



# Questionnaire

## HUNTER USAGE SURVEY STEWART ISLAND 1980-81

Please note:

1. Amend your address (above) if incorrect.
2. Please read each question carefully and note underlined words. Ensure numbers are entered in the appropriate box when requested.
3. Please feel free to comment on any (or all) questions by using the attached blank sheet. Reference any comments with the question number.

1. Where do members of your party reside? Enter numbers in the appropriate box.

- Stewart Island
- Otago/Southland
- remainder of South Island
- North Island
- outside N.Z. (state country)


2. In the appropriate box, enter the number of persons that fall into each age group.

- under 20
- 20 to 35
- 36 to 50
- over 50 years
- total persons in our party was


3. What form of transport did your party use to travel to Stewart Island.

- from Invercargill - fly
- from Bluff - ferry
- nil - -
- and from Stewart Island to Invercargill - fly
- to Bluff - ferry
- nil - -


4. If your party flew to your hunting block or nearest landing strip, did your party board your aircraft at

- Invercargill
- elsewhere - state airport
- nil


5. If your party went by boat to your hunting block, did you board the boat at

- Bluff
- † - Stewart Island Settlement
- nil


† Stewart Island Settlement refers to Oban and Ballinacree Bay



- aircraft ☐  
 - charter boat ☐  
 - private transport ☐

7. What was the total cost of transport for your party from Invercargill return to Invercargill. \$  
 Please include all costs such as ferry, boats, aircraft etc. If you are a resident of Stewart Island, still include relevant costs.

8. How many nights did your party spend at Stewart Island Settlement?  
 - before going to your hunting block ☐  
 - after returning from hunting ☐  
 ‡ see below - resident of Stewart Island ☐

9. For the few nights spent at Stewart Island Settlement, where did members of your party stay?  
 - hotel ☐  
 - motel ☐  
 - camping ground ☐  
 ‡ see below - private ☐  
 - did not stay at Settlement ☐  
 - Stewart Island resident. Not applicable ☐

10. While at Stewart Island Settlement, did members of your party purchase: ‡ see below

- provisions ☐  
 - gifts and souvenirs ☐  
 beverages ☐  
 - made no purchases ☐  
 Stewart Island resident. Not applicable. ☐

11. If members of your party made purchases at Stewart Island Settlement, please indicate the total approximate value:

- less than \$25 ☐  
 - \$25 to \$50 ☐  
 - more than \$50 ☐  
 ‡ see below. - nil ☐  
 Resident of Stewart Island. Not applicable ☐

‡ For questions 8, 9, 10, 11, it may be necessary to tick more than one box; eg, party leader may reside on Stewart Island with other party members residing elsewhere in New Zealand.

12. Is accommodation at Stewart Island Settlement adequate?

Yes ☐ No ☐

14. If yes to question 13, how many nights did your party spend in huts. We spent \_\_\_\_\_ nights in huts.

15. Did your party take tents?

☐ Yes

☐ No

16. If yes to question 15, how many nights did your party sleep in tents? We slept \_\_\_\_\_ nights in tents.

17. Do you personally consider the block you hunted on needs:-

- huts ☐

- permanent clean camp site ☐

- looking ☐

18. For how many days did you have the block you hunted on looked for. It was looked for \_\_\_\_\_ days from (date) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

19. How many days did your party spend on your hunting block? We spent \_\_\_\_\_ days on our hunting block.

20. What was the name of your hunting block? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Was the block you hunted on your - first choice ☐

- second choice ☐

- third choice ☐

22. Had any members of your party hunted this block previously?

☐ Yes

☐ No

23. For members of your party, for how many is this their first, second or more times hunting on Stewart Island. Please enter numbers in the appropriate box.

- first hunting trip ☐

- second hunting trip ☐

- three or more trips ☐

} hunting on Stewart Island.

### STEWART ISLAND TRAVEL

Stewart Island Travel supports the NZDFP hunting survey of Stewart Island.

Boat transport available for hunting parties.

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Box 21,  
Halfmoon Bay,  
STEWART ISLAND.



many members of your party are: - experienced hunters ☐  
- average hunters ☐  
- some hunting experience ☐

25. In your opinion, how do you rate the condition of the forest.

- good ☐  
- improving ☐ - deteriorating ☐  
- poor ☐

26. In your opinion, how do you rate the animal population.

- over populated ☐  
- about right ☐  
- scarce ☐

27. The purpose of your trip was: - general hunting ☐  
- trophy hunting ☐

28. What was the total number of animals your party saw while on your block? We saw the total of \_\_\_\_\_ animals.

29. Did members of your party shoot any animals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

30. If yes to question 29, what were the number of  
- females shot ☐  
- males shot ☐

31. How many members of your party secured a trophy? \_\_\_\_\_ members

32. Do you consider greater control of hunting would improve conditions?  
☐ Yes ☐ No Please feel free to make comments and suggestions.

*Kiwi Launch Services*  
for all charter and deerstalking trips  
We recommend Herbert Hansen and the  
launch "Kiwi" for all your Transport needs

33. What percentage of time did your party allocate to:  
(Enter your estimation as a percentage in the appropriate box)

- hunting	
- fishing	
- photography	
- tramping	
- lazing about	
other	specify

34. While on your hunting block, did members of your party meet or see any other persons. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer is no, ignore questions 35 and 36.

35. If yes to question 34, what were the numbers of other people seen:

- less than 5	
- less than 10	
- more than 11	

36. If yes to question 34, what were the activities of these people:

- other hunters	
- trampers	
- other (specify)	

37. Do you personally plan to hunt on Stewart Island again?

☐ Yes

☐ No

38. If your answer is no to question 37, what do you consider is necessary to be done before you would change your mind to reconsider returning to hunt on Stewart Island again.

39. If your answer is yes to question 37, what suggestions do you have for the betterment of hunting.

"A SPOT OF LUXURY"  
ENJOY A NIGHT AT -

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Your Host Bruce Fraser -



40. In your opinion, should Stewart Island become a:-

national park ☐

forest park ☐

†status quo ☐

†status quo implies land tenure will be unchanged.

41. Do you personally support the concept of a recreational hunting area on Stewart Island. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Your comments supporting or opposing the establishment of a recreational hunting area would be appreciated.

42. Do you belong to a hunting organisation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

43. While on your block, did you see any sign of:

- wild cats ☐

- rats ☐

- neither ☐

44. Would you be prepared to assist with cat and rat control:

☐ Yes

☐ No

45. As base camp pollution is becoming a major problem, in future would you be prepared:

- to hire tarpaulins for permanent frame site ☐

- carry home everything non-biodegradable ☐

- payment of fee for disposal hole/toilet etc ☐

- support annual cleanup and removal of all campsite occupation ☐

- - - - - status quo ☐

(It may be necessary to mark more than one box in relation to this question). Your comments on this question please.

We wish to sincerely thank and endorse the following services:

G. D. O'ROURKE & SONS, Taxidermists, South Canterbury. For postage.

STEWART ISLAND AIR SERVICES, Box 860 Invercargill. For air travel.

KIWI LAUNCH SERVICES, Box 23 Halfmoon Bay. Transport to hunting block.

STEWART ISLAND TRAVEL, Box 25 Halfmoon Bay, Transport wharf - hotel.

SOUTH SEA HOTEL (host Bruce Ford) Stewart Island. For accommodation.

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION, ASHBURTON BRANCH N.Z.D.A.

For the printing of this questionnaire, and stationery.

# HUNTER USAGE SURVEY STEWART ISLAND

1980-81

R. N. BURTON.  
177 Middle Road,  
Ashburton.  
New Zealand.

25 October, 1981.

Dear Sir,

You probably realise that hunting on Stewart Island is threatened.

To off set this threat, it is vital to record additional information on the effects of hunting on the environment and hunting's effects on the economy of Stewart Island.

Like the undersigned, we are sure you are vitally interested in the future of hunting on Stewart Island.

With the assistance of the Forest Service and other Island land owners the enclosed questionnaire has been sent to leaders of hunting parties who visited Stewart Island during 1980 / 81.

The results of this survey will be two-fold. Firstly, to promote land use planning, and secondly, to present the recreational hunting viewpoint and of his contribution to Stewart Island's economy.

Information disclosed in your questionnaire is in confidence. There will be no reference by name to any person or hunting party in the combined results although individual comments may be used. It is intended that individual questionnaires will only be seen by three persons. A research officer in his private capacity will collate the results.

To ensure the success of this questionnaire, we wish to draw your attention to three points.

1. Accuracy in answering each question. Comment if necessary.
2. Prompt return of the completed questionnaire in the envelope provided.
3. Completed questionnaires returned on or by 15 / 12 / 81 will be entered in a ballot for a free hunting trip for two persons to Stewart Island, the details of this trip are on page 2. Questionnaires returned after 15 / 12 / 81 will still be used in the survey.

We wish to sincerely acknowledge the valuable assistance of all the sponsors whose contributions made this questionnaire possible.

Please return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible to ensure your entry in the ballot for a free hunting trip for two to Stewart Island. Your questionnaire is registered with a code number

Thankyou for your assistance, and good hunting.

*R. N. Burton* R. N. Burton.

*D. T. Howden* D. T. Howden.



STEWART ISLAND AIR SERVICES LTD:

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## Stewart Island Hunting Trip For Two Includes -

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W AIRPORT - WHARF WHARF - AIRPORT	DONATED BY	STEWART ISLAND TRAVEL LTD
R WHARF - LUCKY BEACH LUCKY BEACH - WHARF	DONATED BY	H. HANSEN & SON LAUNCH "KIWI"
L ONE NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR 2	DONATED BY	SOUTH SEA HOTEL BRUCE FORD

The New Zealand Forest Service has booked the Lucky Beach block in our name for the successful ballotee from 3 to 10 May 1982. This is transferable subject to your negotiation with the F.S. and the above sponsors.

In fairness to all, please note the following points:

1. All numbered questionnaires returned by the due date will be eligible for participation in the ballot.
2. The questionnaire must be completed.
3. The ballot is for the services listed above and cannot be exchanged for services elsewhere. No monetary or any other form of re-imbursement for services not used or completed for any change of travel arrangements different to those listed above can be entertained.
4. Any change of plans to those listed above resulting in greater expense is the responsibility of the winner. Please note point 3 for any change in plans resulting in lesser expense.
5. Travel arrangements are valid until 30 / 6 / 82.
6. Ballot to be drawn by Member of Parliament in the presence of a Justice of the Peace and / or a representative of the Police.
7. The successful winner will be advised by registered post whose name will be printed in New Zealand "WILDLIFE" magazine. Please ensure your address on the questionnaire is correct.
8. Travel to and from Invercargill from normal place of residence is the responsibility of the winner.
9. The organisers cannot take financial or any responsibility for default for any reason on the part of the sponsors.

Although the ballot is for two persons, the size of the hunting party need not be restricted to this number. However, a number in excess of two persons will incur additional charges (point 4).

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John DECKY

OBSERVATION ON RECREATIONAL USE OF STEWART ISLAND 1983.

DAVID T. HOWDEN, 26 May, 1983.

During 13 to 20 May I visited Stewart Island with the intention of formulating a personal impression on the current recreational situation to follow up our "Hunter Usage Survey 1980/81."

During my visit I spoke to the following:-

Mr K. Prior; Conservator, N.Z Forest Service.  
Mr Verral; Conservator, Land and Survey Dept.  
Mr R. Fife; President Rakiura Maori Land.  
Mr R. Tindall; Chief Ranger, Stewart Island.  
Mrs Moles; Secretary Stewart Island County Council.  
Mr I. Johnson; Chairman S.I. County Council.  
Props of Hotel, Caravan Camp, Camping ground.  
2 local residents, 1 batch owner.  
Mr H. Hansen; charter boat operator.  
4 visitors, 8 trampers (port William, Bungaree, Maori Beach).  
12 hunters in northern area of Island.  
38 hunters in southern areas of the Island.  
Forest Service track cutters.

Generally, tourism has decreased causing financial problems for the airline and ferry services. The number of trampers have remained about the same with 50 - 55% being overseas trampers. The number of hunters has increased to 1500 - 1900 per year. Assuming a mean of 1700 over the last year, this represents a 57% increase of numbers from our survey.

Although approximately 4 000 trampers spent one or more nights in huts, only 10% walked the northern circuit. Residents commented that trampers spend very little compared to hunters.

Transport:

The Island Community is having difficulty retaining satisfactory ferry service due to Government cuts in addition to what I have already mentioned as a drop of tourists visiting the Island. The charter boat "Monarch" (Mr I. Johnson) is running unscheduled crossings from Bluff; \$13.50. The following is a guide only:

H & H Travel; Invercargill to Bluff \$3.50  
Ferry, Bluff to Oban \$13.50 (Runs Mon, Wed, Fri)  
H. Hansen "Kiwi" P.O. Box 23 S.I. Ph 33  
I Johnson "Monarch" P.O. Box 24. Ph 53  
P. Smith "Sea Star" P.O. Box 104. Ph 44  
C. Goldsmith "Riko Riko" P.O. H.M.B. Ph 5R



Accommodation:

There is now a much wider range of accommodation on the Island to what there was available previously. I would recommend the following:

Hunters; Ferndale Caravan Camp. \$24 2 persons, only 400m walk from wharf.  
 Trampers; Horseshoe Bay Haven. Dormitory \$6.50 situated 4km from town at end of track.  
 Other accommodation is also available:-  
 South Sea Hotel \$46.50 pp; dinner \$14.50  
 Rukuiria Motel \$30 per two persons.  
 Morris Flats \$25 per two persons.  
 Pullen Crib \$4 per person.  
 Squires Crib \$5 per person.  
 There is also a summer youth hostel.

1. SOUTHERN STEWART ISLAND.

There is a shift of hunting pressure from the northern areas of Stewart Island to the southern hunting blocks and in particular to the Maori hunting blocks. This is resulting in a higher number of deer killed. The trophy success ratio is higher than the north probably due to easier land contour and the increase mobility of hunters through their use of small boats. From Mr Hansen the trophy ratio was:-

February	51 shot	2 trophies
March	128 shot	7 trophies
April	104 shot	8 trophies
Half of May	69 shot	4 trophies

This represents a total kill of 352 deer with 21 trophies being taken or one trophy in 16.7 deer shot.

I predict a similar pattern of falling deer numbers as has occurred in the northern blocks over the past ten years. All seven parties spoken to wished to return in the future (98% in our survey over 210 hunting parties) bookings being made two years in advance.

A major attraction to this area are the sheltered water ways and safe landings. This results in large amounts of party gear being taken in and a lot being left behind. Greater emphasis should be made to ensure what is taken in is taken out.

Maori Land.

Hunters to this area were prepared to pay \$10 per head per week for the privilege but would be unhappy with this if deer numbers were reduced by 50 - 70% as suggested in the Forest Service report on Southern Stewart Island (Cuddihy). The Rakiura Maori land Trust say the fee is to only cover administration.



If this is the case, some hunters consider an annual cleanup of campsites would be desirable. The Trustees seem happy for this to continue but stress that hunting is to continue while there is no other use being made of the land.

#### Extension of Maori land:

The Kakiura Trust have applied to the Land Department for control of land previously "reserved for landless natives." If this is granted, several Forest Service administered hunting blocks will be affected; half Little Glory, most of Ocean Beach, all of Chew Tobacco and Pikaroro, most of Port North and part of Bosom. From my enquires of Mr Verral (Lands Department) and others it appears the Maoris do have a good case and control will probably be granted at the next sitting of Parliament. The Forest Service at Oban are no longer taking bookings for those blocks. If the land is granted to the Trust, I suggest:-

1. Public access must be provided to the Upper Herron area.
2. The change of administration must be well publicised particularly to hunters.
3. Any part of the land cannot be sold to outsiders or individual interests.
4. Any widespread modification of the natural environment must be subject to the same impact reports that pertain to the rest of New Zealand.
5. All public access rights that apply to the majority of New Zealand and to Crown land be retained, ie, Crown chain on foreshore and up rivers etc.
6. Maori control be fully recognised by all recreational interests so all parties can generate maximum co-operation.

#### Lands and Survey (Kellys Bosom).

New three sided shelters with fireplaces, prepared tent sites and toilets have been erected and seem to be left in a tidy condition. This is definitely helping hunting parties to be a bit more camp conscious. There success or otherwise should be followed.

Everyone expressed doubts about the open block system (Kellys and Bosom). This experiment should be stopped. To exercise more control over inland deer numbers it is suggested a hut and track be constructed into the upper Herron River/Adventure Hill area. This would also create a new block.



4.

Control Blocks: (Poisoned).

A visual assessment does not give the impression of overall regeneration but where wind damage has opened up the canopy a good cross section of regrowth is evident. Coastal dieback regeneration does not appear to be markedly better than other areas. The small number of deer present appear to have a large predominance of bucks if rutting sign is any guide.

Other recreation.

There is an increase in the number of boat charter for diving trips to the southern part of the Island. Tramping in this area is unusual but large groups are showing an interest in landing at Port Pegasus and traversing the Tin Range.

The present Kakapo area from the Tin Range in the south to Toitoi River in the north has little recreational potential due to poor or unreliable boat landings and cost of charter.

2. NORTHERN STEWART ISLAND.

Hunting.

The number of hunters has remained static many being first time Stewart Island hunters attracted to the tracks and huts. It is also second choice of those missing out on a southern hunting block although most of these prefer to take an Inlet block.

The deer are still confined to the immediate coastal area by preference but their numbers are quite low compared to ten or twenty years ago. This is evident in the variety and vigour of the understory. However deer could be increasing slightly in some areas observed closer to Oban.

Tramping.

I spent three days walking the tracks and speaking to trampers. The comments have raised some grave doubts on the wisdom of any further increase in the number of trampers using the northern circuit. This is due to the peaty nature of the soil resulting in excessive mud problems. At present the Forest Service is upgrading the Maori Beach section; this requires extensive board walks even up hills.

The very poor condition of the track at Bungaree and Freshwater has a definite influence on the numbers walking the northern circuit as only 10% of those starting off actually go all the way.

5.

I consider the danger hunters pose to trampers to be minimal as after the first day on the track the energy required to get to the next hut ensures trampers stay strictly on the track and on reaching the hut to stay within its immediate vicinity. The only friction between these two groups appears to be in the huts (cleaning and firewood).

Most trampers would like a three to four day round trip. A track between Maori Beach and North Arm could be a solution especially if the northern area was declared a recreational hunting area.

General.

There is a growing problem of hunters not collecting permits or cancelling trips. Suggestions for cat control have not yet been tried.

X Hunters are assisting with data collection of jaw bones and gut samples for the Forest Research Institute.

If a recreational hunting area was established in the central and northern area of the Island every encouragement should be given to the Maori Trust to administer their land in a complimentary manner.

Most people whose major interest is flora and fauna do not venture far from the immediate area of Oban.

X Ch. J. Tobo