

September 2014

The Guardians Newsletter

The Fiordland Marine Guardians are an advisory committee who work with government agencies and their Ministers on the management of the Fiordland marine area. They welcome this chance to keep you informed and up to date with happenings in the Fiordland Marine Area.

The Southland Boat show

The Guardians took the opportunity to introduce members of the public to the new marine reserve markers at the recent boat show held in Southland. Te Pou pou O Rua O Te Moko created quite a stir with people stopping at the Guardians stand to enquire about them.

The Pou pou were commissioned from funds from the Ngai Tahu Fund and The Department of Conservation, and many are already in position marking the boundaries of the marine reserves in Fiordland - except for the reserves in Milford and Doubtful Sounds which will be installed next year.

The Guardians enjoyed the chance to talk with fellow users of the Fiordland Marine Area and listen to suggestions and comments about the management of the area. They were also delighted to introduce themselves to people who visit Fiordland but were unaware of the Fiordland Marine Guardians and their vision 'to maintain or improve the quality of Fiordland's marine environment and fisheries, including the wider fishery experience for future generations to use and enjoy'.



A big welcome to the people who signed up to go on our mailing list while at the boat show. We hope you find our newsletters informative and enjoyable.

Alison O'Sullivan, FMG Secretary

The eye catching Pou pou display on the Guardians stand at the Southland Boat Show

Photograph courtesy of Alison O'Sullivan

Vessel inspections for Fiordland-bound vessels

Since 2010, the Ministry for Primary Industries has contracted Young Fishing Ltd to inspect vessels moored in Bluff Harbour and Stewart Island for their levels of fouling. The inspections are targeted at those vessels that travel to Fiordland (regularly or infrequently) for the presence of marine pests; these inspections are undertaken monthly via diver survey. Areas of focus are vessel hulls, and opportunistic niche areas (i.e. propellers, stabilisers, boarding platforms, zinc blocks). These niche areas are not generally covered with anti foul paint and therefore provide an area where marine pests such as *Undaria pinnatifida* can establish, and consequently be transported to pristine areas like Fiordland.



*A Photograph of a fouled hull
Photograph courtesy of Jennie Brunton, MPI*

Young Fishing Ltd is also able to undertake inspections outside the monthly routine inspections. If you are unsure of the state of your vessels hull and would like it inspected prior to going to Fiordland please contact Paul Young c/- Young Fishing Ltd on either 03 453 5545, 03 212 7355, or 027 680 1258. Costs are currently borne by MPI for these inspections.

Please be a conscientious boatie by ensuring that your anti foul paint is in good condition and your vessel is clean and free of marine pests **every time** you travel to Fiordland.

Please help us to keep Fiordland free of marine pests, its everyone's responsibility.

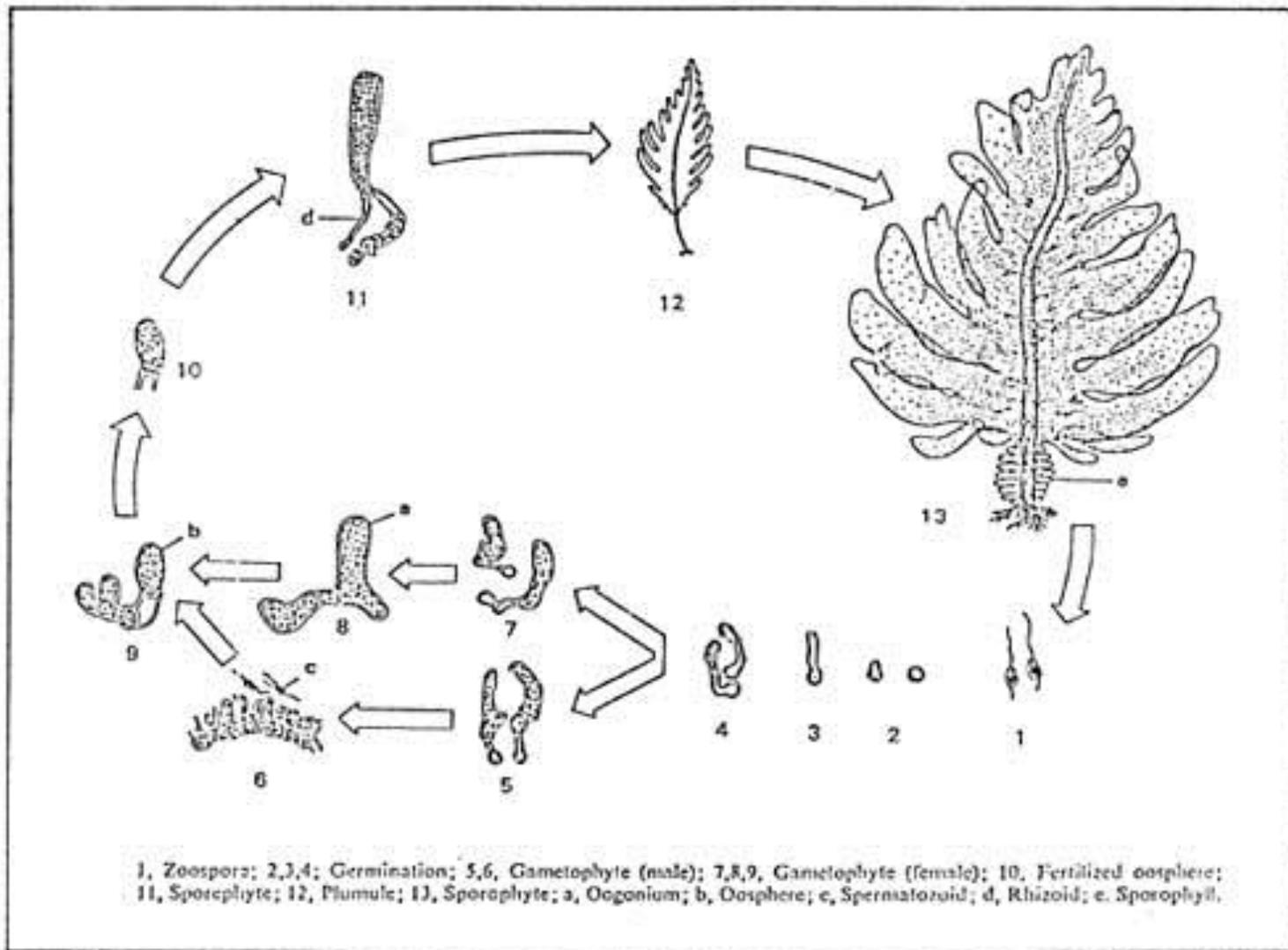
Jennie Brunton, MPI, Wellington

What actually is *Undaria pinnatifida* (*Undaria*)?

As most of you will have read in previous newsletters there is an ongoing local eradication attempt underway in Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound to remove *Undaria* after a single mature specimen was found in April 2010.

The programme is still running and proving to be very successful. We are still finding the occasional small individual from time to time (the most recent being the August 2014 survey) but the team believe that they are still on track to remove it from Sunday Cove and keep Fiordland pest free.

However, *Undaria* is a very interesting seaweed and has quite a unique life history, so to try and help everyone understand why it can be so invasive, below is a brief explanation of its (very strange) life cycle.



Starting at number 13 on the picture.....

The twisted base of a mature *Undaria* stem (called a stipe) contains all of the spores that will foster the next generation of *Undaria* individuals. The spores released from a mature *Undaria* specimen are microscopic (1) and contain both male and female individuals. A single mature *Undaria* specimen can release millions of spores during its reproductive cycle which is why *Undaria* can be so invasive. Those spores settle on the seabed after a brief period of actively looking for somewhere suitable to live, where they change into either a male or female gametophyte (sperm or egg producing individual) (2, 3, 4). If a male and female settle close to one another (~1mm) the sperm fertilises the egg attached to the female gametophyte and creates what is the beginnings of an *Undaria* plant (5-9). These stages of sexual reproduction are almost more like how an animal reproduces rather than a plant which is what makes *Undaria* such a strange critter!!

Once that stage has been completed there is now a fertilised baby *Undaria* (10, 11) that just needs to wait until conditions are right for it to grow in to a plant that we can see with the naked eye. This can take a long time (potentially years) before being kicked in to action by increasing sunlight or a change in seawater temperature. Once the biological conditions are right the *Undaria* individual starts to grow in to a juvenile that you can recognise (12), then after only 4-5 weeks in the height of its 'growing season' it is ready to start the cycle over again (13)

So, in the space of only a couple of months *Undaria* has the ability to drop of a boats hull or mooring rope, grow to maturity and spawn the next generation of *Undaria*!! That's pretty invasive!!

Hopefully, by knowing a little more about how *Undaria* lives it will make you realise what a tricky customer we are dealing with. As always if you would like more information about the programme in Sunday Cove or have any Biosecurity questions please contact Derek Richards at Environment Southland (derek.richards@es.govt.nz)
 Derek Richards, Environment Southland

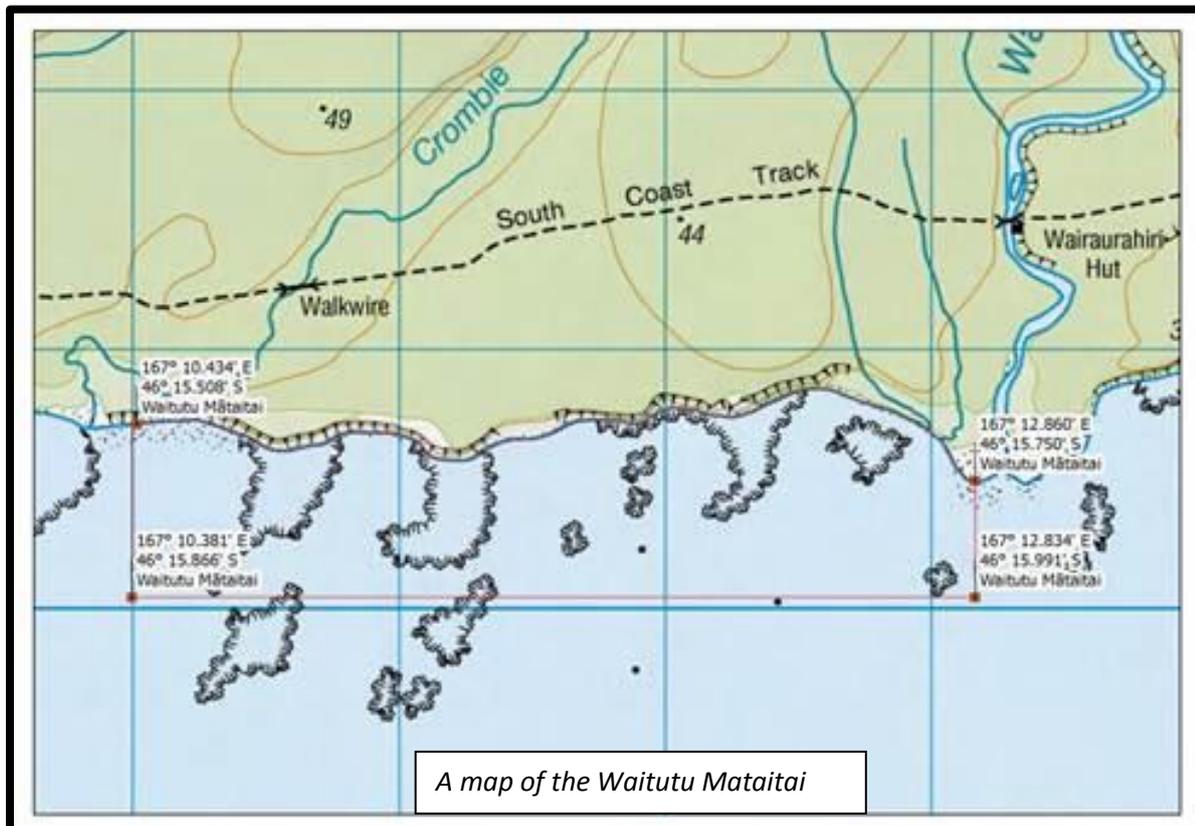
Waitutu Mataitai

On the 7th of August the Waitutu mataitai reserve was established pursuant to The Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999.

As a result of this all commercial fishing is prohibited within the area. The application for a mataitai reserve was first made some years ago by the Oraka-Aparima runaka, supported by the Waitutu Land Incorporation. The potential boundaries have gone through a number of changes as discussions between the applicants and commercial fishing representatives have sought to provide an area that will allow for management of a recognised customary fishing area, while not impacting adversely on commercial rights holders.

The regulations provide for the appointment of kaitiaki to oversee fishing activities within the mataitai, and the making of by-laws specific to the mataitai. These will be developed by the kaitiaki committee. The applicants also intend inviting a wider range of people to form a management advisory committee. Rebecca McLeod will represent the Fiordland Marine Guardians (FMG) on this forum.

The FMG supported the final outcome as it reaffirms the Oraka-Aparima runaka as the kaitiaki runaka of the Fiordland Marine Area (FMA) and is consistent with the philosophy of the FMG that the best results are achieved through affected parties negotiating an agreement. *Malcolm Lawson, Chairman, FMG*



The Annual Report will be heading your way Shortly!

The Fiordland Marine Guardians Annual Report for the year ended June 2014 is in the final production phase. Once the report has been released a link will be emailed to those who have opted to receive regular updates electronically, to view the report on our website.

Don't worry if you haven't provided us with your email address, or have opted to receive updates by post, as hard copies will be posted out to you. *Alison O'Sullivan, FMG Secretary*

Keeping Marine Pests out of Fiordland

An exciting new initiative

How can marine pests find their way into Fiordland waters?

Keeping marine pests out of Fiordland waters means finding out how they might make their way into the area in the first place. It is well known that vessel hulls, niche areas (such as anchor wells and sea chests) and gear (such as ropes, floats and fishing gear) provide the surfaces onto which marine pests can attach. Once attached, the pests go where the vessels go! Clearly vessels of all types and sizes heading into Fiordland present “pathways” that risk delivering unwanted organisms into the pristine marine environment.

How to prevent pests from using “pathways”

In 2012 an amendment to the Biosecurity Act, 1993 meant that Marine Pathway Management Plans could be developed. This new tool allows the risk of marine pests to be removed before they reach an area rather than after they have arrived and been discovered, as is the current situation. It should prove a much more cost effective way of dealing with marine pests “prevention is better than cure”

In March 2014, Environment Southland approved a proposal for a Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan using the same co-operative approach as the *Undaria* response that has been operating successfully since 2010. This Guardians/joint agency approach was initially put in place during the development of the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy (1995 - 2003).

Who’s developing the draft Pathway Plan?

A Fiordland Marine Pathway Plan Steering Group was formed in April this year comprising representatives of the Guardians (Rebecca McLeod), Oraka Aparima runanga (Stewart Bull), Environment Southland (Derek Richards), Ministry for Primary Industries - Biosecurity (Jen Brunton), Ministry for Primary Industries - Fisheries (Stephen Logie), Department of Conservation (Richard Kinsey) and Laurel Teirney who worked with the original Guardians and compiled the Fiordland Marine Conservation Strategy.

The Steering Group has documented a process for developing a draft Pathway Plan that is being progressed by a number of workshops. The Steering Group is drawing on additional expertise to tease out the issues and possibilities. To date there have been two workshops, April and July.

Getting the message out and encouraging feedback

After each workshop the Steering Group is committed to producing an Update to inform vessel owners/operators and others who are passionate about Fiordland of how the Pathway Plan is progressing and to seek views and feedback. We were very encouraged by the positive feedback received to Update # 1 released in July (Introducing the initiative). Update # 2 (Marine Pathway Management Plans) was released in August.

The Guardians’ Website - a perfect way of connecting all involved

“Keeping Pests Out” has been created as a dedicated page on the Guardians’ website. Updates covering each aspect of the process will be posted on this page so they are easily accessed. This is one way the Steering Group hopes to involve interested parties both locally and further afield in order to inform, canvass views and integrate ideas from vessel operators heading into Fiordland.

“Keeping Pests Out” (<http://www.fmg.org.nz/content/keeping-pests-out>)

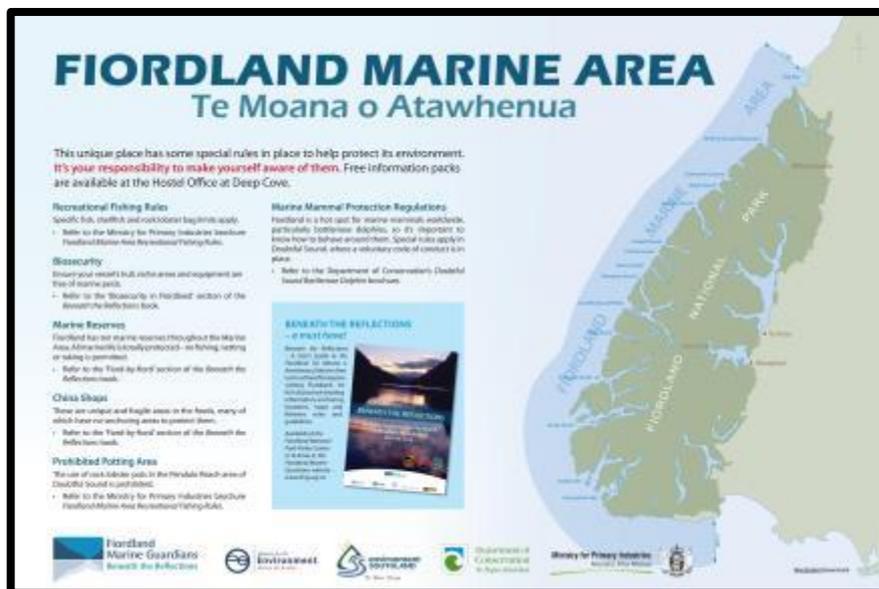
Make those hits count for keeping pests out of our precious Fiordland waters!

Rebecca McLeod, Guardians Representative on Pest Pathway Plan Steering Group.

Have you seen the new Signs yet?

Watch out for new signage, which are in the process of being put up at Milford, Deep Cove, Blanket Bay and Deas Cove.

Don't forget that free brochure packs with all the relevant information: pamphlets, current MPI fishing regulations and the User Guide are available at the Deep Cove Hostel Office and The Fiordland Lobster Company, Milford Depot.



An example of the new signage

Congratulations To Te Korowai Guardians

Recently the Kaikoura (Te Tai-o-Marokura) Marine Management Act was passed by Parliament. This is the implementation by the government of the integrated strategy that Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura - the Kaikoura Coastal Marine Guardians – had developed over a number of years. This group drew on our experiences and examples of what has occurred in Fiordland. The process they undertook and the results they achieved are very similar: where community backed solutions were developed and agreed on for another very important coastal area. The ongoing success of the Fiordland initiative was regularly referred to by politicians and members of the public who were commenting in support of Te Korowai.

On Email?

More and more people are opting to receive the FMG newsletter electronically. A large number have stated that the colour photography in the newsletter is a major reason for changing, as well as all the environmental aspects, which make this option very attractive.

Let Alison know your email address and your next newsletter will be emailed through to you.

Our email is: info@fmq.org.nz

Feedback?

We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions we'd love to hear from you.

Alison can be contacted at:

Email: info@fmq.org.nz

Mobile phone: 0212504257

Or c/- Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840