

# **PROPOSED SOUTHLAND REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **Staff Recommendations Report – Undaria addendum**

**Notified Tuesday 28 August 2018**

### **Undaria: Plan Rule 13**

The Fiordland Marine Guardians have requested clarification on how rule 13 will be applied.

The invasive seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida* is known at 7 sites within the Southland Coastal Marine Area (Map 5b).

Since 2010 the Breaksea Sound infestation has been managed through a joint approach with Department of Conservation, the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and the Fiordland Marine Guardians. The initial objective was the eradication of *Undaria* from Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound, Fiordland. Although initial control at Sunday Cove was successful the infestation now covers an extensive area within Breaksea Sound and eradication is no-longer feasible. A new long term goal of containment is being proposed and long term management options are being explored. In 2017 a Controlled Area was established to prevent the spread of *Undaria* via human-related vectors to other areas of Fiordland. *Undaria* surveys in late 2018 and early 2019 have confirmed that *Undaria* is now present on the north coast of Breaksea Sound outside of the Controlled Area. Breaksea Sound is the only *Undaria* infestation in the country that is being actively managed and controlled.

Infestations at other Southland sites including Bluff Harbour and Stewart Island are well established and no control work is occurring. Structures, vessels and gear within these areas can become infested with *Undaria*. The movement of infested vessels poses a significant pathway to the movement of *Undaria* to new areas of Southland.

*Undaria* is currently subject to four different types of pest regulation under the Biosecurity Act 1993

- 1) Unwanted Organism
- 2) Regional Pest Management Strategy (and proposed Regional Pest Management Plan)
- 3) Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan
- 4) Controlled Area, movement controls and procedures in respect of *Undaria* (Breaksea Sound Only)

*Undaria* is being commercially harvested from structures and artificial substrates in Bluff Harbour and Big Glory Bay. ES and MPI have provided exemptions for this work under the existing Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Under the current proposed Rule 13, all owners of vessels, gear and structures that are infested with *Undaria*, regardless of their location, would be breaching these rules. However the intent of this proposal (Plan Objective 7 i and ii) is to prevent the transportation, by humans, of *Undaria* to areas where *Undaria* is not present. Vessels operating solely within an already infested area are not the target of this rule.

**Staff recommend that the proposed Rule 13 is clarified to**

- **Include an exemption for vessels solely operating inside the Southern Undaria Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound Undaria Exemption Area (Map 5c amended).**
- **Specify that vessels must be free of *Undaria* when they leave the Southern Undaria Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound Undaria Exemption Area<sup>1,2</sup>**
- **Specify that all marine gear and equipment, including but not limited to lobster pots, mooring lines and dive gear, must be free of *Undaria* when it leaves Southern Undaria Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound Undaria Exemption Area<sup>3</sup>**

- **Specify that all on-board residual seawater collected in the Exemption Area must be treated<sup>3</sup> or discarded within the Southern Undaria Exemption Area and the Breaksea Sound Undaria Exemption Area**
- **Map 5b is retained to allow for the reporting rule to remain in effect. A new map, Map 5c establishes the *Undaria* Exemption Areas.**

If rule 13 is amended as outlined above the Controlled Area Notice can be removed. This will prevent confusion and legislative overlap.

It is important to note that all rules in the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management would still apply.

<sup>1</sup> Out of water cleaning is the preferred technique to ensure vessels are free of *Undaria*.

<sup>2</sup> Vessels that anchor or moor for more than 48hrs within the Breaksea Sound Exemption Area must be visually inspected<sup>4</sup> before leaving the exemption area. Any *Undaria* found on the vessel during the inspection must be removed and disposed of by using one of the recommended treatment methods.

<sup>3</sup> Suitable treatments for gear include but are not limited to

- Dishwashing detergent 4% solution soak for one minute
- Bleach 2% solution for one minute
- Hot water >60°C for one minute

<sup>4</sup> It is the responsibility of vessel owners to carry out visual inspections. ES will provide annual training for affected boat owners. Additional compliance inspections will be carried out by ES during compliance and surveillance trips.

**Proposed Map 5C – Southern Undaria Exemption Area.**

