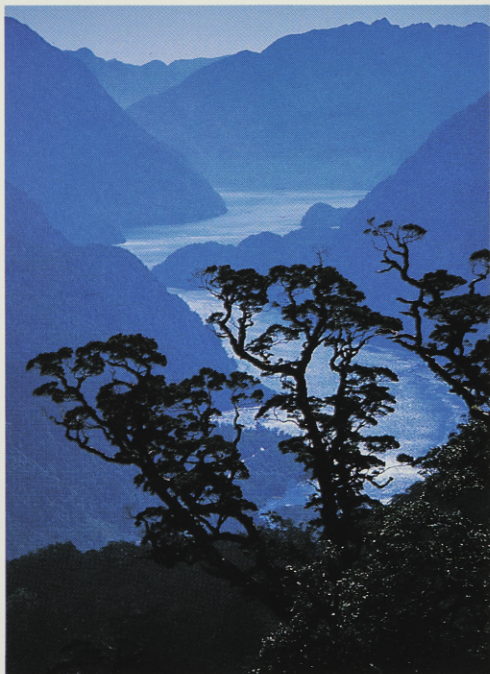


THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF FIORDLAND

by Ken Grange, Oceanographic Institute

Fiordland, stretching almost 200 km from Milford Sound south to Preservation Inlet, is internationally acclaimed for its spectacular scenery, isolation, unmodified environment and as home for a large number of rare plants and animals. However, few people probably stop to think that the name "Fiordland" is composed of two words, "fiord" and "land". The fiords



Thousands of years ago great glaciers gouged out Sounds such as Doubtful Sound, which stretches 30 km inland. The land surrounding the fiords is protected within Fiordland National Park, but the water is not. Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound is the site of proposed freshwater exports, using super-tankers. All photos Ken Grange

Rock lobsters are common in the fiords since the sheer rock walls prevent fishermen from laying pots.



The fiords are the only places in New Zealand where a diver will come across a sea pen (*Sarcophyllum bollonsi*), although even here they are restricted to sand slopes in depths below 20 m. Height 30 cm.

