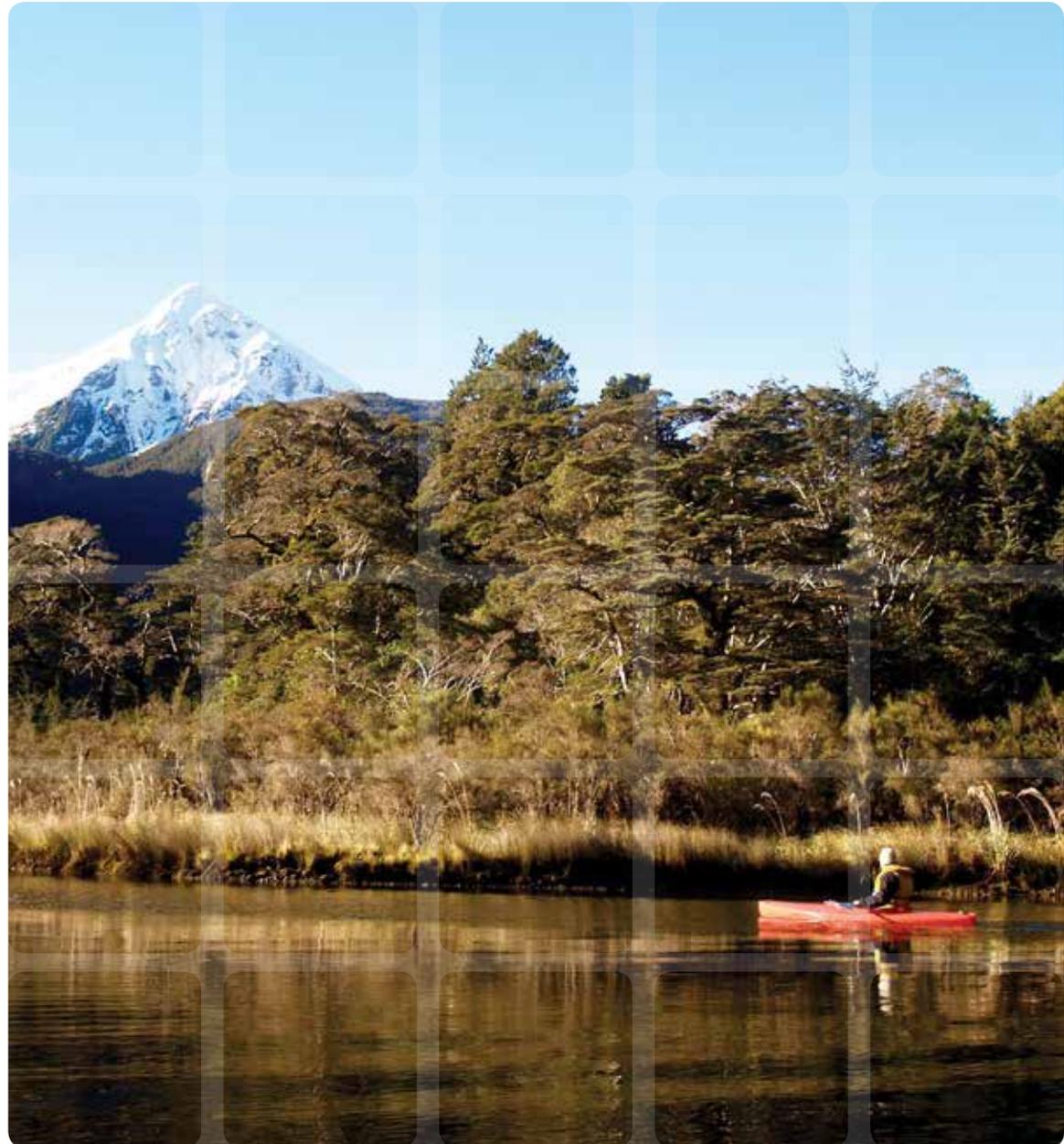
By 2003, the Guardians recognised the need for a way to protect the integrity of the whole package so that the balance of gifts and gains would not be compromised. The Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 established the Fiordland Marine Guardians, and was the first legislation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

Implementing the Act

The enactment of the Act initiated significant activity for the management agencies and the Guardians. A protocol was established that clarified the roles and responsibilities of each agency in realising the Act. This was critical due to the diversity of the tasks at hand and the workload involved. Sub-committees were established to focus on key areas of communications, biosecurity, monitoring and compliance. A work plan was formed for each of these sub-committees and effort was ongoing to establish these central implementation pillars. It was a dynamic and exciting time for the Guardians to see their plan for the area come to fruition.

Future focussed

With the 10-year anniversary of the Act in 2015 came time to reflect on the reasons for the continued success of our approach to marine management and what we needed to do to remain an effective and relevant group continuing to achieve our original vision. Whilst continuing on with what is now 'business as usual', we appreciate that we need to carefully consider future risks to the Fiordland Marine Area and work to address these.







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.

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