



**Fiordland
Marine Guardians**
Beneath the Reflections

Minutes

**The Fiordland Marine Guardians/Agencies Group meeting held
via MS Teams on Thursday 24 February 2022**

Present:

Guardians:

- Rebecca McLeod (Chair)
- Mark Pechers
- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill
- Pete Young
- Ali Ballantine
- Stewart Bull
- John Cushen (from agenda item 6)
- Gavin Tayles

Agencies and visitors:

- **Department of Conservation** – Richard Kinsey; John Lucas, Tony Preston, Aaron Fleming (until agenda item 8a)
- **Environment Southland** – Lyndon Cleaver, George Gericke; Kathryn McLachlan, Brittany Pickett (both until agenda item 8d); Tania McCann (until agenda item 6); Bruce Halligan (until agenda item 7); Lucy Hicks, Ciaran Thayer, Rebecca Robertson, Paul Hulse (for agenda items 5 and 6).
- **MPI Fisheries Compliance** – Greg Forbes (for agenda item 8g)
- **Fisheries NZ** - Mark Geytenbeek, Rob Win
- **Biosecurity NZ** – Jen Geange, Justyna Paplinska (for agenda item 8c)
- **Ministry for the Environment** – Fiona Newlove (for agenda item 8e)
- **Chair of PauaMAC5** – Storm Stanley (until agenda item 8c)
- **Maritime NZ** – John Drury (until agenda item 6)
- **FMG Secretariat** – Haydee Wilton

Apologies: Chloe Corne (DOC); John Whitehead (Southland Conservation Board); Stephen Logie (MPI Fisheries Compliance)

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairperson Rebecca McLeod welcomed everyone to the meeting and there was a round of introductions.

2. Administrative tasks

a) Apologies

- The apologies were noted as above.

b) Confirmation of Minutes – 10 November 2021

- The Guardians confirmed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting held 10 November 2021. Stewart Bull proposed that the minutes be approved, and Mark Psychers seconded the motion. The motion was passed, with all voting in favour.
- Matter arising: It was noted that Rachael McMillan (DOC) was no longer working on the Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) so the Guardians hadn't met with her as planned. MOP has been delayed as a Director has not yet been appointed.
- Matter arising: Environment Southland (ES) and Te Ao Maori Inc (TAMI) held a workshop re the proposed plan change re commercial surface water activities in the Fiordland Marine Area. The plan review is still in progress and will include discussion on moorings. ES will set up a working group (including the Guardians) to work on this before the next Guardians meeting in May.

c) Disclosure Register

- It was noted that the Disclosure Register needed to be updated to note that Pete Young is a Trustee of the Southern Coastal Charitable Trust.

d) Budget

- Rebecca McLeod noted that there would be savings from having online meetings, and that some of the budget may be used for legal advice.
- It was noted that the governance training budget could include Treaty of Waitangi training and Rebecca asked the Guardians to get in touch with either herself or Haydee if they were interested in completing any training.

e) Health and Safety

- It was noted that the Covid response plans may need to be updated in light of changing rules.

f) Progress on actions

- The actions were updated - refer to paper on pages 9-10.

3. Chair's report

- Rebecca noted that the Guardians had met with Penny Nelson (new Director-General of DOC) on 19 January.
- It was noted that the Guardians were continuing with their fisheries work and had upcoming meetings planned with PauaMac5 and CRA8. They also intend to request a meeting with BCO5.
- Rebecca provided a brief update on the Fiordland Carbon Sink project which is looking into the size of the carbon sink and the potential value it holds for climate goals. The University of Otago is leading the 5-year project, and there are strong connections with Papatipu Rūnaka and the Guardians. Both Rebecca and Stewart are leaders on the project and will keep the Guardians and partner agencies updated on its progress. It was noted that one of the main issues is how increased freshwater input affects fiord circulation that may lead to oxygenated water reaching deeper parts of the fiords. This could cause the sinks to release carbon. The project is looking at records to see how freshwater input from Manapouri may have affected the carbon sink.

- It was noted that Paul and Katherine Mitchell from the *RV Pembroke* are partnering with Victoria University of Wellington and the Cawthron Institute to install remote monitoring devices in Dusky and Breaksea Sounds. The curation of long term climate data in this area will help to inform management approaches in the future.
- The Guardians' meeting dates for August and November 2022 will be confirmed shortly, and there are plans to hold one of these meetings in Te Anau.

4. Communications and Engagement

- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill noted that the paper provided a summary of the Guardians' correspondence, media and engagement since the last meeting. It was noted that there had been some additional correspondence that had been sent out just before the 24 February meeting and that this would be listed in the communications report for the next meeting.
- It was noted that the Guardians had completed further engagement re fisheries sustainability work with Fish Mainland and focus groups. The presentation to focus groups is available on the FMG website and written content will also be available soon. Kerri-Anne thanked Gavin Tayles for his work on the fisheries communications, and it was noted that the Guardians are now planning to engage with commercial fishers.
- The Guardians' annual report was circulated in December, as well as articles about the Guardians' advice to the Minister re sustainable fisheries. A Guardians newsletter was circulated via email in January 2022, but postal copies were delayed due to issues with MFE office access during the protest action in Wellington. A communications sub-committee meeting was held on 22 February, and the actions will be noted in the minutes of this meeting.
- It was noted that Rebecca had met with Alex Rodgers of the Hauraki Gulf Forum to share experiences and lessons learned.

5. Resource Consents – applications in progress

- Bruce Halligan (ES) tabled the report and updated the Guardians on progress since the report was written.
- It was noted that there was a hearing scheduled for 24 March for the Alpine Group Ltd and SW Day application for the Cascade Cove Barge with independent commissioner Sharon McGarry.
- It was noted that the Fiordland Cruises application for surface water activities in Patea / Doubtful Sound had been withdrawn following mediation.
- It was noted that Invercargill City Council had submitted an application to refurbish the Bluff boat ramp. This will be a basic washdown facility with the potential to upgrade to biosecurity level in future. There was a discussion about the need to follow up any non-compliance in terms of discharges from haul out facilities throughout Southland, and Bruce noted the Guardians' concern about this to raise with the ES Compliance Team.
- There was a discussion about the format of the resource consent report and the Guardians were positive about the longer format of the report presented to the meeting. There was a query re the possibility of getting resource consent applicants to provide an executive summary and to include any references to existing consents. It was noted that ES could not legally require an executive summary to be included by applicants but that they could encourage applicants to provide one. Bruce intended to raise this idea with the consultant's forum. Bruce agreed to provide references to existing consents where possible and noted that the Guardians could take as long as they needed to consider applications as there wasn't a defined timeframe for affected parties to respond.

- **Action 5.1:** Bruce Halligan to raise possibility of executive summaries being provided with applications for resource consents at consultant's forum.

6. Moorings in the FMA

- The paper was taken as read.
- Rebecca suggested it would be helpful to have a high-level discussion about the systems and processes for management of moorings and the process of considering applications for resource consents for moorings, as opposed to discussing the details of the moorings that are currently being installed.
- Rebecca noted that the Guardians have advised ES of their concerns about the proliferation of moorings in the FMA over many years. The Guardians are concerned about the cumulative pressure on space for vessels at anchor; the suitability of some designs in terms of navigational safety and the environmental impacts of different systems. These issues have come to a head in recent months with the installation of large screw moorings, and there may be more of these moorings installed. There has been lots of feedback, concern and interest from the community and operators of vessels in the FMA.
- The Guardians noted the challenges of operating under the dated Southland Regional Coastal Plan that is rather permissive with respect to moorings, and with compliance in such a remote area.
- There is an engaged and knowledgeable community who could potentially assist ES with the Coastal Plan Review.
- With respect to individual applications, the Guardians and other affected parties are happy to share their local knowledge and expertise but are concerned that ES appear to rely on affected parties to provide expertise relating to engineering and navigational safety. The Guardians would like to work with ES to review the systems and processes for reviewing mooring applications.
- ES acknowledged the opportunity to improve processes, look at who is considered an affected party for mooring applications and ensure that the application documents are clear. There was a discussion re the difference between non-notified and notified applications and the associated cost ramifications. ES can't stop applications for installation of new mooring systems (such as screw anchor moorings) but can scrutinise them carefully. It was also noted that there is a rule in the Coastal Plan re drilling in the seabed that may be relevant if screws are to be fastened. If drilling is required for a mooring then it is not a permitted activity.
- **Action 6.1:** George Gericke (ES) will check whether the ES Compliance team has discussed the drilling restriction with the contractor.
- ES noted that there were legal constraints due to the current plan rules – they are trying to manage the mooring issue in the scope of the current plan but acknowledge it is not ideal.
- ES is keen to fix and future proof the moorings issue as part of review of Coastal Plan and would welcome the Guardians' local knowledge and technical expertise. ES does not recommend including the moorings issue in the proposed plan change (relating to Surface Water Activities) as it would delay the process. The review of the Coastal Plan is a long-term piece of work so in the meantime ES will mitigate the risk by closely scrutinising applications and educating contractors re provisions of the Coastal Plan.
- It was noted that it may also be worthwhile looking at the process for getting Maritime NZ (MNZ) and Harbour Master input as required by s.99a of the RMA. ES was not aware of any previous applications for the screw type of mooring in the FMA. It was useful for ES to view the moorings in the FMA with Pete Young recently and ES is now well aware of potential issues and keen to improve processes. Having inspected Cascade Cove and First

Arm, Pete considers both new moorings to be major navigational hazards. It was noted that it was difficult for ES to visit to check the suitability of each structure, but that the *Southern Winds* was available for ES staff to use.

- **Action 6.2:** Lyndon Cleaver (ES Harbour Master) will check with his counterparts in other areas re what issues they've had with screw moorings and what lessons can be learnt.
- It was noted that MNZ mainly focusses on large structures such as salmon farms and delegates comments on mooring applications to the Harbour Master. MNZ has received a complaint re ES' handling of the current issue, and they will be working to support ES. The Guardians suggested that the definition of a "large structure" is relative to the size of the receiving environment. The fiords are space constrained in terms of recognised anchorages, so structures that may not be considered as significant elsewhere may in fact be considered relatively large in the FMA.
- The Guardians queried whether ES had spoken directly to the mooring contractor whilst they were in Milford, as advised. ES Compliance confirmed they were yet to do so.
Frustration was expressed by the Guardians at the lack of action on the part of ES Compliance to speak with the mooring contractor and possibly prevent further installation of these types of anchoring systems throughout the FMA. It was noted that screw moorings were potentially about to be installed in other areas of the FMA that don't require resource consent and if deemed inappropriate, their removal will be onerous due to the engineering expertise required. There was a discussion about whether the Guardians should escalate the issue to Councillors. ES staff noted that the issue had already been highlighted at an executive level and was a priority. ES will formally respond to the Guardians' letter about the issue.
- **Action 6.3:** ES to contact contractor about the mooring issue.
- **Action 6.4:** ES to respond to the letter from the FMG, DOC and TAMI dated February 23, and then Guardians and ES to meet to discuss potential to assist in review of council processes relating to moorings.
- **Action 6.5:** Lucy Hicks to contact the Guardians when ES are ready to set up the working group to review moorings in the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.

7. Proposed PāuaMAC5 fisheries plan and shared interests in fisheries management in the FMA

- Rebecca introduced Storm Stanley and noted that the proposed PāuaMAC5 fisheries plan aligned well with the Guardians' vision.
- Storm outlined the background and reasoning behind the decision to create a PāuaMAC5 fisheries plan. The pāua fishery was a small part of the fishing industry in NZ, but pāua are a taonga species to iwi and an important shared fishery.
- It was noted that the pāua fisheries plans only cover commercial fishing (not recreational or customary) and must be taken into account by the Minister and Councils. There are similar fisheries plan in the Chatham Islands, Kaikoura/Canterbury and Marlborough/Nelson and plans to create one for the Wairarapa area. Fisheries Plans provide an opportunity for the industry to highlight their goals, show that they are keen to do the right thing and could self-manage (with powers devolved from MPI/Fisheries NZ).
- Storm gave an overview of the proposed PauaMAC 5 fisheries plan and more detailed annual operating plan. The annual operating plan is voted on at AGM and monitored annually with input from scientists and Fisheries NZ managers. Fisheries NZ are responsible for consultation on the proposed fisheries plan before it can be considered and approved by the Minister. If approved, it is expected to become operational in October 2022.

- Storm noted that he would share any information on habitats of particular significance with the Guardians. There was a discussion about what tools (other than bag limits) the Guardians could consider in their current recreational fishing work. It was noted that reporting and tracking of recreational fishing was important (preferably via a compulsory app) to help inform management measures. Any reduction in bag limits needed to be significant to be useful and should be supported by education of fishers. The Guardians could also consider increasing the minimum legal size as this has proven to be a useful way to rebuild the pāua fishery. Other options include accelerating the rebuilding of stocks by creating a spawning bank (translocating mature but sub-legal sized pāua into good habitat and leaving at high density to breed) and education on handling guidelines (eg re bleeding, spawning). It was noted that a package of measures was needed as a reduction in bag limits won't work if visitor numbers increase dramatically. There was a discussion about pāua patches being denuded in parts of the FMA.
- There was a discussion about what commercial information was available and could be useful for the Guardians' fisheries work. It was noted that all pāua boats have positioning and catch information which Fisheries NZ could share to show hot spots of where catch comes from. This could be compared with areas of concern to see if they're connected.
- There was a discussion about how the minimum pāua size varies in different areas and that this is determined by considering sexual maturity and years of growth.
- Section 111 catches were discussed, with the Guardians keen for industry to encourage all Section 111 take to occur on the open coast in the FMA.
- It was noted that the Guardians would like to feature PāuaMAC5's work in the next newsletter and that Storm is happy to work with Kerri-Anne on this.

8. Agency updates

a) Department of Conservation

- Richard Kinsey tabled the report and it was taken as read. It was noted that there was an update on the acoustic monitoring project, with Jenni and Leah recently placing recording devices in Charles and Nancy Sounds, and Preservation and Chalky Inlets. There was a discussion about the process to get resource consents for this work, how to remove any barriers to research being carried out and whether ACVs had responded to Jenni and Leah's request for assistance. It was noted that their research devices are permitted without the need for resource consent if they are in the water for less than 3 months at a time.
- **Action 8.1:** Richard to get feedback from Jenni Stanley and Leah Crowe on their experience of getting resource consents and the response from ACVs and pass it on to the Guardians.
- It was noted that Chloe Corne was now on study leave and that DOC were looking to fill the role during her leave period.
- A monitoring sub-committee meeting took place yesterday to review the prioritisation work and incorporating mātauranga Māori. A further meeting will need to be held to review fisheries and biosecurity work.
- **Action 8.2:** Richard to forward Haydee the actions from the monitoring sub-committee meeting to incorporate into the minutes.
- Aaron Fleming (DOC) acknowledged the Guardians' letters to Penny Nelson and the Minister of Conservation in late 2021, as well as their meeting with Penny in January 2022. Penny is interested in arranging a multi-agency trip with the Guardians in late 2022 to better understand the context of the FMA.

- It was noted that DOC had made 3 financial commitments to the Guardians in the current financial year: for the user guide, compliance trips and monitoring strategy. Work on the 2022/23 budget will commence in April/May and DOC will connect with the Guardians then to ensure their priorities are included. Rebecca is preparing for this by working with Richard on costings and a list of Guardian priorities.
- Rebecca thanked Aaron for attending the meeting to get a sense of all the different issues the Guardians are working on.

b) Fisheries NZ

- Mark Geytenbeek tabled the report and it was taken as read. It was noted that Fisheries NZ are proposing to make some technical amendments re the blue cod rules and would welcome a supporting submission from the Guardians.
- **Action 8.3:** Rebecca to draft a submission on Fisheries NZ technical proposal.
- **Action 8.4:** Mark Geytenbeek to send the Guardians the pāua dashboard information discussed by Storm Stanley during agenda item 7 to help give a sense of where commercial pāua harvesting is happening.
- It was noted that Fish Mainland are in the last stages of developing the recreational catch reporting app and will do engagement videos to help roll this out to users. They are negotiating an extension to the funding with the SFFF to enable the app functionality to be extended to multiple species.
- It was noted that consultation on the Guardians' proposed fisheries changes would now likely happen in March/April as there had been some delays getting the advice to the Minister.
- There was a discussion about what data was available to support the Guardians consultation and engagement work. It may be possible to improve the reliability of the Fisheries NZ data by cross-checking it against industry data. It was noted that the Guardians would find it useful to be able to show the rough percentage of total allowable catch caught in each area and the number of fishing events. Fisheries NZ may be able to provide number of events but there may be some sensitivity with the small number of fishers involved.
- **Action 8.5:** Guardians to confirm to Fisheries NZ what data they want to support engagement work.

c) Biosecurity NZ

- Jen Geange tabled the report and it was taken as read. It was noted that operational research funding had been secured to progress the *Undaria* tool development work. Jen is waiting to confirm the amount of funding available and then MPI will follow up with the BOI applicants about proceeding to next stage of a trial.
- Biosecurity NZ, DOC and ES are working on a plan for what happens after the Jobs for Nature programme finishes, as well as how to manage Chalky Inlet and agency budget commitments over the next few years.
- Jen is about to begin a review of the Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Plan.

d) ES Biosecurity

- Kathryn McLachlan presented the report. It was noted that the January 2022 compliance trip was cancelled. A trip was carried out in February but with less people due to Covid-19. A report on the trip is not yet available. ES is looking at ways compliance activities could be conducted in a scenario that the *Southern Winds* is not available in the future. One option is to upskill the *Undaria* divers to work in biosecurity surveillance.

- The Pathways Plan is due for review in April 2022, but advice to the ES executive recommends that the review be rescheduled for 2023 so that the new executive can make decisions on it and so that it can be broadened to include other parts of Murihiku Southland and also linked to the national strategy that is under development.
- It was noted that compliance action on the vessel ordered to leave has been delayed and is now scheduled for 14 March.
- Dive co-ordinators have now been appointed for the Jobs for Nature programme and 26 tonnes of *Undaria* has been removed to date. There was a discussion about how the bush was being affected by the *Undaria* disposal. It was noted that Brittany Pickett had been appointed as communications support for the project and Kathryn outlined some planned communications activities coming up. Rebecca thanked Kathryn for all her work on the project and Kathryn in turn thanked Pete Young, Jen Geange and Richard Kinsey for their assistance.

e) Ministry for the Environment (MFE)

- Fiona Newlove joined the meeting and noted that MFE was doing business continuity planning to ensure ongoing support for the Guardians if Covid-19 affected staff capacity.
- The term of three Guardians is due to end in October 2022, so MFE is also mapping out the appointments process and taking on board feedback and lessons learned from the last appointments process.
- Rebecca noted that MFE was also helping the Guardians on the issue of legal support.

f) ES Maritime

- Lyndon Cleaver (ES Harbour Master) noted that it would be useful to highlight the clean vessel pass requirements and updated radio repeater sites in the upcoming user guide update. It was noted that it would also be wise to mark the two new moorings as a navigational hazard in the guide.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of cruise ships returning and it was noted that there is no official confirmation of this ~~as~~ yet. Southland has 133 cruise ship visits booked for the upcoming season.

g) Fisheries Compliance

- Greg Forbes introduced himself and noted that Stephen Logie was unavailable.
- It was noted that there had been 8 days spent on fisheries compliance patrols in the FMA since December 2021. Most offences detected related to blue cod and the measurable state rules, but the levels of offending seem to be reducing.
- There was a discussion about how Fisheries Compliance work out how thorough they should be with each inspection, how to make compliance effective over such a big area and ways to incentivise people to report compliance issues.

9. Closing remarks

- Rebecca acknowledged the Guardians' effort and dedication during the last few months.
- Ali Ballantine suggested contacting Eric Roy on the ES Strategy and Policy Committee to flag the Guardians' desire to set up a working group.
- **Action 9.1:** Rebecca will phone Eric Roy to flag the Guardians' desire to set up a working group. It was noted that the next Guardians meeting on 4 May was likely to be online, but that either the August or November meetings could be in Te Anau. Richard suggested that the Guardians could co-ordinate their Te Anau meeting with Penny Nelson's visit in Oct/Nov 2022.

2. f) Progress on actions

Date Assigned	No.	Action	Who's responsible	To be completed by	Status
27 Nov 2019	8.3	Discuss pou pou with runaka and report their decision at next meeting	Stewart Bull	Feb 2021	Ongoing – James York now working on this. Stewart and Rebecca to discuss
5 May 2021	3.1	Rebecca to send an update to EDS re progress with case study proposal	Rebecca McLeod	Aug 2021	Ongoing
9 Aug 2021	6.2	Kathryn McLachlan (ES) to check whether the ES Operations Committee is the most appropriate forum for the Guardians to raise their concerns re the Bluff haul-out facility and undaria pathways plan.	Kathryn McLachlan (ES)	Aug 2021	Operations Committee is the most appropriate forum. Kathryn McLachlan will check who chairs the Operations Committee. Ali Meade is the best contact at ES.
9 Aug 2021	7.1	Haydee to send Chris Thomson a copy of the minutes to confirm that the Guardians have endorsed the report's recommendations.	Haydee Wilton	Aug 2021	Completed
9 Aug 2021	8.1	Fiona Newlove to forward link to Oceans and Fisheries Cabinet paper to the Guardians.	Fiona Newlove (MFE)	Aug 2021	Completed
9 Aug 2021	8.2	Rob Win and Richard Kinsey will arrange for consultation/discussion with the Tangata Tiaki and Conservation Board re the disposal of undaria biomass.	Rob Win (ES)/ Richard Kinsey (DOC)	Aug 2021	Completed. Tangata Tiaki and Conservation Board have now agreed to the plans for disposal of undaria biomass.
9 Aug 2021	9.2	Kerri-Anne and Pete will add an article on the clean-ups to the next Guardians' newsletter.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill / Pete Young	Oct 2021	To do in next newsletter
10 Nov 2021	2.1	Haydee to follow up any outstanding Conflict of Interest forms and work through any queries with Guardians. Haydee to phone Stewart to discuss the Conflict of Interest form.	Haydee/ All Guardians	Jan 2022	Ongoing
10 Nov 2021	2.2	Haydee to save the new Health & Safety papers into Databox.	Haydee	Dec 2021	Completed

10 Nov 2021	2.3	Kathryn McLachlan (ES) to advise Ali Ballantine re who the chair of the Operations Committee is, then Ali Ballantine will draft a letter to them following up on the Bluff haul-out facility.	Kathryn McLachlan (ES) / Ali Ballantine	Dec 2021	Completed
10 Nov 2021	2.4	Rebecca McLeod will check re potential sources of funding at MBIE for Bluff haul-out facility.	Rebecca McLeod	Jan 2022	Completed
10 Nov 2021	3.1	Rebecca will circulate the notes and actions from the 8 November meetings with Ministers and agency staff.	Rebecca McLeod	Nov 2021	Completed
10 Nov 2021	5.1	Bruce to forward update on Alpine Group Musket Bay application to Guardians Rebecca McLeod, Ali Ballantine and Mark Peychers.	Bruce Halligan	Nov 2021	Completed
10 Nov 2021	6.1	Rebecca will arrange a time for the Guardians to meet with Rachael McMillan (DOC) re MOP in early December.	Rebecca McLeod	Nov 2021	No longer relevant as Rachael is no longer working on MOP.
10 Nov 2021	8.1	Rebecca to introduce Jenni and Leah to ES resource consents staff and also Rebecca Robertson at ES so that they can discuss any connections in their work.	Rebecca McLeod	Nov 2021	Completed
10 Nov 2021	9.1	Rebecca and Will Pinfold to discuss monitoring methods/issues for undaria programme.	Rebecca McLeod and Will Pinfold	Nov 2021	Out of date



Minutes

The Fiordland Marine Guardians/Agencies Group meeting held via MS Teams on Wednesday 4 May 2022

Present:

Guardians:

- Rebecca McLeod (Chair)
- Mark Psychers
- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill
- Ali Ballantine
- John Cushen
- Gavin Tayles

Agencies and visitors:

- **Department of Conservation** – Richard Kinsey, Tony Preston
- **Environment Southland** - George Gericke, Bruce Halligan (until agenda item 10f); Ali Meade (for agenda items 6-8 and 10e), Lucy Hicks (for agenda item 10f).
- **MPI Fisheries Compliance** – Stephen Logie
- **Fisheries NZ** - Mark Geytenbeek (for agenda item 10c)
- **Biosecurity NZ** – Jen Geange (for agenda item 10), Justyna Paplinska (for agenda item 10d)
- **Ministry for the Environment** – Fiona Newlove (for agenda item 10a)
- **University of Otago** – Steph Bennington, Will Rayment (for item 6)
- **Victoria University of Wellington** – James Bell (for item 7)
- **Fiordland Charters** – Paul and Katherine Mitchell (for agenda items 5-7)
- **FMG Secretariat** – Haydee Wilton

Apologies: Stewart Bull, Pete Young (Guardians); Aaron Fleming, John Lucas (DOC); Lyndon Cleaver, Kathryn McLachlan (ES); Rob Win (Fisheries NZ)

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairperson Rebecca McLeod welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Steph Bennington from the University of Otago. There was a round of introductions.

2. Administrative tasks

a) Apologies

- The apologies were noted as above.

b) Confirmation of Minutes – 24 February 2022

- The Guardians noted and agreed the proposed edits marked on pages 5, 7 and 8 of the minutes, along with an additional typo for correction on page 7. Subject to these edits, the Guardians confirmed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting held 24 February 2022.
- Ali Ballantine proposed that the minutes be approved, and Mark Peychers seconded the motion. The motion was passed, with all voting in favour.

c) Disclosure Register

- It was noted that the Disclosure Register needed to be updated to note that Mark Peychers is a Director on the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council.

d) Budget

- Rebecca McLeod noted that there would be expenditure on legal advice, honoraria, publications and the Guardians' strategy weekend before the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- It was noted that the Guardians had discussed the budget for the 2022/23 financial year and that Rebecca would work with Fiona Newlove on this.

e) Health and Safety

- No health and safety issues were raised.

f) Progress on actions

- The actions were updated - refer to paper on pages 10-12.

3. Chair's report

- Rebecca noted that the Guardians had made a submission on plan change to chapter 16 of the Coastal Plan on commercial surface water activities.
- It was noted that the Guardians continue to receive concerns and enquiries about moorings, and that there is some uncertainty about the Guardians' role and how much influence they have. Bruce Halligan (Environment Southland) asked the Guardians to pass any concerns on to ES and it was noted that many of those who have expressed concerns have already been in touch with ES directly as well.
- There was a discussion about whether it would be useful to send out targeted communications to operators and consent holders about what the Guardians role is and regarding the proposed plan change in relation to commercial surface water activities. There was general agreement that some targeted communication could be useful – either via the newsletter in next financial year or just as an email.
- **Action 3.1:** Ali, Gavin and Kerri-Anne to draft a targeted communication to operators and consent holders regarding the Guardians' role and the proposed plan change.

4. Communications and Engagement

- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- There was a discussion about the proposed timeline for the annual report and it was noted that some of the dates are earlier than in previous years. The Guardians will work on their contributions at their upcoming strategy weekend in June 2022.
- **Action 4.1:** Haydee to send a reminder re the annual report timeline.

- Richard Kinsey (DOC) advised that he was expecting a price for the new Milford Sound kiosk shortly and would then update the timeline for this work.
- Haydee Wilton (MFE/FMG Secretariat) advised that the Guardians' user guide was with the designers currently but would then be going to print. She is clarifying how much agencies can contribute and the process for receiving these contributions. Mark Peychers queried how the Harrison Cove mooring update would be dealt with in the updated user guide and it was noted that an additional page would be added in pocket of user guide along with a sticker on the relevant page to point to the additional information.
- It was noted that there had been a letter from Rob Phillips on the biosecurity facilities in Bluff, which Rebecca McLeod read out.
- **Action 4.2:** Haydee to circulate copy of Rob Phillips letter re biosecurity facilities in Bluff.

5. Marine Reserve proposal

- Rebecca welcomed Paul and Katherine Mitchell to the meeting and thanked them for the time and thought they'd put into their proposal. Paul noted that it wasn't a full proposal at this stage and that they were just keen to share their ideas and get some feedback from the Guardians on whether there was scope for new reserves in the FMA.
- It was noted that the original reserves were set up to respond to threats and that it would be useful for the Guardians to understand what would be protected in the proposed reserve and what the threats were. There was a discussion about getting a mana whenua perspective on the philosophy of marine reserves.
- **Action 5.1:** Rebecca will ask for Stewart Bull's perspective on the marine reserve proposal.
- Rebecca noted that the Guardians currently had some big pieces of work in progress (including the fisheries sustainability review) which might address some of the concerns about biodiversity and abundance of species. It would be good to review the marine reserves in time, but it was not a priority for the Guardians at the moment. As part of any review, the Guardians would look consider the effect of the existing marine reserves and the distribution of reserves in the FMA by habitat type etc. The Guardians would also consider marine reserves holistically rather than looking at particular locations, and it was noted that Paul and Katherine's work with James Bell might help to inform the future locations of marine reserves.
- Rebecca thanked Paul and Katherine for engaging with the Guardians on the issue and noted that they looked forward to the results of their research with James Bell. Paul noted that the first set of data was expected in August and noted the recent marine heat wave and sponge bleaching.

6. Management implications of new research on dolphins in Tamatea/Dusky Sound

- Rebecca welcomed Will Rayment and Steph Bennington from the University of Otago.
- Rebecca tabled the paper and it was taken as read. It was noted that Rebecca had received an enquiry from a reporter re how the Guardians would respond to the research, and that she and Richard Kinsey (DOC) had prepared the paper to outline how the research might inform Guardians' activity – especially in relation to fisheries sustainability and commercial surface water activities.
- Steph Bennington provided an overview of the research. It was noted that the University of Otago and DOC have been researching bottlenose dolphins since 2007, looking at the same groups and their locations. 10 years of data showed stable patterns of distribution in Dusky and Doubtful Sounds, with the dolphins preferring the outer fiords in winter and inner fiords in summer. The data also showed that the dolphins continued to use the same habitats over long periods of time.

- There was a discussion about what prompted the Code of Conduct re marine mammals in Doubtful Sound and what impact it has had. It was noted that the Code and Dolphin Protection Zone stemmed from concern about declining dolphin populations and that there was a collaborative effort from DOC, the Guardians, operators and researchers to put the Code in place. The main impact from the Code has been to improve operator understanding and behaviour in relation to dolphins.
- There was a discussion about the need and possibility of extending the Code of Conduct to Dusky Sound given the increasing vessels there and the risks they pose to dolphins (eg. being struck, fisheries decline etc). It was noted that most operators had good knowledge through their experience in Doubtful Sound and that it would be relatively straightforward to extend the Code to Dusky Sound as well.
- It was noted that the most risk appears to be from recreational fishers who potentially don't have as much awareness of the impact that vessels have on dolphins and other marine mammals. There was a discussion about the need for an education campaign for recreational fishers and boaties to help change their behaviour around marine mammals. Raising awareness via TV fishing shows was noted as a possibility.
- It is difficult to contact recreational fishers so creating a Marine Mammal Sanctuary would potentially help to raise awareness. DOC can also enforce other marine mammal regulations if needed, however compliance can be challenging. It was noted that Marine Mammal Sanctuaries can have a whole range of objectives and would allow DOC to introduce by-laws and provide education. It would potentially take a long time to set up a Sanctuary so it would be good to get a sense of how urgent the issue is. It was noted that it would be good to do something to address the issue now before it escalates and before cruise ships return.
- There was a discussion about contacting those involved in the Bay of Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary to find out how things are going.
- **Action 6.1:** Kerri-Anne Edge Hill and Rebecca McLeod to contact team behind Bay of Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary to discuss progress, impact and any relevant lessons for potential Sanctuary in FMA.
- It was noted that all marine mammal permits now have time restrictions on them, which differ according to species and area. These permits do not apply to recreational boat users. DOC has provided some information on dolphins to feed into the Coastal Plan review and done some initial work on a marine mammal strategy for the FMA. There was a brief discussion on whether any further information was available and/or needed to help inform management plans on marine mammals.
- **Action 6.2:** Guardians to discuss approach/strategy on marine mammals in FMA at Guardians' strategy weekend in June 2022.

7. Update on past and future plans for VUW research team working in Fiordland

- Rebecca welcomed James Bell to the meeting and noted the Guardians' interest in hearing about the research and the implications it might have on management of the FMA.
- James noted that the research team works as a collective and provided a brief overview of their work in the FMA, including work on food availability, deep water monitoring, carbon recycling and how systems are affected by climate change.
- It was noted that the team are trying to understand patterns and what drives them and are looking at a number of different species including sponges which are abundant in deep water environments. The team has established 3 semi-permanent locations to monitor deep water environments and are looking at food availability as a driver in relation to sponges. The team are also using trophic models to assess the impacts of climate change.

- Upcoming projects include the Southern Fiordland Initiative on the impacts of climate change. This is a collaboration between the Cawthron Institute, Victoria University of Wellington and Fiordland Charters, and incorporates environmental monitoring and habitat mapping programmes. The habitat mapping programme includes citizen science components, with groups generating and submitting video information to create habitat maps and track changes over time.
- A research project to track the movements of seven gill sharks is also planned, along with a black coral research programme looking at distribution, population dynamics, fishery interactions, climate and other stressors.
- There was a discussion about sponge bleaching found during a recent visit to Fiordland, which is likely to be a result of temperature stress. 80 to 90 percent of sponges found during the visit were bleached across many different sites, mostly in the 0-10m depth range. It was noted that bleaching doesn't necessarily mean that the sponges are dead, but may mean that they will die prematurely from the impact. There was a brief discussion about getting people to take photos and videos from as many different sites as possible to assess size and scale of the issue.
- It was noted that there have also been issues with crayfish in poor condition, potentially due to temperature stress as well.
- There was a brief discussion about media interest in the sponge bleaching, and whether to wait until more was known about the issue. The Guardians offered to help with quotes for media articles if appropriate.
- Rebecca thanked James for the presentation and for his work on the issue.

8. Resource Consents – applications in progress

- Bruce Halligan (ES) tabled the paper and it was taken as read.
- It was noted that a new application had been received from Gravity Fishing for a new commercial surface water activity, which will likely require consultation with the Guardians, DOC and Te Ao Marama Inc (TAMI). A previous application in 2020 focussed on Fishing for a Feed, free diving etc.
- An application had also been received from Leah Crowe and Jenni Stanley re the use of acoustic recorders and is awaiting TAMI feedback.
- There was a brief discussion about the Guardians' current position on new commercial surface water activities and how new applications were treated while the plan change was being considered. It was noted that the proposed plan change cannot be considered until it is publicly notified, but that ES is scrutinising all new applications very closely.
- Bruce thanked the Guardians for their participation in the Environment Court hearing on the Alpine Group application. Further information on the effects on natural character has been requested by Commissioner McGarry before she reaches a decision.

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- There was a discussion about the new screw moorings in First Arm, Cascade Cove. As they have been consented, ES cannot change the approved locations or consents but the team are on high alert for further applications of this type. There was some discussion about the First Arm mooring not being in the correct consented location. It was noted that both the Guardians and the Harbour Master would like it shifted to the correct location so that it is less likely to impede others.

- It was noted that the Guardians share many operators' concerns about how long ES has taken to respond to the screw moorings issue. It was agreed that there would be further discussion on how to improve processes later in the meeting.

9. Destination Milford Sound

- John Cushen provided an overview of the Destination Milford Sound (DMS) group and it was noted that the group stemmed from a number of tourist operators who were unhappy with the Milford Opportunities Project proposals, especially around the airport.
- There was a discussion about whether the Guardians had a role or interest in DMS. It was agreed that while there were some shared concerns, the Guardians needed to remain independent and not align themselves with any one group.
- It was agreed that the Guardians could contact DMS to engage and share information with them regarding the Guardians role but need to keep the connection at that level rather than any alignment.
- **Action 9.1:** Rebecca to write a letter to DMS Chair re Guardians' role in relation to Milford proposals.
- It was noted that John probably receives lots of frustration due to people thinking the Guardians are not doing anything and that it would be useful to prepare some key messages so both John and the Guardians can respond to any concerns. There was a discussion about communicating with Tourism Fiordland and Great South regarding the Guardians' role and the need to listen to groups or individuals coming to the Guardians with concerns.
- **Action 9.2:** Guardians' communications sub-committee to discuss and plan how to communicate key messages re the Guardians' role and engage with groups.

10. Agency updates

a) Ministry for the Environment

- Fiona Newlove joined the meeting and provided an update on the proposed Guardians appointment process. It was noted that the Guardians' role description was being reviewed and that the Ministry would seek agreement from the Minister to initiate the process and start advertising the role shortly. Rebecca welcomed the opportunity for the Guardians to provide input to help streamline the process.
- Fiona apologised for the problems the Guardians were experiencing with Databox and noted that Haydee had escalated the issue to the head of IT services.

b) Department of Conservation

- Richard Kinsey tabled the report and it was taken as read. It was noted that an additional report from Leah Crowe on work in Patea/Doubtful Sound had been circulated, and that her report on Dusky Sound/Tamatea would be shared with the Guardians in due course too.
- The Guardians noted that the Harrison Cove mooring would need to go through a marine reserve permitting process as well as through ES' resource consents process. DOC's preference was for the resource consent process to be completed before the marine reserve permitting process starts.
- It was noted that new DOC staff member Hannah Williams will attend the next Guardians meeting.
- There was a brief discussion about the state of the *Undaria* disposal site, and it was noted that there was no sign of deer around it and that it wasn't as obtrusive as expected. DOC will continue to monitor the site.

c) Fisheries NZ

- o Mark Geytenbeek joined the meeting. It was noted that the Minister was now reviewing the paper re consulting on the Guardians' proposed changes to the fishing rules in the FMA. New bag limits will come into force on 5 May. These will impact the FMA but won't impact the Guardians' proposed changes.
- o It was noted that Fisheries NZ may need to present commercial information as heat maps due to commercial sensitivity.
- o Approval has now been given for the self-reporting fishing app to cover a range of species. Fish Mainland are looking for people to trial the app and it was noted that it may be an issue getting people to use the app if it's proving difficult to get people to trial it.
- o It was noted that Fisheries NZ hope to expand hapuka monitoring to Fiordland in light of potential closure. Fisheries NZ have completed blue cod potting surveys on east coast of South Island.
- o There has been some work on how ACVs are treated under the Fisheries Act, and it was noted that imposing boat catch limits on ACVs may be a potential option. Electronic reporting for ACVs may also be a possibility, following a review of electronic reporting and associated technical issues in the commercial fleet.
- o There was a discussion about the Guardians needing more information on the commercial sector/rules before engaging on the proposed changes to the fisheries rules. It was noted that Fisheries NZ could connect the Guardians with the commercial sector and facilitate a discussion. There was agreement that the Guardians should set up a sub-committee comprising Gavin and Pete to connect with the commercial sector.
- o **Action 10.1:** Gavin Tayles to work with Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ) to connect with the commercial fishing sector.

d) Biosecurity NZ

- o Jen Geange and Justyna Paplinska joined the meeting. Jen tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- o It was noted that there had been some updates since the paper was written. Vessel hull checks had been completed in Milford and Riverton and all were found to be [free of Undaria and other marine pests](#).
- o There was a brief discussion on progress with the development of an *Undaria* tool. Six applications had been received for the next stage, ~~including two new applications~~. It was noted that ~~several of the foursome of the~~ re-submitted applications had altered significantly, and that the proposed methods include suction-devices and suppression, with only one [potentially](#) focussing on eradication. The evaluation team have ~~chosen a shortlisted their~~ preferred candidates but need to clarify a few queries [with each party before a final decision is made](#).
- o It was noted that the [Fiordland](#)-biosecurity plan [review](#) is progressing well. Kath ~~Blakemoreryn McLachlan~~ has planned to meet with Guardians' biosecurity sub-committee members Ali, Rebecca, Gavin and John before finalising the plan by end of June 2022.
- o There was a brief discussion about the Cawthron Institute being contracted to complete a research project on effective biosecurity treatments for shellfish movements and responses to incursions. It was noted that Shaun Cunningham will be the researcher on the project and that he used to be in Kathryn's role at ES. Shaun will invite ES and the Guardians to workshops on the project. [Kathryn](#)

McLachlan and It was noted that Jen is also on the project team with Tim Riding and he is also on the Undaria tool project team-are also on the project team.

e) ES Biosecurity

- Ali Meade joined the meeting in Kathryn's absence. Ali tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- It was noted that the *Undaria* containment trip in April had been focussed on Breaksea. The Jobs for Nature divers found 29 plants – 23 of which were juvenile.
- Planning is underway to review the Fiordland Marine Pathways Management Plan in the second half of the year, following the local body elections. It was noted that ES staff are keen to work with the Guardians biosecurity sub-committee on the review of the plan.
- ES took part in a recent cross-agency compliance trip and found 10 out of 36 vessels checked did not have clean vessel passes. Three of the non-compliant vessels were recreational, and it was noted that some private charter vessels did not have current passes.
- ES staff recently completed a review of the Jobs for Nature programme and it was noted that 13 divers were trained and 11 employed. 30 tonnes of *Undaria* was removed from 25km of coastline in the project's first year, providing local businesses and covid-affected businesses with 3,500 and 1,600 hours of work respectively. There was a brief discussion about what will happen on the project in the coming months, and it was noted that there will be some further work in June, then the project will stop until September. It was noted that there had been positive media articles on the project and that valuable lessons have been learned to help inform future work.

f) ES Policy and Planning

- Lucy Hicks joined the meeting and provided an update on the proposed plan change 5 (re cswa) to the Coastal Plan. Submissions on the first step have now closed, however two groups were given extensions. It was noted that all consent holders, affected parties and interested parties were invited to submit but that not many submissions had been received. A summary of the submissions will go to TAMl and ES in the next 2 weeks. A summary of the proposed changes will be publicised in August before a further round of consultation in September.
- Lucy also provided a brief update on the Coastal Plan review and it was noted that the Regulatory committee were considering how to translate studies on natural character etc into policy. There was a brief discussion on the timeline for the Coastal Plan review and it was noted that it had been delayed a little due to the proposed plan change. Lucy advised that she would be able to provide a more substantial update at the next Guardians meeting. Rebecca thanked Lucy and ES for their work on the proposed plan change.
- There was a discussion about the recent issue with the screw moorings, and it was noted that the Guardians had written to Paul Hulse to suggest that ES review its processes in relation to resource consents for commercial surface water activities and moorings in the FMA. It was noted that applications seem to be becoming more complex and the Guardians are concerned that they are being relied on to provide expert advice/scrutiny. ES staff noted the lessons learnt from the moorings issue and that every FMA application is being reviewed critically and referred on to technical experts where needed, with costs passed on to the applicant.

- There was general agreement that it would be useful to have a workshop with ES staff and the Guardians to outline and review processes.
- **Action 10.2:** Bruce Halligan to organise workshop for Guardians, DOC, TAMI and ES consents, compliance and policy staff to outline and review processes for resource consent applications.
- There was a brief discussion about the need for key locations in the FMA to be flagged for extra scrutiny, and it was noted that these locations can be flagged and updated in the new Coastal Plan.

g) ES Maritime

- There was no specific ES Maritime report or discussion.

h) Fisheries Compliance

- Stephen Logie advised that he was only recently back from leave and will provide a full report at the next Guardians meeting.
- It was noted that a helicopter patrol carried out in November 2021 had provided valuable insights into where charter and commercial boats were operating. A planned compliance patrol in February was cancelled due to covid, but a cross-agency patrol was carried out in April which inspected 20 manned vessels with approximately 115 people on board. Spot checks were also carried out in Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi over Easter weekend, which found that many people don't understand the blue cod rules.

11. Closing remarks

- Rebecca thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and noted that the next Guardians and partner agency meeting would be on 10 August in Invercargill. The meeting will be in person if the situation with covid allows.
- It was noted that the Guardians are also holding a strategy workshop in June. Rebecca will send an email to the Guardians re arrangements for the workshop soon.

2. f) Progress on actions

Date Assigned	No.	Action	Who's responsible	To be completed by	Status
27 Nov 2019	8.3	Discuss pou pou with runaka and report their decision at next meeting	Stewart Bull	Feb 2021	Ongoing – James York now working on this. Stewart and Rebecca to discuss
5 May 2021	3.1	Rebecca to send an update to EDS re progress with case study proposal	Rebecca McLeod	Aug 2021	Ongoing
9 Aug 2021	9.2	Kerri-Anne and Pete will add an article on the clean-ups to the next Guardians' newsletter.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill / Pete Young	Oct 2021	To do in next newsletter
10 Nov 2021	2.1	Haydee to follow up any outstanding Conflict of Interest forms and work through any queries with Guardians. Haydee to phone Stewart to discuss the Conflict of Interest form.	Haydee/ All Guardians	Jan 2022	Ongoing
24 Feb 2022	5.1	Bruce Halligan to raise possibility of executive summaries being provided with applications for resource consents at consultant's forum.	Bruce Halligan	April 2022	Completed. Bruce will continue to raise this with the group.
24 Feb 2022	6.1	George Gericke (ES) will check whether the ES Compliance team has discussed the drilling restriction with the mooring contractor.	George Gericke (ES)	Feb 2022	Completed
24 Feb 2022	6.2	Lyndon Cleaver (ES Harbour Master) will check with his counterparts in other areas re what issues they've had with screw moorings and what lessons can be learnt.	Lyndon Cleaver (ES)	March 2022	Completed
24 Feb 2022	6.3	ES to contact contractor about the mooring issue.	Paul Hulse (ES)	Feb 2022	Completed
24 Feb 2022	6.4	ES to respond to the letter from the FMG, DOC and TAMU dated February 23, and then Guardians and ES to meet to discuss potential to assist in review of council processes relating to moorings.	Paul Hulse (ES)	Feb 2022	Completed – to be discussed later in meeting
24 Feb 2022	6.5	Lucy Hicks to contact the Guardians when ES are ready to set up the working group to review moorings in the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.	Lucy Hicks (ES)	April 2022	Ongoing

24 Feb 2022	8.1	Richard to get feedback from Jenni Stanley and Leah Crowe on their experience of getting resource consents and the response from ACVs and pass it on to the Guardians.	Richard Kinsey (DOC)	April 2022	3 out of 4 approvals have been received – TAMI still to respond. Pure Salt and Fiordland Charters have been in touch.
24 Feb 2022	8.2	Richard to forward Haydee the actions from the monitoring sub-committee meeting to incorporate into the minutes.	Richard Kinsey (DOC)	Feb 2022	Completed – see below
24 Feb 2022	8.3	Rebecca to draft a submission on Fisheries NZ technical proposal.	Rebecca McLeod	Mar 2022	Completed
24 Feb 2022	8.4	Mark Geytenbeek to send the Guardians the pāua dashboard information discussed by Storm Stanley during agenda item 7 to help give a sense of where commercial pāua harvesting is happening.	Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ)	Mar 2022	Still to do
24 Feb 2022	8.5	Guardians to confirm to Fisheries NZ what data they want to support engagement work.	Rebecca McLeod	April 2022	Ongoing
24 Feb 2022	9.1	Rebecca will phone Eric Roy to flag the Guardians desire to set up a working group.	Rebecca McLeod	March 2022	Completed. Rebecca wrote to Nicol Horrell instead and discussed the issue with Paul Hulise.

Actions from FMG communications sub-committee meeting on 22 February 2022

2. Update on progress on actions/items discussed at 2021 meetings
 - Outstanding item: Signage for Deepwater Basin boat ramp in Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi and Doubtful Sound/Patea.
 - Action 2.1: Richard and Crystal to confirm location and cost to install platform and standard DOC kiosk design at Deepwater Basin. They will supply provide this information by 21 Mar or advise alternative timeframes. **Ongoing**
3. User guide re-print needs to be funded in the current FY.
 - Action 3.1: Kathryn to confirm if there is any ES funding available for a user guide re-print this financial year. **Completed**
 - Action 3.2: Kathryn to check and advise timing of CVP applications in previous years to help work out the likely demand for copies of user guide in coming months. **Completed**
 - Action 3.3: All agencies and Guardians to identify any corrections needed to user guide, and provide this information by 1 Mar. **Completed**
 - Action 3.4: All agencies and Guardians to identify upcoming events where user guides could be distributed to help work out how many copies should be printed. **Completed**

4. Remaining FMA communications priorities for the current FY

- Action 4.1: Guardians to advise Crystal if there are any FMG messages which could be shared in DOC's upcoming Sea Week communications. **Completed**

5. FMA communications priorities for 2022/23

- Action 5.1: Kerri-Anne to send copy of previous FMG poster/brochure to Haydee, to help work out the scope of a re-design/re-print. **Completed**
- Action 5.2: Haydee to source quotes for re-design and re-print of FMG poster/brochure. **Ongoing**
- Action 5.3: Kerri-Anne and Haydee? Draft the copy for the brochure. **Ongoing**

6. Other items in light of key areas of work

- Action 6.1: Haydee to add comms sub-committee actions into minutes for 24 Feb FMG meeting. **Completed**

Actions from FMG monitoring sub-committee meeting on 23 February 2022

- Richard to work with Kath Blakemore to continue with the Monitoring Plan and prioritisation of monitoring/research activities
- Richard to consult with Fisheries and Biosecurity reps on content of the Monitoring Plan
- Richard to work on incorporating Mātauranga Māori into the Monitoring Plan and to investigate future funding opportunities for contracting a specialist to conduct this.
- Richard to add long term monitoring work into business planning as a priority piece of work for 2022/23



Minutes

The Fiordland Marine Guardians/Agencies Group meeting held via MS Teams on Wednesday 10 August 2022

Present:

Guardians:

- Rebecca McLeod (Chair)
- Mark Psychers
- Peter Young
- Ali Ballantine
- John Cushen
- Gavin Tayles
- Stewart Bull

Agencies and visitors:

- **Department of Conservation** – Richard Kinsey, John Lucas, Hannah Williams
- **Environment Southland** - George Gericke, Lyndon Cleaver, Kathryn McLachlan (from agenda item 8b)
- **MPI Fisheries Compliance** – Stephen Logie (from agenda item 5)
- **Fisheries NZ** – Rob Win, Mark Geytenbeek (for agenda item 8b)
- **Ministry for the Environment** – Fiona Newlove (for agenda item 8g)
- **Southland Conservation Board** – Shona Sangster
- **Rakiura Marine Guardians** (also Southland Conservation Board) – Bill Watt (for agenda items 1 – 3 and 8)
- **University of Otago** (Department of Marine Science) – Dr Robert Smith (for agenda item 7)
- **FMG Secretariat** – Haydee Wilton

Apologies: Kerri-Anne Edge Hill (Guardians); Tony Preston (DOC); Bruce Halligan, Lucy Hicks (ES); Jen Geange, Justyna Paplinska (Biosecurity NZ)

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairperson Rebecca McLeod welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Shona Sangster from the Southland Conservation Board and Bill Watt from the Rakiura Marine Guardians. There was a round of introductions.
- It was noted that agenda item 8f would exclude the public, as allowed for under schedule 2 of the *Protocol between the Fiordland Marine Guardians and the Management Agencies*.

2. Administrative tasks

a) Apologies

- The apologies were noted as above. It was noted that Tony Preston (DOC) is on secondment and won't attend the next few Guardians' meetings.

b) Confirmation of Minutes – 4 May 2022

- The Guardians noted and agreed the proposed edits marked in items 8 and 10d of the minutes, along with an additional correction under item 6. Subject to these edits, the Guardians confirmed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting held 4 May 2022.
- Mark Peychers proposed that the minutes be approved, and Ali Ballantine seconded the motion. The motion was passed, with all voting in favour.

c) Disclosure Register

- No conflicts of interest were raised for the Disclosure Register or in relation to the meeting agenda.

d) Budget

- Rebecca McLeod noted that the Guardians had fully spent their budget again in the 2021/22 financial year. The over-spend on honoraria reflected the Guardians' heavy workload, and design costs were also higher than expected due to the user guide update. It was noted that disbursements would have been higher if more meetings had been in person.
- The budget for the 2022/23 financial year set aside more funds for honoraria, but it was noted that the budget for disbursements may also need to increase.
- Haydee Wilton noted that some honoraria payments from the end of the financial year appeared to have been delayed and asked the Guardians to check and advise her re any unpaid claims from this time.

e) Health and Safety

- Rebecca noted the decision to hold the meeting online due to the increased levels of covid risk. It was agreed that it would be good to hold the next meeting in person if possible.
- John Cushen queried whether he should be the Guardians' health and safety representative, and it was agreed that he should be.

f) Progress on actions

- The actions were updated - refer to paper on pages 9-11.

3. Chair's report

- Rebecca acknowledged the huge amount of work and progress that the Guardians and agencies had achieved lately.
- Rebecca asked the Guardians and agency staff to review and refresh their memories of the *Protocol between the Fiordland Marine Guardians and the Management Agencies*, as it helped to clarify and resolve a lot of issues. She indicated that the Guardians would like to facilitate a discussion about any differences between the protocol and what happens in practice and asked agencies to brief their senior managers on the requirements in the protocol. It was noted that references to Databox need to be updated in the protocol, and

that sub-committees are expected to report to the Guardian and partner agency meetings every 6 months.

- **Action 3.1:** Sub-committee leads are to report back to the main Guardians/partner agency meeting every 6 months as part of their agency reports.
- Rebecca highlighted the section in the protocol which allows MfE to seek reimbursement from agencies for Guardians' honoraria, and it was noted that the Guardians should consider this option on a case-by-case basis (e.g. participation in workshops).
- **Action 3.2:** Senior managers at Fisheries NZ and ES to check budget available to reimburse MfE for Guardians' input into fisheries consultation work and Coastal Plan review.
- It was noted that the Guardians discussed their increasing workload at the June strategy weekend and are considering the key areas of focus that require the most FMG input. There was a discussion about the possibility of finding out what resource consent renewals are coming up so that the Guardians can plan for this.
- **Action 3.3:** George Gericke to check if the Guardians can be notified of upcoming resource consent renewals when 6-month reminders are issued.
- It was noted that Kerri-Anne was stepping down from the Guardians at the end of her term on 31 October 2022, and a proper farewell to acknowledge her huge contribution is planned for the next Guardians meeting in November.
- Haydee Wilton is also leaving the Secretariat role soon to take up another role at MFE but will continue to support the Guardians until the Secretariat role is filled. Haydee's impressive contribution to the Guardians was acknowledged and she was thanked for her service.

4. Guardians' strategy workshop outcomes

- It was noted that the strategy weekend provided a valuable opportunity for the Guardians to look at the bigger picture and think strategically. Topics for discussion included the Coastal Plan review, the Guardians' role in the Milford Opportunities Project, appointments and succession planning, workload management/prioritisation, key relationships, potential for further marine mammal protection, long-term fisheries management and risk assessment in the FMA. The Guardians also met with Shona Sangster to discuss connections with the Southland Conservation Board.
- Rebecca was re-appointed as Guardians' Chair, and the 21 actions from the weekend have been completed or are in progress.

5. Communications and Engagement

- Rebecca tabled the paper and noted that it summarised a busy period of engagement regarding the moorings and sponge bleaching issues, as well as preparation for the fisheries consultation, work on the annual report and some complicated resource consent applications and submissions.
- It was noted that Pure Salt planned to work with [LEARNZ](#) to create a virtual field trip for secondary school students to Tamatea/Dusky Sound. The trip would accompany scientists and could include sections on the Guardians' management model, *Undaria* control programme and tool development, fisheries pressure and management. There was a discussion about whether the Guardians should provide a letter of support, and there was general agreement that it would be good to get involved in the education space, raise the Guardians' profile and potentially spark support from the next generation.

- **Action 5.1:** Rebecca to write letter of support re Pure Salt's proposed virtual field trip with LEARNZ.
- Haydee provided an update on progress with the annual report and website updates. There was a brief discussion about the user guide update, including a suggestion to get reviews and testimonials to help promote it.

6. Resource consents – applications in progress

- George Gericke tabled the paper and provided an update. It was noted that it had been a light period for new applications, with only 3-4 new applications received. The trend is that more applications are starting to get notified. There was discussion on various applications received and their status, including applications from Excell Fishing Co, Tourism Milford, DOC, Real Journeys, Southern Discoveries, Gravity Fishing, Maria Kuster and Sean Ellis.
- There was a discussion about two recent applications for surface water activity from Real NZ. The Guardians discussed concerns with the applicant and as a result RealNZ offered to restrict one consent (Wanderer) geographically so it couldn't operate in the Southern fiords as it could on its existing consent. It was noted that the net effect would be better for the FMA. There was also a query regarding how long applications could sit pending payment, and George agreed to check if there is a prescribed timeframe.
- **Action 6.1:** George Gericke to check and advise if there is a prescribed timeframe to pay fees for resource consent applications.
- It was noted that Commissioner McGarry's decision on the Alpine Group application was expected in the next week.

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- There was a discussion about how applications will be considered following public notification of the proposed plan change on 18 July. Although the proposed plan change took effect from the date of public notification, both the operative and proposed plan will need to be taken into account until the proposed plan change is agreed. More applications are likely to be notified under the proposed plan change, which may impact the Guardians' workload. It was noted that the proposed plan change may also have a negative effect of moving more activities to Rakiura/Stewart Island.
- It was noted that the Southland Conservation Board (SCB) had been excluded as an affected party for some time, but following consultation with ES were now included as an affected party once again. The Guardians will include SCB in future affected parties' meetings too.

7. Causes of recent marine heatwave along West Coast South Island

- Rebecca introduced Dr Robert Smith and welcomed him to the meeting. It was noted that Robert had been in the media a lot recently regarding the sponge bleaching event and had given 16 interviews in the last 12 months. Robert is a marine oceanographer with an interest in marine heatwaves and is a contributor to the 5-year MBIE-funded Moana Project. His research seeks to understand what causes water temperatures to go so high and stay so high for so long, and he's interested in how the research could support the Guardians' goals.
- It was noted that a marine heatwave is an extended period of high temperatures, which can last for several months and cover huge areas. It can have devastating effects on marine ecosystems, affecting mortality, distribution and abundance of species. To be considered a

heatwave, the temperature must fall within the top 10% of recorded temperatures for a period of 5 days or more.

- It was noted that an extreme marine heatwave occurred on the west and south-west coast of the South Island in April 2022, with 1000km of coastline experiencing temperatures of almost 5°C above average for 105 days. It was the longest duration heatwave observed around NZ, with previous heatwaves lasting 50-75 days. It was the most impactful event in terms of heat stress for species.
- Marine heatwaves are becoming more common, and Robert is looking into the causes and contributors such as ocean currents, warming of ocean surface and changing wind speeds and directions. It was noted that in the lead-up to the April 2022 event, the Tasman Sea was already significantly warmer than usual to 60-100m + in depth – likely due to different wind patterns. There was also a blocking high-pressure/La Nina system, which brought warmer waters from the Tasman Sea into the area. These warmer waters dropped down and stopped cooler, deeper waters from coming up. Robert has started a collaboration with Prof. James Bell (Victoria University of Wellington).
- The Guardians asked Robert whether any work had been done on how marine heatwaves impacted the inner fiords in comparison to the coastal area. It was noted that Robert was working on that with the Cawthron Institute and Victoria University of Wellington and should have results within the next 6 weeks or so. Preliminary results showed that the inner fiords normally lag behind coastal areas by 2 weeks and that heat is retained for longer than normal, especially in low rainfall conditions. A lack of long-term temperature records inside the fiords hindered research.
- There was a brief discussion on whether the recent sea sponge bleaching event was due to water temperatures or lack of tannins/light stress. Prof. James Bell is considering this issue, but findings so far suggest temperature stress does play a role.
- It was noted that the water in the fiords was already quite warm for the time of year, that unusual fish species were appearing, and male lobsters are not in shell as they normally would be. There was a discussion about how coastal inlets can cause heating, the locations and technology of Cawthron's temperature monitoring gauges and a current funding application for research into the impacts of heatwaves on lobsters. It was noted that Steve Chiswell's (NIWA) paddle crab research shows that the temperatures from the year before influence abundance and fisheries management strategies.
- There was a discussion about whether it was forecast to be warmer than normal in the coming summer. Robert noted that forecasting heatwaves was an emerging area of research – can only forecast ahead for 7 days at present but are looking to extend to several weeks/months. It is hoped that there will be tools available for forecasting in the next few years, but observations of actual events are needed to test forecasting tools. There was a discussion about the links between La Nina weather patterns and heatwaves, the impacts water temperatures are having on fish stocks/marine life in different areas and whether it is reflected in fish catch data.
- It was noted that the heatwave research could help the Guardians to look at what the Fiordland Marine Area will be like in 20-30 years and what management actions could be taken to restore or adapt to changes. The Guardians thanked Robert for his presentation and agreed that the information helped to support their work on fisheries.
- **Action 7.1:** Haydee to share Robert's slides.

8. Agency updates

a) Department of Conservation

- DOC staff thanked the Guardians for their letter confirming their position re the Harrison Cove mooring. The DOC district team are working with the national compliance team on DOC's response and will advise the Guardians of their decision soon. DOC is considering the roles of both the operator and contractor involved in the installation.
- It was noted that Kath Blakemore is working on a new 10-year monitoring and research plan and has used DOC's new monitoring and reporting framework for the first draft. The plan will look at the most important issues and ongoing long-term monitoring required in the wider FMA rather than just marine reserves and will hopefully help the Guardians and the agencies prioritise future research and monitoring activities. There was a discussion about aligning the plan with regional and national context and whether the scope of the plan should cover potential Masters and PhD projects or be limited to projects within DOC's budget. It was noted that the plan was trying to package up all the data and work on species so that changes over time in key species could be easily detected. There was a discussion about how the plan fitted with fisheries research, and it was noted that Fisheries NZ had stock-specific research plans which they could share with DOC to see if there was any crossover and opportunities to work together. DOC is keen for the Guardians' input on what should be included in the plan and will book a monitoring sub-committee meeting in ahead of the main Guardians meeting in November.
- It was noted that DOC are also scoping a potential project on mātauranga māori and that DOC should talk to Papatipu Rūnanga about this in the first instance. Richard will phone Stewart to discuss further.
- It was noted that the Guardians have been discussing marine mammal protection and management approaches such as marine mammal sanctuaries following Steph Bennington's item at the last Guardians' meeting. There was a brief discussion about marine mammal sanctuaries (either fisheries or tourism related), marine mammal permits and the code of practice in place for Doubtful Sound/Patea. The Guardians would like DOC to produce an options paper on managing marine mammal protection in the FMA.
- **Action 8.1:** Richard Kinsey to present options paper on managing marine mammal protection in the FMA at the Guardians' November meeting.

b) Fisheries NZ

- It was noted that Fisheries NZ were holding consultation sessions on the proposed amendments to fisheries regulations in the last week of August. All the venues have now been booked and the Guardians have been sent invitations. Work is progressing on the communications plan and actions sheet, and Fish Mainland's part of the presentation is progressing well. It was noted that Rebecca would like to discuss the submission form and communications plan, and that she can work on the Frequently Asked Questions. There was a brief discussion re delays to the video, the possibility of extending timeframes for this and that Fish Mainland may not be up to date with progress on the video.
- There was a brief discussion about other Fisheries NZ consultations that may be of interest to the Guardians, including spear fishing and habitats of significance for fisheries management.

c) Biosecurity NZ

- The Biosecurity NZ report was taken as read. There were no questions to follow up with Jen Geange.

- There was a brief discussion about Shaun Cunningham's (Cawthron Institute) research to identify treatments to help reduce marine biosecurity risks associated with the aquaculture industry and improve the response to any marine incursions. The Guardians have had some initial discussions with Shaun about this work and he'd like to engage with them further. There is a workshop in Nelson on 15 September that Rebecca will attend, as well as a presentation to the Top of the South crew on 29 Sept.

d) ES Biosecurity

- It was noted that there had been preliminary meetings at ES re the Pathways Plan review and Regional Pathway Management Plan.
- There was a brief discussion about media coverage of the Reel Passion prosecution – there were 3 articles in Stuff, the ODT and the Herald.
- Lucy Hicks will be in touch to confirm dates for a second workshop on moorings and can provide the Guardians with a paper for the November meeting if desired.
- It was noted that Jobs for Nature divers are currently deployed in Easy Harbour, Rakiura for *Undaria* removal. Four more divers are being brought on to make up a team of 14. A workshop on *Didemnum vexillum* is planned for Monday 15 August if any Guardians are interested in attending.
- It was noted that no *Undaria* was found during the last containment trip to Breaksea (Acheron to Sunday Cove) and that it was removed from all hotspots last year – with high intensity sites covered twice. The team will now survey all areas again. There was a discussion about the condition and impacts of the *Undaria* dump site in teh Fiordland National Park. It was noted that the Jobs for Nature team will review the dump site in September and that Ngāi Tahu would like a report on the results of the monitoring. The *Undaria* pile has less visual impact than expected and is 10-20m from shore. DOC and Pete Young can provide photos to help with monitoring and monitor nutrient levels to check for seepage.
- There was a discussion re plans for when the Jobs for Nature project finishes, and it was noted that Kath Blakemore had been contracted by MPI to draft a 10-year Fiordland Marine Biosecurity Strategy, and 5 year Operational Plan in conjunction with DOC, ES and FMO and ES(?). The plan involves resource sharing with the *Undaria* tool development but cannot be shared before it's discussed at senior level on further detailed required to the plan (Stage 2). It was noted that the Guardians would like to see the plan before it's fully confirmed.
- Kathryn advised that the inserts and stickers for the *Beneath the Reflections* user guide were being printed and would be ready for distribution in the week starting 15 August. Submissions for the proposed plan change were also due to close in the week starting 15 August.

e) ES Maritime

- It was noted that ES Harbourmaster directions have been issued for Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi in relation to vessel proximity to waterfalls. Vessels can no longer come within 50m of waterfalls. The directions follow several incidents where debris from waterfalls has struck vessels in Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi. The Harbourmaster consulted with the Fiordland pilotage group and other Harbourmasters about the issue and proposed directions. It was noted that a distance of 15m was unlikely to offer sufficient protection to vessels and that debris fall can happen any time of year and is unrelated to rainfall. The directions focus on safety rather than commercial interests, and it was noted that commercial operators are likely to have different views. There was a

discussion about liability in case of injury or death and the enforceability of the directions. It was noted that the directions were enforceable but can't be monitored all the time, so they rely on operators complying and understanding that it's for their own safety.

- There was a brief discussion about the number of cruise ships (116) and types of vessels expected to visit Fiordland over the summer season. It was noted that the number expected was less than pre-Covid but was still high, and that some of these were smaller expedition-type vessels. The Deed of Agreement process was discussed briefly, in terms of the potential for a variation to the Deed that acknowledges smaller size classes of vessels and specific rules applying to them. The implications for the wider FMA of banning cruise ships from Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, as proposed by the Milford Opportunities Project, was discussed.
- **Action 8.2:** Lyndon to send Haydee details of expected vessel numbers/types/size classes for upcoming season and pre-Covid vessel numbers/types/size classes for circulation to the Guardians.

f) Fisheries Compliance

- It was noted that Stephen Logie was happy for Shona Sangster (Southland Conservation Board) to stay on for the Fisheries Compliance update.

s6(c)



g) Ministry for the Environment

- Fiona Newlove joined the meeting and gave a quick update on the Guardians' appointment process. It was noted that the Minister had agreed in principle to re-appoint Ali Ballantine and Pete Young, but that a new Guardian was being sought to fill the vacant role when Kerri-Anne's current term ended. Applications for the role closed recently, but more nominations may come through the Ministerial consultation process. The Ministry received significantly fewer applications than in the last appointments round so advertising/promotion of the role may be something to review for the next round.
- It was noted that Haydee would finish in the Secretariat role soon, but that she would stay on to help with the recruitment and coaching of the new staff member.

9. Closing remarks

- Rebecca thanked everyone for attending and noted that the Guardians looked forward to working more with Shona and Bill in future. Shona advised that she would email the

Guardians re any issues that they could potentially work on together with the Rakiura Marine Guardians or Southland Conservation Board.

- It was noted that the next Guardians meeting would be in Te Anau on 15 November and Richard Kinsey offered to help with any meeting logistics.
- The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

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2. f) Progress on actions

Date Assigned	No.	Action	Who's responsible	To be completed by	Status
27 Nov 2019	8.3	Discuss pou pou with runaka and report their decision at next meeting	Stewart Bull	Feb 2021	Ongoing – James York now working on this. Stewart and Rebecca to discuss
5 May 2021	3.1	Rebecca to send an update to EDS re progress with case study proposal	Rebecca McLeod	Aug 2021	No longer relevant, remove.
9 Aug 2021	9.2	Kerri-Anne and Pete will add an article on the clean-ups to the next Guardians' newsletter.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill / Pete Young	Oct 2021	To do in next newsletter
10 Nov 2021	2.1	Haydee to follow up any outstanding Conflict of Interest forms and work through any queries with Guardians.	Haydee/ All Guardians	Jan 2022	Ongoing
24 Feb 2022	6.5	Lucy Hicks to contact the Guardians when ES are ready to set up the working group to review moorings in the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.	Lucy Hicks (ES)	April 2022	Ongoing
24 Feb 2022	8.1	Richard to get feedback from Jenni Stanley and Leah Crowe on their experience of getting resource consents and the response from ACVs and pass it on to the Guardians.	Richard Kinsey (DOC)	April 2022	Richard to ask Jenni and Leah to email feedback re their experience.
24 Feb 2022	8.4	Mark Geytenbeek to send the Guardians the pāua dashboard information discussed by Storm Stanley during agenda item 7 to help give a sense of where commercial pāua harvesting is happening.	Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ)	Mar 2022	Completed
24 Feb 2022	8.5	Guardians to confirm to Fisheries NZ what data they want to support engagement work.	Rebecca McLeod	April 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	3.1	Ali, Gavin and Kerri-Anne to draft a targeted communication to operators and consent holders regarding the Guardians' role and the proposed plan change.	Ali Ballantine Gavin Tayles Kerri-Anne Edge Hill	Aug 2022	Check minutes for rationale and background to this action. Coordinate to include in next newsletter if appropriate.

4 May 2022	4.1	Haydee to send a reminder re the annual report timeline.	Haydee Wilton	June 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	4.2	Haydee to circulate copy of Rob Phillips letter re biosecurity facilities in Bluff.	Haydee Wilton	June 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	6.1	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill and Rebecca McLeod to contact team behind Bay of Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary to discuss progress, impact and any relevant lessons for potential Sanctuary in FMA.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill Rebecca McLeod	June 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	6.2	Guardians to discuss approach/strategy on marine mammals in FMA at Guardians' strategy weekend in June 2022.	All Guardians	June 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	9.1	Rebecca to write a letter to DMS Chair re Guardians' role in relation to Milford proposals.	Rebecca McLeod	June 2022	Completed
4 May 2022	9.2	Guardians' communications sub-committee to discuss and plan how to communicate key messages re Guardians' role and engage with groups.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill and communications sub-committee	Aug 2022	To do in next newsletter
4 May 2022	10.1	Gavin Tayles to work with Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ) to connect with the commercial fishing sector.	Gavin Tayles Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ)	Aug 2022	Ongoing
4 May 2022	10.2	Bruce Halligan to organise workshop for Guardians, DOC, TAMI and ES consents, compliance and policy staff to outline and review processes for resource consent applications.	Bruce Halligan (ES)	Aug 2022	Workshop held 9 June 2022. Completed.

Actions from FMG communications sub-committee meeting on 22 February 2022

1. **Update on progress on actions/items discussed at 2021 meetings**
 - Outstanding item: Signage for Deepwater Basin boat ramp in Milford Sound/Piopirotahi and Doubtful Sound/Patea.
 - **Action 2.1:** Richard and Crystal to confirm location and cost to install platform and standard DOC kiosk design at Deepwater Basin. They will supply provide this information by 21 Mar or advise alternative timeframes. **Ongoing**
2. **FMA communications priorities for 2022/23**
 - **Action 5.2:** Haydee to source quotes for re-design and re-print of FMG poster/brochure. **Ongoing**
 - **Action 5.3:** Kerri-Anne and Haydee? Draft the copy for the brochure. **Ongoing**

Actions from FMG monitoring sub-committee meeting on 23 February 2022

- Richard to work with Kath Blake more to continue with the Monitoring Plan and prioritisation of monitoring/research activities
- Richard to consult with Fisheries and Biosecurity reps on content of the Monitoring Plan
- Richard to work on incorporating Mātauranga Māori into the Monitoring Plan and to investigate future funding opportunities for contracting a specialist to conduct this.
- Richard to add long term monitoring work into business planning as a priority piece of work for 2022/23

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Minutes

The Fiordland Marine Guardians/Agencies Group meeting held In Te Anau and via Zoom on Tuesday 15 November 2022

Present:

Guardians:

- Rebecca McLeod (Chair)
- Mark Peychers
- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill
- Pete Young
- Ali Ballantine
- Stewart Bull
- Gavin Tayles

Agencies and visitors:

- **Department of Conservation** – Richard Kinsey; Hannah Williams
- **Environment Southland** – Kathryn McLachlan, George Gericke, Dean Lowry, Bruce Halligan (for agenda item 7), Lyndon Cleaver
- **MPI Fisheries Compliance** – Stephen Logie
- **Fisheries NZ** - Mark Geytenbeek, Rob Win, Sam Heenan
- **Biosecurity NZ** – Justyna Paplinska
- **Ministry for the Environment** – Fiona Newlove (for agenda item 9c)
- **Victoria University** – James Bell (for agenda item 5)
- **Meridian** – Chris Thomson
- **Cawthron Institute** – Chris Cornelisen (for agenda item 8)
- **Pure Salt** – Maria Kuster
- **Previous Guardians** – Malcolm Lawson, Jerry Excell
- **FMG Secretariat** – Kate Brooking

Apologies: John Cushen (Guardian); Viv Shaw (NZ Conservation Authority), Aaron Fleming (DOC), John Lucas (DOC), Tony Preston (DOC), Ali Meade (ES), Lucy Hicks (ES), Jen Geange (Biosecurity NZ), Shona Sangster (Southland Conservation Board).

1. Welcome and introductions

- Chairperson Rebecca McLeod welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new Guardians' Secretariat Kate Brooking, new agency members Dean Lowry (Environment Southland) and Sam Heenan (Fisheries NZ), and Chris Thomson from Meridian, Maria Kuster from Pure Salt, and previous Guardians Malcolm Lawson and Jerry Excell.

2. Administrative tasks

a) Apologies

- The apologies were noted as above.

b) Confirmation of Minutes – 10 August 2022

- The Guardians noted and agreed the proposed edits marked in item 8d of the minutes. Subject to these edits, the Guardians confirmed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting held 10 August 2022.
- Rebecca McLeod proposed that the minutes be approved, and Mark Peychers seconded the motion. The motion was passed, with all voting in favour.

c) Disclosure Register

- No conflicts of interest were raised for the Disclosure Register or in relation to the meeting agenda.
- It was noted that if anyone has any updates to get in touch with Kate Brooking.

d) Budget

- Rebecca McLeod noted that the Guardians are well into the 2022/23 budget. It was noted that the budget (item 2d) actual spend does not include the Annual Report and Newsletter costs yet.
- Kerri-Anne noted that the advertising cost was for a fishing article.

s6(c); s9(2)(b)(ii)



e) Health and Safety

- It was noted that John Cushen is the Health and Safety officer.
- There was a brief discussion about COVID and it was noted that if feeling unwell please do not attend meetings; attend online.

f) Progress on actions

- The actions were updated - refer to paper on pages 15-17.
- Kate will maintain a list of items for the next Guardians newsletter.
- There was a discussion about the Fisheries Consultation work and Coastal Plan Review. It was noted that Fisheries NZ contributed approximately \$10,000 for this and Rebecca does not consider it appropriate for the Guardians to ask for any more funds from Fisheries NZ towards this project.
- There was a discussion about when the Guardians are going to meet with the new council. It was suggested that they could meet with the Strategy and Policy Subcommittee early 2023.

- There was a discussion about the DOC kiosk design at Deepwater Basin. Richard Kinsey (DOC) noted that it got passed over to Antonia Croft and is still in discussion. Kerri-Anne Edge Hill noted that she wants a commitment that it will be in place by June 2023 (to align with new fishing rules).
- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill noted that she hasn't done the FMG poster.
- There was a discussion about the User Guide. Stephen Logie suggested working towards getting the User Guide ready for October 2023 when the Fishing Regulations come out. There was discussion about whether it is still fit for purpose; what needs updating; how quickly they are getting used; and the need to plan for an update regarding the Fishing Regulations and *Undaria*. Rebecca noted that she thinks it will need a full review and reprint however not this financial year (would be the 2023/24 financial year).
- **Action 2.1:** Rebecca to request a meeting between the new ES council and the Guardians, and Stewart Bull to talk to the ES council Chair.
- **Action 2.2:** Kate to maintain a list of items for the next Guardians newsletter.

3. Chair's report

- Rebecca McLeod tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- Rebecca noted that she represented the Guardians at two marine biosecurity hui. She noted that she is excited about the developments in many regions relating to marine biosecurity; there has been a dramatic change over the past five years. The Guardians and agency partners can be credited for being leaders in marine biosecurity initiatives. There is a lot to be hopeful about in terms of local body interest and investment in marine biosecurity initiatives, collaboration and technology.
- Rebecca noted that the Marine Vessel Portal is a useful tool that potentially could get rolled out at a national level. It would be good for the Guardians to see this.
- **Action 3.1:** Rebecca to invite a representative from the Marine Vessel Portal to attend the Feb Guardians meeting.
- There was a discussion about regional collaboration (bottom of the South) and our lack of collaborative relationships, and the work we could do to get them to work more closely (need to bring Otago on board). It was noted that marine species are not named in Otago's Pest Management Plan, and that the Guardians should submit on this again next time. It was noted that Sam Thomas (Otago Regional Council) is a good contact. Kathryn McLachlan noted that there is a hui coming up with Canterbury, Otago, Southland.
- There was a discussion about cruise ship requirements. It was noted that there is nothing in place to require changing ballast water from cruise ships (between ports) – there have just been discussions and no solution. It was noted that the Deed of Agreement was their monitoring requirement, and that there is a cruise ship protocol.
- Rebecca noted that the Guardians would benefit from more exposure to Top of the South groups to see what is going on. It was suggested that we could bring in a guest speaker to one of these meetings.
- **Action 3.2:** Kate to make a note to invite a rep from Top of the South to attend Guardians' May meeting.
- Rebecca noted that it has been difficult to get a date to do the multi-agency trip (senior executives) to Fiordland as suggested by Penny Nelson in January 2022.
- **Action 3.3:** Richard Kinsey to follow up multi-agency (senior executives) trip to Fiordland with John Lucas.
- Rebecca gave an update on the Fiordland Carbon Sink Programme and noted they had their first full-team hui for this in August. She noted that the fiords could be sequestering the equivalent to 30% of NZ's greenhouse gas emissions - however just don't know how vulnerable that is due to changing ocean conditions and other potential threats. The

programme will be looking at :1) how big the carbon sink is; 2) how vulnerable it is in a changing climate/ocean; 3) management. There was a discussion about what questions the Rūnaka and Guardians are interested in; protecting the forest productivity; changes to freshwater (around the powerstation and Waiau Catchment); and what activities are going on that could affect the carbon sink (the terrestrial side in the National Park will tie in). It was noted that in early December project leaders will attend a hui with Rūnaka at Aparima.

4. Communications and Engagement

- This agenda item was moved to the last item on the agenda due to time constraints. Please refer to item number 10.

5. Sponge bleaching event update – James Bell, Victoria University

- James Bell introduced himself and provided an update on the sponge bleaching event. He noted that it got lots of media attention. An event was reported in May – not only Fiordland, but also in Northland and Hauraki – which resulted in a mass mortality of sponges. He noted that there was a collaborative effort with Otago and Auckland Universities. James showed some graphs showing the impact on different sponges in different part of New Zealand. Another graph showed the marine temperatures in Fiordland - the temperatures reached were high; it was a short sharp heatwave event.
- James discussed photosymbionts and noted that it is highly likely to be diatoms being expelled from the sponges that causes the loss of colour. To test if the colour change was due to the departure of the photosymbionts they exposed bleached sponges to different light intensities. It was found that when exposed to different light intensities there was no difference in the amount of oxygen used by the bleached sponges. The conclusion was that the symbionts had departed. James noted that this event would likely have consequences for carbon sequestration in the fiords.
- Tests were also carried out to check if temperature is affecting the sponges and found that the heated-up sponges get compromised symbionts in the sponges; therefore temperature negatively affects symbionts. He explained the sponges host microbes, and that there are diverse microbes found in healthy sponges and less diverse microbes found in bleached sponges. He noted that bleached/half bleached sponges had been munched by fish so they may be more palatable to fish.
- James noted there is evidence that some sponges are starting to recover their colour. A DOC boat is monitoring in January and May 2023 to see if the sponges have recovered. More temperature stress experiments will be run in Wellington, and a PhD student is looking at the ecological effects.
- The Guardians asked a number of questions including: if there is a critical temperature point that bleaches/kills the sponges, and are the sponges able to adapt to this? James explained that they do not know the answer. He noted that it is the slow accumulation of heat that stresses them the most; they will run tests to try and figure out how heatwaves impact them.
- The Guardians also asked now that reserves are depleted are they in a less state to deal with the next heatwave; and if they took into consideration the fact that the water was clear so it lets a lot of light through? James explained that the light at that depth is less likely to impact them; it is more likely to be temperature however it is possible that light could be a driver.
- Rebecca thanked James for reporting back to the group.

6. Update on the Fiordland *Undaria* control programme

- Kathryn MacLachlan gave an update on the Fiordland *Undaria* control programme. She noted that *Undaria* was spotted at Resolution Island (e.g. Duck Cove), and showed a map of where the Jobs for Nature staff dove to check for *Undaria* (some areas get searched every month). She noted in September/October a few plants were found between Sunday Cove and Saturday Cove; they will know over the next few weeks about Tamatea/Dusky Sound.
- Richard Kinsey noted that the Breaksea Sound containment work has been carrying on as usual. No *Undaria* has been found in Chalky Inlet since 2019 – not having to monitor every month; time will tell if it is eliminated.
- There was discussion about if there is going to be a review of the containment programme given the recent discovery in Tamatea/Dusky Sound. Kathryn noted that there is \$2 million of funding across two years - they have trained divers to Certificate of Competence standard; there are compliance vessel inspections; containment trips; survey at incursion areas; in early October they started biomass removal (focussing on harbour islands).
- Pete Young discussed the suction dredge removal (Biosecurity NZ-funded tool development pilot) which involved five dive days of dredging and removed over 60,000 plants - he has a video he can share if anyone wants to see it.
- Maria Kuster explained how the suction dredge works and noted it is still humans deciding between species and they can tell the difference between adult and juvenile plants. She explains it comes down to timing – if they are plucked while juvenile the spores will not release.
- There was a brief discussion on whether they had looked at using steam. It was noted this is not a selective method and would use up a lot of dive time to get the water up to temperature. There was a brief discussion on what sort of monitoring is occurring – photos are used. It was noted that the dump site in the National Park is not very big and it decomposes. More surveying needs to be done at Resolution Island – tidal currents and likely pathways for spores through the Acheron Passage were discussed.
- It was noted that Jobs for Nature trips are planned from now until March 2023. There was a brief discussion about what extent can we get the dive team to target these spots – it was noted they are in the early stages of planning and are keen to get the Guardians thoughts.
- There was discussion about funding. It was noted there are four months of dive teams to focus on *Undaria*, with a low chance of getting more funding for this. It would be useful to define what the ecological implications are for *Undaria* going into Fiordland and use this as an opportunity to do some research (to try and stop it going into the fiords) – we need to know where it currently is. Divers could survey the China Shop areas. A question was asked on why wouldn't you dive for one or two weeks to reduce the main biomass? It was noted the need to go in every other month to remove it – has containment in Breaksea Island been effective? Was genetics ever used as a tool? It was noted the obvious place to start would be where Acheron Passage has transported the plants (could see this from a dingy – don't need to get in the water). It was also noted education would help, for example could show some samples to fishers so they know what to look for. Kathryn noted there is different funding that could be used for a one-week survey at Chalky Inlet.
- There was discussion on how do we proceed from here (given how hard it has been to get this funding). It was noted that while we do have resources we should use them rather than just stopping; and the need to think about the actions as it will impact on decisions in the

future (need a decision-making framework). It was noted there is an upcoming 15 December 2022 Framework meeting.

- Kerri-Anne noted that a press release is going out today about *Undaria* and how the rules have not changed.
- **Action 6.1:** Kathryn McLachlan to have some further discussions and will come back to the Guardians.

7. Resource consents – applications in progress

- Bruce Halligan tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- Bruce discussed the existing applications in progress as outlined on page 49 of the Board Report.
- It was noted that the Environment Court mediation date for the Alpine Group Ltd appeal is 5th December 2022. Pre-mediation discussions between other parties will occur on 30th November 2022 with legal counsel, and the appellant should be presenting further information prior to 30th November 2022.
- Rebecca McLeod noted that she and Mark Peychers had a productive discussion with one of the stakeholders and there seems to be a shift in attitude coming through from The Alpine Group Ltd.
- It was noted that the Excell Fishing Company Ltd application (page 50) is in the system at the moment; the submitter withdrew their right to be heard, it is at the end of the process.
- The Gravity Fishing Ltd application (page 50) was notified and received two submissions (one in support and one in opposition); it is still in the system for processing. The Guardians noted that they are continuing to oppose this application.
- The Guardians sought clarification about the timing of the above application with respect to Plan Change 5.
- It was noted that the Regional Coastal Plan review is on Environment Southland's work programme.
- With respect to Plan Change 5: Dean Lowry noted that Environment Southland has received further submissions and will prepare a s.42A report and organise timing and location of the hearing. Hearings are expected to occur within the first quarter of 2023.

8. Meridian annual marine monitoring report

- Rebecca introduced Chris Thomson from Meridian and Chris Cornelisen from Cawthron and thanked them for taking time to update the Guardians.
- Chris Thomson thanked the Guardians for the Agenda time; she tabled the 'Physical Monitoring of Doubtful Sound: 2021-2022' report and it was taken as read. She explained that Chris Cornelisen will take the group through the highlights of the results, and they welcome any comments and feedback on the report.
- Chris Cornelisen introduced himself and shared a presentation on screen to outline the results of the annual marine monitoring. He explained that long term monitoring is so important to keep a pulse on the fiord over time and understand effects.
- It was noted there has been collaboration between Otago University and NIWA, and the monitoring programme has evolved over time. Methods have been established that have greater precision, for example the photo quadrats are permanent. It was noted the sites have been established since 1997. There are sensors down the vertical line down to 25 metres (can dial into them), and they have weather stations.
- Chris outlined the following key results: the weather was more on the wet and windy side; the tailrace discharge fell well within the range of previous years (Meridian conservatively

set it at $485\text{m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$); the results are similar to previous years in regards to discharge; the temperature results were how similar temperatures are at Milford and Doubtful Sound; and the mean water temperatures were not as warm as recent years (noting that the reporting period concluded prior to the 2022 marine heat wave).

- Chris concluded that the observations were consistent with previous years and fell within ranges. It was noted the recommendation is to follow the long-term monitoring plan (2024) but continue physical monitoring as usual.
- The Guardians queried: when it comes to your monitoring next year how will you go about decision-making on whether you will do biological monitoring? And how will you tease apart whether any changes observed are due to the freshwater discharge, or heatwave, or a combination of both (or something else entirely)? Chris Cornelisen explained that heatwaves typically has not been a trigger for biological monitoring, and if information is coming in through other sources they may have to reconsider. Chris noted that if sponges were in the 5-8 metre depth range then they would likely look into it; would specifically be targeting those things such as sponges.
- The Guardians noted that the two programmes could tie in together (James Bell's sponge research and the tailrace research). The Guardians also noted that with little rainfall the heating effect is like a supercharger; it would be interesting to monitor out in deeper ocean just to compare. It was noted that Rob Smith (Moana Project/University of Otago) is collecting data that will help with this.
- Rebecca noted that the Guardians appreciated this discussion and do not need to provide written comments to Meridian/Cawthron.
- The Guardians endorsed the report's recommendations for the 2022-23 Monitoring Programme.
- **Action 8.1:** Kate Brooking to send the resolution minutes to Chris Thomson.

9. Agency updates

a) Department of Conservation

- Richard Kinsey tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- He noted that Hannah Williams put the Fiordland Marine Mammal Sanctuary document together.
- Richard discussed Marine Mammal Sanctuaries and noted the need to find out the relationship/overlap/legislative implications for overlaying marine reserves and marine mammal sanctuaries.
- Rebecca McLeod thanked Hannah and Richard for the comprehensive and well-considered paper. She noted that she likes that the MMS approach is all encompassing. This allows us to be future focused, rather than putting out fires. She asked if there is anything in the Cruise Ship Deed of Agreement about marine mammals. Richard noted that there is not much in the Deed (section 6.2.9) but they have the ability to manoeuvre. He noted this is a chance to look at high use areas and potentially mitigate effects.
- The Guardians queried whether you could achieve a similar outcome without a MMS, as a marine mammal sanctuary will need compliance which requires funding – could it be done through education. Richard noted that the status quo (i.e. the Patea/Doubtful Sound Voluntary Marine Mammal Code of Conduct) it has changed operators behaviour, but is that enough?
- The Guardians noted that a marine mammal sanctuary is big news, and we can work with the community to design it. It was noted that you could create enough awareness

with core users that understand the Code of Conduct; they help create the knowledge of best practice through community awareness.

- The Guardians noted that there already is a layer of regulation (e.g. Marine Mammals Protection Act) however there appears to be little understanding of those regulations. It was noted if people complied with the current marine mammal regulations there would not be an issue, so why don't we start there? It better suits the Guardian model to have education rather than legislation – could have champions that let others know (e.g. notify people over VHF) to try and educate them. It was noted this is a good place to have this discussion; need to identify whether there is a problem and any future proofing.
- Stephen Logie noted that originally there was a Code of Practice; people (e.g. recreational users) did not listen to it, therefore that is what led to this idea about a Marine Mammal Sanctuary.
- Rebecca noted that this matter could be passed on to the Communications Sub-Committee and Rūnaka. In the meantime, focus on education.
- Kathryn McLachlan queried whether they had looked into how it would work with the Regional Coastal Plan? Richard noted that there had already been discussion with the ES planners working on the Regional Coastal Plan review.
- **Action 9.1:** Table this item (Marine Mammal Sanctuary discussion) for the May FMG meeting – think about problem definition.
- **Action 9.2:** Richard to send Marine Mammal Sanctuary discussion paper to Rūnaka and Kaitiaki Ropu - get Rūnaka's input on it; and run it past Kaitiaki Ropu meetings.
- A decision from DOC regarding how to proceed on the matter of non-compliance with moorings in Harrison's Cove, Piopiotahi/Milford Sound is expected soon.

b) Fisheries New Zealand

- Rebecca thanked Fisheries NZ for the paper and it was taken as read.
- Rebecca asked about the research funding (e.g. citizen science fisheries project development; methods for using baited underwater video to monitor hāpuku and blue cod) and whether these are still going ahead. Mark Geytenbeek explained that the Citizen Science project was put on GETS but there were no bids; he noted that they need more of a targeted audience. Fisheries NZ put it out and no one picked it up; they are having another go. Mark noted that the baited underwater video is still on their medium-term plan.
- Robert Win noted that BUV provides a localised population estimate but they cannot inform wider fisheries; there has to be a monitoring programme (e.g. looking for trends over time). They need to prove it is effective, then make a monitoring programme (and need funding for this).
- Rebecca noted that Robert can invite her to the working group meetings and to let the Guardians know if they can help at all.
- Malcolm Lawson left the meeting.

c) Ministry for the Environment

- Fiona Newlove joined the meeting online and gave a verbal update on appointments and recruitment. It was noted that the Minister agreed to re-appoint Ali Ballantine and Pete Young therefore have been focussing on appointing one new member. This should hopefully happen over the next couple of weeks but the letter etc may not happen until early 2023.

- Fiona noted that her team farewelled Haydee Wilton, who has a new role at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Haydee carried out a thorough handover with Kate Brooking. Fiona noted that the runup to Christmas is busy.
- Kerri-Anne asked if the Guardians sent Haydee a thank you gift. Fiona will send the Guardians Haydee's contact details.
- Fiona thanked Kerri-Anne for her amazing service to the Guardians; she really enjoyed working with Kerri-Anne on the appointments last year.
- **Action 9.3:** Fiona Newlove to send the Guardians Haydee's contact details.

Farewell to outgoing Guardian Kerri-Anne Edge Hill

- Rebecca presented Kerri-Anne with a statue to thank her for her time as a Guardian. She noted that it is wonderful that we can meet in person for Kerri-Anne's last meeting, and it was lovely to go out for dinner last night to farewell her. She acknowledged the support from her whānau. Rebecca commented that Kerri-Anne's passion shines through; and she has made a long-lasting impact; she is a critical voice and is always welcome back.
- Agency staff and Guardians individually thanked Kerri-Anne for her hard work and commented: the Communications Sub-Committee and Newsletter were really well driven and we really appreciate it; we are in awe of the amount of work you have put into the Guardians; you have been very valuable; thank you for the times you have been there for us.
- Kerri-Anne thanked everyone for acknowledging her family. She noted that she has brought the Fiordland Marine Management Act to every meeting, it is a useful and it is so important we remind ourselves what is in the Act. She wanted to acknowledge Gavin for his contributions to the communications and engagement sub-committee with the way he has picked up the amount of work. She wished everyone the best of luck.
- Gavin Tayles left the meeting at 2:30pm.

d) Biosecurity New Zealand

- Justyna Paplinska tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- Justyna noted that there are no further updates from Biosecurity New Zealand in addition to what was submitted in the board report. If anyone has any urgent issues, contact Justyna.
- Justyna left the meeting.

e) Environment Southland Biosecurity

- Kathryn McLachlan tabled the paper and it was taken as read.
- Kathryn noted that this paper was addressed in agenda item 6. She noted that Environment Southland are applying for funding.

f) Fisheries Compliance

- Stephen Logie apologised for not providing a board report. He noted that over Labour weekend they had three of their INV Fishery Officers deployed over 4 days in Doubtful-Thompson-Bradshaw Sounds patrolling in the trailer patrol boat out of Deep Cove.
- Stephen noted that for the Interagency meetings in 2017 and 2019 (MPI, DOC, ES, Fish NZ) he asked for input from them but never received it. Stephen feels it is worth reconvening one of these meetings; he will try and do one in the new year. He noted the issue with change of guard/staff always changing, and the need to reconnect. He

identified the need to have an idea of what the legislation responsibilities are, what the issues are, and what work they would like to do. He noted it has been difficult to get agencies information to put into a Plan - need to advocate it up the line; need someone to drive the Plan.

- Rebecca noted that the Fiordland Marine Management Act requires a Compliance Plan, so we need to get a plan established. It was noted that the Environment Southland contacts are Georgia Dillon (Technical Officer) and Ciaran Thayer (Technical Officer) (Team Leader). Kathryn McLachlan offered to write the Compliance Plan.
- Rebecca noted that all going to plan, the new Amateur Fishing Regulations will be notified in the middle of 2023.
- **Action 9.4:** Stephen Logie to try and get the Compliance Sub-Committee group to align with the Guardians February 2023 meeting. Rebecca will approach everyone to come to the next meeting.
- **Action 9.5:** Kathryn to get the ES Compliance contact names to Rebecca.
- **Action 9.6:** Richard noted that he will be away for the February meeting so he will try and get someone from DOC to attend.

10. Communications and Engagement

- Kerri-Anne Edge Hill tabled the report and it was taken as read.
- It was noted that there has been work done on the FMG website; it has had a refresh. If you see something odd, please contact Kate Brooking.
- Kerri-Anne noted that before she finishes, she wants to update the Communications and Engagement Strategy as this has not been updated for a couple of years. She feels it worked well having the Guardians driving the Communications Sub-Committee. She noted that she has done some handover with Kate Brooking.
- Kerri-Anne noted that the Communications Sub-Committee meeting could be aligned with the next Guardians meeting, or it could be done online over two meetings (hold these 6 weeks apart; this works quite well). She noted that when the new Guardian joins, they could have a shake-up of the Sub-Committees.
- Kerri-Anne noted that the FMG Newsletter is currently with the designer.

11. Closing remarks

- Rebecca noted how busy the year had been for the Guardians and thanked everyone for their work.

2. f) Progress on actions

Date Assigned	No.	Action	Who's responsible	To be completed by	Status
27 Nov 2019	8.3	Discuss you pou with runaka and report their decision at next meeting	Stewart Bull	Feb 2021	Ongoing – James York now working on this. Stewart and Rebecca to discuss
9 Aug 2021	9.2	Kerri-Anne and Pete will add an article on the clean-ups to the next Guardians Newsletter.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill / Pete Young	Oct 2021	To do in next newsletter. Kate to compile list of items for newsletter.
10 Nov 2021	2.1	Haydee to follow up any outstanding Conflict of Interest forms and work through any queries with Guardians.	Kate/All Guardians	Jan 2022	Ongoing
24 Feb 2022	6.5	Lucy Hicks to contact the Guardians when ES are ready to set up the working group to review moorings in the Southland Regional Coastal Plan.	Lucy Hicks (ES)	April 2022	Ongoing: Rebecca to email Lucy to follow up on progress.
24 Feb 2022	8.1	Richard to get feedback from Jenni Stanley and Leah Crowe on their experience of getting resource consents and the response from ACVs and pass it on to the Guardians.	Richard Kinsey (DOC)	April 2022	Completed.
4 May 2022	3.1	Ali, Gavin and Kerri-Anne to draft a targeted communication to operators and consent holders regarding the Guardians' role and the proposed pan change.	Ali Ballantine Gavin Tayles Kerri-Anne Edge Hill	Aug 2022	Completed. In Nov 2022 newsletter.
4 May 2022	9.2	Guardians' communications sub-committee to discuss and plan how to communicate key messages re Guardians' role and engage with groups.	Kerri-Anne Edge Hill and communications sub-committee	Aug 2022	Completed. In Nov 2022 newsletter.
4 May 2022	10.1	Gavin Tayles to work with Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ) to connect with the commercial fishing sector.	Gavin Tayles Mark Geytenbeek (FNZ)	Aug 2022	Ongoing
10 Aug 2022	3.1	Sub-committee leads are to report back to the main Guardians/partner agency meeting every 6 months as part of their agency reports.	Jen Geange (BNZ) Richard Kinsey (DOC)	Nov 2022	Ongoing

			Comms sub-comm lead (tbc)		
10 Aug 2022	3.2	Senior managers at Fisheries NZ and ES to check budget available to reimburse MFE for Guardians' input into fisheries consultation work and Coastal Plan review.	Mark G (FNZ) Lucy H? (ES)	Nov 2022	FNZ contributed approximately \$10,000 for this and not appropriate for Guardians to ask for any more funds. Rebecca to follow up with Lucy Hicks about the cost for the Regional Coastal Plan.
10 Aug 2022	3.3	George Gericke to check if the Guardians can be notified of upcoming resource consent renewals when 6-month reminders are issued.	George Gericke (ES)	Nov 2022	George Gericke will send though a list of consents with expiry dates to Kate, and a list of inactive consents. We can put onto FMG SharePoint and George can update it yearly. Completed.
10 Aug 2022	5.1	Rebecca to write letter of support re Pure Salt's proposed virtual field trip with LEARNZ.	Rebecca McLeod	Nov 2022	Completed.
10 Aug 2022	6.1	George Gericke to check and advise if there is a prescribed timeframe to pay fees for resource consent applications.	George Gericke (ES)	Nov 2022	Completed. Answer: applications can remain in the system indefinitely pending payments.
10 Aug 2022	7.1	Haydee to share Robert Smith's slides from his presentation on marine heatwaves.	Haydee Wilton	Aug 2022	Complete. Slides are in the Aug 2022 meeting folder on FMG SharePoint.
10 Aug 2022	8.1	Richard Kinsey to present options paper on managing marine mammal protection in the FMA at the Guardians' November meeting.	Richard Kinsey (DOC)	Nov 2022	Completed.
10 Aug 2022	8.2	Lyndon to send Haydee details of expected vessel numbers/types for upcoming season and pre-Covid vessel numbers/types for circulation to the Guardians.	Lyndon Cleaver (ES) Haydee Wilton	Nov 2022	Completed. Lyndon will send this to Kate to re-circulate to the Guardians.

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10 Aug 2022	8.3	Guardians send letter (brickbat) to rude operator, and letter (bouquet) to the operator that checks Clean Vessel Passes.	Pete/Mark/Rebecca	Nov 2022	Gavin to forward Rebecca the contact details so she can write to them.
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Actions from FMG communications sub-committee meeting on 22 February 2022

1. **Update on progress on actions/items discussed at 2021 meetings**
 - Outstanding item: Signage for Deepwater Basin boat ramp in Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi and Doubtful Sound/Patea.
 - **Action 2.1:** Richard and Crystal to confirm location and cost to install platform and standard DOC kiosk design at Deepwater Basin. They will supply provide this information by 21 Mar or advise alternative timeframes. **Ongoing. Nov 2022 update: this is now with Antonia Croft to progress. Needs to be in place in time for any changes to fishing regs.**
2. **FMA communications priorities for 2022/23**
 - **Action 5.2:** Haydee to source quotes for re-design and re-print of FMG poster/brochure. **Ongoing**
 - **Action 5.3:** Kerri-Anne and Haydee? Draft the copy for the brochure. **Ongoing**

Actions from FMG monitoring sub-committee meeting on 23 February 2022. Nov 2023 update: sub-comm meeting today following main meeting.

- Richard to work with Kath Blakemore to continue with the Monitoring Plan and prioritisation of monitoring/research activities
- Richard to consult with Fisheries and Biosecurity reps on content of the Monitoring Plan
- Richard to work on incorporating Mātauranga Māori into the Monitoring Plan and to investigate future funding opportunities for contracting a specialist to conduct this.
- Richard to add long term monitoring work into business planning as a priority piece of work for 2022/23

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