

Freshwater pest controls for Fiordland National Park

Help prevent the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests that threaten our waterways

What's the problem?

Freshwater pests can smother and/or outcompete native aquatic plants, fauna or invertebrates, affecting the aquatic ecosystem. They can also be unsightly, have a huge nuisance value to people and can be almost impossible to remove once established.

There is a clear link between human activity and the spread of freshwater pests, many of which are expert hitchhikers. *Didymosphenia geminata* cells can stay alive for weeks with just a hint of dampness, and *Lagarosiphon* can spread and establish in a new area from just a single tiny fragment.

Didymo is found in Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri, and some of their tributaries. Lake Manapouri also has *Lindavia intermedia* (lake snow). Other pests such as *Lagarosiphon major* are present in Central Otago and other parts of Southland but are not yet found in Fiordland.

Using CHECK, CLEAN, DRY on your gear and clothing will help prevent the spread of pests into pristine waterways.

STOP THE SPREAD – CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Disinfecting your gear

If your gear has been thoroughly **dry** to touch for AT LEAST 48 HOURS before your trip, you are pest-free.

If your gear is wet or damp from contact with any river or lake, you will need to disinfect your equipment, including socks and boots.

Check gear and remove obvious fragments.

Clean and scrub all gear with a disinfecting solution, ensuring surface contact for one minute for non-absorbent items. Absorbent items need to be soaked to allow thorough saturation. There are a range of solutions you can use. The easiest is a 10% solution of dishwashing liquid, i.e. 2 cups of dishwashing detergent with water added to make five litres. Freezing any item until solid will also kill freshwater pests.



Special conditions for preventing the spread of didymo

Everyone must take personal responsibility – any wet gear can spread pests. While cleaning gear is provided in some areas you are encouraged to carry your own supplies. Check, Clean or Dry your gear before heading into Fiordland, and between waterways. This is the only way of ensuring didymo doesn't infect new waterways!

Anglers

A Clean Gear Certificate for all gear is required for fishing in most areas of Fiordland National Park (see map on overleaf for details and control areas). The certificate must be obtained from an approved cleaning station within 48 hours prior to fishing. When fishing, you must have in your possession:

1. a current Sports Fishing Licence,
2. a valid Clean Gear Certificate,
3. an approved didymo cleaning kit.
4. a ballot is required for Clinton, Worsley rivers and the Ettrickburn

NOTE: Felt soled waders are NOT PERMITTED.

Boat users

Watercraft are prohibited from entering the Clinton and Arthur River catchments (Biosecurity Act, 1993). A permit control system is in place for those wishing to use non-motorised watercraft on the Arthur River between Sandfly Point and Lake Ada. A permit is obtainable from the Fiordland National Park Visitor's Centre or by prior arrangement with Rosco's Kayaks (Milford Sound) – opsmanager@roscosmilfordkayaks.com

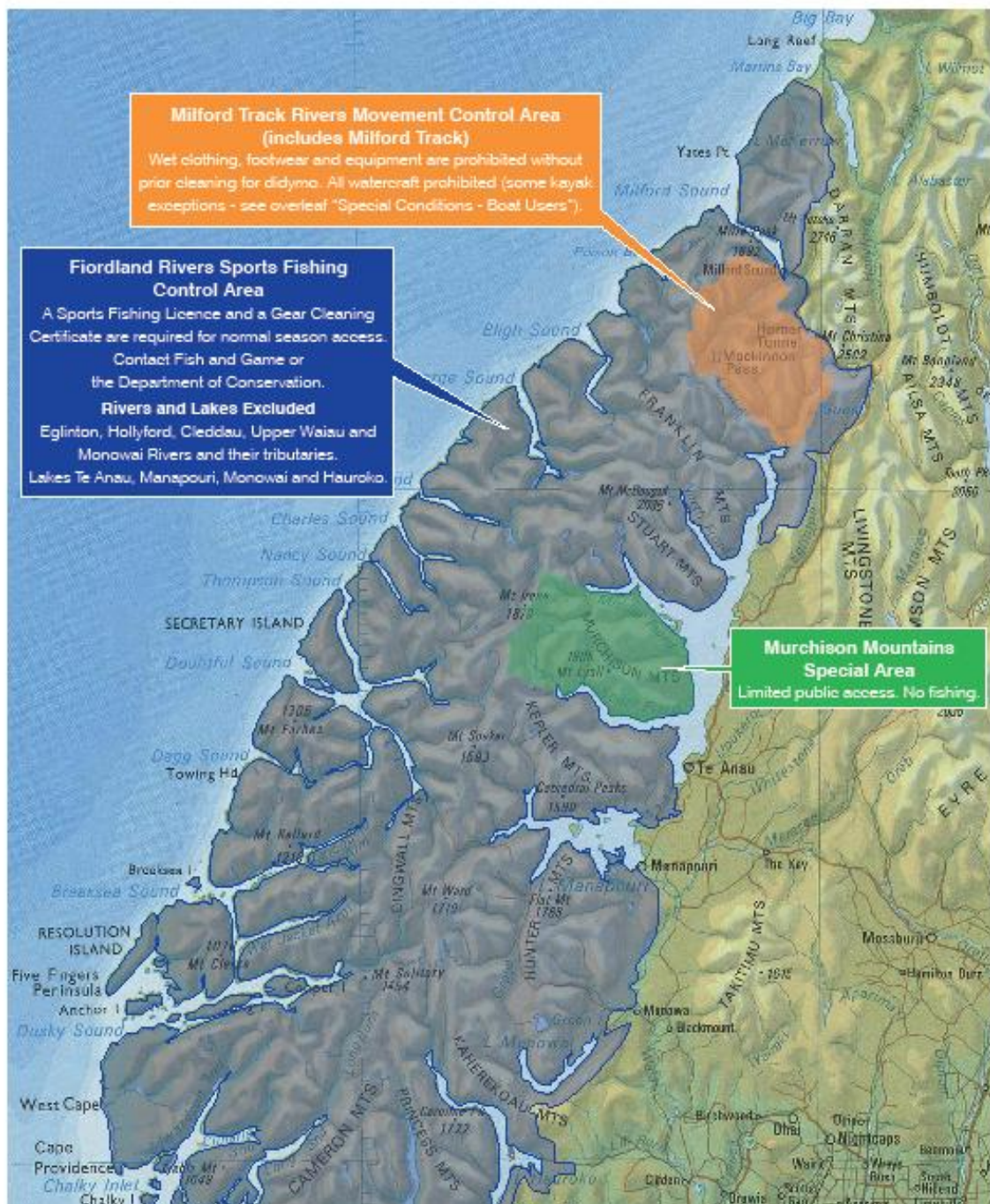
Don't take the lake upriver - watercraft operating on the eastern Fiordland lakes are encouraged not to enter tributary rivers, as these lakes contain didymo and upstream movement will spread it into these pristine rivers.



Photo left: *Lagarosiphon major*. Credit Rowan Wells, NIWA. Please report suspected sightings to the Fiordland Visitor's Centre.



Photo right: Didymo. Credit Fish & Game.



Further information

For further information about freshwater pests and control measures please contact:

Department of Conservation

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre
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www.doc.govt.nz

Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
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Fish & Game New Zealand
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