



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	Haylee Preston
Organisation	Milford Sound Tourism Limited
Date	31 January 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.
- ☒ 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:

- > Restriction of access to the 'White House'
- > Restriction of access to the commercial port.
- > Encroachment into the area available to vehicles towing trailers
- > The fence location could impact the route used by truck and trailers accessing MSTL infrastructure near the waste-water plant, and also those that access the helipad.

Whilst MSTL supports the installation of a permanent fence to the commercial port area of Deepwater Basin for health and safety reasons, it questions whether it needs to be in the location proposed, but there must be alternative public facilities for those that are currently operated from the 'White House', **prior** to the restriction of public access to this facility. These facilities must be permanent in nature ie not portaloos.

My reasons for my objection or submission are:

MSTL support the need for restricting access to certain areas of the commercial port, largely due to the obligations imposed under New Zealand's Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. Because of these obligations on PCBU's, these types of restriction requests to the Department will likely become more prevalent. Within the current operating environment, it would be uncommon in NZ for the public to be able to gain such easy access to commercial port facilities and/or marinas.

In addition to health and safety reasons for restricting access to the commercial port via fence, commercial activities such as commercial fishing and lobster processing are inevitably untidy processes and therefore do not lend themselves to integration with visitors to the area, including tourists and recreational boaties and kayakers.

Whilst MSTL supports the installation of permanent fencing to the commercial port area, the 'White House' must either be outside of the fenced off area, or alternative public facilities must be in place before the restriction is put in place. MSTL's preference is that alternative facilities are put in place at Deep Water Basin, and echoes Fiordland Lobsters comments that the building is in an extremely poor condition, and to put it simply an embarrassment of a facility in such a world class destination.

Reason's why public toilets are required at Deep Water Basin:

- It is not practical or safe for vehicles towing recreational fishing vessels to utilise the public toilets located elsewhere in Milford - at the Visitor Terminal, or near the Milford Sound Café.
- Without access to public toilets at Deep Water Basin, the public (visitors, tourists, kayakers, recreational boaties (of which can be up towards 80 boats on a busy summer day) will be forced to urinate/defecate in nearby bushes and shrubs. This will have a huge negative impact on the surrounding environment.
- Tourism ventures operated from Deep Water Basin, including Kayaking and Milford Track day walkers will no longer have facilities, which will be detrimental to their operations.

Showers could also be provided in a new facility – on a user pays basis.

MSTL also suggests that the fence should not encroach into the current vehicle turning area in Deep Water Basin that has been identified in the application. During peak summer days, it is already difficult enough for large vehicles to manoeuvre in the area with the already limited space there. MSTL operates a community shuttle, that had to cease operations in the Deep Water Basin area early in January 2025 due to lack of safe space to be able to operate. The entire area needs managed appropriately, it needs to have traffic flows reviewed, and parking areas clearly defined.

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.

Managing public safety in this area should not fall predominately on Fiordland Lobster Co. or the other operators in the area. DOC could implement further safety measures too.

Ensure that there is suitable access to public toilets at Deep Water Basin 24/7. If an alternative permanent public toilet is not put in place, then public access to the white house should remain.

Reconsider the fence's placement, to allow more room for large vehicles, and those towing trailers in the area.

In addition to the above, the following conditions should also be sought:

- There needs to be adequate access for emergency services to access the area, especially at night if Freshwater Basin is unavailable for any medical evacuations from passing vessels.
- Oil spill kits are easily accessible.
- That all existing and new conditions of the licence are adhered too.

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.