



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

Nigel Humphries

Organisation

Envy Experiences

Date

22 Jan 2025

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.

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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:

Access to the area in question being closed to everyone.

My reasons for my objection or submission are:

We are a concession operator who offers guided day trips to Piopiotahi Milford Sound. As part of our journey and the story of Fiordland, we do drive down to Deepwater Basin and show our clients this area and explain about the fishing industry and how well it is managed and operated. We do drive along the breakwater when we can to the end where there is an amazing unrestricted view of the Arthur Valley. The clients do not get out of our vehicle – a passenger car. We do not drive at speed and are very conscious that this is a working area. We are always friendly and courteous to any staff or workers we see. Sometimes we have conversations with them and our clients love this interaction.

I consider that this is a very important part of the Fiordland Story that we share with our clients. If this area is fenced off, then it is questionable if it is worth going down to Deepwater basin.

It should be noted that in the Conservation Act Part 2, section 6 – Functions of the Department, section(e)

“to the extent that the use of any natural or historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with its conservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and to allow their use for tourism:”

It would be really disappointing if access to this area was not allowed.

We are very conscious of Health & Safety requirements and fully appreciate the issues around this and believe that a solution could be found with a bit of discussion.

As a footnote, when moving the road cones is mentioned, I can personally vouch for the explanation around the picture that has one of our vehicles in the picture (not a tourist car as stated). I was the driver that day and we drove along the breakwater as the road cones were not placed to stop us. We were very careful about checking for the forklift as we don't want a collision with it either. On our return back along the breakwater, the cones had been put in our way as the forklift was about to start operating – a new operator was being trained that day. They did not check who was actually along the breakwater. We had to move a cone to get out hence being stopped there. My clients were most amused by this and hoped out to move it and put back in place when thru. The road cones were put in place a while ago without warning or notification and were left out all the time blocking access for everyone, even when there were no forklifts operating. Other commercial operators like fisherman and other commercial users may have also moved road cones. How many were actually moved by tourists? This did lead to a bit of frustration.

I can't speak as to other operators letting their clients walk along the wharf however I would suggest that this was not an everyday occurrence. We could all have been contacted directly and would have been happy to talk however there was a complaint lodged with the department which gave us an opportunity to talk to the DOC staff member and explain the situation. We were not in breach of our concession that I am aware of.

We are not the only user of this area either. There are a few recreational boat owners who get access along the breakwater to their boats and some other commercial tourism operators who use the area for access to their boat moorings. Staff working in Milford value this area also for recreational activity which is limited in Milford.

I did talk to the Applicant and had a positive discussion – thank you. I do also apologise as I did say the I would not submit however upon reflection and discussions to others, felt that I did need to submit our point of view.

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.

We would like to Fiordland Lobster Company to be reasonable and actually come to a balance that works for us all. The area is not in use constantly by the Lobster Company and other users do use this area. There is defiantly a need for better health and safety around the operating of the forklift and the stacks of pots, but perhaps fencing off some of these areas separately and some signage with flashing lights would help this issue and make it safer for everyone and we can all still use the area and tell the story.

Tourism operators who operate in a National Park with a concession are very conscious about Health and Safety and all have H & S plans.

Let's just all be reasonable and talk. I am sure that a better solution could be found and it would be really disappointing for this area to be closed to everyone.

We should all be able to work together and share this part of the world.

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.