

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

Brad Johnstone

Organisation

Date

03/02/2025

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:

Fencing off areas within national park/ crown land preventing free access areas to all within of a national park especially when calling a health and safety card as major reasoning. Essentially all of what Fiordland Lobster company is asking to receive.

Removal of White House building

My reasons for my objection or submission are:

While the safety concerns raised by Fiordland Lobster Company regarding the working port area at Deepwater Basin have validity, the proposed restriction of public access to this area of Fiordland National Park could set a dangerous precedent for the future of public access to our protected natural spaces. National parks, especially those as significant as Fiordland, should remain accessible to the public for recreational and cultural purposes, and any move that restricts this access should be approached with extreme caution.

I also question how many of these forklift users hold the correct licenses to operate such a machine?

Photos taken of tour owner operators and staff vehicles don't add up to whats being shown in the lobster company letter. Eny tours, Fiordland tours (fisherman's wife drives for) Fiordland jewel (staff members BMW which is actually unlike to drive of edge as barriers will prevent it)

Crown land for for all to use and explore national park and UNESCO world heritage park status is areas for everyone not to be fenced off.

The proposal to restrict access to a small area of Fiordland National Park would limit the public's ability to enjoy and experience one of New Zealand's most iconic natural environments. National parks are meant to be preserved for the enjoyment of all, not just for the benefit of specific commercial entities. While safety concerns must be addressed, alternative measures that do not restrict public access, such as improved signage, safety barriers, or additional safety personnel, should be explored.

If access to Deepwater Basin is restricted, it may open the door for similar requests from other commercial operators in sensitive areas of the park. This could lead to a gradual erosion of public access to national parks in favor of private interests. Fiordland, known for its pristine natural beauty, is a public resource, and its management should prioritize conservation and public enjoyment above commercial interests. Once access is curtailed, it becomes much harder to restore.

The proposal to install a fence, thereby restricting public access, seems to overlook other potential solutions. Instead of fencing off public land, alternative measures should be considered, such as enhanced management of safety hazards, providing clear guidelines for commercial operations, and ensuring that any risks to public safety are mitigated through proper training and infrastructure. In particular, improving safety standards for workers and the public should not come at the cost of reducing opportunities for recreational activities.

The extension of the head licence term until 2030 to match the commercial lease raises concerns. Extending this term while simultaneously restricting public access could lock in a scenario where commercial activities are prioritized for nearly another decade at the expense of the public's right to access the national park. This long-term agreement, without a clear plan for mitigating its impact on the public, is unjustifiable.

The proposal to restrict public access to Deepwater Basin should be reconsidered, and other safer alternatives should be explored that do not require limiting public access. The core principle of a national park is its

accessibility for the public, both for enjoyment and for cultural and environmental stewardship. Protecting public access to Fiordland should remain a priority, and any health and safety concerns should be addressed without compromising this fundamental principle.

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.

Nothing to be in touched until future proofed facilities for all public users of the area are in place for all users after proper planning and agreed to by all parties involved..

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.