



A. Permission Application Number and Name of Applicant

45654-OTH Fiordland Lobster

B. Proposed Activity and Location(s)

Restriction of access via installation of a permanent fence to the commercial port area of Deepwater Basin, Milford Sound Piopiotahi.

C.2 Your name

In placing your name and organisation below, you acknowledge that you are the person or authorised person submitting this objection or submission. You are also acknowledging that your name and organisation will be published.

Printed name of submitter or person authorised on behalf of submitter	Graeme Lester
Organisation	
Date	28/1/25

D. Statement of Support, Neutrality or Opposition

- ☐ I **Support** this Application (I am making a submission)
- ☐ I am **Neutral** on this Application (I am making a submission).
- ☒ I **Oppose** this Application (I am making an objection).

E. Hearing Request

- ☒ I **Do Not** wish to be heard in support of this objection or submission at a hearing.
- ☐ I **Do** wish to be heard in support of this objection or submission at a hearing

F. Objection or submission

The specific parts of the application that this objection or submission relates to are:

Prevention of public access to 'the hard'
 Prevention of public access to 'the wharf'
 Removal of the white house

My reasons for my objection or submission are:

The Milford sound boat ramp is the primary access to fiordland national park by recreational boat, it is not solely a 'commercial port area'. The access, ramp, wharf and white house facilities are an extremely valuable asset to the community.

The first paragraph of the letter states the companies origins include the 'support of local communities', my assertion is that this request, if approved, will have a significant negative impact on the local communities which use this area.

The proposed prevention of access will make it extremely difficult to access the boat ramp. The area is already congested with kayakers and water taxis, plus commercial fisherman and recreational groups. The proposal as drafted will have great benefits to the Fiordland Lobster Co, but significant negative impacts on all other users of the area. Nowhere in the proposal is there any mention of this impact or how access, manoeuvring, launching etc of recreational boaties will be facilitated. I note that Gate B will only be unlocked for a fuel tanker, highlighting the importance of the loop around the fuel tanks for large vehicles.

Safety concerns noted in the application could be addressed in other ways, for example heavy pots should not be stacked to create a hazard, if they need to be stacked to a level that they could injure someone they should be tied down, heavy pots falling wont just injure members of the public but also employees.

The interface of members of the public and commercial operations are managed by numerous companies nationwide on a daily basis, it would be relatively easy to manage the safety issues in the port area during loading/unloading operations without a fence and locked gates in place 24 hours a day 7 days a week. I cannot read the safety plan that is provided and would suggest that the proposal to permanently close off this area is an unnecessary reaction to the failure of the current safety plan.

The commercial crayfishery is an important part of the community, and as such needs to have the ability to operate, however it should not be at the detriment of other stakeholders, public access is provided for in the current agreement and must be maintained in some form, if the existing wharf / access is being restricted then alternatives need to be made available.

Facilities at the White house are also very important, hundreds of recreational boaties can be at this location daily. The current head license isn't clear on the maintenance of the white house, it does sit within 'the hard' and I would suggest that its current poor condition is an oversight on both parties to the lease to ensure it was maintained. The lease does note obligations relating to the sewerage system and I would like to see not only that this building is retained, but that the maintenance is improved to a much higher level moving forward, someone stocks it with toilet paper and a new toilet seat could be covered by a small increase to berthage fees.

Access to water is also important, the wharf & white house have taps available for refilling of water tanks.

The outcomes that need to be addressed by this application are:

Give precise details, including the parts of the application you wish to have amended and the general nature of any conditions sought if the application is approved.

Full consideration of all users of this area must be detailed in the application to ensure no loss of amenity, preferably any alteration to the existing use should only enhance the amenity for all users.

Permanent prevention of access to 'the hard' and 'the wharf' must not occur unless large vehicle access / manoeuvring is maintained, in particular to the boat ramp

Getting people on and off boats is an important use of the wharf and must be catered for, along with access to water & fuel

The white house, or comparable facilities must remain in place and be better managed.

Any temporary restriction needs to be appropriately managed, ie limited to necessary activities. Signage should clearly detail what's going on, a social media / facebook page would also give users an understanding of anticipated busy periods etc.

Maybe ramp fees should be charged for recreational users to cover costs of the ramp, a jetty and the white house facilities?

G. Attachments

If you are using attachments to support your objection or submission clearly label each attachment, complete the table below and send in your attachments with this 'objection or submission form'.

Document title	Document format (e.g. Word, PDF, Excel, jpg etc.)	Description of attachment

How do I submit my objection or submission?

Complete this form and email to DNSubmissions@doc.govt.nz. You may also mail your objection and submission to: Director-General, c/o Department of Conservation, Ōtepoti / Dunedin Service Centre, Level 1, John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street, Ōtepoti / Dunedin 9016.