

ASIAN SEAWEED

(*Undaria pinnatifida*) found in Fiordland

The threat: The environment in Fiordland is so unique that it is difficult to predict what kind of changes will occur if *Undaria pinnatifida* (*Undaria*) becomes established and how greatly it will affect the fragile ecosystem. *Undaria* is a threat to Fiordland's marine environment with its ability to quickly establish and outcompete native marine species.

WHAT'S HAPPENED

The Asian seaweed *Undaria* has established in many parts of New Zealand over the last 20 years. Often called "the gorse of the sea", *Undaria* is a threat to Fiordland's unique marine environment and the fishing and tourism economies it supports.

Until April 2010, Fiordland had been apparently free of this pest weed. At that time a single mature plant was found in the remote Sunday Cove, Breaksea Sound. Subsequent investigation uncovered *Undaria* growing in a small area and it is thought that *Undaria* is not yet established.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Environment Southland (Southland Regional Council), Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation have joined forces to try and eliminate *Undaria* from Sunday Cove.

Regular diving inspections are being carried out so that any new *Undaria* found can be removed before they have a chance to reproduce. Hopefully this will prove to be effective at eliminating the 'seed bank' in Sunday Cove and will prevent *Undaria* establishing.

Further education is being undertaken to inform Fiordland marine users on how they can manage the pathways pests can take to reach Fiordland.

YOU CAN HELP

Your help is needed to ensure *Undaria* and other pest species don't make it to Fiordland again. Pests like *Undaria* and other fouling species can hitchhike to new locations on dirty boat bottoms and marine equipment.



Undaria on mooring rope in Sunday Cove

Photo courtesy of K Blakemore, Department of Conservation

It is your responsibility to make sure your vessel is clean when taking it to new places.

Make sure your antifouling paint is in good condition and have your hull checked for marine pests before you depart for Fiordland.

Check, clean and dry mooring lines and buoys, fishing or dive gear, kayaks and other recreational equipment before travelling to Fiordland.

August 2016

WHILST IN SUNDAY COVE, BREAKSEA SOUND

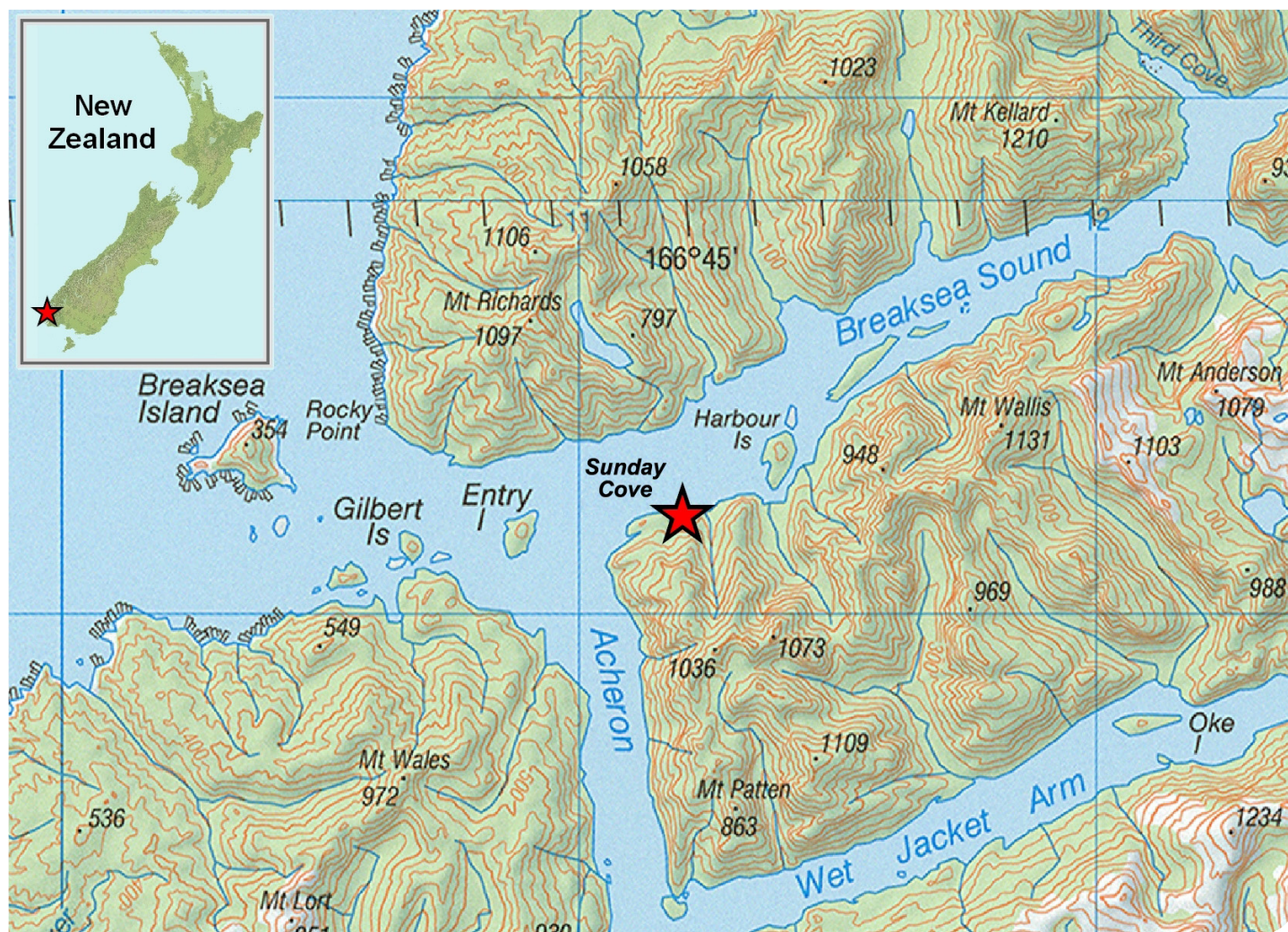
Please do not remove seafood from the Sunday Cove area. Shellfish may have been infected with *Undaria* spores and removing them may spread *Undaria* to other areas. Also, kina have been placed in Sunday Cove and play a key part in the elimination programme.

Please do not remove lobster pots out of the Sunday Cove area, as they may be infected with *Undaria* spores.

Contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66 if you suspect *Undaria* or another marine pest is present in Fiordland.

Don't be the next boatie to take a pest species into Fiordland. For more information, visit MPI's website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/Fiordland>, or phone Shaun Cunningham at Environment Southland on 03 211 5115.



Map of where Sunday Cove is located