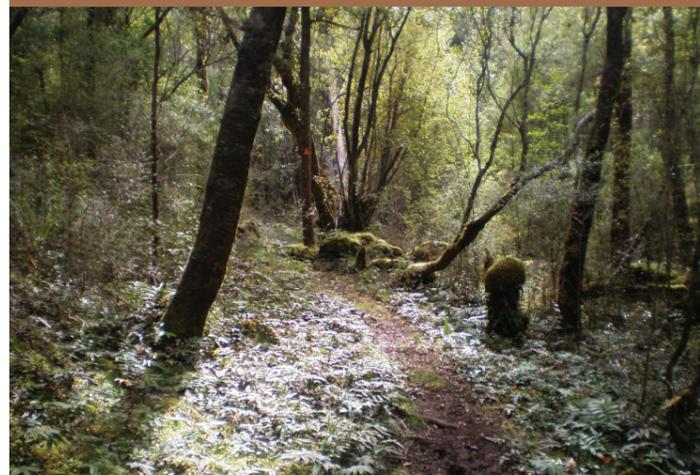


AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF
VISITOR CONFLICTS IN NEW
ZEALAND SOUTHLAND
CONSERVANCY: THE CASE
OF HUNTERS AND TRAMPERS
ON STEWART ISLAND



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ZEALAND'S SOUTHLAND CONSERVANCY - THE CASE OF
HUNTERS AND TRAMPERS ON STEWART ISLAND**

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Cover Photographs: Above: Sunset in the North Arm, Paterson Inlet (A. C. Reis); Below: Tramping track on the Southern Circuit (A. C. Reis).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the second semester of 2006, the Department of Conservation offered a Visitor Research Grant program that provided a full time post graduate student with a scholarship to conduct research on aspects of visitor use and recreation on public conservation land in Southland. Three topics were considered most relevant for the management of the area during the following year. This report focuses on the first topic *“Is there visitor conflict between hunters and trampers?”* The results presented in this report reflect the responses of trampers and hunters who visited Stewart Island during the summer of 2006/2007. It is expected that this document will further contribute to the drafting of the Management Plan for Rakiura National Park.

This study adopted a multi-method approach to data collection. Three procedures were used to gain information: Questionnaire Surveys, In-depth Interviews and Participant Observation. Surveys were delivered on site to both trampers and hunters, using four different strategies: personal delivery (on an encounter basis), delivery by commercial operators, delivery by the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, and delivery by the Department of Conservation Field Centre staff. In total, 469 questionnaires were distributed and 220 valid questionnaires were returned (46.9% response rate).

In-depth interviews were conducted with 13 recreationists that visited the island during the summer of 2006-2007. Interviews were transcribed and themes that emerged during the ‘conversations’ were identified and coded. The insights derived from this strategy were used to enrich the analysis of the different results encountered in the survey responses.

Participant observation constituted the third research method. Observation of hunters and trampers during the survey period, both on tracks and at huts, assisted the understanding of issues and behaviours of the two groups. The results of this process were also used to enhance the survey analysis.

Responses for each individual survey were plotted into a statistical analysis tool, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

This study has identified a number of reasons for conflict between trampers and hunters, but the degree to which such conflict is actually occurring and influencing visitors’ experience seems to be relatively low on Stewart Island.

In respect to the conflicts documented through this study, four contributing factors were identified. The first factor relates to the trip characteristics of the two user-groups that were included in the study. It was concluded that, in general, when a group gathers to go on a hunting trip to Stewart Island, they conform to some behavioural characteristics that might be disturbing to the ones of a tramping trip. That means that possible conflict does not necessarily rise due to differences in values or recreational choices but more so due to the style of the trip (e.g. length of stay, pre-trip organisation).

The second contributing factor relates to hut behaviour and etiquette. The results indicate that some visitors are not fully aware of the expectations in terms of hut behaviour and etiquette in New Zealand and may therefore infringe some norms socially established for the use of backcountry huts. This seems to happen more often with inexperienced visitors and especially with international tourists.

The third factor is associated with crowding, a well reported source of conflict in outdoor recreation. This issue was more common in an intra-group environment (trampers vs. trampers) than between trampers and hunters. Therefore, these results

confirm previous research that concludes that crowding *per se* is a managerial concern and source of conflict, despite user groups.

The last contributing factor for conflict concerns the use of guns and the ethical feelings related to the killing of animals. The handling and presence of guns around huts seems to apprehend some visitors, but, in general, hunters seem to be aware of this unease and tend to hide guns and are considerate of trampers in this situation. This feeling of anxiety seems to be more common amongst international visitors. Likewise, the results indicate that the killing of animals causes more offence to foreign visitors than to domestic tourists on the island.

Overall, reports of conflict were not significant. In general, visitors seem to cope with and tolerate the presence of others well, as long as numbers are kept in control, as this may otherwise lead to feelings of crowding.

While there does not seem to be an urgent need for immediate management action to address conflict on Stewart Island, some directions to further enhance visitor experiences and prevent escalation of conflict are considered appropriate:

- The construction of separate huts for each group has been suggested as an adequate solution. However, from the results of this study, it seems that this is not a cost-effective and environmental-friendly solution as well as it does not seem to be the most advantageous strategy. The existing level of conflict alone does not warrant the construction of additional hunter huts. If more hunting huts are to be built, they should be allocated at remote hunting blocks where only old camp sites exist so as to improve camping conditions and put less pressure on the environment.
- In order to deal with the crowding issue and, therefore, improve conflict management, a booking system for some of the most popular huts seems to be a good alternative. For hunters intending to book the hunting blocks in these areas and staying in the huts, a maximum party number should be defined. In smaller huts around the North West and Southern Circuit, a maximum number of hunters using the hut during the high season should also be enforced.
- Tourists should receive information about hunting on the island as a cultural asset of their visit. Brochures/Information sheets could be developed and presented to trampers prior to their visit with information about exotic animals and the participation of hunters in trying to keep numbers manageable. Information panels in huts could display the history of hunting in that particular area. Brochures could also display the importance of hunting for New Zealand identity and its cultural relevance.
- Tourists should be informed that hunting parties may be encountered during their visit, with this possibility as a highlight of their experience, and not as a possible nuisance.
- Management should increasingly focus on participatory involvement of all stakeholders.

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the main government organisation responsible for conserving and protecting the natural and historical heritage assets of New Zealand. In charge of overseeing and managing 14 national parks and thousands of hectares of conservation land and scenic reserves, DOC is a vital institution in the important task of conserving, advocating and promoting New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

For the year 2006/07 Department of Conservation Southland Conservancy has outlined three topics which were felt to be in need of further research. This report will focus on the first topic "*Is there visitor conflict between hunters and trampers?*" with a focus on Stewart Island. The results presented in this report reflect the responses of trampers and hunters who visited the island during the summer of 2006/2007.

1.1 Research Problem

Both leisure researchers and recreation managers alike have recognized the increasing diversification of recreational pursuits. As a consequence of this proliferation of activities, conflict amongst users has emerged as a major concern in leisure studies and management practices. Initially triggered by the introduction of motorised recreational vehicles (Lucas 1964; Dunn 1970; Knopp & Tyger 1973; Butler 1974), with the development of new technologies, the hybridization of different kinds of sports and the expanding commercialisation of the "outdoors" conflict between various recreational groups has become one of the most investigated issues in modern outdoor recreation (Vittersø et al. 2004).

Research in this area dates back to the late 1960s but has mainly focussed on national parks, conservation lands and wilderness areas of the United States and Canada (e.g. Gramann & Burdge 1981; Jackson & Wong 1982; Saremba & Gill 1991; Ramthun 1995; Vaske et al. 1995; Grijalva & Berrens 2003; Needham & Rollins 2005). There is genuine lack of academic research in this field in New Zealand, despite some isolated efforts (Horn, Devlin & Simmons 1994; Coughlan 1996; Cessford 2000; Hawke & Booth 2001; Cessford 2002). The call from the Department of Conservation to research this issue on Stewart Island reflects this situation and emphasizes the need for a better understanding of recreational conflicts in a New Zealand context.

1.2 The Study Site

Stewart Island is the home of New Zealand's newest national park – Rakiura National Park – which makes up about 85 percent of the island (Department of Conservation 2006a). Located south of the South Island, separated by the Foveaux Strait (see Figure 1), Stewart Island has long been a place of interest to hunters and trampers. Home of one of the most impressive native wildlife in New Zealand, Stewart Island is also known within outdoor recreation circles for its challenging terrain and magnificent landscape. For trampers, it offers the longest and one of the most demanding formal tracks in the country: a ten to twelve day circuit around the island's northern coast (Barnett 2006). For hunters, it offers the only readily available herd of Whitetail deer in the Southern Hemisphere (Stewart Island Promotion Association 2007). For other outdoor enthusiasts, it offers excellent diving, fishing, kayaking and sailing opportunities (Stewart Island Promotion Association 2007). It is therefore, a place of growing popularity for outdoor recreationists.

Figure 1 - Stewart Island Location Map

Source: NZ Online (n.d.)

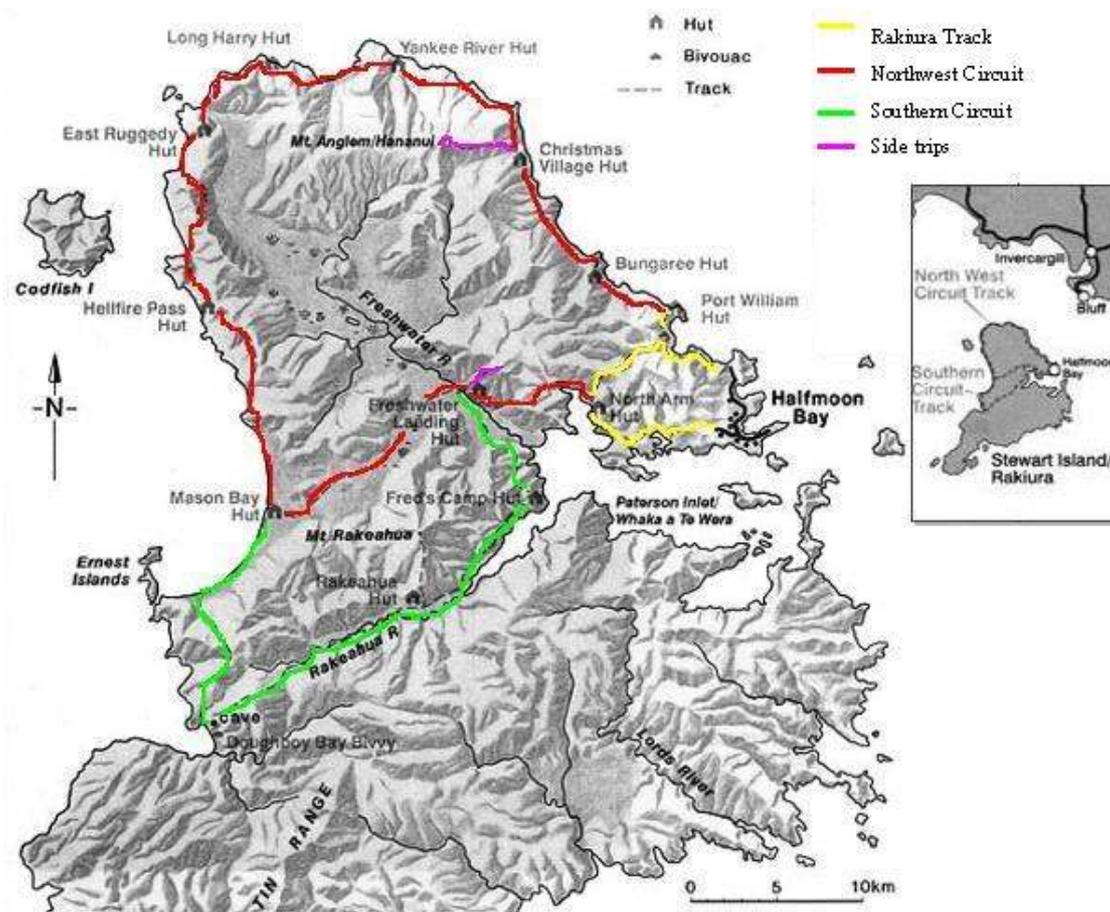
In terms of tramping trails¹, Stewart Island offers three formally constituted tracks, all following a circuit format (see Figure 2). The most heavily utilised, the Rakiura Track, is a 29km tramping track that starts and ends at Oban, the only current permanent settlement on this remote island of 390 inhabitants; it is classified by the Department of Conservation as a 'Great Walk', which means it is amongst the most internationally advertised tracks in New Zealand. It is well formed and signed, and suitable for people with limited backcountry experience (Standard New Zealand, 2004; Department of Conservation 2007a). The track is usually completed in two or three days, but it can be finished in one long day. It is provided with two 'Great-Walk-standard' huts and long sections of board walks and gravel surface, which makes it a relatively easy and comfortable track.

The North West and Southern Circuits, conversely, are considered challenging tramps and are classified as Tramping Tracks in the Department of Conservation Track Categories document² (Department of Conservation 2007a). With long sections of deep and thick mud, constantly undulating country and very remote bush area, only more experienced trampers are advised to adventure in these tracks. The North West Circuit is 125km long and is generally completed in 9 to 11 days. The Southern Circuit, on the other hand, is 105km long and is usually completed in 6 to 9 days, although it is less frequently visited as its country can be more physically demanding to the trumper.

¹ This excludes all day-walk tracks.

² The categories listed are: Easy Access Tracks; Short Walks; Walking Tracks; Great Walk Tracks/Easy Tramping Tracks; Tramping Tracks; and Routes (Department of Conservation 2007a).

Figure 2 - Northwest, Southern and Rakiura Tracks, Stewart Island



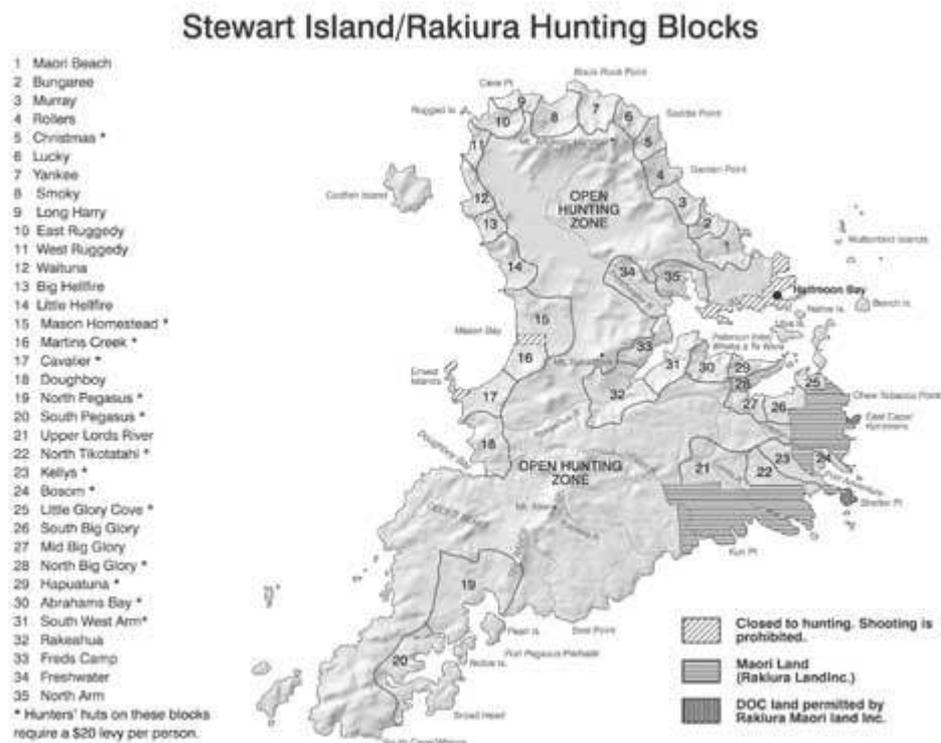
Adapted from: Stewart Island Promotion Association (2007)

Hunting has been another important recreation activity on Stewart Island. Whitetail deer were introduced in 1905 and soon became established around the island. Trophy quality is today considered good and hundreds of hunting parties visit the island every year. Red deer are also found on mid-altitude habitats, especially around Mason Bay, but in lower numbers, therefore attracting less attention from the hunting fraternity. Most areas around the coast, and certainly where most whitetail deer can be found, are managed by a ballot system, in which hunting blocks are defined and can be booked for pre-determined periods of time. This system is administered by the Department of Conservation and divides the coast into 35 blocks³ (see Figure 3). At these sites, hunting parties can stay in huts or at camp sites, depending on the area chosen.

Together with this history of shared passion for the island there is a more recent record of conflicts and tensions between the two groups – hunters and trampers. Although there are vast areas where hunters can freely stalk their targets, many hunting blocks are also crossed by tracks which are used by trampers. Moreover, some hunter parties base themselves from huts on these tracks, and these huts are equally available to trampers. The close encounters and sharing of space that this entails has triggered complaints, tensions and conflicts between the groups.

³ There is also the possibility of booking an area on Maori Land in return for a hunting fee paid to the Rakiura Maori Land Corporation.

Figure 3 - Stewart Island Hunting Blocks



Source: Department of Conservation 2006b.

1.3 Objectives

The purpose of this report is to contribute to the understanding of recreation conflicts in outdoor environments in order to provide managers with relevant information that will help to manage this phenomenon in natural areas. The format adopted for the research was designed to generate data that will provide: 1) insights into the expectations, motivations, values and norms held by users of Rakiura National Park, particularly as they relate to encounters with other visitor groups; and 2) responses to possible conflicts and the effectiveness of hunter huts in preventing conflict in this particular area.

CHAPTER II

Methods

This study adopted a multi-method approach in order to be able to address the different research questions. Indeed, there are a number of authors who advocate the usage of both qualitative and quantitative techniques for data collection in tourism studies with focus on recreational conflict (e.g. Saremba & Gill 1991). As Carr (2001) notes, the utilization of mixed methods provides statistical data and also insightful information which can be analysed and adds to data collected from surveys.

The decision to use a quantitative tool as the foundation of this project was grounded firstly on final aims of this study, and secondly on the limitations encountered for the research (in terms of time and resources). As explained in the previous section, this research intends to provide objective information for DOC on how to better deal with the issue of conflicts between trampers and hunters. Quantitative analysis enables researchers to deliver more accurate results in relation to important variables: in this case, defining groups, activities, and conflicts.

But, in order to explore and delve into the motivations and values associated with some kinds of experiences, a qualitative approach is considered more appropriate. In the case of this study, understanding values and motivations might prove to be an important way of analysing conflict between the two visitor groups (c.f. Vittersø et al. 2004). Therefore, for this research a combination of both techniques presents broader possibilities in terms of the generation and analysis of data.

Three data collection procedures were used to gain information for this study: Questionnaire Surveys, In-depth Interviews and Participant Observation.

2.1 Questionnaire Surveys

A questionnaire survey was administered on site to both trampers and hunters. Separate questionnaires were developed for the two groups, with minimal differences between the two versions (see Appendix 1). The questionnaires were designed to address predominantly issues related to motivations, expectations, level of involvement in the activity and with the site, norms and behaviours, and the actual description/acknowledgement of conflict. Matters regarding huts and encounters with other users were also covered in the survey.

The survey was pre-evaluated by senior colleagues at the University of Otago and DOC staff before the pilot-test, which was administered on site to 20 trampers and 20 hunters. Seventeen pilot surveys were returned from a total of 40 surveys that were delivered, and the responses led to some changes that were necessary for the final version of the surveys.

The survey was presented to respondents with a cover letter explaining the objectives and ethical issues involved with this type of research (see Appendix 2). The cover letter also included a prize-draw section, where respondents could opt to participate in a \$100 gift voucher draw and/or to further contribute to the research by providing contact details. This section was immediately detached from the survey when returned to the researcher in order to assure confidentiality to all respondents.

Surveys were distributed to hunters and trampers visiting most of the island's recreational areas, including all formally managed tramping tracks (Rakiura Track,

Southern Circuit and North West Circuit), and all hunting blocks under the booking system managed by the Department of Conservation (therefore excluding blocks on Maori land). It is important to note that both the hunting blocks around the tramping tracks and the ones in remote areas where there are no formal trails were included in the selected research site.

Surveys were administered using four different strategies.

2.1.1 On-site, Personal Delivery (on an encounter basis)

The researcher went to data collection sites on random days, both weekdays and weekends, during different times of the day, across peak months of the hunting and tramping season – March, April and May⁴. The questionnaires were delivered with a pre-paid addressed envelope and respondents were asked to post it back after completion in their own time. Some respondents were approached on their last day on the island and when already settled in at their tramping and/or hunting huts. In these cases respondents were able to return the survey directly to the researcher as they had already had encounters and experiences with other visitors on the island.

Four visits to Stewart Island were conducted, with time spent on the research site varying from 3 to 23 days. Different sites within Rakiura National Park were visited during each trip, including most of the formal tramping tracks and huts (excluding a few huts of the North West and Southern Circuit), and hunting blocks, hunter huts and campsites (with the exception of all blocks in the Port Adventure and Port Pegasus areas). Sites were either reached via tramping tracks or by commercial water-taxi.

To ensure the validity of the instrument and data collection method, every overnight tramper and hunter met on the island, both on tracks and at huts, was approached and asked to participate in the survey. To be an eligible respondent, the visitor had to be sixteen years of age. No one refused to receive a questionnaire.

2.1.2 Commercial Operators

Prior arrangements with commercial transport operators were made to deliver questionnaires to hunters arriving or leaving the island – also with pre-paid envelopes to be mailed back to researcher. Two charter boats and one water-taxi operator were contacted and agreed to cooperate. This strategy was used to overcome the difficulties of reaching hunters that travel to the far south of the island, where access is only possible via big boats, as well as to increase sample size. In this way the researcher was able to contact hunters that were stationed at the hunting blocks of Port Pegasus and Port Adventure.

2.1.3 Clubs and Associations

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) was contacted and agreed to assist with the delivery of surveys to hunters who hired mountain radios prior to their trip to the island. This was another strategy used to reach hunters that were going into areas where there are no formal tramping tracks used for access.

⁴ The tramping season officially runs from October to April (Department of Conservation 2007b) while the hunting season, on Stewart Island, tends to concentrate between the months of March and July. The aim was to, therefore, encompass both seasons into the time frame permitted by this research.

2.1.4 Department of Conservation Field Centre

The Department of Conservation Field Centre staff agreed to deliver surveys to trampers who were signing in or out of the tramping tracks. The option of leaving surveys on the desk for self-selection was discarded as this would incur in significant sample bias.

In total, 469 questionnaires were distributed; 140 surveys were personally delivered to trampers and another 24 were delivered by DOC Field Centre staff, summing up to 164 trampler surveys. 120 surveys were personally delivered to hunters, commercial transport operators delivered 117 and NZDA delivered another 68, with a total of 305 surveys being delivered to hunters (see Table 1).

Table 1 - Survey Counting

	Personal Delivery	Commercial Operators	Clubs and Associations	DOC Field Centre Staff	Total
Trampers	140	x	x	24	164
Hunters	120	117	68	x	305
Total	260	117	68	24	469

2.2 In-depth Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with 13 recreationists that visited the island during the summer of 2006-2007. Survey respondents that opted to further contribute to the research by ticking the appropriate box in the prize-draw section of the cover letter formed the sample from which interview participants were selected. From this sample, all respondents based on the South Island that had provided email address or telephone number were contacted. From those, 7 hunters and 6 trampers were available and/or willing to meet for an interview during the time frame of the research.

Interviews were conducted in the site of choice of the participant. Most interviewees were based either in Christchurch and surroundings, or Dunedin and smaller neighbouring districts.

Interviews lasted between 55 to 120 minutes and followed a semi-structured template of themes, which included: tramping/hunting background, ethical issues related to tramping/hunting, place and activity attachment, environmental/conservation issues and recreational conflicts *per se* (see Appendix 3). The participant was also encouraged to raise other issues that s/he considered relevant as well as to discuss extensively what s/he considered pertinent. Some themes and questions were adapted from a previous ethnographic work by McLeod (2004) on hunting in the South Island of New Zealand. This research identified some common relevant themes that surround hunting practices. These themes were considered appropriate for the present research as they would potentially help with the understanding of behaviours and norms of hunters on Stewart Island.

Interviews were transcribed and themes that emerged during the 'conversations' were identified and coded. The themes were then clustered and the quotations and insights derived from this strategy were used to enrich the analysis of the different results encountered in the survey responses.

2.3 Participant Observations

Participant observation constituted the third research method. Observation of hunters and trampers during the survey period, both on tracks and at huts, assisted the understanding of issues and behaviours of the two groups. It also provided insightful information to better analyse the data from the questionnaires as well as to develop the interview themes template.

Informal conversations were held with members of both groups, during different situations and at different places on the island. Valuable information was also gathered through informal conversations with water taxis and charter boats operators, commercial guides, Department of Conservation Field Centre staff, Stewart Island locals, and flight operators.

A personal diary was used to record information with notes being taken throughout the day. The strategy used to analyse the large amount of data gathered during this phase was similar to that used for the interviews. Themes were identified, coded and clustered, and the results of this process were also used to enhance the survey analysis.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

Research involving a multi-methods approach requires consideration of a myriad of ethical issues that need to be dealt with in order to present sound participation and results. The first technique employed, questionnaire surveys, involves one main ethical issue, which is anonymity. This was addressed by the use of the following measures:

1. A cover letter including all necessary information regarding the research (aims and purposes) was attached to each survey, emphasising that participation was voluntary;
2. Participants were assured of anonymity in the recording and reporting of data;
3. Participants were informed that it was possible to withdraw from the research project at any time without any disadvantage;
4. The researcher's contact details were included in the cover letter in case of additional questions or concerns;
5. Analysis of data was conducted in aggregated form, so to further contribute to anonymity.

The second technique used, participant observation, implies some specific ethical issues, which were dealt with in the following manner:

1. All participants were aware of the researcher's presence and intent during the period of data collection;
2. No participants were identified in any way, even during note taking;
3. Observations were focused on situations and not on specific participants;
4. No particular groups of people were focused upon, but rather interactions between recreationists;
5. Note taking was done in private and in a diary format so participants would not feel intruded upon.

The last technique, interviews, was carried out with selected participants. Measures taken to secure ethical soundness, in addition to the ones cited previously, were as follows:

1. Interviewees were informed that participation was voluntary;
2. Interviews were carried out in an appropriate location convenient to the interviewee;

3. The precise nature of the questions which are asked in an open-questioning technique cannot be determined in advance, but depends on the way in which the interview develops. Therefore, participants were reminded from the beginning that in the event that the line of questioning developed in such a way that the interviewee felt hesitant or uncomfortable, s/he had the right to decline to answer any particular question(s) and also that s/he could withdraw from the project at any stage without any disadvantage of any kind;

As stated previously, for all the above, an eligibility criteria applied; no data was collected from visitors younger than 16 years of age.

This research and techniques had been discussed at length with senior research colleagues from the University of Otago and was approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. Moreover, the research and its ethical implications were approved and supported by the Department of Conservation, the agency responsible for the areas where the study was conducted.

2.5 Limitations of the Study

There are a few limitations to this study that must be considered. First, the researcher failed to identify surveys by the type of administration employed. This would have contributed to the analysis as it would have given information on where the participants were based or which track they were undertaking. Moreover, it would have aided in the analysis of response rate problems.

Adding to the matter of participants' base or tracks undertaken, it would have been appropriate to include an item asking this specific question in the survey. During the design of the instrument this question was considered but discarded for two reasons: firstly, it was supposed that some participants (especially hunters as they are personally allocated a specific hunting block during a specific period of time) could have felt intruded upon if asked where they were, feeling that this could identify them. In fact this could have affected the confidential nature of the survey as hunting block records could indicate who respondents were. Secondly, at that time of the survey development, it was not felt that this information was of great relevance. After the analysis, it seems that this would have added to the discussion but we are confident that anonymity was preserved hence justifying this fragility of the survey.

CHAPTER III

Results and Analysis

This section will present the results from the surveys⁵ as well as some important data gathered through qualitative methods. However, as discussed in the previous section, qualitative data will be drawn upon in more depth in the discussion chapter where responses from both the quantitative and qualitative tools will be commented on and analysed.

3.1 The Instrument and the Statistical Procedures

Each questionnaire was composed of 25 questions, some of which presented more than one item for response. Two of the 25 were open-ended questions, with an extra section for comments at the end of the survey. In total, each survey presupposed 87 objective answers from the individual trumper participant and 89 from the individual hunter⁶. From all of those, five were simple nominal type, four were nominal with the possibility of multiple responses, 78/80 presented ordinal style of response, with 72/74 of those being presented as a 5-point Likert scale.

The survey was divided into three different sections. The first section focused on gathering information about the visitors to the national park and was titled 'Yourself'. The first three questions asked respondents about their level of experience with the activity and on the island. The following three questions covered perceptions of backcountry recreational areas (question 4), place/activity attachment (question 5) and environmental values (question 6). Question four was adapted from previous research conducted on the conservation estate of the South and Stewart Island which concentrated on wilderness experiences (Higham 1996), whilst question 6 used a number of variable labels adapted from the work of Dawson (2003) on environmental values of consumptive and non-consumptive marine tourists in the South Island of New Zealand.

Section two of the surveys was the longest segment of the survey and asked questions about their current visit. Aspects focused upon included length of stay, group characteristics, travel mode, type of accommodation used, levels of satisfaction, motivation, causes and extent of conflict between park users, and best and worst aspects of visit. Again, the instrument developed by Higham (1996) was used to design two of the 14 questions from this section (questions 12 and 13).

The third section focused on demographic information. It was considered appropriate to leave this section to last as the questions were less likely to be influenced by the respondents' failing concentration at the end of the survey. It was reasoned that, due to the length of the instrument, it would be important to place the more basic questions towards the end.

Responses for each individual survey were plotted into a statistical analysis tool, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Open-ended responses were coded and then inputted into the same instrument for analysis. The differences

⁵ Data will be presented in the same order in which they were asked in the questionnaire surveys with the exception of the visitor demographics, which will be presented first in order to set a context for responses.

⁶ Hunters' surveys presented two more variables in question 13, being: 'Shooting trophy animals' and 'Controlling deer numbers hence making a difference to conservation'. These questions were included because they were considered relevant to hunting motivation. There are no corresponding questions on the trumper's survey.

between the two groups were tested individually for each close-ended response. Chi-square tests were utilised for nominal responses (simple and multiples) and Mann-Whitney tests for ordinal responses.⁷

3.2 Response Rate

In total, 220 valid⁸ questionnaires were returned, representing a 46.9% return rate. Trampers' response rate was slightly higher than hunters', with 50.6% and 44.9% response rate for each group respectively (see Table 2).

Table 2 - Response Rate

	Delivered	Returned	Response Rate
Trampers	164	83	50.6%
Hunters	305	137	44.9%
Total	469	220	46.9%

The relatively low response rate might be due to different issues regarding survey delivery. The first one refers to the delivery of surveys by third parties that are not necessarily interested in the research findings and thus might not have advised respondents of the importance and relevance of the study to the management of the area. Participants might not have, therefore, been 'convinced' of the need to return completed surveys. The second concern refers to postal return; some respondents might have forgotten or been unwilling to post surveys back to the researcher.

Another issue that might help explain the low response rates is the receipt of the survey at a time when visitors are engaged in leisurely experiences and might have found filling in surveys too 'work-related' and formal. They might have disposed of the questionnaire immediately. Finally, there is a high possibility that some visitors might have forgotten or lost the questionnaire and/or envelope during their trip, as most of them were on the island for several days engaged in demanding activities.

⁷ A common problem in questionnaire survey analysis is the high repetition rate of statistical tests in a sequence, which increases the probability of a type I error (α) beyond the expected margin (Bland & Altman 1995). To solve this matter, keeping α within the desired margin (e.g. 0.05), the Bonferroni correction model for multiple comparisons (Bland & Altman 1995) was employed following equation 1 below:

$$\alpha_A = \frac{\alpha_D}{k}$$

where the adjusted α_A value is the desired α_D value divided by the number of tests performed in a sequence (k). In this way, in this report, the difference between the groups in any chosen item will only be considered statistically significant if $P \leq 0.0006$.

A worry with the Bonferroni correction is the assumption of independence between responses. Clearly, as the responses were taken from the same sample and some responses are related to each other, there is a dependence relationship between questions. Thus, the Bonferroni correction is considered a conservative one, meaning that the power to detect real statistical differences after correction is diminished. In other words, using the Bonferroni correction the probability to set as significant a difference that happened by chance (type I error) was decreased, but the probability of missing a real statistical difference (type II error) was increased. Nevertheless, this is a simple and common solution for this statistical problem.

⁸ Two hunters' surveys were returned but were not considered valid due to lack of responses in most items.

3.3 Survey Section Three – Demographics

The last section of the survey was composed of five questions regarding demographic characteristics of the respondent. Although this section came as the last in the instrument, its results will be presented firstly as to provide a context for the following discussions. All questions in this section presented significant differences between the two groups.

Question 21 - Gender

An overwhelming majority of hunters from the returning sample were male, with only 2.2% of female respondents. In fact, during field work only one female hunter was encountered, confirming the male dominance on this sport. On the other hand, females accounted for 39.8% of trumper respondents, showing a far more balanced participation between the two genders in this activity. This result was not surprising as hunting is socially regarded as a male-oriented activity and several researchers have found the same pattern of participation in different countries (cf. Franklin 2007).

Question 22 - Nationality

Instead of providing a list of countries to be chosen from, respondents were asked to hand-write their nationality. This strategy has caused some problems as few hunters reported being 'European'. Although it seems that those respondents were referring to their ethnic origin (as opposed to Maori), it is not possible to affirm that⁹. On the other hand, it does not seem proper to assume that these respondents meant that they were born somewhere in Europe, so it was decided that those responses were to be excluded and recorded as missing answers. Still, 87.6% of hunters participating in the survey were New Zealanders. Only one respondent reported being from elsewhere (Australia) and the other five were the participants reporting being 'European'. Conversely, the large majority of trampers were international tourists (65.1% as opposed to 33.7% New Zealanders).

Question 23 - Age

Seven age groups were presented as options for respondents in question 23: 16-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+. As expected, trampers were mostly young adults, with a high percentage of respondents fitting into the first two age brackets (68.7%). Furthermore, only a small minority of trampers were older than 44 years old (19.2%) with no trumper being older than 64 years of age (Table 3).

On the other hand, hunters were evenly spread between the three age groups of 35-44, 45-54 and 55 to 64 years (21.9%, 27.7% and 21.2%), and few respondents reported being between 65 to 74 years of age (4.4%). In opposition to trampers, a minority of hunters were younger than 35 (23.3%).

⁹ This hypothesis is based on several assumptions: first of all, as a foreigner from a non-European country, the author has anecdotally noticed that it is far more common in New Zealand to fill-in forms where you state your ethnicity (Maori, European, Asian, etc.) than your actual nationality; this might have led respondents to assume that was the case here. Secondly, the author did not meet any foreign hunters during the whole period of field research on Stewart Island, noticing the high predominance of New Zealanders hunting on the island. Lastly, there are only a small percentage of international hunters listed in the application forms for hunting blocks consulted at the Department of Conservation Field Centre in Oban.

Table 3 - Age

		Hunters		Trampers	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	16-24	17	12.4	25	30.1
	25-34	15	10.9	32	38.6
	35-44	30	21.9	10	12.0
	45-54	38	27.7	7	8.4
	55-64	29	21.2	9	10.8
	65-74	6	4.4	0	0
	75+	0	0	0	0
Not Recorded		2	1.5	0	0
Total		137	100.0	83	100.0

Question 24 - Are you currently a member of any of the following?

Question 24 asked respondents about their formal involvement with groups, associations and clubs that are related to outdoor recreation or environmental movements. An overwhelming majority of both trampers and hunters stated they were not members of any such organisations with an even larger share of trampers choosing this option (60.2% of hunters and 75.3% of trampers). Moreover, both groups presented a similar pattern of engagement with environmental groups, with only 3.8% of hunters and 3.5% of trampers belonging to such associations. Similarly, only a small percentage of both groups reported being member of other associations, as Table 4 shows (for a full list of clubs and associations listed by participants, please refer to Appendix 8).

Table 4 - Club Membership

			Club Membership					Total
			Not a Member	Environ. Group	Tramping Club	Hunting Club	Other	
Group	Hunters	Count	80	5	0	45	3	133
		% hunters	60.2%	3.8%	0	33.8%	2.3%	
		% of Total	36.7%	2.3%	0	20.6%	1.4%	62.3%
	Trampers	Count	64	3	10	1	7	85
		% trampers	75.3%	3.5%	11.8%	1.2%	8.2%	
		% of Total	29.4%	1.4%	4.6%	.5%	3.2%	37.7%
Total	Count	144	8	10	46	10	218	
	% of Total	66.1%	3.7%	4.6%	21.1%	4.6%	100%	

Percentages and totals are based on number of respondents to this question.

Despite the similarities described above, significant differences were found between the distributions of responses from the two groups when a statistical test was applied to results. The contrast lies in their membership to tramping and hunting clubs. As expected, no hunter reported being a member of a tramping club and only one trumper stated that he belonged to a hunting club. Conversely, 33.8% of hunters were members of hunting clubs and 11.8%¹⁰ of trampers were affiliated to a tramping group.

¹⁰ If responses from participants who chose the 'Other' option and reported being members of a "Climbing Club", "British Mountaineering Council" and "Caving Club" are added to the 'tramping club' responses, this figure raises to 15.7%.

Question 25 - Highest level of education.

The last question of the survey asked respondents to state their highest level of education by providing the following options: primary school, secondary school, tertiary degree, postgraduate and other, which asked for specification of the degree.

The vast majority of trampers stated either having completed a tertiary degree or a postgraduate course (43.4% and 28.9%), and no respondent reported attending primary school only. On the contrary, the vast majority of hunters finished secondary school (64.2%) with only a small proportion obtaining tertiary or postgraduate degrees (19% and 5.8%). 8.8% of hunters stated having completed a qualification in the “other” category and a very small minority had only attended primary school (1.5%). The result on the educational background of trampers conforms to other research conducted in New Zealand (see Booth & Peebles 1995).

Table 5 - Level of Education

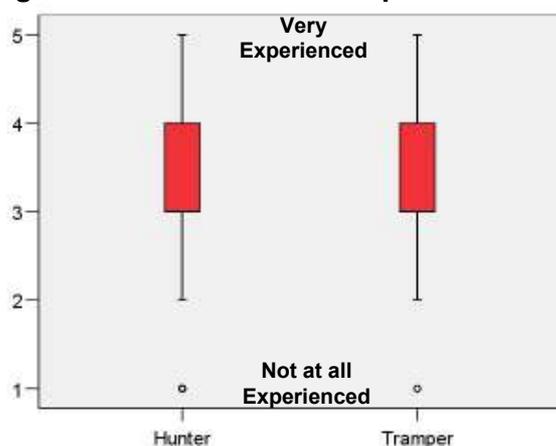
		Hunters		Trampers	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Primary School	2	1.5	0	0
	Secondary School	88	64.2	19	22.9
	Tertiary Degree	26	19.0	36	43.4
	Post Graduate	8	5.8	24	28.9
	Other	12	8.8	3	3.6
Not Recorded		1	.7	1	1.2
Total		137	100.0	83	100.0

3.4 Survey Section One – Yourself

The following questions were presented in the first section of the survey and were related to general issues regarding outdoor experience and involvement as well as place and activity attachment, and environmental values.

Question 1 - How experienced in tramping/hunting do you consider yourself?

The first question of the survey asked visitors how experienced they considered themselves in the activity they were involved with in that trip (tramping or hunting). Answers were plotted in a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 meant ‘not at all experienced’ and 5 ‘very experienced’.

Figure 4 - Hunters and Trampers Level of Perceived Experience in Activity

Results from this question showed very similar patterns between the two groups with identical distribution between the quartiles (see Figure 4). Both groups presented average level of perceived experience, with no significant difference between them.

Question 2 - How frequently have you gone tramping/hunting in the last 5 years?

This question was included because it has been pointed out by some scholars that perceived experience does not necessarily reflect the level of involvement or the actual experience of a recreationist in a determined activity (cf. Kuentzel & Heberlein 2006). Hence, it was felt that another measure should be employed to give a better indication as to the level of experience of those visitors.

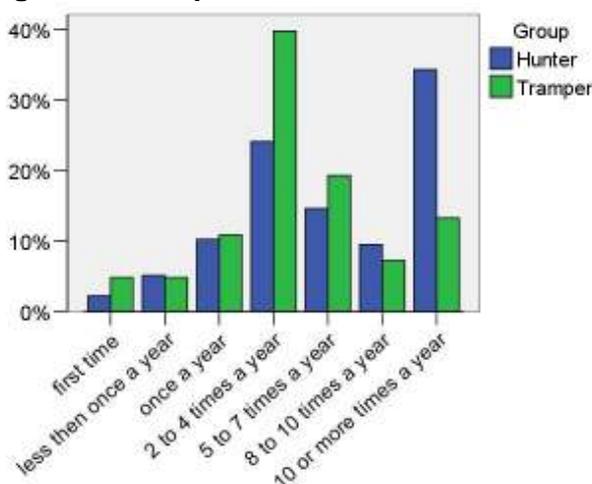
Respondents could choose from seven possible categories: first time; less than once a year; once a year; 2-4 times a year; 5-7/year; 8-10/year; more than 10/year. Hunters reported undertaking their chosen activity more frequently, with a median of five to seven trips a year, whilst trampers reported a median of two to four trips per year (see Table 6 below). This result thus concurs with previous research indicating that the perceived level of experience does not always relate to the frequency of involvement with the activity.

Table 6 - Frequency of Hunting and Tramping Over the Last 5 Years

	Hunters		Trampers	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid first time	3	2.2	4	4.8
less than once a year	7	5.1	4	4.8
once a year	14	10.2	9	10.8
2 to 4 times a year	33	24.1	33	39.8
5 to 7 times a year	20	14.6	16	19.3
8 to 10 times a year	13	9.5	6	7.2
more than 10 times a year	47	34.3	11	13.3
Total	137	100.0	83	100.0

The differences between the two groups were tested and were not found significant after the correction model was employed (note in Figure 5 that discrepancies are only found in options '2-4 times a year' and 'more than 10', with all the others distributed very similarly).

Figure 5 - Comparison of Hunters and Trampers Reported Frequency of Activity

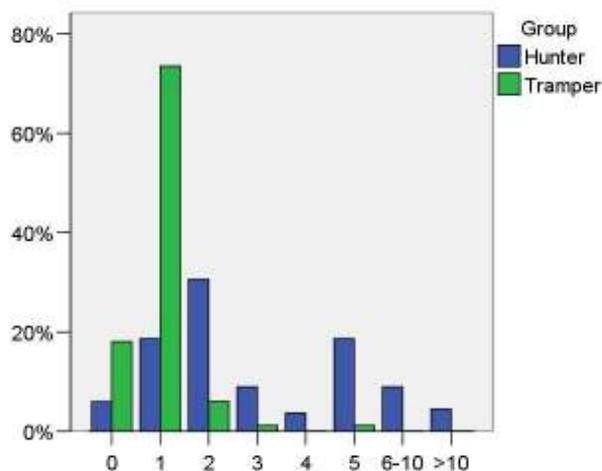


Question 3 - How many times have you gone tramping/hunting on Stewart Island in the last 5 years?

Again, this question was included to give more information on activity involvement and experience, but most importantly to investigate place attachment and level of connection to Stewart Island as a preferred or highly valued site for recreation.

A problem found with the answers to this question was that the formulation of the sentence did not explain if that one trip was to be included in the count or not. Therefore, it seems that many respondents (particularly trampers) who have been there for the first time this summer responded 'one trip' as including their first and only visit to the island. Nevertheless, the results still show the significant difference in terms of place attachment between the two groups.

Figure 6 - Number of Visits in Previous 5 Years



Question 4 - Please indicate how appropriate each of the following is in a backcountry area.

This question was divided into 16 sub-items, all of which presented a 5-point Likert scale for plotting responses. To facilitate analysis and discussions further on, the results will be displayed aggregating sub-items that presented no significant difference between the groups first and then the results with significant differences will be presented. When appropriate, results will be compared to those found in Higham's work on wilderness perceptions of New Zealand's conservation estate by international trampers (Higham 1996). As explained in the methodology chapter, several variables of question 4 were based on variables presented in the above mentioned research, being therefore relevant to highlight similarities or discrepancies between the results. Nevertheless, these results are not directly comparable due to differences in methodology and question structure, thus serving only to show tendencies or notable differences.

Several sub-items presented significant differences before the Bonferroni correction model was employed, but did not show significance after its application. This was the case with sub-items B, D, H, J and P. Sub-items F, G, I, K, M, N and O did not present significant differences between the two groups even before applying the correction model.

To receive general information about the site through brochures, maps, etc. was considered appropriate by both groups, whereas to encounter and receive general information through guides was perceived as inappropriate by hunters and trampers (Figures 7 and 8). Hence, it seems that neither of the two groups usually join guided

activities (hunting and tramping specifically) on the island. It is interesting to note, however, that the results show a tendency for trampers to value information gained from maps and brochures more than hunters, with a very small percentage of trampers considering this variable as 'not appropriate' or 'not at all appropriate'.

One of the reasons for these results might be the fact that hunters usually book one or two hunting blocks where they will stay for their whole trip, arriving there either by boat or helicopter (as confirmed in question 10), therefore having to rely less on information from brochures, for instance. Moreover, when out in the bush, hunters do not tend to stay around well-formed tracks and usually only have a GPS and a map of their hunting block. Trampers, on the other hand, follow the already established tracks and find it important to know about the condition and length of the trail to be able to carefully plan their visit. Furthermore, hunters are more frequent visitors to Stewart Island as was confirmed in the results from question 3 above and thus may already be familiar with the area.

Figure 7 - To Receive General Information about the Site through Brochures, Maps, etc.

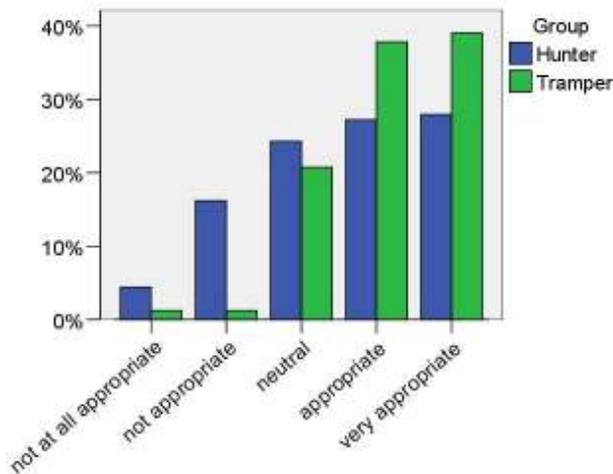
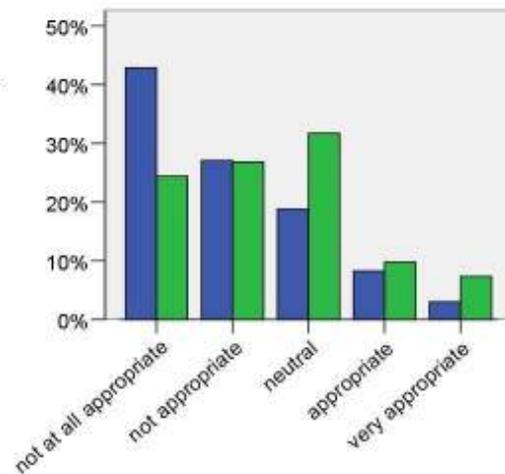
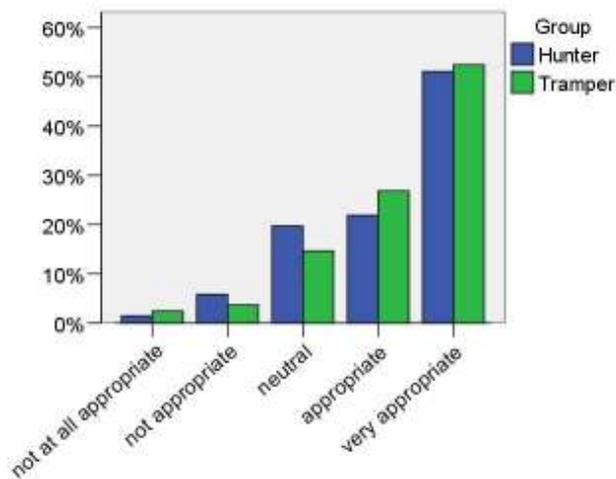
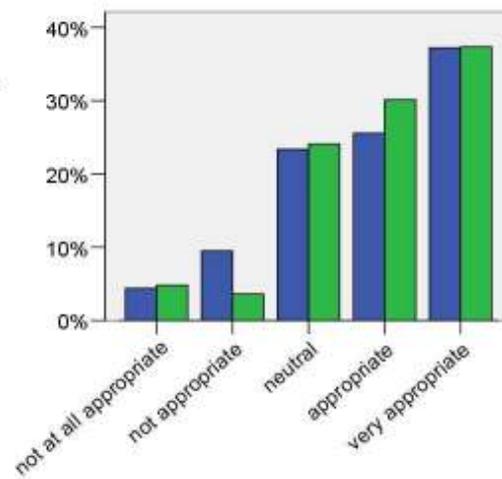


Figure 8 - To Receive General Information about the Site through Guides



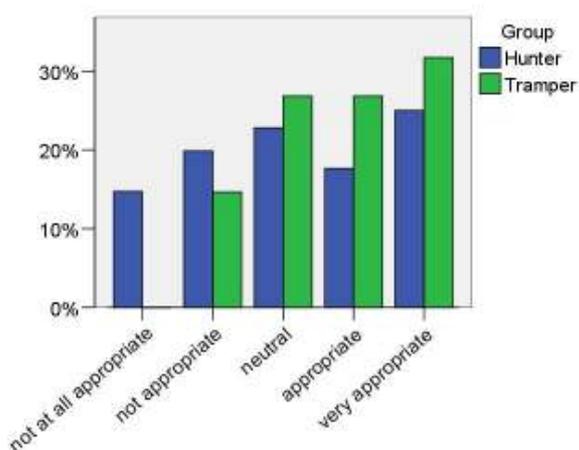
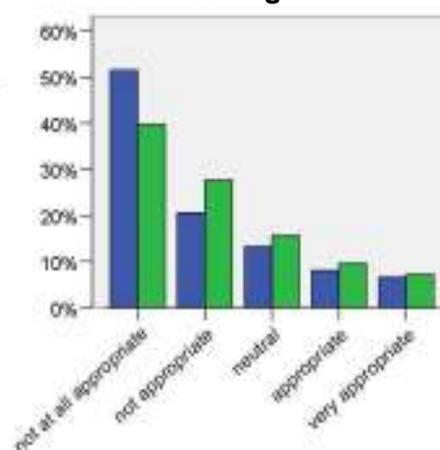
Sub-items 4F and 4G referred to the provision of accommodation facilities in backcountry areas, such as huts, shelters and campsites. Huts and shelters were rated 'very appropriate' by both groups while campsites were considered 'appropriate' (see Figures 9 and 10). In a previous study conducted by Higham (1996) on several New Zealand's tramping tracks, including the North West and Southern Circuits of Stewart Island, trampers tended to be neutral towards both items, although with a slightly higher tendency to agree that the provision of huts and shelters was appropriate. It is important to note, however, that the work conducted by Higham (1996) included only international visitors.

From these results it seems that the provision of huts is usually more supported by trampers than the provision of campsites, which leads us to conclude that in spite of the desire to be close to nature and to get away from modern life, trampers (and hunters alike) still want the comforts of having a built shelter waiting for them at the end of their daily 'journey'.

Figure 9 - Provision of Huts and Shelters**Figure 10 - Provision of Campsites**

The maintenance of tracks (4H) was perceived slightly differently by the two groups but no statistically relevant differences were found. For trampers, maintained tracks in backcountry areas were rated as 'appropriate', while hunters were neutral in regards to the same issue (Figure 11). Although not statistically significant, it seems relevant to mention that no tramper indicated the maintenance of tracks as 'not at all appropriate' while almost 15% of the hunters chose that option. This result highlights the high dependence of trampers on marked and well-formed tracks while hunters care less about tracks as they tend to wander further into the bush and away from them. It seems that some hunters even find it disruptive that tracks are formed and maintained, preferring the intact and challenging nature of the landscape.

Sub-item 4I also referred to facilities, this time to the provision of gas in huts for cooking. Both groups tended to consider it inappropriate, with hunters perceiving it as 'not at all appropriate' and trampers 'not appropriate' (see Figure 12).

Figure 11 - Maintained Tracks**Figure 12 - To Have Gas Provided in Huts for Cooking**

According to Higham (1996) the provision of gas in huts may correlate with a less wilderness ambience therefore diminishing the feeling of isolation given by the outdoor experience. Hence, it seems reasonable to suppose from these results that recreationists on Stewart Island are expecting and looking for a more remote experience. In fact, in the same study, Higham (1996) found that trampers considered the provision of gas in huts as inappropriate, corroborating with the results found in the

present research. Thus, although appreciating the provision of huts and shelters, trampers and hunters alike want their 'amenities' to be kept to a minimum.

Both groups also agreed that guided hunting or tramping were not appropriate activities in backcountry areas. Both variables were perceived by hunters as 'not at all appropriate' whilst trampers considered them as 'not appropriate' (Figures 13 and 14), which concurs with the responses presented in item 4D described above and with the results found in Higham's work (Higham 1996). It seems correct to say that the sample was not composed of commercial groups and that those independent travellers did not generally support commercial activities in backcountry areas.

Figure 13 - Guided Hunting

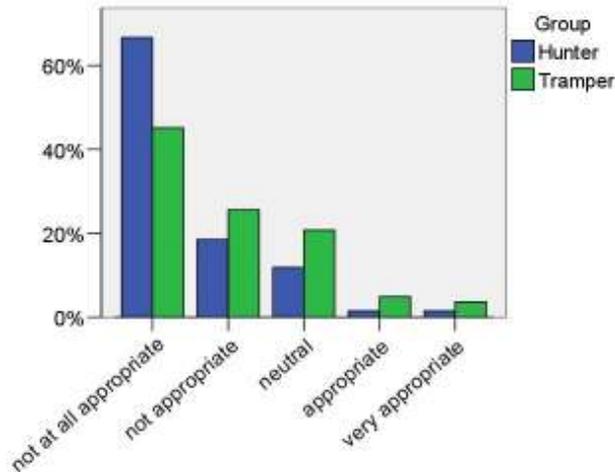
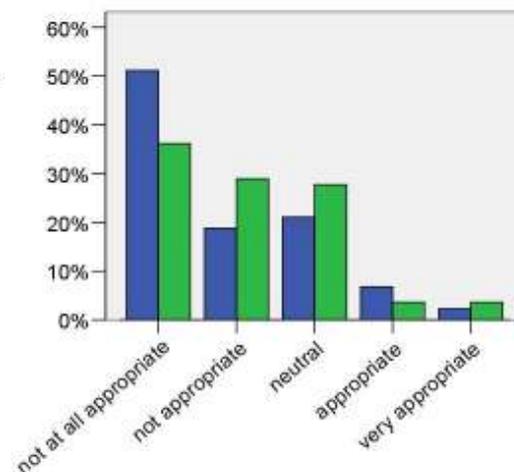
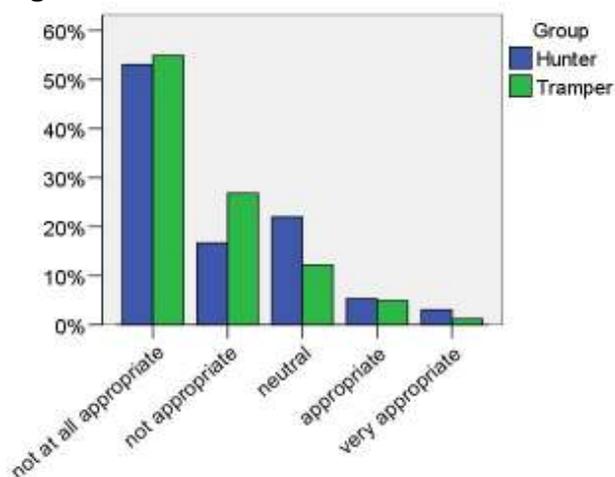


Figure 14 - Guided Tramping



Even more similar responses between the groups were found concerning the understanding of the commercial extraction of natural resources as an activity 'not at all appropriate' in backcountry areas, with both groups rating this variable at the same level (Figure 15). Again, it emphasises the concern of both groups regarding the preservation of the outdoor environment in its natural state and concurs with Higham's results (Higham 1996).

Figure 15 - Commercial Extraction of Natural Resources



Marketing campaigns to promote visits to national parks, limits set on the numbers of users and limits set on the types of access to backcountry areas received neutral ratings from both groups, with the exception of the latter which was perceived as appropriate by trampers only (Figures 16, 17 and 18).

Figure 16 - Marketing Campaigns to Promote Visits to National Parks

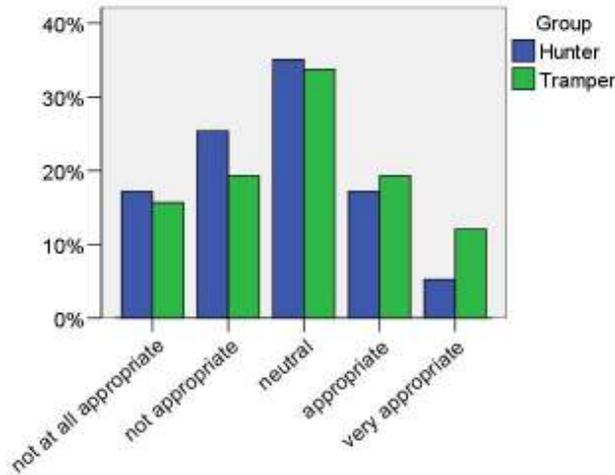


Figure 17 - Limits Set on the Number of Users

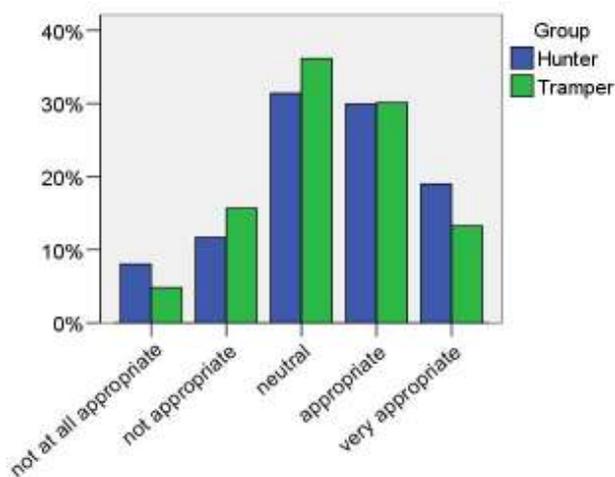
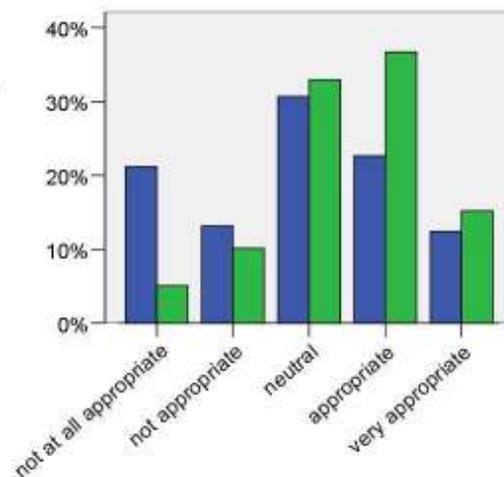
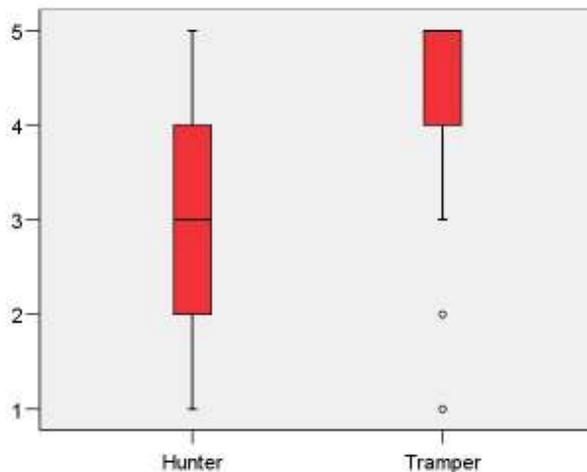


Figure 18 - Limits Set on the Types of Access



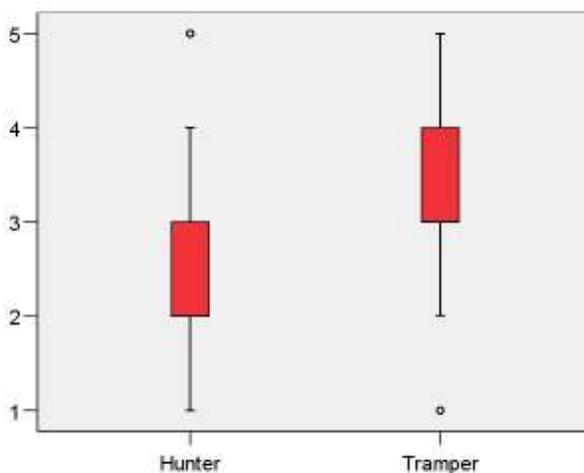
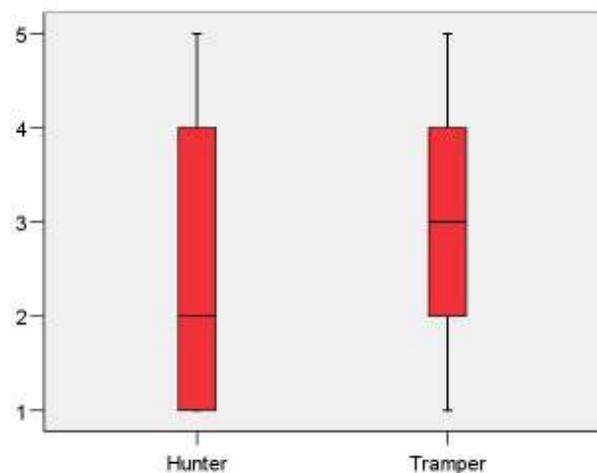
On the other hand, a quite high number of hunters (21.2%) perceived limits on the types of access to backcountry as 'not at all appropriate'. This might be due to the fact that hunters tend to use large motorised vehicles to reach their hunting areas, such as helicopters, boats and planes; while trampers do not tend to do so (at least that was not the case of the sample of respondents for the present study, as confirmed later in this chapter). Likewise, trampers from Higham's survey reported that restricted group size and access is an appropriate measure to prevent crowding (Higham 1996).

Sub-items A, C, E and L were the only variables from Question 4 to present statistically significant differences between trampers and hunters. The first sub-item asked respondents whether they agreed that track safety information should be provided to recreationists in backcountry areas. Trampers considered it to be 'very appropriate' but hunters had a 'neutral' opinion in regards to this item (Figure 19). In fact, a very small percentage of trampers chose the options 'not at all appropriate' or 'not appropriate' for this variable (one respondent for each case), showing a strong tendency to support the provision of safety information in backcountry areas.

Figure 19 - To Be Provided with Track/Trail Safety Information'

As argued previously, hunters seem to rely less on information about track conditions as they tend to stroll away from formed tracks, while trampers are usually restricted to formal trails in order to reach their destination safely. Moreover, the use of some sort of navigation devices (Global Positioning Systems or Compasses) is far more common amongst hunters, and therefore trampers are more dependent on the information provided by DOC.

A reverse pattern was found on sub-items 4C and 4E where hunters considered general information about the site provided by rangers and road access to the start of the track as 'not appropriate' while trampers rated both items as 'neutral'¹¹ (Figure 20 and 21). In the first case, again, it can be argued that hunters are not reliant upon other sources of information for their activity and experience to be successful, whereas trampers tend to be more dependent on them.

Figure 20 - To Encounter and Receive General Information about the Site through Rangers**Figure 21 - To Have Road Access to Start of the Track**

In the second case, there are two possible explanations for the fact that hunters do not find it appropriate to have road access to the start of the track, the first one being that hunters do not tend to use the formal hiking tracks as trampers do, so it is not relevant

¹¹ Trampers from Higham's research did also place a neutral rating to 'road access to start of track' with a slight tendency to agreement (1996).

agreement. Hunters also agreed with the statement: 'Hunting has a central role in my life', giving it a median score of 4.

Figure 23 - Activity has a Central Role in My Life

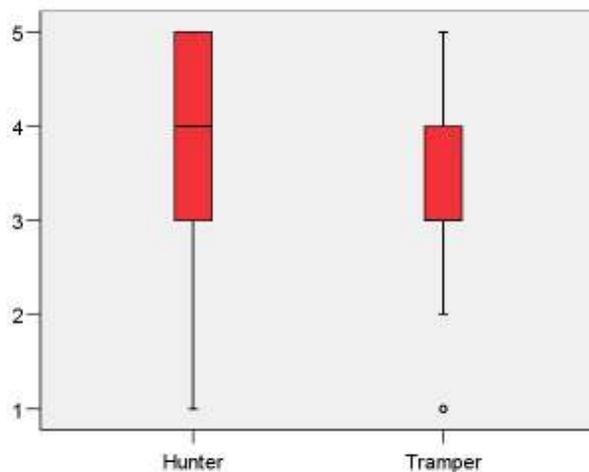


Figure 24 - Participating in Activity is one of the Most Enjoyable Things I Do

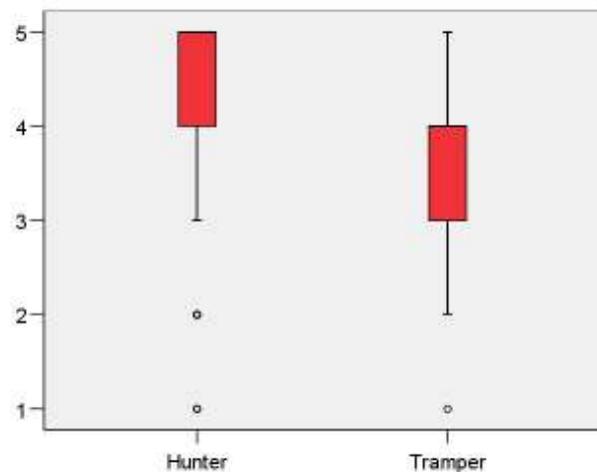


Figure 25 - I Enjoy Participating in Activity on Stewart Island more than in Any Other Place

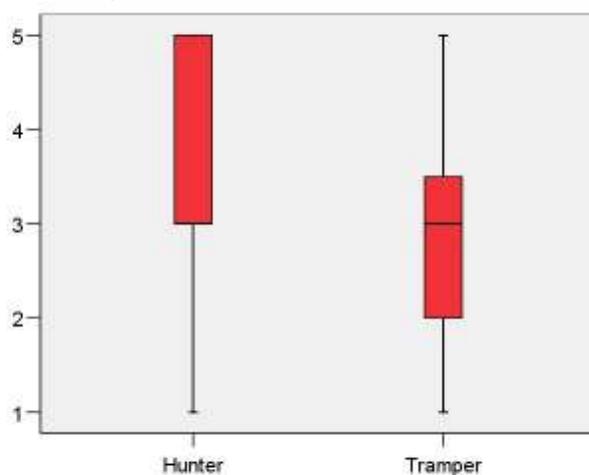
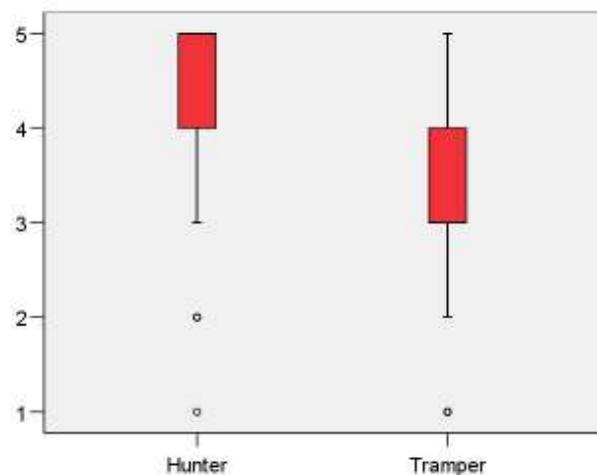


Figure 26 - Stewart Island Means a Lot to Me



Conversely, the variable 'I enjoy hunting on Stewart Island more than in any other place' received a neutral response from hunters, similarly to trampers. However, as it can be noted on Figure 25, although both groups presented a median rate of 3 (neutral), the distribution of responses was dramatically different, with hunters tending to agree and strongly agree with the statement and trampers tending to disagree.

From the results it seems that hunters place more importance in their selected activity and on Stewart Island as their destination. This implies both place and activity attachment. In terms of activity attachment, trampers seem to feel attached to tramping as they have reported that participating in tramping is one of the most enjoyable things they do, but do not seem to place it as a central feature of their life. Conversely, hunters reported high activity attachment with 46.8% strongly agreeing that hunting plays a central role in their lives and 51.8% strongly agreeing that hunting is one of the most enjoyable things they do.

When analysing place attachment, the differences are even more striking. Only 6% of trampers strongly agreed that they enjoyed tramping on Stewart Island more than anywhere else, while 29.2% of hunters did so. Similarly, a small percentage of trampers indicated that Stewart Island had an important meaning for them (13.3%) while the majority of hunters strongly agreed with the statement (57.7%). As the results of question 3 indicate, hunters go frequently to the island while trampers are usually first time visitors. This fact may explain why hunters presented a higher level of attachment to place than trampers.

Question 6 - Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

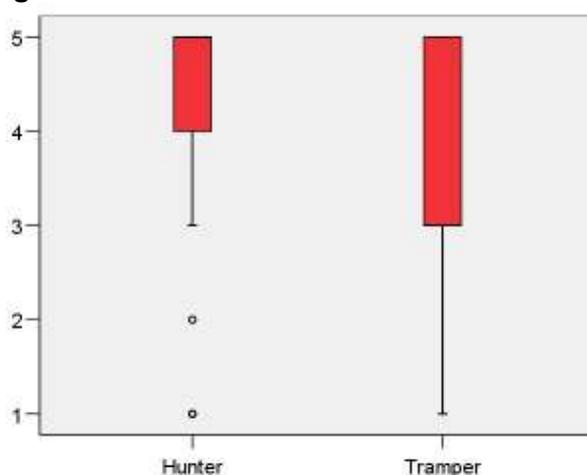
Question 6 of the survey intended to collect information regarding environmental values of the two groups, as it has been argued that conflicts tend to arise from discrepancies between values and norms (cf. Jacob & Schreyer 1980). This question also presented sub-items with Likert-type scales for responses, where 1 meant 'strongly disagree' and 5 meant 'strongly agree'. From the seven variables presented, the two groups diverged in three: sub-items B, E and G (refer to Appendix 1).

Trampers and hunters agreed (median of 4) that there should be no difference between local residents and non-residents in accessibility to backcountry areas supporting the idea that the environment should be there for everyone to enjoy it. Both groups also agreed that they are more environmentally conscious when participating in tramping/hunting and this result coincides with results presented by Dawson (2003). According to this author, outdoor recreationists feel the fragility of nature when recreating in this landscape and tend to forget about its vulnerability to human impacts when back into their home towns.

Regarding variables 6C and 6D, both groups reported neutral (median of 3) feelings towards the statement: 'the earth has plenty of natural resources if we learn how to develop them', but tended to disagree (median of 2) with the assertion: 'humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs'. Both of these results contradict findings from previous research (Dawson 2003). Sea kayakers and sea fishermen in the South Island of New Zealand reported disagreement to the first question, while both groups tended to be neutral about the second statement.

On the contrary, trampers reported being neutral in regards to deer hunting, whereas hunters were obviously in favour of the practice (Figure 27).

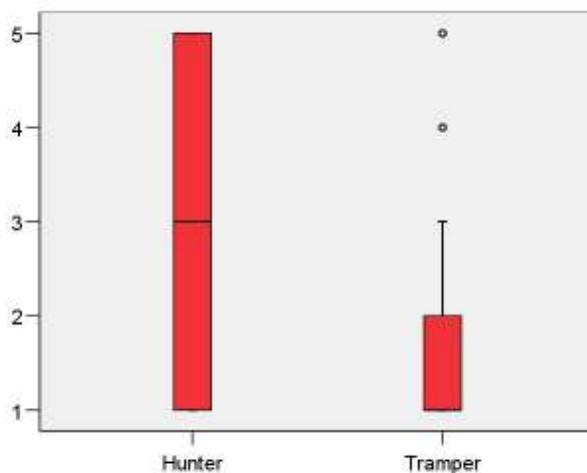
Figure 27 - Deer are an Exotic Animal that Should Be Hunted



It should be noted, however, that trampers seemed to be relatively approving of the practice with a higher percentage of the responses endorsing hunting than opposing it (45.8% against 20.5%).

Another issue that proved to be dissonant between trampers and hunters concerns the preservation of spaces that are not (readily) accessible to every individual. Trampers reported strong disagreement with the statement: 'there is no point in having a place where plants and animals are preserved, when I never actually see them', with only 12% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with it. On the other hand, hunters seemed to be more evenly spread between the extreme possibilities, with the median falling on neutral (Figure 28).

Figure 28 - There is no Point in Having a Place Where Plants and Animals are Preserved, When I Never Actually See Them



This result is also quite dissonant from the findings of Dawson (2003)¹³ on environmental awareness of consumptive and non-consumptive recreationists, especially in regards to non-consumptive visitors. Sea kayakers from the 2003 survey reported a strong agreement to the proposition as opposed to the sample of trampers of this study who were neutral, tending to disagree. Sea fishermen, on the contrary, were neutral towards the statement, similar to hunters from the present research, but with a slight tendency to agreement.

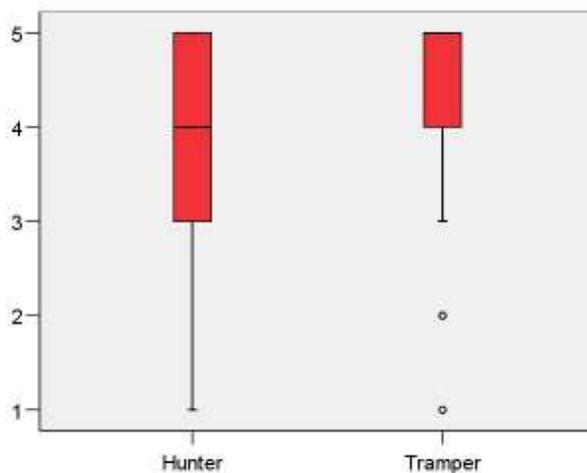
Finally, the two groups also differed in their responses to sub-item 6G, which stated: 'Nature has a value in itself, so preservation should be a priority when managing parks'. Trampers 'strongly agreed' with this affirmation while hunters only 'agreed'. More importantly, only 6% of trampers reported disagreement or strong disagreement, with few others being neutral (8.4%). Conversely, hunters varied more in their responses, with a few reporting disagreement and strong disagreement (5.8%) and a considerable percentage reporting neutrality (29.9%).

Results from question 6 point to some dissonant environmental values held by each of the groups investigated and therefore may help to explain conflicts that arise from the confrontation of different views. Notwithstanding, findings from this survey did also indicate some consistency between the groups in regard to other issues, such as

¹³ Although it is very difficult to compare such distinct studies, it is relevant to mention their similarities and/or differences as both researches were conducted in New Zealand using the same variables to ask questions about environmental awareness of consumptive and non-consumptive recreationists. Therefore results might show (or deny) a tendency of behaviour or norm of the different groups.

access to the backcountry and the influence of outdoor recreation in environmentally friendly behaviour. These positive outcomes may be useful tools to develop tolerance and respect between the two groups while managing resources and conflicts in the outdoors.

Figure 29 - Nature Has a Value in Itself, So Preservation Should Be a Priority When Managing Parks



3.5 Survey Section Two – Your Visit

Section two of the survey was the longest, with question types varying from open to close-ended questions, and within the latter, multiple and nominal responses, and 5-point Likert-type scales.

Question 7 - How long was your visit to Stewart Island?

For this question some adjustments were necessary in order to calculate data. The question provided three boxes for possible answers, with the last one asking for specific input ('More than one night Please specify: _____'). A few respondents marked this option but did not specify the number of days; therefore, those were considered blank answers¹⁴. Four hunters stated that they were residents of the island and hence were computed as reporting a stay of more than 10 nights. Frequencies were aggregated into three blocks: 1-5 days, 6-10 days and more than 10 days. This strategy was adopted to facilitate analysis as the numbers of days on the island varied significantly.

Table 7 - Length of Visit (in days)

		Hunters		Trampers	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	1-5	4	2.9	32	38.6
	6-10	122	89.1	33	39.8
	>10	8	5.8	14	16.9
	Total	134	97.8	79	95.2
Not Recorded		3	2.2	4	4.8
Total		137	100.0	83	100.0

¹⁴ That was the case with 3 hunters and 2 trampers.

Results in Table 7 show a significant difference in the pattern of visitation of hunters and trampers ($P < 0.0001$). Hunters tended to stay on the island for 6 to 10 days, with a minority staying for less than 6 days. Trampers, on the other hand, reported a balance between the two options, with 38.6% staying for 1 to 5 days and 39.8% for 6 to 10 days. A number of trampers also reported staying for more than 10 nights (16.9%) while a smaller percentage of hunters did so (5.8%)¹⁵. This particular case is likely to be due to the fact that one of the tramping tracks visited by some trampers on the island usually takes between 9 to 11 days (North West Circuit) to be completed, leading visitors to stay for longer periods on the island.

Question 8 - Which of the following best describes your travel party?

Respondents were able to choose more than one option for answering question 8. Table 8 illustrates the responses from each group.

Table 8 - Travel Party¹⁶

			Travel Party						Total	
			Solo	Rec. Club	With Partner	With Children	Educ. Groups	With Friends		Other
Group	Hunters	Count	2	13	4	6	1	125	2	137
		% hunters	1.5%	9.5%	2.9%	4.4%	.7%	91.2%	1.5%	
		% of Total	.9%	5.9%	1.8%	2.7%	.5%	56.8%	.9%	62.3%
	Trampers	Count	22	0	28	5	0	29	4	83
		% trampers	26.5%	.0%	33.7%	6.0%	.0%	34.9%	4.8%	
		% of Total	10.0%	.0%	12.7%	2.3%	.0%	13.2%	1.8%	37.7%
Total	Count	24	13	32	11	1	154	6	220	
	% of Total	10.9%	5.9%	14.5%	5.0%	.5%	70.0%	2.8%	100%	

Percentages and totals are based on number of respondents to this question.

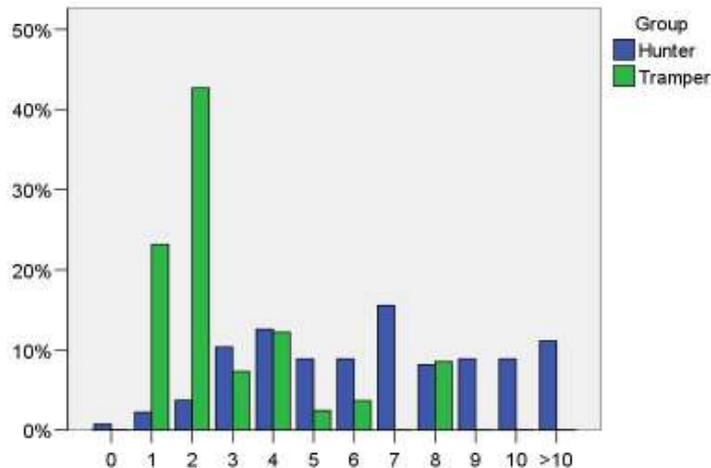
Clearly, hunters tend to go in groups to the island, with an almost insignificant amount travelling solo (1.5%). An equally small share reported going to the island in the company of their partners, with the great majority having friends composing their travel party. Trampers, on the other hand, reported a close balance between solo trips and trips with friends and/or partners, with 26.5% choosing the first option. Differences between the two groups were tested and found significant at $P < 0.0001$.

Question 9 - How many people are in your group today (including you and any guides)?

Supporting the results presented in the previous question, hunters' responses confirmed a tendency to travel in bigger groups, with a statistically significant difference between the two groups ($P < 0.0001$). The average (median) travel party for trampers was of two people while for hunters it was of seven people (Figure 30).

¹⁵ If residents are ignored from this sample (as they cannot be considered visitors) the percentage of hunters who stay on the island for more than 10 days falls to 3.0%.

¹⁶ The only responses reported under the option 'Other' were 'With Parent' and 'With Family'.

Figure 30 - Number of People in Travel Party

Question 10 - What mode of travel did you use to get to the beginning of your tramping track/hunting block?

As with question 8, respondents were able to choose more than one option to answer this question. Table 9 illustrates the main differences, considered significant at $P < 0.0001$.

Table 9 - Travel Mode

			Travel Mode						Total
			Foot	Commercial Transport	Boat	Plane	Helicopter	Other	
Group	Hunters	Count	2	21	112	6	10	2	137
		% hunters	1.5%	15.3%	81.8%	4.4%	7.3%	1.5%	
		% of Total	.9%	9.5%	50.9%	2.7%	4.5%	.9%	62.3%
	Trampers	Count	51	8	21	5	0	1	83
		% trampers	61.4%	9.6%	25.3%	6.0%	.0%	1.2%	
		% of Total	23.2%	3.6%	9.5%	2.3%	.0%	.5%	37.7%
Total	Count	53	29	133	11	10	3	220	
	% of Total	24.1%	13.2%	60.5%	5.0%	4.5%	1.4%	100%	

Percentages and totals are based on number of respondents to this question.

While most trampers (61.4%) walked to the beginning of their tramping track, only 1.5% of hunters did so. Another contrast lies on the third column of the table above, with more than 80% of hunters using boats as a means of access to their hunting blocks, while only 25.3% of trampers chose this mode of travel to get to their tramping tracks. Lastly, although not in high numbers, some hunters opted to use helicopters to reach their hunting blocks whereas no trampler did so.

As discussed previously, hunters do not usually hike up to their hunting block on Stewart Island, as this could take days of their trip whose main aim is to go hunting and not tramping! Moreover, several of the hunting blocks are virtually inaccessible by foot, with only unmarked routes, if so, leading to their destination. Trampers on the other hand, tend to carry all they needs in their backpacks and the act of bushwalking from

one hut to another is the actual means of their activity. For many, it does not seem reasonable to take a boat or other motorised vehicle to their destination, as the walk itself is a big part of their experience. Furthermore, tracks are well-formed and signed throughout their routes, making it easier to reach their destination.

Question 11 - What type of accommodation did you use in this visit to Stewart Island?

Question 11 was the last one from this section to offer multiple response options for respondents. Table 10 illustrates the responses from each group. The option 'Other' provided in the original survey was changed over to 'Boat' in table 10 as this was the only response reported under this option.

Again, significant differences were found between trampers and hunters ($P < 0.0001$). Probably the most apparent one from the Table 10 below, and quite expectedly, is the frequent use of hunter huts by hunters with only two trampers making use of these facilities. Although hunter huts are on public conservation and therefore open for public use regardless of their individual recreational activity, most trampers are either not aware of their existence¹⁷ or not informed that they are, in fact, public. Moreover, several of the hunter huts are in areas only accessible by boat, plane or helicopter, with no well-formed tramping tracks in the surroundings. These facts may explain the infrequent use of the hunter huts by trampers.

Table 10 - Type of Accommodation

			Type of Accommodation					Total	
			Commercial	DOC Huts	Hunter Huts	Camping	Private		Boat
Group	Hunters	Count	1	53	69	31	3	0	137
		% hunters	.7%	38.7%	50.4%	22.6%	2.2%	.0%	
		% of Total	.5%	24.1%	31.4%	14.4%	1.4%	.0%	62.3%
	Trampers	Count	34	71	2	8	10	2	83
		% trampers	41.0%	85.5%	2.4%	9.6%	12.0%	2.4%	
		% of Total	15.5%	32.3%	.9%	3.6%	4.5%	.9%	37.7%
Total	Count	35	124	71	39	13	2	220	
	% of Total	15.9%	56.4%	32.3%	17.7%	5.9%	.9%	100.0%	

Percentages and totals are based on respondents.

Another striking difference regards the use of commercial accommodation, with 41% of trampers using those but only 0.7% of hunters doing so. This result reflects the pattern of visitation of each group, that is, hunters usually go from the main land straight to their hunting blocks (either by boat, plane or helicopter, as results from question 10 confirm) while trampers tend to stay in Oban at least for their first or last night to prepare for or rest from their tramping trip.

Department of Conservation Huts seem to be well used by both groups, although trampers rely more on these resources than hunters do. In fact, an overwhelming majority of trampers stay in DOC Huts while on Stewart Island (85.5%). As discussed in question 4, trampers seem to prefer the 'comforts' of staying in a built shelter rather than carrying and staying in their own tents.

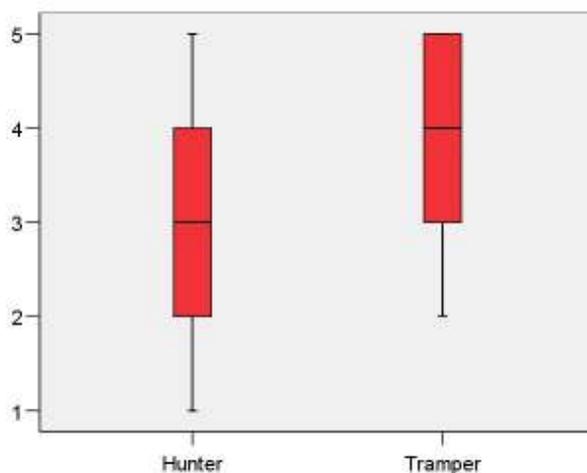
¹⁷ In fact, hunter huts are not marked on the maps usually available for the public.

Question 12 - Please rate the following statements on the scale provided.

Question 12 was divided into 13 sub-items and a 5-point Likert scale was provided for answers, where 1 means 'strongly disagree' and 5 'strongly agree'. A sixth box was provided for respondents who found that the variable was 'not applicable' to their experience.

From the 13 options, only 4 showed differences between responses which were considered statistically significant: G, I, J and M. Variable 12G asked respondents if they agreed that they had been provided with accurate track and safety information prior to their activity. While hunters remained neutral, trampers 'agreed' that the statement was correct. Moreover, no trampers 'strongly disagreed' with the statement, with the majority of respondents from this group choosing options 3, 4 and 5, meaning a strong tendency to agree with the statement. Responses from hunters, on the other hand, were spread relatively evenly across the scale (Figure 31). Furthermore, a considerable percentage of hunters considered the variable 'not applicable' (13.1%), while only one trampers did so.

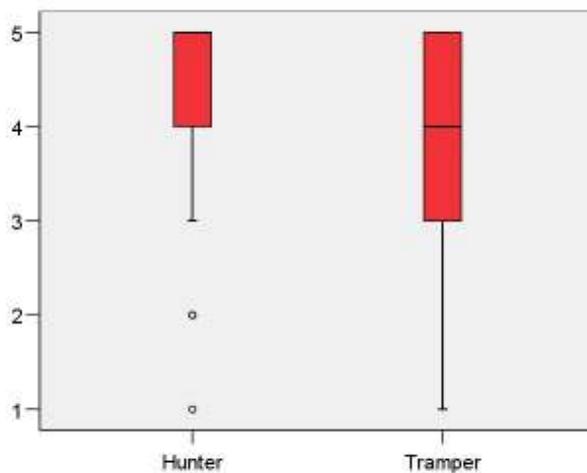
Figure 31 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Provided With Accurate Track and Safety Information on this Visit?



It is important to note here that trampers usually stop at the Department of Conservation Field Centre to collect information about the track that they are going to hike, therefore the provision of track and safety information is readily available from DOC staff. Hunters on the other hand, as commented before, frequently go from the mainland to their hunting blocks not usually stopping to collect track and safety information, which might explain the high number of hunters who perceived the question as 'not applicable' to their situation, as well as the mean tendency of a neutral position from this group. Furthermore, hunters do not tend to use formal tracks.

Variable 12I asked respondents if they agreed that they had experienced true wilderness in their visit. Hunters 'strongly agreed' with the statement while trampers 'agreed'. However, as Figure 32 shows, the difference lies not only in their median, but most significantly on their response distribution. Only three hunters 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' with the statement, and the large majority chose options 4 and 5 (89.1%), meaning a considerable agreement. Trampers, on the other hand, seemed to be a bit more conservative regarding the topic, with almost 30% falling under neutrality or disagreement.

Figure 32 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Experienced True Wilderness?



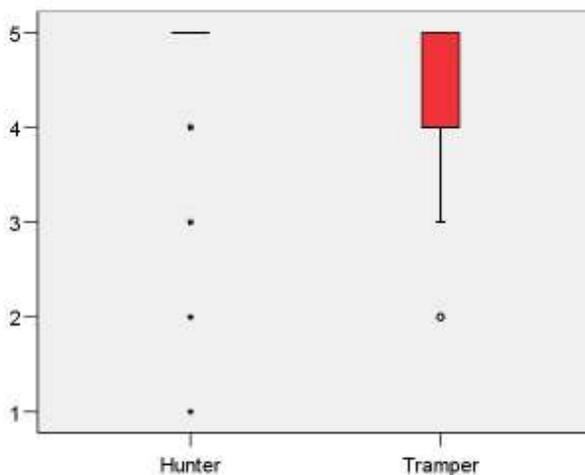
The fact that many trampers choose to hike the Rakiura Track, which is intensively managed, with boardwalks, gravel surface and large huts, and the Freshwater – Mason Bay section, with the same characteristics, may have influenced this reaction from trampers. However, as mentioned in the limitations of this study, there are no means, from this study, to infer if that was really the case. Nonetheless, as almost half of the sample stayed on the island for less than 7 days (49.4%) it is expected that these trampers have not been tramping the Southern and North West Circuit, which would potentially lead to a more remote and wilderness experience.

On the other hand, the large majority of hunters do not stay in the Rakiura Track Huts¹⁸, even though again it cannot be affirmed that that was the case of the present sample. Nevertheless, hunters tend to 'tramp' off the tracks in search for their target, going into the bush where the encounter with other people rarely happens. Thus it was expected that this group would have a high level of agreement that they had experienced true wilderness.

Along the same lines, variable 12J asked respondents if they agreed that they were able to see and experience wildlife. Hunters 'strongly agreed' with the statement, with 80.3% of respondents choosing that option. In contrast, trampers had a more constant distribution between the options 'agree' and 'strongly agree' with 32.5% and 45.8% of responses for each of them respectively, and some 15.7% being neutral (Figure 33).

¹⁸ Information gathered through access to the hunting blocks ballot system.

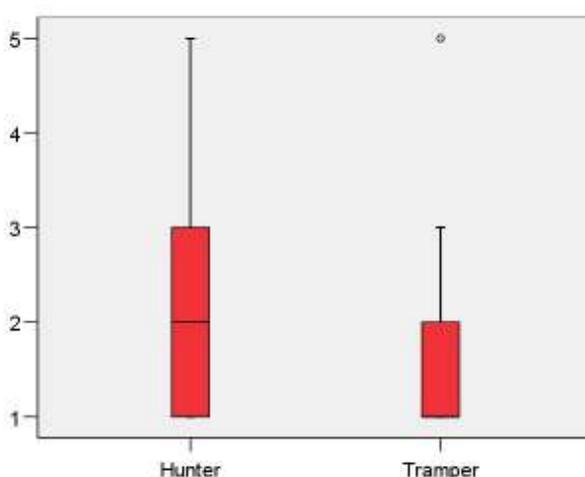
Figure 33 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Able to See and Experienced Wildlife?



The last variable that presented a significant difference between the two groups asked respondents how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: “There are too many or too strict management rules and regulations on Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park”. In average, hunters ‘disagreed’ with the statement and trampers ‘strongly disagreed’ (Figure 34). The main difference lies again in the distribution of responses: the vast majority of trampers ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ with the statement (84.3%) with only one respondent strongly agreeing; hunters’ responses, on the other hand, presented a considerable percentage of neutrality (26.3%) and some agreement (12.4%).

Again, this result is not surprising if taken into account that hunters go through much more regulation and time-consuming paper work in order to partake in their activity on Stewart Island than trampers do. Fortunately, it does not seem that these rules are negatively impacting upon hunters’ experiences; reactions seem to be, generally, positive.

Figure 34 - How Much do You Agree or Disagree That There Are Too Many or Too Strict Management Rules and Regulations on Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park?



Overall, variables 12I, 12J and 12M discussed above, although presenting statistically significant differences between the two groups, had only discrepancies in the intensity to which each group agreed or disagreed with the statement, that is, the groups did not

present a tendency to be in direct opposition in their responses to those statements. Therefore, it can be argued that despite the statistics, the two groups hold similar feelings towards these issues.

Other variables on question 12 did not present any significant difference between the two groups and will be displayed below with column graphs to illustrative responses.

Variable 12A asked respondents if they agreed that the number of people that they encountered on their visit was low. Both groups had an average response of agreement, although a high percentage of hunters (14.6%) reported that this option was not applicable to their situation (Figure 35).

As stated before, a large percentage of hunters stay in hunting blocks usually inaccessible to trampers and where definitely no other hunting party will stay. Therefore, hunters did not expect to encounter anyone while on their blocks, explaining the non-applicability of the question to their case. In fact, if those responses are added to the ones on 'strongly agree', 46% of hunters would strongly agree that they have encountered few people, if any, on their visit.

On variable 12B (Figure 36) participants were asked if they agreed they were able to experience natural peace and quiet on their visit; both groups 'strongly agreed' with the statement with only a very small percentage of each group disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the assertion (3.6% of trampers and 4.4% of hunters), which reinforces the results from variable 12A.

Figure 35 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that the Number of People You Encountered on this Visit Was Low?

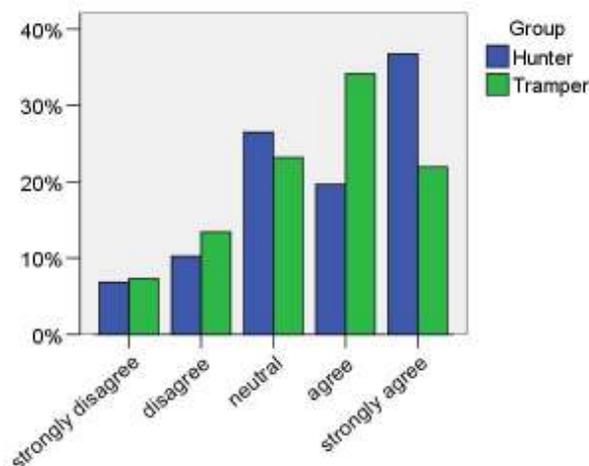
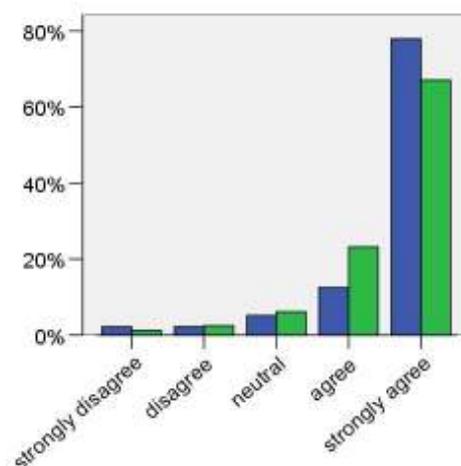


Figure 36 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Able to Experience Natural Peace and Quiet on this Visit?



Sub-item 12C and 12D were the first entries on the survey to deal with conflict situations. They asked whether respondents agreed that they were not disturbed by other visitor activities or behaviours on their visit. In both cases, hunters reported a strong agreement implicitly showing that no conflicts were disturbing this group (reflected by a very small percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the affirmation – 10.2% and 9.5% in each item respectively). Although trampers reported only 'agreement' in both variables, the distribution of responses did not seem to differ between the two groups, not reaching a significant difference (Figures 37 and 38). Hence, it seems that conflict situations derived from activity or behaviour incompatibility are not so frequent amongst trampers and hunters on Stewart Island, as

it might have been expected. Moreover, these findings also suggest that, if conflict exists, trampers are most likely to be the disturbed party than hunters, although not significantly.

Figure 37 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Not Disturbed by Other Visitor Activities on this Visit?

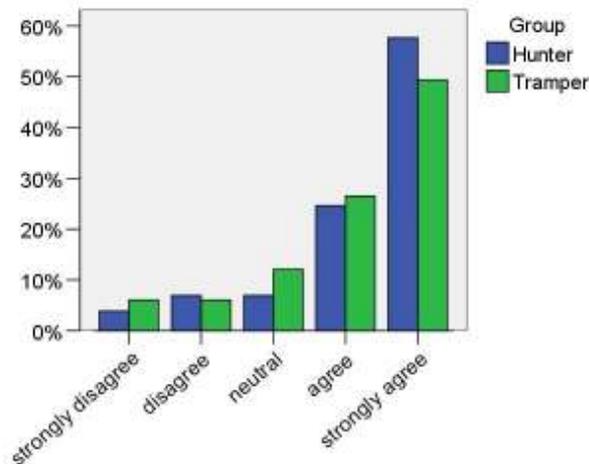
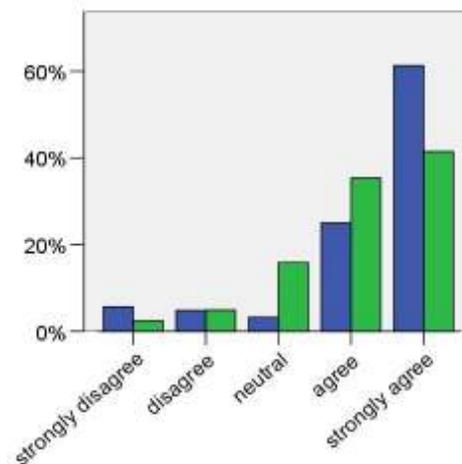


Figure 38 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Not Disturbed by the Behaviour of Other Visitors on this Visit?



Infrastructure was also covered in this set of questions, with variable 12E focusing primarily on the issue. The sub-item asked recreationists whether they agreed that the facilities provided were of a high standard. It was found that both groups 'agreed' with the statement, showing a good level of satisfaction with the facilities used (Figure 39).

Sub-item 12F referred to services provided, such as information signs and brochures (How much do you agree or disagree that you learned about nature and local history from information signs and brochures?). Overall, visitors seemed to be neutral about the subject (Figure 40), but a noteworthy amount of hunters responded to the question as 'not applicable' (17.5%).

Figure 39 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that the Facilities You Used on this Visit Were of a High Standard?

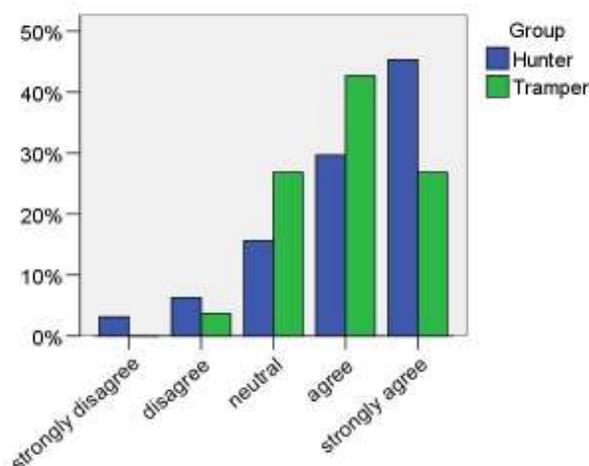
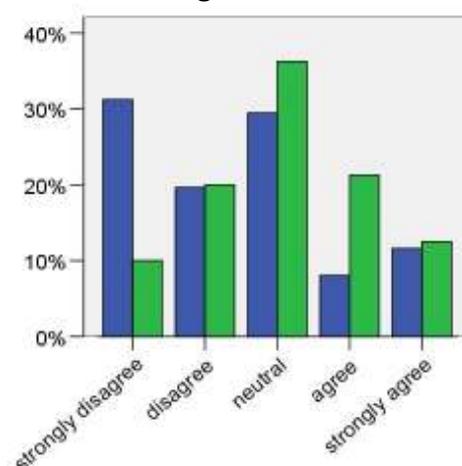


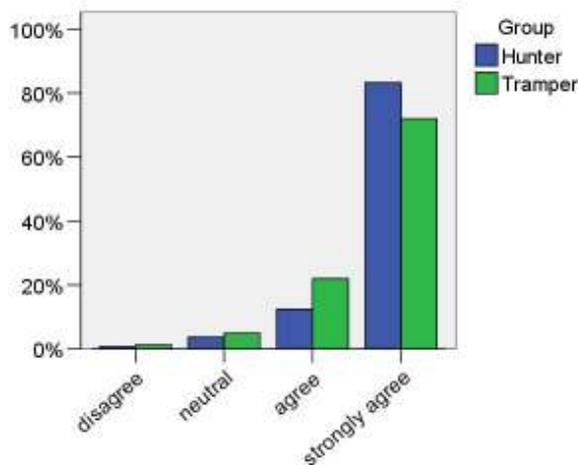
Figure 40 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that you Learned About Nature and Local History from Information Signs and Brochures?



As commented in the discussion about the results of variable 12G, hunters do not usually have much contact with the Department of Conservation Field Centre or any other information centre where these types of materials would be on offer, hence the high number of respondents finding the statement not applicable. However, it seems surprising that most trampers felt neutral about the subject, as they should usually have access to this information at DOC's Field Centre or at huts and tracks.

Variable 12H invited respondents to state if they agreed or disagreed with the following assertion: "... you had the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment". Both groups reported an overwhelming high level of agreement with 83.2% of hunters and 71.1% of trampers strongly agreeing with the statement (Figure 41). So, although the average trumper did not feel that s/he had experienced true wilderness, the natural environment was still appreciated by the large majority.

Figure 41 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Had the Opportunity to Appreciate the Natural Environment?



Sub-items 12K and 12L were the next ones to refer to conflict situations on the survey. The first item asked visitors whether or not they agreed they were disturbed by the noise or presence of motorised vehicles and the second if they were disturbed by the presence of commercial services and facilities. In both cases, the average response was of strong disagreement for both groups, again pointing to a non-conflict atmosphere on the island (Figures 42 and 43).

Figure 42 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Disturbed by the Noise or Presence of Motorised Vehicles?

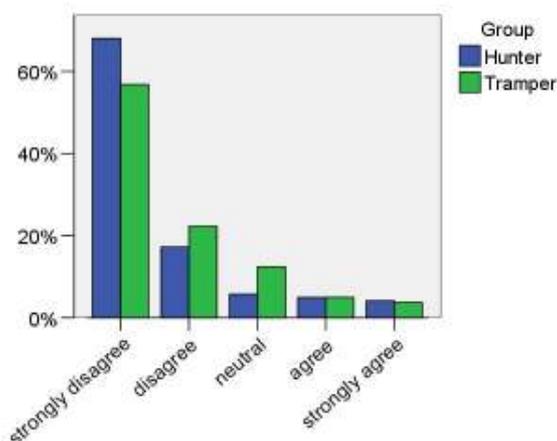
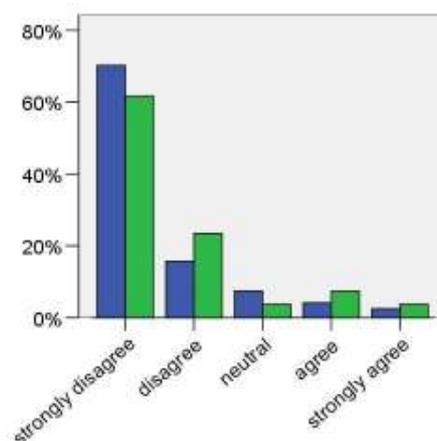


Figure 43 - How Much Do You Agree or Disagree that You Were Disturbed by the Presence of Commercial Services and Facilities?



Lastly, question 12 provided a space for participants to write comments about events that might have negatively impacted on their experience. This section was very sparsely used, especially by hunters. One of the reasons for this might have been the placement of it on the bottom of the page after the table with the 13 variables, making it hard for them to notice it. In the case of trampers, the section was on the top of the next page, and that might have aided in the spotting and answering of the question.

Only 16 hunters used the space for comments (11.7%) and three of them reported that nothing had negatively impacted on their experience. Some respondents reported more than one factor of annoyance summing up to 19 factors. Factors were then aggregated into similar themes and the results are illustrated in Table 11, with the frequency of occurrence on the right hand column.

Table 11 - Comments of Events that Negatively Impacted on Experience

Group	Themes	Freq.
Hunters	Boats and commercial fishing	4
	Conflict with other recreationists	3
	Lack of game or wildlife	2
	Noise of motorised vehicles	2
	Presence of pests (excluding deer) or other wildlife disturbance	3
	Track and facilities maintenance	3
	Weather	2
	Other	2
	Total number of respondents	16
Trampers	Conflict with hunters	9
	Conflict with other recreationists	13
	Crowding	5
	Noise of motorised vehicles	3
	Party or party member getting lost	2
	Personal discomforts (i.e. blisters)	3
	Presence of pests or other wildlife disturbance (i.e. sand flies)	2
	Track and facilities maintenance	16
	Weather	1
	Other	2
Total number of respondents	40	

Trampers had a higher response rate for this section of question 12, with 54.2% of participants writing down their comments. From the 45 who provided answers, five affirmed that nothing had spoiled their experience, leaving 48.2% of participants reporting some sort of negative experience. Again, few respondents informed more than one impacting factor, resulting in 55 reports¹⁹ (excluding responses of no negative experiences). Ten themes were then identified and are listed in Table 11.

¹⁹ One of the comments was allocated into two different themes: 'Conflict with other recreationists' and 'Crowding'. Although the two themes are usually correlated it was felt that a distinction should be made between the two. Nonetheless, it was reasoned that this comment should be computed into both themes:

It is important to note that few themes overlap: 'Conflict with other recreationists'; 'Noise of motorised vehicles'; 'Presence of pests'; 'Track and facilities maintenance' and 'Weather'. The variable 'Other' was created to designate responses that did not seem to fit any appropriate category.

From the results, fishing vessels, especially commercial ones, seem to cause some annoyance to hunters, as well as 'poor' track and facilities maintenance. The latter also seems to affect trampers' experience, with 40% of respondents to this question (or 19.3% of total trampers) mentioning some sort of disturbance by it. Conflict with other recreationists played a major role in trampers' experience: 55% of respondents to this question (or 26.5% of total trampers) inferred to have been disturbed by the behaviour of other recreationists. From those, almost half reported some form of conflict with hunters. Conversely, only three hunters reported disturbance by the behaviour of others.

Adding to the conflicts derived from visitors' behaviours, another theme that emerged from the comments presented by respondents, and that is closely related to interpersonal relations in the outdoors, was crowding. However, it seems that the problem was concentrated in one specific place (Mason Bay area) and during a specific time period, as it can be seen in the list of all responses at the end of this report (Appendix 4).

These results, although coming from a small part of the sample, in part contradict findings from the objective part of question 12, where both hunters and trampers reported that they were not feeling annoyed by the activities or behaviour of other people during their visit or disturbed by the noise or presence of motorised vehicles. The structuring of the sentence might have been a problem, which might have led to these differences. As the phrase read: (...) you were not disturbed by (...), respondents might have been confused when choosing to strongly agree or disagree. Another explanation might be that the conflict situation was a one-off experience that did not result in an overall feeling of disturbance. Furthermore, this is a very complex and subjective topic, which, when people are asked, will result in complex responses that can be hard to explain.

Question 13 - Please think only of this visit when you answer this question. Indicate how important each of the following was to your backcountry experience.

Question 13 dealt with visitors' motivations for outdoor recreation on Stewart Island. Again a 5-point Likert scale was used to plot responses, where 1 represented 'not at all important' and 5 'very important'.

Only two sub-items were found as significantly different between the two groups: 13D and 13G/I²⁰. As with some of the responses on the previous question, the differences between the two groups were related to the degree to which they found each of the items important for their backcountry experience. Thus, average responses were not in opposition but it was rather their overall distribution that was significantly different. Sub-item 13G/I, for instance, had both hunters and trampers considering 'being with friends and family' an important aspect of their trip, although hunters found it 'very important' and trampers only 'important' (Figure 44). Nonetheless, the fact that very few hunters did not consider this aspect as important (3.7%), and an important number of trampers

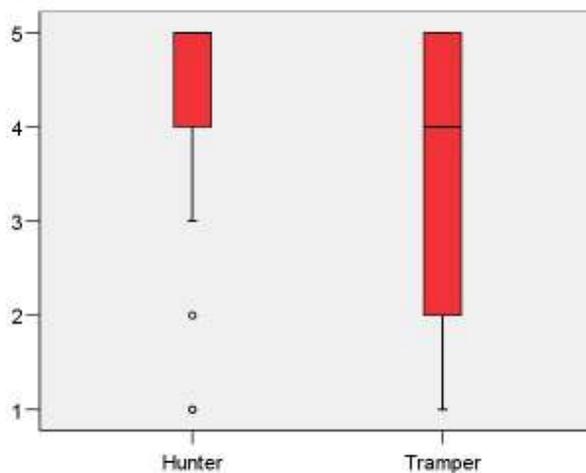
"Mason Bay Hut was overrun with Otago students who were not accommodating to trampers". The respondent was not only complaining about the overcrowding of the hut ("hut was overrun") but also about the behaviour of the other visitors ("who were not accommodating to trampers").

²⁰ Because hunters' surveys had two more sub-items added on this question, the designing letter for each variable differs. In this case, 13G refers to the trampers' survey and 13I to the hunters' survey.

did so (29.6%), made the distribution across the two groups quite distinct, leading to a statistically significant difference.

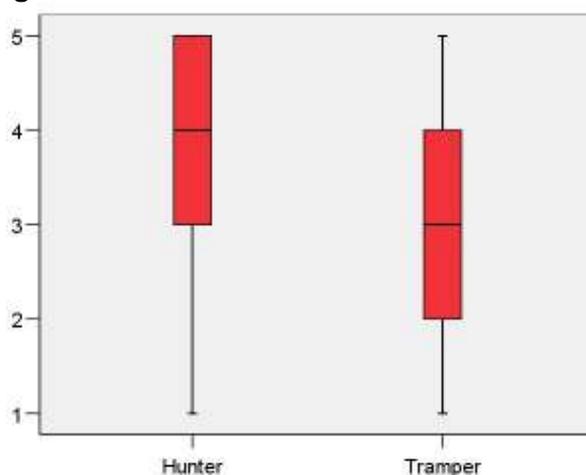
As confirmed by the results from questions 8 and 9, hunters travel in larger groups and from these findings it can be suggested that they place a high value in their travel composition, having an important meaning to their experience. Conversely, a large number of trampers travel alone; therefore company is not a main issue for those. Nonetheless, the ones that do travel accompanied seem to value the experience.

Figure 44 - Being with Friends and Family



In the case of sub-item 13D, in average, trampers were neutral while hunters considered being able to tell others about their experience somewhat important. From the graph below (Figure 45) it seems safe to say that hunters tend to put more importance into this aspect of their trip to Stewart Island than trampers do.

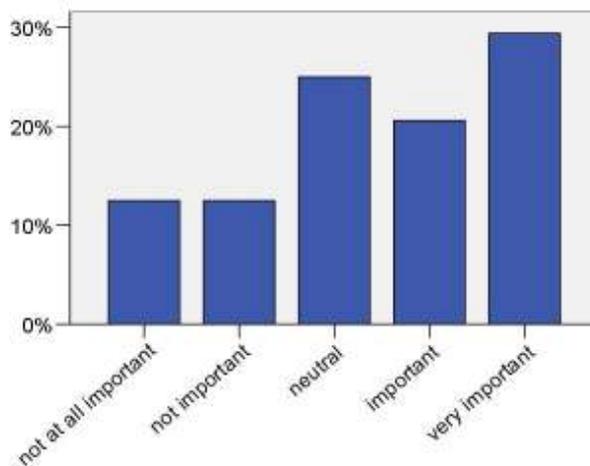
Figure 45 - To Be Able to Tell Others about My Experience



All other variables received similar responses from the two groups, indicating a strong agreement in terms of motivations for hunting and tramping. The most valued variables for both groups were: 13A - Exploring new areas; 13F/H - Natural peace and quiet; 13I/K - To encounter wilderness/untouched nature; and 13K/M - To get away from life's pressure. 'Meeting new people and making new friends' and 'Self awareness/contemplation' were both rated neutral by both groups, while 'Challenging your skills', 'Physical exercise', 'Absence of people' and 'To learn about and see New Zealand's flora/fauna/natural systems were rated as 'important' by trampers and hunters.

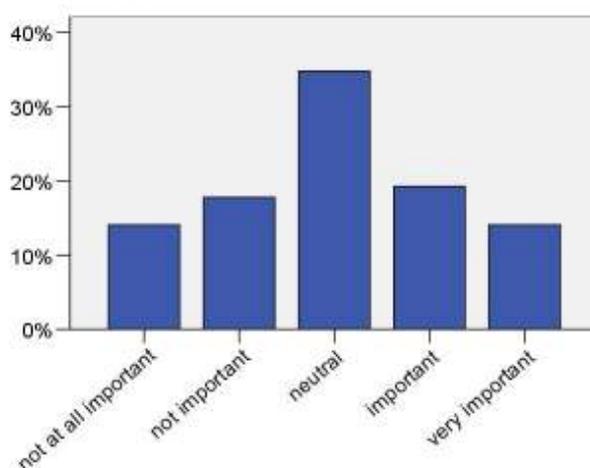
Hunters' surveys included two other variables that were considered pertinent for the hunter's experience on Stewart Island: 'Shooting trophy animals' and 'Controlling deer numbers hence making a difference to conservation'. The first of the two variables had an average between neutral and important, with 50% of respondents choosing options 1, 2 or 3 ('not at all important', 'not important' and 'neutral') and the other 50% choosing options 4 and 5 ('important' and 'very important').

Figure 46 - Shooting Trophy Animals



Controlling deer numbers seemed less significant for the hunters' experience, with the average falling at a neutral position with a quite even distribution on the other two ends of the scale (Figure 47).

Figure 47 - Controlling Deer Numbers Hence Making a Difference to Conservation



This result is quite surprising, as many documents from hunters' associations²¹ and usual discourse by individual hunters²² express their legitimate interest in helping the Department of Conservation control deer numbers in order to assist with the conservation of the natural environment in which deer have been introduced and cause important damage.

²¹ For some reference, consult the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association on <http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz>

²² Comments on that will appear on the qualitative section of this chapter when participant observations, including informal interviews with hunters, and formal interviews are discussed.

Question 14 - Why did you choose Stewart Island to go hunting/tramping?

Question 14 was one of the few questions where participants could freely express their opinion and thoughts. However, because of a typing error in one lot of trampers' surveys, a significant number of respondents from this group did not answer this question (79.5% were blank responses). Still, although it is not possible to make quantitative comparisons between the two groups, it is possible to acknowledge some relevant comments made by participants from the two groups. In fact, because hunters had a high percentage of response (89%), it is even possible to identify some tendencies within this group.

A large number of respondents presented more than one factor as key motivators for their destination choice. Although it is often the combination of features that leads to the selection of a trip destination (cf. Moscardo et al. 1996), responses will be disaggregated into different themes in order to facilitate analysis. Appendix 5 provides the full range of responses for further reference as they were provided by participants, without classifying or separating them into themes.

Twenty-one themes that occurred more than once in participant's responses were identified. From those, hunters presented 18 different themes and trampers 11 (Table 12). As expected, a high number of hunters mentioned the availability of whitetail deer on the island as one of their main motivations to go to Stewart Island (33.3%). However, shooting a trophy does not seem to be an important feature of the travel, with only 4.2% mentioning it. These findings suggest that recreational hunting and a 'time out in the bush' are more highly valued than a more 'professional' approach to hunting. Indeed, nature in general (excluding deer) and the beauty of the place were highly valued by this group, receiving 30.8% of the total of responses. Trampers also mentioned natural aspects as important motivational factors for their trip.

The tradition of the annual trip with friends and/or family (17.5%) plays an important role in the hunting trips to Stewart Island. Some people reported to have been going there for over 30 years, highlighting the fidelity to the destination. In fact, this seems to be the case for a large number of hunters. Results from question 3 have shown that more than 75% of hunters have been on the island more than once in the last 5 years, with 31.4% coming more than once a year. On the contrary, as discussed previously, trampers do not seem to return often to the island (8.4% have been there more than once in the past 5 years). Indeed, none of the respondents from question 14 reported 'tradition' as a reason for choosing Stewart Island as their tramping destination for that trip. In addition, a significant amount of trampers (considering the response rate for the question) mentioned 'curiosity / new area / recommendation' as the main reason for going to Stewart Island, while only a small percentage of hunters did so (10.8%).

The coast, with its fishing, diving and boating possibilities, was considered by 16.7% of hunters as an important motivator for the trip. This theme was raised once in trampers' responses.

It is interesting to note that two hunters reported meeting trampers as one of the highlights of their trip, which goes against the idea of a symmetrical conflict between the two groups and indicate a more asymmetrical conflict pattern. Although this is a very small number and statistically rather insignificant, it is still worth of consideration.

Other comments that did not fit in any of the themes were mentioned by hunters: "it's known as how NZ used to be", "it's a dream, most southern part of New Zealand, where I was born and bred", "great adventure, "to see more of our country", "local knowledge due to years living on Stewart Island", "my home, my culture, my right" and "probably just another place to hunt".

Table 12 - Motivations for Travel

Group	Themes	Freq.
Hunters	Whitetail Deer	40
	Nature (wildlife, plants, bush, etc.)	24
	Regular Trip	21
	The Coast (fishing, diving, boating, etc.)	20
	Hunting in General	15
	Beautiful, Great Place	13
	New Area / Curiosity / Recommendation	13
	Remoteness	9
	Challenge	9
	Relax / Get Away	6
	By Chance	6
	To Shoot a Trophy	5
	"I Enjoy it / I Love it"	4
	Unique Experience	4
	Easiness of Access	3
	Peace and Quiet	3
	Safety of Block System	2
Meeting New People	2	
Other	7	
	Total number of respondents	122
Trampers	New Area / Curiosity / Recommendation	8
	Challenge	5
	Nature (wildlife, plants, bush, etc.)	4
	The Tramping Tracks	4
	Remoteness	3
	Not crowded	2
	Kiwi Spotting	2
	Relax / Get Away	1
	Peace and Quiet	1
	The Coast	1
	"I Enjoy it / I Love it"	1
	Total number of respondents	17

Question 15 - To what extent do you consider the following to be major causes of conflict between park users in general?

Question 15 was the first one to ask respondents specific questions about conflict situations. Again, a 5-point Likert-scale was used to enter responses, where 1 meant 'not at all important' and 5 'very important'.

As with most of the responses from this survey, few variables presented statistically significant differences between the two groups: from the 18 sub-items, only 3 presented significant differences. Variables 15A and 15C presented very similar results. The first one asked participants to rate how important the use of motorised transport is to trigger conflicts in the outdoors and the second one to rate how important is the noise of motorised transport to prompt conflict situations. Hunters considered both issues 'not important' and trampers were neutral about them (Figures 48 and 49). Nevertheless, in general, trampers were more balanced in terms of the distribution of their responses, with a similar amount of participants tending to consider the issues either not important (31.3% 15A and 30.1% 15C) or important (36.1% 15A and 39.8% 15C)²³. On the other hand, more than half of the hunters considered the issues not important (54.7% 15A and 52.6% 15C)²⁴, justifying the significant difference found in the statistical tests.

Figure 48 - Use of Motorised Transport

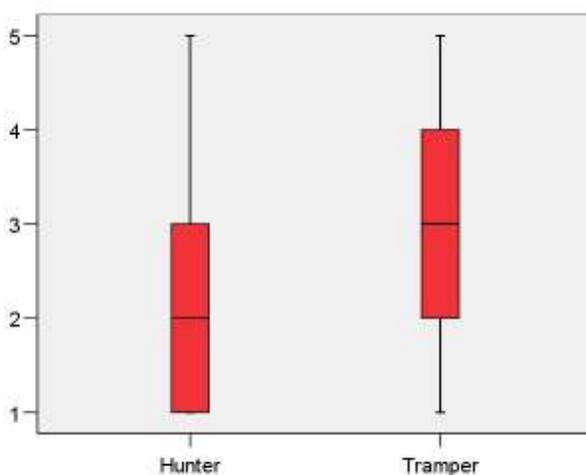
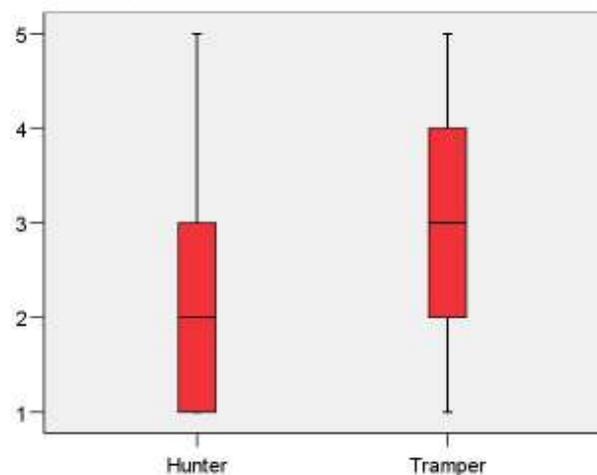


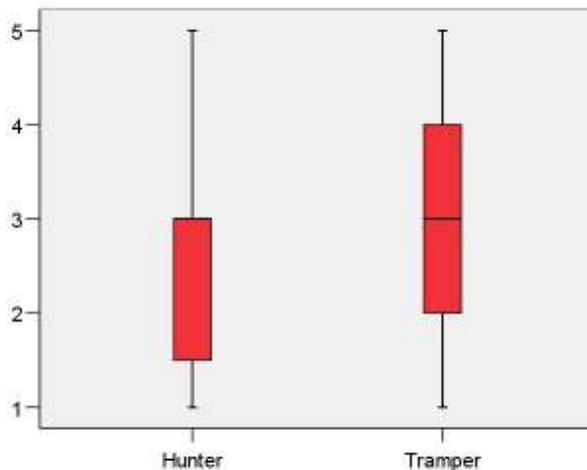
Figure 49 - Noise of Motorised Transport



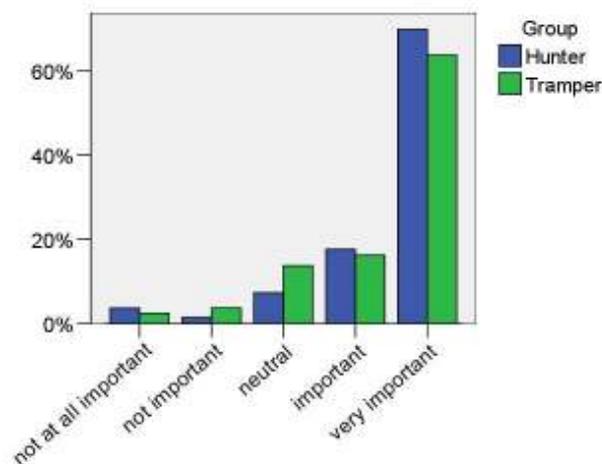
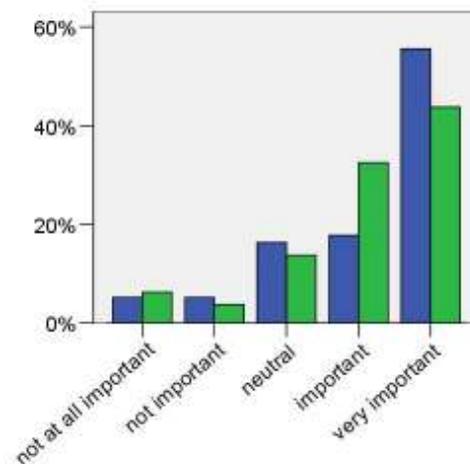
Sub-item 15B did also present a statistically significant difference between the two groups. Even though in average both groups rated 'noise of people on tracks and in huts' neutrally, the distribution of responses was quite distinct between trampers and hunters. Again, as Figure 50 shows, hunters tended to opt for the 'not important' end of the scale while trampers were divided between the two extremes. For 43.8% of hunters, the issue was either 'not important' or 'not at all important' while that was the case for only one-fourth of the trampers. Conversely, 41% of trampers found that 'noise of people on tracks and in huts' was either an 'important' or 'very important' contributor to conflict while just 23.4% of hunters agreed with that statement.

²³ Summing up both the responses for 'not important' and 'not at all important' in one case and 'important' and 'very important' in the other case.

²⁴ Adding 'not important' and 'not at all important' responses.

Figure 50 - Noise of People on Tracks and in Huts

'Littering' (Figure 51) and 'Visitor behaviour/activity showing disregard to resources' (Figure 52) were considered the major contributors to conflict by both groups, with hunters rating the second issues slightly higher than trampers. These findings concur with previous research on recreational conflict, where visitor behaviour related to disregard of resources was found to be major sources of conflict between users (c.f. Dustin et al., 2002, Lynch et al. 2004, Vittersø et al. 2004).

Figure 51 - Littering**Figure 52 - Visitor Behaviour/Activity Showing Disregard to Resources**

Conversely, 'search and rescue operations', 'use of mobile phones' and 'use of GPS' were the variables considered least important for the occurrence of conflict in the great outdoors. Although in average trampers considered the use of mobile phones as neutral, the group tended to disagree that these gadgets contributed to conflict (Figures 53, 54 and 55). These findings contradict previous studies that affirm that 'technologies of play'²⁵ act as catalysts to conflict in the outdoors (Devall & Harry 1981, Jackson & Wong 1982).

²⁵ Devall and Harry (1981) in their research in the Corps of Engineers reservoirs in Oregon introduced the concept of 'technologies of play' in the recreational conflict literature. For the authors "contemporary leisure activities have been increasingly subject to the effects of technological change and invention" and this exposure has led to the increase of recreation activities technology-dependant (p.400). 'Technologies of play' are thus referred to as the "physical equipments and sequences of activities engaged in by recreation persons" (p.400).

Figure 53 - Search and Rescue Operations

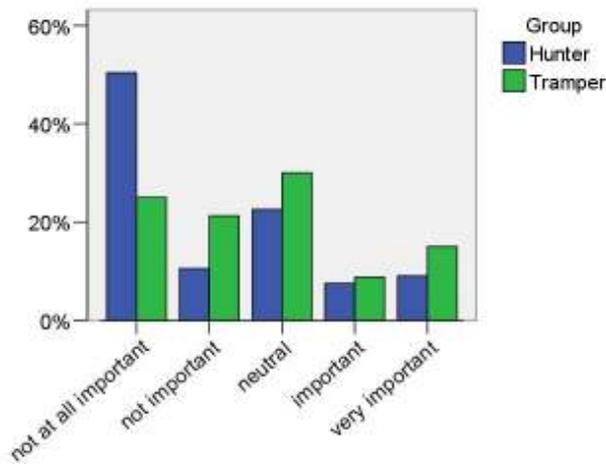


Figure 54 - Use of Mobile Phones

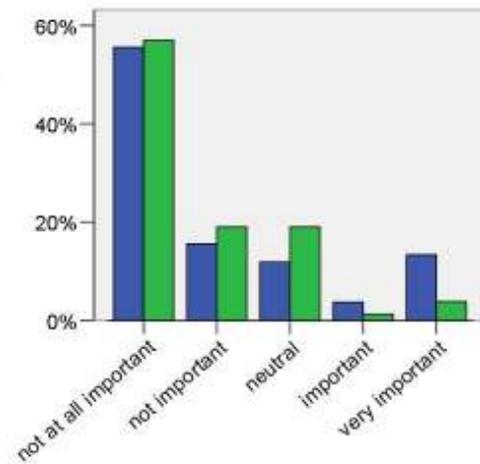
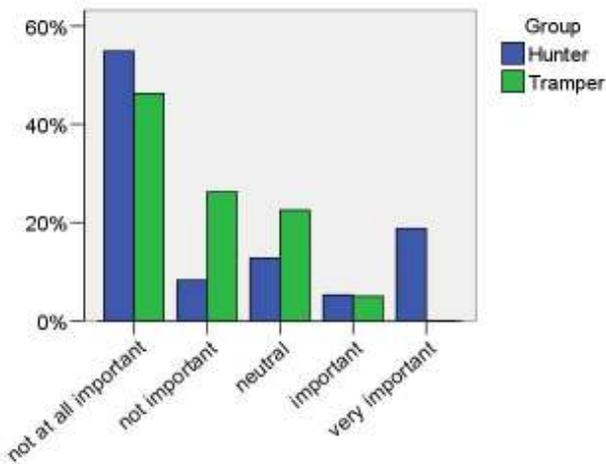
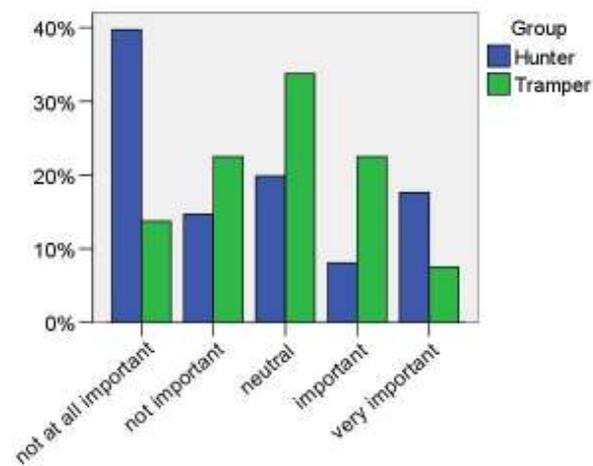


Figure 55 - Use of GPS



As expected, hunters did not tend to perceive their activity as a cause of conflict. More surprising, however, is the fact that trampers agreed with hunters and tended not to regard hunting *per se* as a source of conflict (see Figure 56).

Figure 56 – Hunting



On average, trampers rated the issue as being neutral (32.5% of responses) but had a slightly larger percentage of acceptance of the activity than of rejection (35% and 28.9% respectively). Again, these findings seem to contradict expectations of conflict due to intolerance towards other's activities and shed a light into possible management of conflicts on Stewart Island.

Issues of 'crowding', 'unsafe behaviours', 'visitor behaviour/activity causing track damage' and 'visitor behaviour/activity causing wildlife disturbance' were highly rated by both groups. In average, trampers and hunters rated these themes as 'important' contributors to conflict in backcountry areas (Figures 57 to 60).

As stated previously, behaviours showing disrespect to the natural environment is an important motivator for conflict between users of protected areas, although it does not seem, from this survey, that this is commonly the case on Stewart Island. Likewise, crowding has been extensively reported as a critical source of conflict in outdoor recreation (e.g. Needham, Rollins & Wood 2004) and the present research suggests that this might be the case of Stewart Island recreational conflicts.

Figure 57 - Crowding

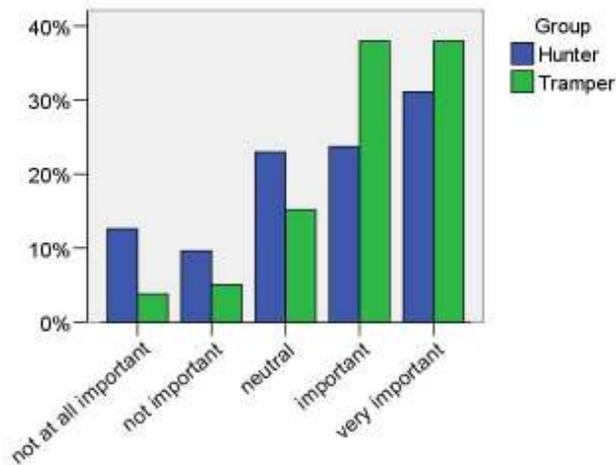


Figure 58 - Unsafe Behaviours

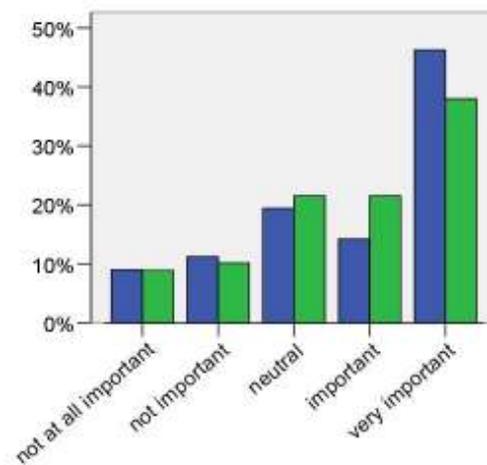


Figure 59 - Visitor Behaviour/Activity Causing Track Damage

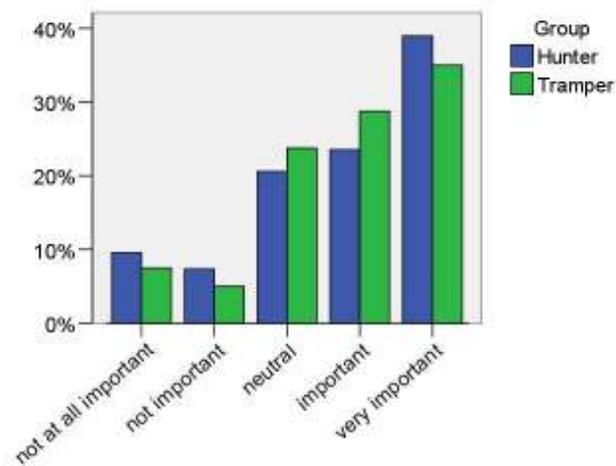
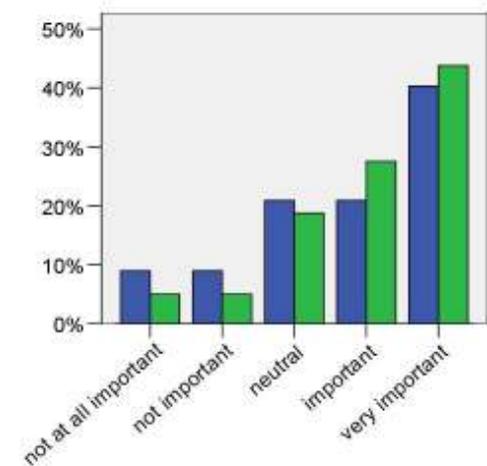


Figure 60 - Visitor Behaviour/Activity causing Wildlife Disturbance



'Restricted access to certain forms of recreation', 'restricted group size', 'air access', 'commercial groups' and 'consumption of alcohol' were all considered, on average, as neutral variables for the occurrence of conflict by both groups. However, trampers

seemed somewhat less worried about the restriction of group size than hunters, while the contrary was reported in regards to air access. Nonetheless, the groups did not differ significantly in their responses for these questions.

These results suggest interesting considerations. Firstly, both groups did not seem to perceive modes of experience (access to certain forms of recreation, air access and group size) as a source of conflict as the goal interference model predicts²⁶ (Jacob & Schreyer 1980). Secondly, the commercialisation of outdoor activities does not seem to affect the experience of visitors to Stewart Island, at least they are not considered by many as a potential source of conflict. Finally, and more surprising, the consumption of alcohol was not rated as a problem, which contradicts some anecdotal information on the issue further discussed in the next section with qualitative findings.

Question 16 - Please list the three best aspects and the three worst aspects about your visit?

Respondents were encouraged to freely list the best and worst aspects of their trip in question 16 (see all responses in Appendix 6). 94.8% of hunters reported best aspects of their visit, while only 75.9% reported any negative aspect, demonstrating a tendency to high level of satisfaction, which will be confirmed in the following question. Moreover, as it will be confirmed by the results, a high number of respondents reported that the fact that the visit was not long enough was one of the worst aspects, again emphasising the high satisfaction level of the visitor.

Trampers, on the other hand, seemed a bit more critical about their experience, with identical response rate for the two parts of the question: 94.1%. Nonetheless, as results from question 17 confirm, trampers did present a high level of satisfaction.

'Nature' was certainly one of the best aspects of the visit of the overwhelming majority of the survey's participants. In fact, nature was cited by all trampers who listed best aspects of their visit to Stewart Island and by more than 70% of hunters. Notwithstanding, the categories 'Deer' and 'Kiwis' have been mentioned repeatedly by each of the groups and thus represent important aspects and key attractions for the visitation of the island. If considered as part of the same theme as Nature, it would lead to 100% of hunter respondents listing 'Nature' as one of the best aspects of their visit. This result is quite striking if considered that only 57% of hunters reported the hunting experience or the presence of deer on the island as the best aspect of their visit. Hence, it can be suggested by these results that for hunters it is not only the hunting experience that matters but, most importantly, being in the natural environment.

Another theme highly ranked by both groups was Peace and Quiet / Solitude, although more trampers considered this aspect of their visit as important. 'Being with friends and family' was also frequently cited by both groups, but hunters seemed to place higher value on this facet of their experience. The fact that hunters tend to travel in bigger groups to the island, as confirmed by the results of questions 8 and 9, might offer an explanation for such result. Moreover, this finding corroborates with findings from question 13G, where hunters reported that being with friends and family was a very important motivation for their travel.

²⁶ The theoretical perspective for recreation conflict in the outdoors presented Jacob and Schreyer (1980) is certainly the most employed framework for discussing conflicts in leisure pursuits until today. The authors propose four cases of user conflicts and ten propositions link these concepts to conflict; according to them, the four major classes of factors that produce conflict are:

Activity style: personal meanings attached to the set of behaviours constituting a recreation activity.

Resource specificity: the importance an individual attaches to the use of a particular recreation resource.

Mode of experience: the varying expectations of how the natural environment will be perceived.

Lifestyle tolerance: the tendency to accept or reject lifestyles different from one's own.

Table 13²⁷ - Best Aspects of the Visit

Themes	Hunters	Trampers
Being with Friends and/or Family	28.5%	11.2%
Challenge / Adventure	1.5%	11.2%
Diving	3.8%	-
Drinking	4.6%	-
Exclusive Hunting Blocks	2.3%	-
Exercise	-	8.7%
Facilities / Services	9.2%	22.5%
Fishing	39.2%	1.2%
Food / Living Off the Land	5.4%	1.2%
Good Weather	6.9%	12.5%
Hunting and/or Presence of Deer	57.0%	-
Location	6.9%	2.5%
Meeting New People	7.7%	25%
Mud	-	3.7%
Nature (Scenery, Wildlife, Bush, etc.)	70.8%	100%
New Place / Experience	2.3%	3.7%
Not Crowded or Commercialised	3.8%	6.2%
Peace and Quiet / Solitude	18.5%	27.5%
Relaxation / Getting Away	9.2%	2.5%
Remoteness / Isolation	9.2%	10%
Seeing Kiwis	8.5%	22.5%
Tramping Tracks	-	13.7%
Whole Experience	3.1%	3.7%
Other	8.5%	7.5%
Total Number of Respondents	130	78

Facilities and Services also played an important part in participants' experience. Hut design, location and maintenance was the most cited aspect of the theme 'Facilities and Services', implying a high satisfaction level with these facilities.

Although one trumper reported that having a beer after the end of the track was one of the best aspects of his visit, it does not seem that drinking plays an important role in the tramping experience. For hunters, however, drinking was cited a few times evidencing a more present feature of the hunting experience, as also perceived in the qualitative moments of the research (participant observations and interviews). Nonetheless, findings from the previous question do not demonstrate that this difference in activity norms between the two groups is a major contributor to conflict.

²⁷ Percentages in Tables 13 and 14 refer to the total of participants who responded the question.

'Physical Exercise' and 'Challenge' were themes quite well reported by trampers but were hardly ever mentioned by hunters. The physical engagement experienced by trampers walking long distances every day for several days seems to be appreciated by this group while hunters are more engaged with the outcomes of their activities, such as hunting and fishing, not stressing the physicality of these practices. In fact, trampers did not seem to engage in any other activity while on the island (or at least did not consider those of great importance to their experience), whereas hunters often reported fishing and diving as important aspects of their stay.

The weather seemed to positively influence more trampers than hunters. This result might be due to the fact that trampers are usually exposed to the climate for longer periods of the day and do not usually have the option of staying settled in the same place, as hunters do. Nonetheless, when considering the results from the 'worst aspects' section of question 16 quite antagonist outcome is present: hunters reported being more disturbed by the bad weather conditions than trampers did. It is hard to say if this is due to more dependability on the weather or if the hunter sample experienced more days of bad weather than trampers.

One aspect that disturbed both trampers and hunters was track and facilities issues such as poor toilet facilities, inaccurate signs and track maintenance. In fact, if added with complaints about the mud, disaggregated from this theme due to high numbers of mentions and to its singularity as part of Stewart Island outdoor recreation image, more than 80% of trampers and 43.3% of hunters had some sort of negative impression related to track conditions and facilities provided.

Another interesting aspect about the number of 'mud' mentions is the fact that all brochures and promotional material for the tramping tracks around the island make extensive comments about this characteristic of Stewart Island natural landscape. Hence, it would be expected that trampers who do venture through the island's remote tracks would be fully aware and prepared for this scenario. However, it seems that this awareness does not result in acceptance of the situation and a high percentage of trampers feel distressed by the constant presence of mud on the tracks.

Reports about conflicts, crowding and littering rate high amongst both groups. Specific conflict between the two groups was not as highly rated as expected. Only 5.8% of hunters considered trampers' presence or behaviour as a negative aspect of their visit while a slightly higher number of trampers reported being unhappy with hunters' behaviour or presence (10.2%). General comments relating to conflicts were common however. If added, 28.9% of hunters reported conflict situations with other hunters, with trampers or unspecified recreationists, as well as being disturbed by overcrowding and littering. Trampers were even more annoyed when combining those factors: 56.3%. The reasons behind these results are hard to be established, but the fact that trampers are in movement between different huts and parts of the track and usually in more constant contact with other recreationists might reflect the high percentage of complaints. Moreover, a large number of hunters stay in areas where no other group is based and will come during the same period of time, avoiding conflict by direct contact. Another explanation might be that trampers, in general, are more sensible to environmental degradation or outdoor etiquette, but this is a perilous assumption that we do not intend to make.

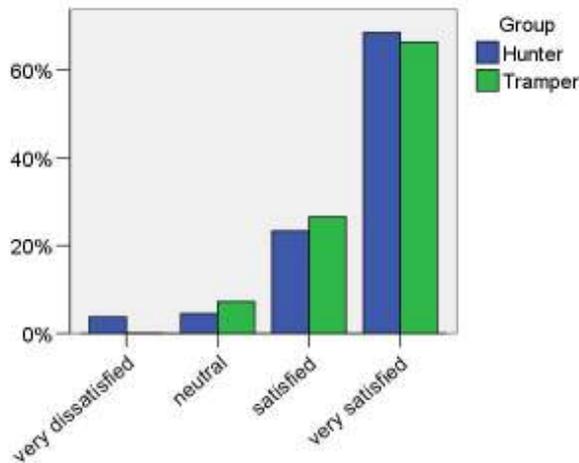
Table 14 - Worst Aspects of the Visit

Themes	Hunters	Trampers
Commercialisation	1.9%	3.8%
Conflict with Hunters	5.8%	10.2%
Conflict with other Recreationists in general (including littering)	10.6%	23.1%
Conflict with Trampers	2.9%	-
Cost	2.9%	3.8%
Crowding	3.8%	11.5%
Did not Shoot a Deer	2.9%	-
Difficulty of Access	4.8%	-
DOC Policies	3.8%	1.3%
Lack of Game or Wildlife	12.5%	3.8%
Litter	5.8%	11.5%
Mud	7.7%	35.9%
Noise of Motorised Vehicles	1.9%	3.8%
Not Seeing a Kiwi	-	10.2%
Personal Discomforts	11.5%	19.2%
Presence of Pests (excluding deer) or other Wildlife Disturbance	24%	14.1%
Track and Facilities	35.6%	44.9%
Visit not Long Enough	13.5%	3.8%
Weather Conditions	36.5%	16.6%
Other	17.3%	15.4%
Total number of respondents	63	78

Question 17 - Overall, how satisfied were you with your visit here in this trip? Please state why.

Question 17 was composed of two different forms of response. First, the participant rated the level of satisfaction with his/her visit in a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 meant very dissatisfied and 5 very satisfied. Second, s/he was invited to express with his/her own words why that was so. Unfortunately, a large number of respondents did not report reasons for satisfaction or dissatisfaction. 35% of hunters and 28.9% of trampers left the space for comments blank in this question.

Both groups rated their experience as greatly satisfying; 67.9% of hunters and 66.3% of trampers reported being 'very satisfied'. Added with the 'satisfied' option, these numbers increase to 90.5% and 92.8% for hunters and trampers respectively. No trumper reported being 'very dissatisfied' or 'dissatisfied' and only a small percentage of hunters reported being 'very dissatisfied' (2.9%). Likewise, few participants from both groups had neutral responses for this question (7.2% of trampers and 4.4% of hunters).

Figure 61 - Overall, how satisfied were you with your visit here in this trip?

Reasons for satisfaction varied widely within and between the groups. Nonetheless, some common themes were raised. Table 15 presents the themes identified by respondents who reported being 'satisfied'²⁸ and 'very satisfied' with their experience. The full responses can be found in Appendix 7.

As it can be seen on Table 15 below, the reason for satisfaction most cited by hunters refers to the location itself. This finding reiterates the results found in questions 5 and 14: that hunters are attached to Stewart Island, a place that is considered of high value to them. On the other hand, once again trampers did not show attachment to place in their responses to question 17, with only two participants making notice of the value of the place in itself. This result might be explained by the fact that most of the hunter respondents were New Zealanders while only one-third of trampers were from New Zealand as discussed in the section on demographics.

'Nature / Peace and Quiet' was highly valued by both groups, more so again by hunters. However, a significant share of trampers rated 'scenery' as a key reason for satisfaction, in some way counterbalancing the results from the previous theme. Notwithstanding, this finding highlights the importance placed by hunters on the natural environment, contradicting expectations of critics who emphasise the selfish nature of hunting, as the pure act of killing and masculinity exercise (Cohn 1999).

Comments on how valuable the company was for their experience were also quite common remarks, especially given by hunters. As already discussed from the results of questions 8, 9 and 13, hunters usually travel to Stewart Island in large groups and place a high value on the company of friends. Also included in this theme was 'meeting people'. Although there is a difference between valuing being with your group of friends and meeting new people, it was hard to recognise from some of the comments if they meant one or the other. In fact, again contradicting expectations, some hunters reported meeting trampers specifically as a valuable facet of their experience.

For trampers, the most rewarding aspect of their visit was 'fun and enjoyment' followed by having their expectations met. Both statements can be considered multi-faceted as expectations and enjoyment might be related to any of the other themes, leaving room for further research in trampers' satisfaction on Stewart Island.

²⁸ Only the responses that highlighted positive aspects were included here. Aspects that hindered their experience and therefore led them to opt for 'satisfied' instead of 'very satisfied' are presented in Table 16.

Table 15 - Reasons for Satisfaction – ‘Satisfied’ and ‘Very Satisfied’

Themes	Freq. Hunters	Freq. Trampers
Location	15	1
Nature / Peace and Quiet	12	4
Company	8	2
Fun / Enjoyment	8	10
Hunting / Fishing	6	-
Relax / Get Away	6	4
Remoteness / Solitude	5	1
Services / Facilities / Hunting Blocks	5	4
Expectations Met	4	8
Shot a Deer	4	-
Scenery	3	7
Weather	3	3
New Experience	1	2
Not Commercialised	1	2
Tramping Tracks	-	7
Challenge	-	2
Other	5	3
Total Number of Responses	86	55

Table 16 presents themes related to reasons for dissatisfaction or not full satisfaction that were listed by participants. Expectedly, hunters reported low deer numbers, not being able to shoot a deer and lack of trophy animals as their main reasons for not being completely satisfied or even dissatisfied with their visit to the island.

Table 16 - Reasons for Dissatisfaction – ‘Satisfied’; ‘Neutral’; ‘Very Dissatisfied’

Themes	Freq. Hunters	Freq. Trampers
No Deer (Low deer numbers or not shooting a deer)	10	-
No Trophy	2	-
Bad Weather	2	2
Lack of Wildlife	1	2
Overcrowding	1	2
Infrastructure (Boardwalks, no Shower)	-	2
Personal Problems	-	1
Not as Expected	-	5
Track Maintenance	-	2
Cost	-	1
Other	2	3

Question 18 - Did you experience conflict with hunters/trampers?

Question 18 was the first simple nominal type. In addition to this exclusive option, participants were also invited to indicate where conflict had occurred, if that was the case. Few respondents from the two groups reported experiencing conflict, with a somewhat larger percentage of trampers doing so (12% of trampers and 3.6% of hunters). In fact, the results from this question corroborate with results presented in Table 11, where a higher number of trampers reported some sort of conflict with hunters than the contrary. No participant chose the option "Don't know".

Of the five hunters that affirmed having experienced conflict, only one stated which hut the conflict happened (Bungaree Hut – North West Circuit) and one asserted the conflict had happened on the tracks (not specifying whereabouts). The other three made simple comments that cannot really help to locate areas more prone to conflict ("They took our toilet"; "Farting in bed"; and "Too many!! Welcome to nature! Stop complaining"). Other two hunters presented comments in this question. One hunter stated not experiencing conflict but reported an overcrowding situation in Fred's Camp that could have led to conflict ("11 people in Fred's Camp Hut for one night"). The other one reported the opposite, affirming that he "was hoping to meet some" trampers.

One trumper that reported conflict did not make any further comments, not stating where the conflict had occurred. Another trumper only stated that "rifles in huts and gunshot noise" were the cause of conflict with hunters. Another trumper reported experiencing conflict at East Ruggedy Hut, one at Fred's Camp Hut, one at Bungaree Hut, two at Christmas Village Hut (one of them making a complain about a hunter shooting a deer off the porch of the hut) and three at Yankee River Hut. However, one of the respondents that affirmed having experienced conflict at Yankee River Hut added: "can't really complain, but after 4 nights of just sharing huts with trampers it certainly was different".

Overall, the small percentage of respondents affirming experiencing conflict lead us to believe that conflict between users, and specifically between trampers and hunters, on Stewart Island should not be considered a major managerial concern, although measures should still be taken to prevent any conflict situation, even if those are rare. These findings will be further discussed in the recommendations and conclusions chapters.

Question 19 - Did you perceive conflict between other trampers/hunters and hunters/trampers during this visit to Stewart Island?

Following the same structure as the previous question, item 19 provided a space for participants to indicate where conflict was perceived, if that was the case. Again, a small percentage of both trampers and hunters reported perceiving some sort of conflict between 'members' of the two groups (3.6% trampers and 5.8% hunters) and no significant difference was found between their responses. For this question few participants chose the option 'don't know', but the vast majority reported not perceiving conflicts (91.6% trampers and 92% of hunters).

Seven of the eight hunters who reported witnessing conflict made comments about where the conflict had happened but only four actually stated the place of occurrence (Bungaree Hut, Murray beach, Masons Bay and Fred's Camp). Furthermore, it seems that two hunters were not necessarily reporting conflicts with trampers as they stated: "People spotlighting our blocks out of boats" and "poachers from adjoining block". If those reports are not considered, the number of reports falls to 6 and the percentage to 4.4%.

All three trampers who reported perceiving conflict between trampers and hunters made comments as to where these conflicts happened. However, one of them only stated that the occurrence was “a loud party in hut in night”. Of the other two, one place of conflict was Bungaree Hut and the other was on the “hunters’ abandoned camp between Little Hellfire and East Ruggedy”. In the second case it is not clear if the conflict was a result of direct interaction with hunters or by the fact that the shelter was still there and maybe in bad conditions of care.

Question 20 - Do you think that providing separate huts for hunters is a good way to avoid conflict between trampers and hunters?

This simple nominal question intended to provide the Department of Conservation with objective information about the opinion of visitors regarding the construction of new hut facilities on Stewart Island in order to help the management of conflict between different users.

Table 17 - Do you think that providing separate huts for hunters is a good way to avoid conflict between trampers and hunters?

		Hunters		Trampers	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	95	69.3	37	44.6
	No	26	19.0	19	22.9
	Don't know	14	10.2	26	31.3
	Total	135	98.5	82	98.8
Not Recorded		2	1.5	1	1.2
Total		137	100.0	83	100.0

Interestingly, hunters, who reported experiencing less conflict situations, were more supportive of the need to provide separate facilities for the groups than trampers. In fact, a large percentage of hunters were sympathetic with the idea of having separate facilities for the groups (69.3%), while less than half of trampers agreed with the idea (44.6%). Moreover, a large share of trampers did not have an opinion formed about the issue, with 31.3% of trampers choosing the option ‘don’t know’. Conversely, only 10.2% of hunters were ‘over the fence’. Differences between the groups were found as significantly different in this question.

3.6 Qualitative Data: Survey Comments, Participant Observation and Interviews

This section will present results of the qualitative data, with focus on observations undertaken during field work and interviews. Comments made by survey respondents will help illustrate some of the arguments but will not form the basis of the discussions in this section, as they have been presented earlier in the first sections of this chapter.

Four main themes related to visitor conflict were identified – ‘Characteristics of User-Groups’, ‘Hut Behaviour and Etiquette’, ‘Crowding’ and ‘Guns and the Killing of Animals’ – and will be discussed in detail in this section as well as highlighted in the last chapter of this report, where some conclusions will be reached and some recommendations will be indicated.

Characteristics of User-Groups

An important factor when observing and analysing recreation conflict is the characteristics of the user-groups in focus, especially those related to their travel style and recreation norms. These characteristics will invariably dictate interactions and lead to or detain tensions and conflicts.

In general, as it was confirmed in the surveys, hunters travel in bigger groups, usually of 4 to 12 people. Their trip is frequently long (around 10 days) and they stay in one location only. The visit is usually considered the most important holiday trip of the year and they tend to plan every detail throughout the year, raising great expectations for the excursion. As one hunter wrote in a survey form: *"[few] guys waiting 12 months to hunt one of Stewart Island's better hunting blocks (...) Our expectations didn't eventuate on the hunting score. Expectations due to using this area for many years."* Another hunter said in an interview: *"I hunt in other areas as well, yeah. Stewart Island is our biggest trip of the year, it's our big holiday. So, it's the biggest trip, and most of the other ones are sort of weekends, you know, long weekends and stuff like that"*.

These characteristics make the trip very different from the trampler's excursions. As they stay in one location only, hunters do not need to carry their food, clothes and everything else from hut to hut, so weight and size is not a problem when planning their supplies. Therefore, hunters tend to travel with huge amounts of supplies, for a large group, to last for the 10 days they are stationed in one place. As one hunter mentioned in his comments in the survey: *"Hunters eat steak, stew, bread, etc. while trampers eat freeze dried food and tend to get a bit jealous."*

In addition, a great deal of organisation is involved in almost every hunting trip to Stewart Island. In fact, hunters consider it as part of their enjoyment:

"Stewart Island is a bit different, for some reason, it is like... I mean, we always try, every year we try and out-do each other and try to get something a bit different, yeah... the things we think of... is... god! Always someone brings something along that's something better than the year before"

"certainly the fish or the venison, or whatever happens to be, is the end result, but certainly the whole package is actually getting to that end result, you know, organizing the trip, going on the trip, the company (...)".

Together with that, large amounts of alcohol are usually carried. As it was said before, it is their major holiday period, time for relaxation and fun, with free time to enjoy in the company of friends. Adding to this characteristic, the group is usually exclusively composed of men, who consume alcohol more and more frequently (Anderson & Baumberg 2006). One interviewee talking about the consumption of beer in his hunting party justified:

"down on Stewart Island, I mean, you can have, I mean, I've been down there when you've had the entire trip, you just haven't been able, it's been absolutely teeming, gusty winds, horrible, horrible weather, so, I mean, those little comforts come in handy then, whereas, you know, if you're not prepared for it, well, it's just a way to keep up the good fun, I suppose"

The consumption of alcohol does also reflect another characteristic of the hunting trip that differs from the trampers' experience. As mentioned before, trampers cannot carry such amenities with them for their whole trip, although the researcher has met a considerable amount of them carrying a bottle of wine, for instance. Nonetheless, the amount of alcohol that is carried, when so, is little and is usually treated as an

extravaganza. Conversely, hunters tend to consume alcohol every day in the huts and this behaviour may affect trampers' experience. Furthermore, the daily routine of hunters – that in most cases do involve the consumption of alcohol – is dramatically different than the trampers' routine, as one hunter pointed out:

“well, at the end of the day the hunters come back, and it's a classic example, the hunters come back sort of later in the evening, trampers basically want to go to bed then, and hunters are only sort of starting up; 'cause we'll come back, we'll have our tea and most of the trampers are already in bed, and they'd wanna probably sit around, have a couple of quiet drinks, which they can't do, 'cause they got to get up and tramp, and they can't carry that sort of stuff with them, you know, you get a bit of that... certainly, I'd say 90% it's probably alcohol related, or 80% of it alcohol related, and you know, the other 20% is probably attitude related”.

A similar comment was made by a trumper during a long interview session:

“obviously hunter's hours are quite different to trampers, so they sort of hang around in the hut during the day, and they were heading out just as we arrived, actually, and then they arrived back quite late... so we only had to ask them to be quiet once so we could get to sleep, but they were very considerate”

It is noticeable then that hunters carry a large amount of supplies and that means that the hut and surroundings will be rather full by the time a trumper arrives. In fact, because there is so much gear and supplies around the hut area, and because hunters do stay for a long period in the same 'base', the hut becomes almost like a second home to them and the arrival in this scenario might make trampers feel a bit uneasy. A comment by a trumper translates the feeling: *“The life with hunters groups was strange because you seem to arrive in their house, so it doesn't give you a good impression”*. However, the impression is not always negative, as another trumper reported in an interview:

“we came across a whole lot of hunters actually, at East Ruggedy Hut, ... they made themselves very much at home, ... it was quite a large group of them... they were very friendly, they, yeah, offered us food and everything, I think, well, that's what I've come across with all hunting parties who are in huts, but ahn, yeah, they definitely spread themselves in the huts a little bit”.

An interesting comment by one interviewee confirms that this type of behaviour is characteristic of a style of travel that hunters, more than trampers, tend to have. In the case reported by this trumper, a non-hunter had been staying in a Southern Circuit Hut for a week when she arrived with her friends: *“It was sort of... I felt like we were intruding a little bit because he sort of made himself quite at home, so...”*

Another factor which relates to the large amount of gear taken by hunters to the huts concerns their mode of access, that is, the use of motor boats, helicopters and fixed-wing planes. For a few trampers seeing motorised vehicles during their stay in a remote island like Stewart Island, devalues their experience.

“I was lucky to have 2 days/nights at Doughboy Bay with nobody there because a group of hunters flew in as I was leaving. I think it's good to get rid of the deer but it 'cheapens' the experience with them flying/boating in all over.”

On the other hand, the trampers' style of travelling and general characteristics might also affect hunters' experience. As confirmed previously, trampers on Stewart Island are usually foreign visitors who might not be aware of social norms and 'appropriate'

behaviour in a New Zealand national park context. As it will be discussed later on, hut etiquette was an issue commonly raised by hunters who were interviewed. Despite of that, Stewart Island does attract a large amount of trampers who are inexperienced and this may cause some nuisance to hunters.

“it’s when, once again, the inexperienced people come in and they put a burden on other people that are experienced and are prepared for it, I mean, I’ve seen some hilarious things on the island, and particularly from people getting dropped off and they are walking around in sneakers and black jeans and they’ve got this pack and they’ve got a pot hanging outside, it’s just ridiculous and ... they’ve got no cooker and, you know, that sort of behaviour puts a strain on the whole thing”

Another cause of criticism, but not necessarily a reason for conflict, comes from the fact that trampers remain on tracks and go only from one hut to another and therefore, hunters say, do not experience the environment as much as the hunters do. This characteristic, according to some hunters, leads trampers to have a poor understanding of the problems and necessities of the ‘bush’ and therefore may contribute to a lack of tolerance and understanding between the two groups.

“It’s all very nice having the thick bush, but, I mean, I love it but my argument too is that’s cool but who’s actually gonna enjoy it? I mean, you, quite honestly, like the Milford Track, you could cut, say, from the track back 10 meters and then from 10m beyond cut the whole forest down, no one will know... no one will know, except for the hunters that get to go there hunting, ‘cause all the trampers do is walk on the track. That’s it. They’re not enjoying the nature, ‘cause they’ve never being into it. So they’re walking on the main railway track, or whatever that is, a state highway.”

Despite all the differences in the modes of travel and characteristics, hunters and trampers on the island seem to share the space and their experiences in harmony and few general negative comments were ever present in their discourses. In fact, both groups reported more positive experiences than negative ones. Several trampers met on the island found it quite amusing to meet hunters in the huts, as they were usually not only more knowledgeable about the area but also had interesting ‘tales’ to tell. Moreover, a number of trampers were very happy to be offered fresh fish or venison caught by hunters, as well as some fresh vegetables and a can or two of beer.

“[I] stayed in hut with 7 hunters. They were friendly and offered me food. I don’t believe there is conflict between trampers and hunters.”

“I think there is a natural unspoken animosity between hikers/trampers and hunters, but this is all but unapparent here. (...) The two groups can easily coexist (...) If any problems with hunters are reported, I assume is hyper sensibility and a foregone distaste for hunting seeking any outlet of indignation. In truest truth, there exists no conflict on Stewart Island.”

“I think some of the internationals that we were walking with..., there was these two guys, one from Switzerland and one from Germany, I think they were, they thought it was quite amusing, I think, to be honest, (...) to turn up to a hut and have these guys seemingly in the middle of nowhere, and made themselves so at home, and I think they sort of watched with a bit of wonder, but no, they definitely didn’t have any negative comments to make or anything, they quite enjoyed... I mean, they were really good company so it was quite nice to... I think they were very open to meeting new people on the track, so quite aware that there would be other people using the huts”

Accordingly, hunters seemed very pleased to meet a different lot of trampers every day, especially overseas visitors, as they felt they had learnt from and heard about a different culture.

“We all enjoyed the relaxation, hunting and fishing, as well as trampers. Trampers are interesting to get to know and learn of their home countries and experiences. Thanks for this opportunity.”

“We fed two lots of trampers with fish and they loved it!”

“We do our best not to cause frustration to others and like to provide them with cooked fish, cold beer and other “extravagances” (showers, etc.). On this trip we offered to take a French trumper fishing (he declined because the weather was not too good and he wanted to get on the track). Previously we have taken a German trumper out fishing and he loved it (caught his first fish). I believe it is good to mix hunters and trampers as long as people are mindful of others and want them to have a good experience.”

Hut Behaviour and Etiquette

Hut Behaviour and etiquette form a big part of New Zealand’s outdoor recreation norms. There are over 950 backcountry huts spread around conservation areas in New Zealand (Department of Conservation 2007b) providing an excellent and frequently visited facility for outdoor recreationists in the country. Because of such an immense network, and what it represents to New Zealanders and outdoor enthusiasts from around the world, a code has been stipulated with some simple points that hut users usually follow²⁹:

- “Sign the hut book on arrival and departure.
- Respect the comfort of other occupants, and assist in keeping the hut clean and tidy.
- See that no perishable food is left in cupboards.
- Ensure that all non-biodegradable material is carried out.
- Leave ample firewood for the next party. Cut no live trees.
- Securely fasten all doors and windows.
- Check that all fires are extinguished.
- Sweep floors, clean benches, prop up mattresses.
- Pay your hut fees.”

Source: New Zealand Alpine Club (n.d.)

The non-compliance with hut etiquette is frequently reported as a cause of conflict between park users (e.g. Wray, Harbrow, Kazmierow 2005) and it was mentioned a few times in this research as well. For instance, one of the most common complaints from hunters when referring to trampers is the non replacement of firewood, relying solely on hunter’s coal and collected dry wood:

“and that’s the other thing too that cracks me up, the trampers are quick to whinge and moan about things but I’ve never seen a trumper restock the wood pile, go out there with a bloody saw and cut up some wood or anything, they’re quite happy to use our wood. You know, that pisses me off. I’ve never seen them... the people that I do see cleaning huts up are generally kiwis, experienced trampers that as they leave their bunk room they give their bunk room a sweep out and, you know, is all nice and clean.”

²⁹ Some topics were suppressed from the original, and only the more relevant for the discussions are presented.

Added to that, as it can be detected from the above quote, hunters tend to blame international visitors for not complying with some hut etiquette 'rules'. This might actually be the case, as international visitors are probably not as familiar with such norms and might not follow them as New Zealanders usually do. However, this field was not explored in this research and this conclusion cannot be reached.

Another good example of conflict derived from sets of behaviour in huts is the usage of water in these facilities; several hunters reported in informal conversations that they have seen trampers washing their boots in the hut sink, which for them means a waste of a precious resource. Moreover, when the complaints do not mention cleaning boots over the hut sink they can instead relate to trampers bringing dirty boots inside the hut.

"Generally the first thing we do when we get there is, obviously after unpacking the bucket load of luggage, we... a couple of guys go out and got a whole lot of drift wood, bring it all back, heaps and heaps of it, so they'll do a couple of trips and we cut heaps of wood so they are all nice dry wood and also a couple of guys will clean the hut, so the hut is all nice and clean, the windows are all clean, the things all packed away, and that's what we do first thing. Then we always keep the hut clean. And then the trampers come in with their bloody dirty boots, they don't give a shit!"

Hut etiquette and behaviour can also be a conflict-starter for trampers. Most complaints about hunters made by this group concerned hut etiquette and were particularly focused on the fact that hunters tended to use too much space (as discussed previously), not being particularly accommodating to trampers. Nonetheless, trampers criticised hut users in general terms more often than hunters specifically. Hut etiquette was again a major reason for complaint, and common themes revolved around untidiness, loudness and disrespect for nature. As one tramper said in an interview:

"Hunters are not necessarily the 'bad guys'. It's people in general! People who have no respect for others and who end up messing up for everyone!"

In fact, in most cases, when comments were made about hut etiquette and behaviour, they were very general and not necessarily particularly targeted at one specific group. Therefore, it can be concluded that inappropriate behaviour in backcountry huts, and specifically on Stewart Island, is not group-specific and hence might be related to other variables that were not investigated in this research. In spite of that, it can still be considered an important cause of conflict amongst park users.

Crowding

Previous researches in New Zealand conservation estate show that crowding is frequently a source of conflict between visitors and is usually related to negative impressions about the experience (Kearsley 2000, Higham, Kearsley & Kliskey 2001). In the present research crowding was mentioned several times by participants who usually associated crowding with unpleasant situations. In fact, crowding was the single major source of conflict reported by both trampers and hunters in the survey. Informal interviews also showed that, even when complaints were directed to one specific group (i.e. trampers or hunters), the actual source of conflict was crowding and not group-related activity or behaviour. The following comment made by one respondent (tramper) from the survey illustrates the feeling: *"hunters crowding huts"*.

One interviewee described a situation that she experienced on the Southern Circuit to exemplify a conflict event that could have arisen with any other group: *"you wouldn't want to bump into another bigger group in there because the huts are just so tiny, they're sort of... the bunks space and the actual moving around space is very limited"*

by the time you have a bench and the little fires". Another survey respondent (tramper) rated his experience as satisfying rather than very satisfying because there were: "too many people (hunters and trampers) [on tracks/in huts], did not feel remote".

Note that the reason for conflict or discomfort in these reports was the number of people in the hut, in spite of their group 'affiliation'. With higher numbers, huts tend not to be so cosy and the possibility of inter-personal tensions rises. Besides that, people need to behave in a more accommodating way, not feeling so relaxed to enjoy their trip in the manner they feel more comfortable with.

Guns and Killing Animals

The use of guns and the killing of animals have been reported by several studies as sources of criticism towards hunting (Kerasote 1993, Vaske et al. 1995, Lovelock 2003, Brower 2005) and consequently a potential cause of conflict between hunters and other park users. Although usually analysed as separate subjects of discussion (which we agree they are), we opted to examine both issues combined here because, despite the vast literature on the subjects (especially the killing of animals), we did not feel that these themes emerged with enough frequency in this research to deserve separate analysis.

The use of guns by hunters have several times been associated with the display of masculinity (McLeod 2004), and some groups, especially feminists, tend to censure the activity based on patriarchal critics of society (Conh 1999). As one hunter quoted by Marx and Chavez (2002) expressed: "The non-hunter believes we make these decisions on a desire for a macho thrill. I cannot remember that feeling ever coming over me while hunting." (p. 211). However, that did not seem to be the case among the tramper participants. When the use of guns was mentioned as a cause of concern or problem, it was invariably related to safety issues. One interviewee describing a conflict situation some friends had had with a group of hunters at the Hollyford Track stated:

"one of the trips had an unpleasant interaction [with hunters] in a sense that the hunters seemed to be shooting and not really being that careful and weren't initially aware that there would be other people, despite being at the Hollyford Track, you know, and they were just surprised that a) they were not sure if they are allowed in there, and b) they just didn't feel very safe"

The same tramper mentioned a situation where she felt briefly disturbed because of the use of guns:

"the interactions I have had [with hunters] have all been pleasant... but I remember coming down the South Temple and coming around the corner and a guy was standing with a gun, like, we nearly fell over, we were so scared, but he apologised profusely because he hadn't mean to scare us like that."

Nevertheless, hunters on Stewart Island seemed to be very aware of this situation and tended to be considerate to other users, usually safely storing guns as well as keeping them out of sight so not to upset or disturb trampers.

"I always put my firearm away and I generally have it besides my bed, tucked up beside the bed so they are away, out of sight, out of mind, which I just think it's a nice thing to do, 'cause I mean, it can be a bit intimidating for people seeing these firearms on the walls, in the gun rack, (...) yeah, I try, as I say, I don't put mine in the gun rack; put them away, out of sight, out of mind."

It also seems, from the interviews and observations, that international visitors are usually more annoyed by the presence of firearms than New Zealanders. It is hard to affirm, but this might be related to the fact that a big percentage of international visitors to New Zealand come from bigger countries, such as countries from Western Europe and the United States, that have the use of guns frequently associated with violent manifestations, such as crime and terrorism. New Zealanders seem to be more accustomed to hunting, and therefore the use of firearms for that specific purpose, as this activity is considered a big part of its outdoor culture and lifestyle (Franklin 2006).

The killing of animals is another major issue concerning hunting in modern society. As modern forms of production have changed and rural villages have grown into large urban cities, animals have been distanced from individuals and modern relations with animals have altered substantially (Franklin 2007). In fact, today most city dwellers do not witness the killing of the animal they consume and only eat the meat that comes already skinned and sliced. Representing such a scenario, a trumper on the island reported feeling squeamish and disgusted when seeing a deer carcass hanging outside a hut.

This changing process has triggered the emergence of some philosophical issues such as environmental awareness and philosophies, the politics and philosophies of animal rights, animal ethics, and animal consciousness. These movements considerably impacted on hunting and the views held by members of society towards this activity (Knight et al. 2003). From one perspective, hunting is a cruel sport that involves the killing of sentient beings for no justifiable reason (Regan 1999); from a hunters' perspective, it is a natural activity and a fair form of killing for food (Kerasote 1993).

“it's quite funny these people that judge other people in a way... like people that judge us to be hunting, and yet I guarantee that they all eat chicken, and I guarantee that the chicken are being... probably in a battery”

“well, yeah, I mean, and that's the thing with the whole hunting thing, I mean, the animals are in the wild, generally it doesn't know that you are there, so generally doesn't know that it has been shot, and generally the kill is really quick. I mean, if you shoot them in the neck, or in the head, or you know, some vital area, it's instant, you know, and they have no idea, I mean, that's it. Whereas the poor old sheep that go to the slaughter house, I mean, off the paddock, into the truck, off the truck, into the slaughter house, seeing all their mates going in there through a wee dark hole, I mean, you know, so, as I say, just sort of intrigues me why people sort of go on about hunting when it's..., you know, fine, don't eat meat then you!”

These conflicts have found ground on outdoor recreation landscapes (Franklin, forthcoming) and Stewart Island is one of the places where hunters find confronters. Few hunters informally interviewed on the island reported aversion feelings towards the “tree huggers” and vegetarians. In fact, one comment by a frequent visitor to the island was quite judgmental classifying vegetarians as “complete idiots”, with ‘no common sense or any idea of what they are talking about when opposing hunting’. Another hunter, when asked in an interview if he had been asked by a trumper why he killed animals, said:

“oh... yeah, you get a bit of that... every now and then, as I say, you know, it's the usual tree-hugger type, (...) I mean, you get, occasionally get some one who sort of goes on about it, but you know, I mean, that's their view, that's fine. Ah, doesn't worry me. They're entitled to their opinion, and so am I. So, you know... it's my country, it's... you know, we are lucky enough to be able to go and hunt, so that's what I enjoy doing.”

I don't give them a hard time for tramping around an island with no purpose, so... don't understand it, you know..., but it's fine, they wanna do it, so..."

But again, as with the usage of guns, it seems that international visitors are more prone to oppose hunting in all its forms. According to Lovelock (2003), New Zealand does not have a strong animal rights movement as countries such as England and the United States do, which mitigates strong opposition feelings. Moreover, as it has been argued previously, hunting seems to be more socially accepted as a cultural manifestation in New Zealand and other outdoor enthusiasts are usually used to meeting hunters in huts and tracks.

An interesting situation happened at Mason Bay Hut during the observation phase of the study. An English trumper was talking about her time on the island with hunters and described it as a very rewarding experience, the major reason for it being that she was able to learn about New Zealand culture and appreciate a different perspective on hunting. According to this trumper, she strongly opposed hunting in England and supported the groups that finally had fox hunting banned in 2004. However, she stated that hunting in New Zealand was embedded in a different story, and that it showed a nice synergy between hunters and the natural world, with strong respect for the land and the animal that it is being killed. In England, fox hunting is extremely connected with elitism, snobbism and frivolity, and those are the sentiments that she is mostly opposed to.

CHAPTER IV

Conclusions and Recommendations

The present study is a contribution to the literature on inter-group conflict in outdoor recreation settings with the objective of better understanding conflict between trampers and hunters on New Zealand's Stewart Island in order to add knowledge for its application in managerial settings.

This study has identified some reasons for conflict between trampers and hunters but, contradicting expectations, the degree to which these conflicts are actually taking place and influencing visitors' experience seems to be relatively low on Stewart Island.

Social conflicts are, inevitably, an integral part of society (Kriesberg 1973). As Woehrle and Coy (2000, p.1) point out, conflicts are an "expected and functional outcome in a social system. Where there are human beings organized in social structures, there will be conflict". It was expected, then, that the researcher was going to identify and witness conflict situations between different user groups. As Kreisberg (1973) asserts, being a member of a group which has developed a sense of itself as a separate entity from other groups is one leading factor for conflict, and trampers and hunters have surely done so throughout the years in New Zealand. A good example of that is the fact that hunting advocacy groups have left the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand many years ago due to political incompatibilities, thus demonstrating a clear split between trampers and hunters in the country (Burrell 1983). Nonetheless, results from the present research have indicated that conflict situations between the two groups are not the norm on Stewart Island and they seem to happen as frequent as any other social conflict would occur when different groups of people share experiences and space as is the case on the island.

As far as conflicts that do exist, four contributing factors were identified. It is expected that through their recognition, the Department of Conservation will be able to develop better informed strategies to prevent and control conflicts in such a way that they positively contribute to the outcome for both the social system and the people involved (Woehrle & Coy 2000). The first factor relates to the trip characteristics of the user-groups in focus. It was concluded that, in general, when a group gathers to go on a hunting trip to Stewart Island, they conform to some behavioural characteristics that might be disturbing to the ones of a tramping trip. That means that possible conflict does not necessarily rise due to differences in values or recreational choices but more so due to the style of the trip.

Results indicate that the two groups do not hold very differing environmental values, but their behaviour when engaging in different activities is singular and characteristic of that specific activity. In fact, some interviewees and people met on the island pursue both recreation activities, hunting and tramping, but they acknowledge the difference in the style of their trip when partaking in one or the other. The length of stay, for example, leads the participants to behave in a different way and that might be a major cause of conflict, and not their environmental values. So, the fact that hunters stay for a long period stationed in one hut lead these recreationists to engage with the environment and their activity in a way different than trampers, and these differences may sometimes be the origin of a conflict situation. Therefore, the alleged opposition regarding different values or activities between the two groups was not evident on the island, but more so the differences in trip characteristics and consequent behaviour.

The second contributing factor relates to hut behaviour and etiquette. Results indicate that some visitors are not fully aware of the expectations in terms of hut behaviour and etiquette in New Zealand and may therefore infringe some norms socially established for the use of backcountry huts. This seems to happen more often with inexperienced visitors and, more pronouncedly, with international tourists.

The third factor is associated with crowding, a well reported source of conflict in outdoor recreation (for reference see Needham, Rollins & Wood 2004). In fact, this issue was more common in an intra-group environment (trampers vs. trampers) than between trampers and hunters. Therefore, results from this study confirm previous research that concludes that crowding *per se* is a managerial concern and source of conflict, despite user groups (Marcouiller, Scott & Prey 2005). Hence, this outcome leads us to assume that conflict situations derived from crowding may be echoed as conflict between the two different user groups because of pre-assumed stereotypes or expectations of conflict between them. In other words, a conflict situation that was really a consequence of crowding and could have happened between any group of individuals is reported as a conflict between trampers and hunters specifically.

The last contributing factor for conflict concerns the use of guns and the ethical feelings related to the killing of animals. The handling and presence of guns around huts seems to apprehend some visitors, but, in general, hunters seem to be aware of this unease and tend to hide guns and are considerate of trampers in this situation. From the results derived from the qualitative methods³⁰ it can be stated that this feeling of anxiety is more common amongst international visitors, who are usually not aware of the hunting culture in New Zealand or not used to any form of hunting and/or recreational use of guns (visitors coming from big centres). Likewise, results indicate that the killing of animals cause more offence to foreign visitors than to domestic tourists on the island. Nonetheless, very few comments were made in this respect and it seems that only the more radical animal rights activists do take a stand on the situation and get really upset with the activity on Stewart Island. The bigger issue amongst New Zealanders seems to be the eradication of deer. Most local trampers are aware of the environmental problems caused by deer and most agree that deer should be exterminated, regardless of the desire of recreational hunters to keep them as an asset in a controlled manner. Although those trampers do not oppose the hunting of deer *per se*, some oppose the maintenance of deer for the sole purpose of recreational hunting. This position has caused some animosity between the two groups (as in the abovementioned case with the FMC filiations) and they tend to resonate when the groups meet or even in the discourses of the members when no real conflict situation has actually occurred.

In addition to the factors listed above, some other interesting results from the present research point to a number of valuable conclusions. Firstly, hunters to Stewart Island are usually more attached to that particular location than trampers. This explains the political organisation of the group regarding their involvement in discussions on issues related to the management of the island. Stewart Island holds a high value to this group and most users are recurrent visitors who pass the 'legacy' of Stewart Island hunting from generation to generation.

Apart from that, hunters and trampers seem to be very much in agreement when it comes to environmental values and norms and behaviours in the outdoors. The vast majority of the results indicate great similarity in the opinions of members of both groups, which contradicts expectations of conflict due to discordant values and norms.

³⁰ There was no mention to the use of guns in the questionnaire surveys.

Moreover, deer hunting, as discussed above, was relatively well accepted amongst trampers, which, again, objects predictions.

In terms of conflict situations, both groups agree that littering and 'visitor behaviour/activity showing disregard to resources' were major causes of conflict. Although in the close-ended responses alcohol was not rated as a major cause of conflict, several reports commenting on hunters' behaviour due to alcohol consumption indicate that the abuse of drinking is considered inappropriate by trampers and may influence their feelings and views on hunters. In fact, several trampers referred to the consumption of alcohol while keeping guns in the same location as an unpleasant and conflict-prone situation. Indeed, most comments referring to the presence of guns in huts were related to the consumption of alcohol at the same place.

Overall, reports of conflict were not significant. In general, visitors seem to cope with and tolerate the presence of others well, as long as numbers are kept in control, as it otherwise leads to feelings of crowding. The issue of hunter huts is still debatable, and almost 40% of respondents from this sample had either neutral feelings towards the effectiveness of hunter huts to prevent conflict or were opposed to its use. In fact, some respondents even stated that separating the two groups does not help to build tolerance between people. The practice of zoning is contradictory and some studies reveal that they, in fact, may not be the best managerial tool to control conflict (Cordell & Tarrant 2001).

From the results presented in this report, some recommendations for future management of Stewart Island can be indicated. The underlying problem surrounding trampers and hunters on the island appears to be crowding issues. For that, the construction of separate huts for each group has been suggested as an adequate solution. However, from the present results, it seems that this is not a cost-effective and environmental-friendly solution as well as it does not seem to be the most advantageous strategy. As mentioned before, separating the groups creates a bigger gap between them and it does little for the building of tolerance among people. Furthermore, social relations seems to play a big part of the tramping and hunting experiences and preventing encounters between the two groups diminishes the chances of these social relations to form. Moreover, hunting plays a big part in New Zealand's culture and should be appreciated by visitors, especially international tourists, as such. If it is agreed that recreational hunting will continue on the island, it should be treated as an important cultural asset for the visitor's experience. In fact, as the vast majority of hunters on Stewart Island are New Zealanders and over 65% of trampers are international tourists, meeting hunters enhances the visitor's experience as they have the chance to meet and interact with the local people and culture: a product that is considered as very important for the country's target market, the interactive tourist. If more hunting huts are to be built, they should be located at remote hunting blocks where only old camp sites exist so as to improve camping conditions and put less pressure on the land.

In order to deal with the crowding issue and, therefore, improve conflict management, a booking system for some of the most popular huts seems to be a good alternative. The two huts from the Rakiura Track and Freshwater and Mason Bay Huts receive large number of visitors during the high season and a booking system could possibly avoid overcrowding of those conflict-prone areas. For hunters intending to book the hunting blocks in these areas and staying in the huts, a maximum party number should be defined so other visitors do not feel as if they were entering 'somebody else's domain'. In smaller huts around the North West and Southern Circuit, a maximum number of hunters using the hut during the high season should also be enforced: again with the

intention of making a public space which is available to all, with no visitor feeling as an 'intruder'.

Education has been identified as one of the best options for dealing with conflict situations (Hammit & Schneider 2000; Cordell & Tarrant 2001, Hawke & Booth 2001). In the case of Stewart Island, instead of 'warning' visitors of the presence of hunters on the tracks or in huts, tourists should receive information about hunting on the island as a cultural asset of their visit. Brochures/Information sheets could be developed and presented to trampers prior to their visit with information about exotic animals and the participation of hunters in trying to keep numbers manageable; Information panels in huts could display the history of hunting in that particular area; Brochures could also display the importance of hunting for New Zealand identity and its cultural relevance. In addition, tourists should be informed that hunting parties may be encountered during their visit, with this possibility as a highlight of their experience, and not as a possible nuisance.

As mentioned earlier, conflict is an integral part of society and it will always exist. The effort should centre on minimizing the amount and the negative impact of the conflict that does occur. To facilitate this, management should increasingly focus on more participatory involvement of all stakeholders and work towards tolerance and education instead of separation and retaliation.

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APPENDIX 1 – THE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEYS

Stewart Island Hunter Survey 2007

SECTION ONE - Yourself

1. How experienced in hunting do you consider yourself?

Not at all experienced					Very experienced
①	②	③	④	⑤	

2. How frequently have you gone hunting in the last 5 years? (Tick (☑) ONE box that represents the approximate number of times in average)

First time Less than once a year Once a year 2-4/year 5-7/year 8-10/year 10+

3. How many times have you gone hunting on Stewart Island in the last 5 years? _____ hunting trips

4. Please indicate how appropriate each of the following is in a backcountry area. (Cover (●) ONE per line)

	Not at all appropriate				Very Appropriate
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) To be provided with track/trail safety information	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) To receive general information about the site through brochures, maps, etc.	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) To encounter and receive general information about the site through rangers	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) To encounter and receive general information about the site through guides	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) To have road access to start of track	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Provision of huts and shelters	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Provision of campsites	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Maintained tracks	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) To have gas provided in huts for cooking	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Guided hunting	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) Guided tramping/hiking	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Hunting non-native animals	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) Commercial extraction of natural resources	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) Marketing campaigns to promote visits to National Parks	①	②	③	④	⑤
o) Limits set on the numbers of users	①	②	③	④	⑤
p) Limits set on the types of access	①	②	③	④	⑤

5. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Cover (●) ONE per line)

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Hunting has a central role in my life	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Participating in hunting is one of the most enjoyable things I do	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) I enjoy hunting on Stewart Island more than in any other place	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Stewart Island means a lot to me	①	②	③	④	⑤

6. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Cover (●) ONE per line)

	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree				
	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) If access is controlled in any way, there should be no difference between local residents and non-residents	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Deer are an exotic animal that should be hunted	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) The earth has plenty of natural resources if we learn how to develop them	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) There is no point in having a place where plants and animals are preserved, when I never actually see them	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) I am more environmentally conscious when I participate in hunting than in my every day life at home	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Nature has a value in itself, so preservation should be a priority when managing parks.	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤

SECTION TWO – Your Visit

7. How long was your visit to Stewart Island? (Tick (☑) ONE box)

Less than 1 day Overnight More than one night Please specify: _____

8. Which of the following best describes your travel party? (Tick (☑) ALL that apply)

Solo With partner With children With friends
 Recreational club Commercial guided group Educational Group Other (specify): _____

9. How many people are in your group today? (including you and any guides) _____

10. What mode of travel did you use to get to the beginning of your hunting block?

Foot/ Tramping Commercial transport Boat Plane Helicopter Other. Please specify: _____

11. What type of accommodation did you use in this visit to Stewart Island? (Tick (☑) all that apply)

Commercial accommodation DOC huts Hunter huts Camping Private accommodation Other (please specify): _____

12. Please rate the following statements on the scale provided. (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

How much do you agree or disagree that...?

	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree					Not Applicable
	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) the number of people you encountered on this visit was low	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) you were able to experience natural peace and quiet on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) you were not disturbed by other visitor activities on this visit (e.g. fishing, tramping, boating, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) you were not disturbed by the behaviour of other visitors on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) the facilities you used on this visit were of a high standard	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) you learned about nature and local history from information signs and brochures	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) you were provided with accurate track/trail and safety information on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) you had the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) you experienced true wilderness	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) you were able to see and experience wildlife	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) you were disturbed by the noise or presence of motorised vehicles	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) you were disturbed by the presence of commercial services and facilities	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) there are too many or too strict management rules and regulations on Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park	①	②	③	④	⑤	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please comment on any events that negatively impacted on your experience.

13. Please think only of this visit when you answer this question. Indicate how important each of the following was to your backcountry experience. (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

	Not at all important			Very important	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Exploring new areas	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Challenging your skills	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Physical exercise	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) To be able to tell others about my experience	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Absence of people	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Shooting trophy animals	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Controlling deer numbers hence making a difference to conservation	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Natural peace and quiet	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) Being with friends and/or family	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Meeting people and making new friends	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) To encounter wilderness/untouched nature	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Self awareness/contemplation	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) To get away from life's pressure	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) To learn about and see New Zealand's flora/fauna/natural systems	①	②	③	④	⑤

14. Why did you choose Stewart Island to go hunting? _____

15. To what extent do you consider the following to be major causes of conflict between park users? (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

	Not at all important			Very important	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Motorised transport	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Noise of people on tracks and in huts	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Noise of motorised transport (planes, helicopters, boats, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Search and rescue operations	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Restricted access to certain forms of recreation (e.g. bikes, horses, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Restricted group size	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Air access	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Commercial groups	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) Use of mobile phones	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Use of GPS	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) Littering	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Hunting	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) Crowding	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) Unsafe behaviours	①	②	③	④	⑤
o) Visitor behaviour/activity causing track damage	①	②	③	④	⑤
p) Visitor behaviour/activity causing wildlife disturbance	①	②	③	④	⑤
q) Visitor behaviour/activity showing disregard to resources	①	②	③	④	⑤
r) Consumption of alcohol	①	②	③	④	⑤

16. Please list the three best aspects and the three worst aspects about your visit?

Best aspects: _____ Worst aspects: _____

17. Overall, how satisfied were you with your visit here in this trip? Please explain why

① Very dissatisfied ② ③ ④ ⑤ Very satisfied

18. Did you experience conflict with trampers? Yes Please indicate where: _____
 No Don't know

19. Did you perceive conflict between other hunters and trampers during this visit to Stewart Island?
 Yes Please indicate where: _____ No Don't know

20. Do you think that providing separate huts for hunters is a good way to avoid conflict between trampers and hunters?
 Yes No Don't know

SECTION THREE – Demographics

21. Gender (Tick (☑) ONE only) Male Female

22. Nationality: _____

23. Age: 16 – 24 25 – 34 35 – 44 45 – 54 55 – 64 65 – 74 75 +

24. Are you currently a member of any of the following? (Tick (☑) all that apply)

Not a member Environmental group Tramping club Hunting club Other (please specify): _____

25. Highest level of education (Tick (☑) ONE only)

Primary school Secondary school Tertiary degree Post graduate Other (please specify): _____

Thank you for your time!

Please do not forget to return this completed survey in the pre-paid envelope provided. Include the paper slip with your contact details to enter the prize draw

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE FORM BY:

1. Sealing the envelope attached and placing it in a post box (no stamp required);
OR
2. Delivering it to the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre on Stewart Island for onward delivery to the researcher

If you have any further comments to contribute to this research, please feel free to use the space provided below. Your comments will be most appreciated and will add to the analysis of the data collected through this survey. Thank you for your time!

Stewart Island Trampler Survey 2007

SECTION ONE - Yourself

1. How experienced in tramping do you consider yourself?

Not at all experienced
 ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
 Very experienced

2. How frequently have you gone tramping in the last 5 years? _____ years?
 (Tick (☑) ONE box that represents the approximate number of times in average)

First time Less than once a year Once a year 2-4/year 5-7/year 8-10/year 10+

3. How many times have you gone tramping on Stewart Island in the last 5 years? _____ tramping trips

4. Please indicate how appropriate each of the following is in a backcountry area. (Cover (●) ONE per line)

	Not at all appropriate			Very Appropriate	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) To be provided with track/trail safety information	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) To receive general information about the site through brochures, maps, etc.	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) To encounter and receive general information about the site through rangers	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) To encounter and receive general information about the site through guides	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) To have road access to start of track	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Provision of huts and shelters	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Provision of campsites	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Maintained tracks	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) To have gas provided in huts for cooking	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Guided hunting	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) Guided tramping/hiking	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Hunting non-native animals	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) Commercial extraction of natural resources	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) Marketing campaigns to promote visits to National Parks	①	②	③	④	⑤
o) Limits set on the numbers of users	①	②	③	④	⑤
p) Limits set on the types of access	①	②	③	④	⑤

5. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Cover (■) ONE per line)

	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Tramping has a central role in my life	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Participating in tramping is one of the most enjoyable things that I do	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) I enjoy tramping in Stewart Island more than any other place	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Stewart Island means a lot to me	①	②	③	④	⑤

6. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Cover () ONE per line)

a) If access is controlled in any way, there should be no difference between local residents and non-residents	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Deer are an exotic animal that should be hunted	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) The earth has plenty of natural resources if we learn how to develop them	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) There is no point in having a place where plants and animals are preserved, when I never actually see them	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) I am more environmentally conscious when I participate in tramping than in my every day life at home	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Nature has a value in itself, so preservation should be a priority when managing parks.	①	②	③	④	⑤

SECTION TWO – Your Visit

7. How long was your visit to Stewart Island? (Tick (☑) ONE box)

Less than 1 day Overnight More than one night Please specify: _____

8. Which of the following best describes your travel party? (Tick (☑) ALL that apply)

Solo With partner With children With friends
 Recreational club Commercial guided group Educational group Other (specify): _____

9. How many people are in your group today? (including you and any guides) _____

10. What mode of travel did you use to get to the beginning of your tramping track?

Foot/ Tramping Commercial transport Boat Plane Helicopter Other. Please specify: _____

11. What type of accommodation did you use in this visit to Stewart Island? (Tick (☑) all that apply)

Commercial accommodation DOC huts Hunter huts Camping Private accommodation Other (please specify): _____

12. Please rate the following statements on the scale provided. (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

How much do you <u>agree or disagree</u> that...?	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
a) the number of people you encountered on this visit was low	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) you were able to experience natural peace and quiet on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) you were not disturbed by other visitor activities on this visit (e.g. fishing, hunting, boating, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) you were not disturbed by the behaviour of other visitors on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) the facilities you used on this visit were of a high standard	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) you learned about nature and local history from information signs and brochures	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) you were provided with accurate track/trail and safety information on this visit	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) you had the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) you experienced true wilderness	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) you were able to see and experience wildlife	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) you were disturbed by the noise or presence of motorised vehicles	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) you were disturbed by the presence of commercial services and facilities	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) there are too many or too strict management rules and regulations in Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park	①	②	③	④	⑤	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please comment on any events that negatively impacted on your experience.

13. Please think only of this visit when you answer this question. Indicate how important each of the following was to your backcountry experience. (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

	Not at all important			Very important	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Exploring new areas	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Challenging your skills	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Physical exercise	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) To be able to tell others about my experience	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Absence of people	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Natural peace and quiet	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Being with friends and/or family	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Meeting people and making new friends	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) To encounter wilderness/untouched nature	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Self awareness/contemplation	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) To get away from life's pressure	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) To learn about and see New Zealand's flora/fauna/natural systems	①	②	③	④	⑤

14. Why did you choose Stewart Island to go tramping? _____

15. To what extent do you consider the following to be major causes of conflict between park users in general? (Cover (●) ONE number per line)

	Not at all important			Very important	
	①	②	③	④	⑤
a) Motorised transport	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Noise of people on tracks and in huts	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Noise of motorised transport (planes, helicopters, boats, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Search and rescue operations	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Restricted access to certain forms of recreation (e.g. bikes, horses, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Restricted group size	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Air access	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Commercial groups	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) Use of mobile phones	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Use of GPS	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) Littering	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Hunting	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) Crowding	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) Unsafe behaviours	①	②	③	④	⑤
o) Visitor behaviour/activity causing track damage	①	②	③	④	⑤
p) Visitor behaviour/activity causing wildlife disturbance	①	②	③	④	⑤
q) Visitor behaviour/activity showing disregard to resources	①	②	③	④	⑤
r) Consumption of alcohol	①	②	③	④	⑤

16. Please list the three best aspects and the three worst aspects about your visit?

Best aspects: _____ Worst aspects: _____

17. Overall, how satisfied were you with your visit here in this trip? Please state why

① Very dissatisfied ② ③ ④ ⑤ Very satisfied

18. Did you experience conflict with hunters? Yes Please indicate where: _____
 No Don't know

19. Did you perceive conflict between other trampers and hunters during this visit to Stewart Island?
 Yes Please indicate where: _____ No Don't know

20. Do you think that providing separate huts for hunters is a good way to avoid conflict between trampers and hunters?
 Yes No Don't know

SECTION THREE - Demographics

21. Gender (Tick (☑) ONE only) Male Female

22. Nationality: _____

23. Age: 16 – 24 25 – 34 35 – 44 45 – 54 55 – 64 65 – 74 75 +

24. Are you currently a member of any of the following? (Tick (☑) all that apply)

Not a member Environmental group Tramping club Hunting club Other (please specify): _____

25. Highest level of education (Tick (☑) ONE only)

Primary school Secondary school Tertiary degree Post graduate Other (please specify): _____

Thank you for your time!

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PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE FORM BY:

3. Sealing the envelope attached and placing it in a post box (no stamp required);
OR

4. Delivering it to the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre on Stewart Island for onward delivery to the researcher

If you have any further comments to contribute to this research, please feel free to use the space provided below. Your comments will be most appreciated and will add to the analysis of the data collected through this survey. Thank you for your time!

APPENDIX 2 – THE COVER LETTER



STEWART ISLAND VISITOR SURVEY

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. The attached questionnaire should take only 15 minutes of your time to complete. This research is being carried out as part of a PhD in Tourism at the University of Otago, and is supported by the Department of Conservation. The main objective of this study is to identify and analyse the issues involving recreational users in Stewart Island in order to contribute to its outdoor recreation management.

The information gathered is fully confidential. No information about the participants will be included in any published material. The respondent's identities (if made available) and survey transcripts will only be accessible to the researcher. The results of the project, produced in aggregated form, will be published and will be available in the University of Otago library. You are most welcome to request a copy of the results of the project should you wish. The data collected will serve the purposes of this study only.

PRIZE DRAW

All participants can enter into a **PRIZE DRAW** for a
\$100.00 gift voucher from the shop of your choice.

If you have any questions about this project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

Arianne Reis (PhD candidate)
Department of Tourism
University Telephone Nr: +64 3 4798187
E-mail: areis@business.otago.ac.nz

or *Dr. Anna Carr* (Senior lecturer/supervisor)
Department of Tourism
University Telephone Nr: +64 3 4798057

This survey is part of a bigger project that aims to better understand outdoor experiences. Would you be willing to take part as an informant through an e-mail or Skype interview? If so, please provide your electronic details so we can contact you in the near future.

To enter the PRIZE DRAW and/or participate in an electronic interview please fill in your details below and include the information in the post-paid envelope along with your completed questionnaire:

Please enter me in the Prize Draw

I would be happy to further contribute to this research

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Skype username:

APPENDIX 3 – INTERVIEW THEMES

Hunters

Hunting/Tramping Background

1. How long have you been involved in hunting for?
 - a. How and why did you start practicing hunting?
 - b. Where do you usually go hunting? With whom?
 - c. Do you hunt other species of animals?
 - d. Were you involved in any other outdoor recreation activity prior to this?
 - e. Have you become involved in any other outdoor activity after your involvement with hunting? (are the motives and motivations connected?)
2. Is your family involved?
 - a. Are they supportive?
 - b. How important is that hunting continues with the next generation?
3. In what group of recreationists do you consider yourself in, if any?
 - a. How would you describe this group?
 - b. How is it different or similar to trampers?
 - c. Do you notice a pattern in the behaviour of these different groups?
4. Do you see much difference in the patterns of use of the outdoors from when you first started to today's reality?
 - a. How has that changed overtime?

Stewart Island

5. For how long have you been going to Stewart Island to hunt?
 - a. Is there any particular place of interest for you there?
 - b. What characteristics make this place an interesting one to hunt for you?

Ethical Issues

6. How important is it for you to make a clean shot?
 - a. Are you worried that the animal will suffer from an inaccurate shot?
7. Have you ever felt squeamish about animals you have shot - perhaps when beginning hunting?
8. Do you eat the animals you shoot? Use other parts?
9. How do you perceive hunting in general? Do you see it as a 'natural' human activity?
10. What do you think about animal activists who protest and disrupt hunting?
11. Do you enjoy using firearms?

Environmental/Conservation Issues

12. What are your feelings towards native and exotic animals in NZ?
 - a. Do you think hunting is an effective and appropriate way of controlling exotic species numbers?
 - b. Is there a particular animal that you don't think should be hunted in any circumstance?

13. Are you aware of conservation issues related to the introduction and 'maintenance' of exotic animals in NZ and Stewart Island?
14. Do you see yourself as making an important contribution to the environment in NZ and Stewart Island? How?
 - a. Are you a member of any organisation that cares for the environment? Actively?
15. What do you consider as the "proper" behaviour in a natural environment?
 - a. Would anything different from that annoy you as to compromise your experience?
 - b. Have you experienced anything like that? How was it?
 - c. Is there any particular group of users that you feel do not behave properly in outdoor environments? Why?
16. What do you value the most when recreating in the outdoors?
 - a. Is being 'part of nature' an important feature of hunting?
 - b. Do you spend time observing the surroundings?
 - c. Do you think there is any difference between being in a 'forest'/mountainous setting to anywhere else (lakes, rivers, beach, etc)? Why?
 - d. How important is the natural environment to your sense of satisfaction?
17. How knowledgeable are you about life cycles and behaviours of animals and habitat when you go hunting?

Conflict

18. In general, what do you think would compromise your experience? Why?
 - a. What is the main social and/or natural scenario for the best practice of x?
 - b. Do you find this scenario frequently? Where?
19. Have you felt annoyed by the presence of other people?
 - a. Who were they?
 - b. Why? In what circumstances?

Trampers

Tramping background

1. How long have you been involved in tramping for?
 - a. How and why did you start tramping?
 - b. Where do you usually go tramping? With whom?
 - c. Were you involved in any other outdoor recreation activity prior to this?
 - d. Have you become involved in any other outdoor activity after you started tramping? (are the motives and motivations connected?)
2. Is your family involved?
 - a. Are they supportive?
 - b. How important is that it continues with the next generation?
3. In what group of recreationists do you consider yourself in, if any?
 - a. How would you describe this group?
 - b. How is it different or similar to hunters?
 - c. Do you notice a pattern in the behaviour of these different groups of recreationists?

4. Do you see much difference in the patterns of use of the outdoors from when you first started to today's reality?
 - a. How has that changed overtime?

Stewart Island

5. For how long have you been going to Stewart Island to tramp?
 - a. Is there any particular place of interest for you there?
 - b. What characteristics make this place an interesting one to tramp for you?

Ethical Issues

6. In relation to hunting, does it make any difference to you if the hunter makes a clean shot?
7. Would you feel (or have you felt) squeamish if you see a carcass in a tramping track or hut?
8. Do you eat meat?
 - a. If not, why not? What type of meat (fish included)? Dairy products as well? Since when?
 - b. Have you ever eaten a meat that has been hunted (perhaps in a tramping hut or farm)?
 - c. Do you avoid (or do you mind) buying products made of animal fur or skin?
9. How do you perceive hunting in general? Do you see it as a 'natural' human activity?
10. What do you think about animal activists who protest and disrupt hunting?
11. Do you see any problem with the use of firearms by hunters?

Environmental/Conservation Issues

12. What are your feelings towards native and exotic animals in NZ?
 - a. Do you think hunting is an effective and appropriate way of controlling exotic species numbers?
 - b. Is there a particular animal that you don't think should be hunted in any circumstance?
13. Are you aware of conservation issues related to the introduction and 'maintenance' of exotic animals in NZ and Stewart Island?
14. Do you see yourself as making an important contribution to the environment in NZ and Stewart Island? How?
 - a. Are you a member of any organisation that cares for the environment? Actively?
15. What do you consider as the "proper" behaviour in a natural environment?
 - a. Would anything different from that annoy you as to compromise your experience?
 - b. Have you experienced anything like that? How was it?
 - c. Is there any particular group of users that you feel do not behave properly in outdoor environments? Why?

- 16.** What do you value the most when recreating in the outdoors?
- Is being 'part of nature' an important feature of tramping?
 - Do you spend time observing the surroundings?
 - Do you think there is any difference between being in a 'forest'/mountainous setting to anywhere else (lakes, rivers, beach, etc)? Why?
 - How important is the natural environment to your sense of satisfaction?
- 17.** How knowledgeable are you about life cycles and behaviours of animals and habitat when you go tramping?

Conflict

- 18.** In general, what do you think would compromise your experience? Why?
- What is the main social and/or natural scenario for the best practice of x?
 - Do you find this scenario frequently? Where?
- 19.** Have you felt annoyed by the presence of other people?
- Who were they?
 - Why?
 - In what circumstances?

APPENDIX 4 – RESPONDENT’S COMMENT ON EVENTS THAT HAD NEGATIVELY IMPACTED THEIR EXPERIENCE (RE. QUESTION 12)

Hunters’ Responses

Boats and Commercial Fishing

- Crayfish boat
- Presence of aquaculture ventures
- Commercial fishing vessels spotlighting hunting blocks that have been paid for is not appreciated
- In our area boats taking shelter also boat party travelling on river viewing sights with hunter activity either side of river had a potential risk factor

Conflict with Other Recreationists

- Too many trampers!
- Kayakers sitting on beach I was hunting
- Seeing rubbish in the bush

Lack of Game or Wildlife

- Very little deer
- Not enough wild life

Noise of Motorised Vehicles

- Plane was a bit noisy
- Helicopter

Presence of Pests (Excluding Deer) or Other Wildlife Disturbance

- Number of wild cats
- Presence of rats and possums
- There were no negative events except plagued by bees

Track and Facilities Maintenance

- Track up to the hut
- Condition of the toilet

Weather

- The weather. Need to be able to cut firewood for hut
- Was none except for the large swells causing us to come out early

Other

- Too much commercials
- Negative attitude towards hunting activities by tourists

Trampers’ Responses

Noise of Motorised Vehicles

- Heard one tourist motor boat where I didn’t expect to (but it’s ok, it’s not my own natural park, other people can enjoy it also)
- Too many helicopter flights
- Being buzzed by a plane in Freshwater river

Track and Facilities Maintenance

- Would have liked to see more info in DOC huts about flora and fauna. Either books or posters. Didn't think enough info available in huts
- I found the boardwalk unpleasant to walk on and all the steps very hard on my knees. the ground was much softer
- Seeing all the poison bait around
- Early rising hunting group woke rest of the hut as no separation of sleeping area from kitchen
- Fred's Camp to Freshwater and Freshwater to Mason Bay were very boggy - it would be nice to see more boardwalks erected
- While I understand that the gravel track is harder to maintain than the boardwalk it is vastly preferable. probably has a greater impact on environment too I suppose
- Mud i.e. track maintenance over muddy areas
- Basic toilet facilities without running water
- Nowhere to change clothes in private
- Layout in North Arm Hut - others woke up very early and there was no separation between kitchen and dorm beds, so everyone else woke up too early
- Poorly maintained in areas, creating hazardous situations. Nothing major, just maddening - tough to balance the miserable and the memorable. I suppose this section is quite difficult to maintain, but a few areas were fairly absurd.
- He should put some hook in the new hut for hanging food for mouse. Very important!!!
- Bedbugs in at least one of the huts
- Mud
- Tracks times are not anywhere near accurate on North West Circuit and Southern Circuit
- Mud

Conflict with Other Recreationists

- There was an extremely smelly German in almost every hut we went to
- Smelly Germans should wash!
- The smelly German and his shirt
- A smelly German that stayed with us
- Trampers not bury waste
- Loud visitors in huts
- Snoring at Mason Bay Hut
- The group of young people (Americans and Canadians) are silly: they never clean the huts and leave their rubbish!!!
- The groups of young people (Americans and Canadians) are too noisy and don't respect hut etiquette!
- Often trampers didn't leave fire wood
- Rubbish in the huts
- Finding human poos on the track twice
- Mason Bay Hut was overrun with Otago students who were not accommodating to trampers

Personal Discomforts

- Blisters
- Knee joints
- Blisters

Conflict with Hunters

- Full use of hut by hunters
- The life with hunters groups was strange because you seem to arrive in their house, so it doesn't give you a good impression
- Hunters taking over DOC huts on the North West Circuit
- Hunters partying in the huts. I'd prefer if DOC had informed me of their bookings.
- Meeting drunk hunters at Bungaree Hut
- Hunters smoking inside hut
- Came across an old hunters site left 2 days earlier - had rubbish everywhere including box of wet food saying help yourself.
- Dead deer laying on track
- Messy abandoned hunters camps at various points on track

Crowding

- Overcrowded hut at Mason Bay. University researchers plus extended family and hunters. No beds for trampers.
- A very over crowded booked hut at Mason Bay
- Increasing number of people in huts over last 2-3 years. could be a problem because of more coming on commercial operators - do not have tramping background, hut etiquette, safety knowledge, would be encouraged to go beyond their limits
- Mason Bay Hut was overrun with Otago students who were not accommodating to trampers
- too many people in general

Party or Member Getting Lost

- Getting lost
- Members of party got lost/spent nights out in the bush, without us knowing where they were

Presence of Pests (Excluding Deer) or Other Wildlife Disturbance

- Finding a possum at North Branch (Arm) Hut
- Only sand flies but they'll always be there

Weather

- The weather was not so good

Other

- New Zealand residents should pay a lot less for DOC huts than overseas visitors as we already pay our taxes
- I didn't see a kiwi

APPENDIX 5 – REASONS FOR CHOOSING STEWART ISLAND AS RECREATION DESTINATION (RE. QUESTION 14)

Hunters' Responses

- Local knowledge due to years living on Stewart Island
- Solely for whitetail deer trophy possibilities
- Because it has whitetail deer in reasonable number to hunt with the potential to shoot a trophy
- To shoot a white tail deer
- Organized group of friends that had been down regularly
- Coastal combo. Hunting and the sea
- Somewhere different
- The remoteness, the wildlife, hunting and fishing
- With my father's annual hunting party
- It's a dream, most southern part of NZ, where I was born and bred, it's known as how NZ used to be
- Remoteness and whitetail deer
- An annual event
- White tail deer
- Traditional, annual. This is because of the high value placed on the ability to hunt whitetail deer. Appreciated as a gift from President Roosevelt to the people of NZ
- To shoot white tail deer
- White tail deer
- Never been there. Thought I would give it a go
- Own block that is safe, peaceful, quiet, great adventure! No other people!
- Great spot, different species
- Always wanted to see Stewart Island, relax and be with friends
- Introduce friends to a magic place and hopefully shoot a whitetail deer
- Because of the whitetail deer only being in Stewart Island and it is an awesome place
- Whitetail deer
- Been coming here for 30 years. Probably just another place to hunt
- Because its a good place to be
- Because there is not many other places where you can shoot whitetail deer
- Isolation, deer numbers
- Have had fifty trips there and still enjoy the hunt for whitetail deer
- For the unique experience of hunting whitetail deer
- Great place
- It is a beautiful place and is a challenge to hunt
- Enjoy it
- I have hunted on Stewart Island for the last 37 years, I like the type of bush, animals, bird life and the peace and quiet of this area. I normally have 3-10 day trips per year
- The type of deer and the different environment around you
- Presence of white tail deer and good kiwi numbers
- Diving!
- Chance came up. Don't get to go often. See something different
- I don't know

- White tail deer
- Something different
- Its a great place
- Because whitetail deer are found in only 2 places in New Zealand and Stewart Island is the easy to get to
- Cause they haven't poisoned all the deer yet
- New hunting experience
- White tail deer
- White tail and bush and native birds plus fishing and diving
- Combination of hunting a different deer species as well as fishing and collect seafood in an unspoilt environment where kiwi, marine mammals and fish can be seen
- Nice place
- Holiday/ hunting spot thought it was more untouched than the mainland
- To get a break away form work
- Trying to find trophy deer. I think white tail deer are most challenging trophy deer in New Zealand
- Unique experience
- Annual trip for party I joined
- For the unique hunting experience
- For the variety of hunting, fishing and diving
- The presence of whitetail deer
- Safety with defined blocks, quality of bush and birdlife, and for the whitetail deer
- A very special 'untouched' area of New Zealand that has good hunting and fishing potential
- Wilderness, kiwi out and about in day light, good fishing and good hunting, white tail deer challenging
- Somewhere different and to see more of our country (and white tail deer)
- Annual trip with friends. Enjoy the bird life and bush. Enjoy the challenge of whitetail deer hunting
- To shoot myself a whitetail deer, stag, trophy
- Never been there before, others said it was a great place to hunt
- Great place and isolated
- I was offered to go
- Fishing, hunting and meeting people from all over, remote access
- The challenge of a new hunting area
- Had been there four times previously and enjoy the place so much that I look forward to returning
- Challenge of whitetail deer and fishing
- Love to hunt whitetail, and I enjoy Mason's Bay best of all the hunting blocks, get away and be with mates
- I love the place
- Beautiful place to be and to see the bird life is great and the chance to get an animal
- The challenge
- Always go there
- Natural beauty
- Different experience, wilderness, nature
- White tail deer, great fishing, diving with good visibility, close to home, economical
- My home, my culture, my right

- Organized by a friend
- Previous experience
- It's a great place to go to
- Remoteness plus fantastic fishing and diving
- Because of its isolation
- Because it's an awesome place to hunt/fish with mates/family. An experience I never forget and go every 2nd year
- For the fishing
- Because I enjoy it
- Challenge
- White tail deer
- Been there before
- That's where I live and one of the reasons I chose to live here
- One of the last true wilderness area in New Zealand
- To see kiwis every day while hunting, chance to hunt whitetail. To do it before the chance is lost. i.e. govt culls all deer of the island
- I was told that it was a great place to go hunting
- Appreciate the variety of activities available. i.e. snorkelling, fishing, boating, hunting
- White tail
- It is a fantastic place to stay in - great bush, beaches, weather, etc.
- From the stories of others
- For the hunting of whitetail deer, there are only 2 places in New Zealand which you can hunt for whitetail deer. SI and Dart Valley
- Least spoilt area, large range of activities available, fishing, diving, hunting, extensive bird life, beautiful unspoilt bush and forest
- Good place
- This is a biannual trip for a group of us and enjoy the environment and deer species
- Reputation
- White tail deer
- Challenge of the whitetail, bird life, fishing, and its not work
- White tail deer
- Best place in the world for true peace with nature
- Because its one of New Zealand's and the worlds last untouched/modified places. Also because its home to whitetail deer and has the opportunity to see a lot of naive fauna (particularly kiwis)
- Because its the best place to go to get away from normal life
- Challenging hunting, good fishing, naturally beautiful place, reasonably accessible. Also I enjoy meeting foreign trampers
- One of the party had never been there
- Friends organised
- Regular visitor. I enjoy the place so keep coming back
- Invited by friends
- Yearly hunt with friends to hunt whitetail deer and hopefully get a trophy
- To hunt whitetail deer and see unspoilt New Zealand
- To hunt whitetail, fishing and diving
- Whitetail deer, isolation, no phone, no paper, no wife
- To go new hunting area and fishing for cod
- My favourite place
- Outstanding experience

Trampers' Responses

- Haven't been here before. Have heard is amazing
- Never been here before and had heard lots about it
- I choose this island because I expected to see a well preserved area (that happened) and to see lots of fauna (that happened but less than I expected)
- Kiwi spotting, and wanted to be fairly isolated after busy work season
- Kiwi, good tramps, isolation because I hadn't been here before
- Recommended by several friends
- Friends' recommendation
- Not so crowded as other places
- North West Circuits is one the longest tramps on New Zealand and gives you a chance to see and experience a deserted island like nowhere else
- Haven't been tramping in Stewart Island before, wanted a challenge
- Natural progression
- Beautiful wilderness, never experienced Stewart Island before so we decided to come here
- Challenge ourselves. Something tough
- Cause I love it!
- Because we have been wanting to go for so long and then we finally could. Haven't been before
- For a challenge
- To tramp the North West Circuit
- Remoteness
- Nature, not many people, peace and quietfull, mud, challenge, best possibility to see a kiwi in the wild (at day time)
- One of the longest tramps, coastal tramp

APPENDIX 6 – BEST AND WORST ASPECTS OF VISIT (RE. QUESTION 16)

Hunters' Responses for Best Aspects

Hunting Deer and/or Presence of Deer

- being able to hunt them
- being able to hunt whitetail
- deer (5 times)
- deer stalking
- excellent hunting
- good deer numbers
- good hunting (7 times)
- good hunting experience
- hunting (30 times)
- hunting deer
- hunting experience
- hunting resource
- I got to shoot deer
- opportunity o hunt whitetail deer
- plenty of deer
- presence of deer
- quality of hunting
- quick deer
- saw and hunted deer
- seeing deer (4 times)
- shooting deer (4 times)
- shot a good trophy
- white tail deer are there
- white tail deer every where
- white tail deer on public estate
- whitetail deer (4 times)

Being With Friends and/or Family

- being with friends (4 times)
- camaraderie
- company
- company of friends (2 times)
- deepening friendships
- friends meet once a year
- friends/mates/comrades (11 times)
- friendships (2 times)
- fun with friends
- good company (3 times)
- good group of guys
- good mates (3 times)
- great friends
- hanging out with the crew
- spending time with mates (2 times)
- time out with family/friends
- time with friends

Fishing

- caught a feed of cod
- caught fish
- fish and paua
- fishing (33 times)
- fresh fish
- getting paua, oysters, crayfish
- good fish
- good fishing (6 times)
- great fishing (2 times)
- heaps of fishes
- sea life (2 times)
- seafood

Food / Living off the Land

- abundance of food
- brought home meat
- eating deer Paua, Scallops, Crayfish
- eating exotic food
- eating good seafood and venison
- food
- living off the land

Relaxation/ Getting Away

- absence of life's money driven pressure
- get away from stress
- getting away
- getting away from normal life
- getting away from the rat race
- holiday
- no phones
- not being able to be contacted
- relaxing
- time out
- time out - great holiday
- time to think

Peace and Quiet / Solitude

- peace (4 times)
- peace and quiet (10 times)
- peaceful
- quiet
- quiet solitude
- serenity
- solitude
- solitude in bush
- tranquillity (4 times)

Meeting New People

- different nationalities we meet
- friendly people
- meeting like-minded people
- meeting new people (2 times)
- meeting people
- people
- social
- social interaction (group and trampers)
- visitors

Facilities / Services

- fire place
- good hut (2 times)
- good hut position
- great hunter huts
- great hut
- hut (3 times)
- sheltered hut location
- standard of hut
- tank water

Location

- Stewart Island
- being here
- visiting SI
- great island
- location
- the place
- the place itself
- being there
- knowledge of area

Not Crowded or Commercialised

- lack of commercial activities
- lack of people
- low people numbers
- no other people
- no people

Whole Experience

- enjoying the country
- everything
- our group endeavour to roll negative aspects over to positive aspects. we have not had a bad day on a trip in 23 years
- outdoor experience

Drinking

- beer (2 times)
- cold beer
- drinking (2 times)
- few quiet beers

Remoteness / Isolation

- isolation (5 times)
- remote
- remoteness (4 times)
- unoccupied beach

Seeing Kiwis

- kiwis (5 times)
- kiwi spotting
- kiwis everywhere
- saw kiwis (4 times)

Good Weather

- fine weather
- good weather (6 times)
- weather (2 times)

Diving

- diving (3 times)
- good diving
- scuba diving

Exclusive Hunting Block

- ballot blocks
- hunting block to our party only
- no other hunting party

New Place / Experience

- hunting new game animal
- new location (destination)
- see something different

Challenge / Adventure

- challenge of hunting
- challenging personal limits

Other

- achieving goals
- boating
- boats
- Expectation
- freedom
- good flight in
- guns
- helicopter trip
- historic heritage accessible and visible
- life is great
- taking dingy to harpoon bay to get more coal to keep trampers warm

Trampers' Responses for Best Aspects

Nature (Scenery, Wildlife, Plants, Bush, etc...)

- animal spotting
- awesome views on Rakiura track
- beaches (2 times)
- beautiful bush
- beautiful deserted beaches
- beautiful forest
- beautiful landscapes
- beautiful scenery (3 times)
- beautiful vistas
- beautiful wilderness
- beauty of bush
- being every day in the nature
- being out in the bush
- bird life (5 times)
- birds seen
- environment/nature
- experience nature
- experiencing a new ecosystem
- experiencing a unique ecosystem
- experiencing wild untouched place
- exploring nature
- fauna (2 times)
- flora (2 times)
- good scenery
- great nature
- majestic trees
- meeting the wildlife
- natural beauty
- nature (6 times)
- New Zealand's last almost untouched jungle
- other bird life
- outdoor experience in wild, native nature
- plants seen
- pure nature
- saw a shark and 2 deer
- scenery (4 times)
- seeing new flora and fauna
- seeing sharks
- Stewart Island environment
- sunset Sawyers Bay
- untouched nature
- untouched New Zealand
- untouched wilderness
- viewing new birds and plants
- views (3 times)
- wild animal and plant life, range and beauty
- wilderness (4 times)
- wildlife (14)

Facilities / Services

- ability to adapt to North West Circuit to my abilities by taking water taxi to shorten it
- boat access
- first water-heated room in backpackers on New Zealand
- good facilities
- hut (3 times)
- hut facilities
- huts (location, clean)
- kudos to Kai Kart and Four Square
- Long Harry Hut view
- lovely huts
- Michael's Backpackers
- pizzeria
- quality of the huts
- scenic hut position
- very good huts
- well spaced huts

Being With Friends and/or Family

- being here with family
- being with friends
- company
- fun with friends (2 times)
- good company
- spending time with family
- time with partner (2 times)

Meeting New People

- friendly hut warden
- friendly locals
- good bunch of people
- great hut wardens
- meeting a new friend
- meeting hunters (interesting to see different points of view)
- meeting likeminded people
- meeting people (2 times)
- met a lot of very friendly hunters
- met nice/interesting people
- nice hunters
- nice people
- nice people around
- people I met
- Port William Hut warden friendly, welcoming
- sharing this with some good people
- the people
- very good experience with hunters
- very nice warden in Port Williams Hut

Peace and Quiet / Solitude

- absence of noise
- Doughboy Bay all to myself for 2 days
- loneliness
- opportunity for solitude
- peace
- peace and quiet (4 times)
- peace and tranquillity in the forest
- peaceful (2 times)
- quiet
- quiet place
- quietness
- silence
- silence sometimes
- solitude
- time for your (and mud) own
- very calm
- very lonely on the track
- very quiet and peaceful

Tramping Tracks

- coastal walks
- excellent track surface to Port William
- good tracks
- great walk
- length of tramp
- liked the whole Rakiura Track
- the walking
- track marking (3 times)
- track

Challenge / Adventure

- adventuring
- challenge track
- challenging
- challenging myself
- challenging tramping (2 times)
- physical challenge
- the challenge of tramping 10 days
- was an adventure

Seeing Kiwis

- kiwi (2 times)
- kiwi in natural environment
- kiwi-spotting
- listening to kiwis
- saw 4 kiwis
- saw a kiwi (9 times)
- saw kiwi in mid morning
- seeing kiwis up close
- wild kiwi

Mud

- mud (4 times)

Exercise

- being healthy enough to do this
- exercise in the
- getting fit
- good exercise
- physical exercise
- walking
- weight loss

Not Crowded or Commercialised

- few people
- hardly any people
- lack of crowds
- low number of people
- uncrowded track
- very few other people

Remoteness / Isolation

- deserted wild beaches
- isolation
- isolation in the bush
- remote
- remoteness (4 times)

New Place / Experience

- different experience from Fiordland
- visiting a new place
- exploring new places
- somewhere new

Good Weather

- 5 days without rain in row
- fabulous weather
- good weather (4 times)
- weather (3 times)
- weather was great

Whole Experience

- everything
- experience
- whole experience of tramping

Relaxation / Getting Away

- absence of other people, traffic, etc.
- change in lifestyle

Location

- just being here
- re-visit favourite place

Fishing

- fishing trip was amazing

Food

- the food

Other

- cold beer after 10 days
- every day new places to see
- getting back to Oban
- learning
- Mason Bay area
- multiple use of national parks (i.e. hunting/ tramping)

Hunters' Responses for Worst Aspects

Track and Facilities

- accommodation need to be larger
- grease trap needs cleaning
- hook grass
- hut need more fly screens
- hut ran out of water
- inadequate mooring
- insufficient water storage
- lack of fresh water
- lack of huts and shelter
- lack of information at homestead
- lack of water
- long drop toilet (2 times)
- long drop very full
- no hot shower water
- no shower (3 times)
- no track maintenance
- phantom shiter
- poor toilet facilities at some huts
- poor track condition on this block
- sign pollution (too many)
- smelly toilet
- toilet (2 times)
- toilet needs shifted (full) by someone with common sense, i.e. not in a swamp without drainage
- toilet needs to be sited where soil has better drainage
- toilet over full
- track
- track conditions
- track markings
- track poorly marked
- tracks a bit rough
- tracks partly bad worked
- very wet camping spot
- water supply

Presence of Pests (Excluding Deer) or Other Wildlife Disturbance

- bees
- cats eating kiwi and penguins
- cats, rats, possums
- few rats around
- moss
- number of possums, rats and cats around the hut
- overpopulation of possums
- possums and cats
- presence of pests (cats, possums, etc.)
- rats
- sand flies (11 times)
- sharks (2 times)
- some possums around hut
- too many possums (2 times)

Lack of Game or Wildlife

- amount of deer
- animal numbers low
- few Paua
- fishing average
- lack of animal movement
- lack of deer (2 times)
- low animal numbers
- low deer number (2 times)
- no deer
- not enough deer
- not enough fish
- not enough stags
- over fished

Visit Not Long Enough

- can only go once a year
- going home
- having to go home (4 times)
- leaving the island (2 times)
- not long enough (3 times)
- only 14 days long
- too short
- very few days

Weather Conditions

- bad weather (4 times)
- climate (wind)
- days too short
- extreme weather
- hail
- poor weather
- rain (9 times)
- strong westerly windy
- unpredictable weather
- weather (13 times)
- wet
- wet wood
- wind (5 times)

Conflict with Other Recreationists

- fishing vessels poaching shoreline
- dirty hut
- having a fishing vessel spotlight your block
- no dry wood been left at hut by previous users
- other users
- Phil's snoring
- smokers
- snoring
- untidy campsites
- no dry fire wood (3 times)
- hut firewood

Personal Discomforts

- forgot to cut my toe nails
- getting a cold
- getting infectious
- hangovers (2 times)
- keeping feet dry
- lone boat ride home
- no sleep
- one of the party being ill
- personal dirt after 10 days
- uncomfortable sleeping arrangements
- wet gear

Litter

- assholes leaving rubbish in the bush
- litter (4 times)
- litter around hut
- other peoples rubbish
- rubbish left at campsites/hut/beaches
- some litter about

Conflict with Hunters

- litter from other hunters
- other hunters giving bad impressions to other park users
- other hunting party damage to trees
- poachers from another block
- poaching hunters
- poach boat crossing

Difficulty of Access

- a long trip
- carrying our gear in and out
- time waiting for transport
- too long away
- transport in/out

Conflict with Trampers

- trampers not helping in huts. e.g. not one get firewood; several used our gear/food without asking
- trampers views on hunters
- trampers wasting water washing their boots in sink

Mud

- mud (3 times)
- muddy tracks (2 times)
- boggy tracks
- bit wet and muddy
- tracks boggy

Crowding

- cramped conditions when trampers arrive due to hunters having lots of gear/supplies
- too many trampers
- tramper overcrowding
- too many tourists

Doc Policies

- DOC's attitude to hunters
- threat of DOC 1080
- time restrictions
- too many rules

Cost

- cost
- cost to getting to island from Palmerston North
- expensive to get to

Did Not Shoot a Deer

- did not shoot a deer
- didn't get a good stag
- lack of shot deer

Commercialisation

- lots of increasing tour operators
- too much aquaculture

Noise of Motorised Vehicles

- constant drive of planes
- noise of boats and aircraft

Other

- amount of alcohol
- boat blow up
- clever deer
- cold sea water
- cold water
- degrading dune system
- dishes
- food
- no cell phone coverage (2 times)
- no women
- not being able to go outside
- packing to come and go
- running out of piss
- sand
- the amount of tap around the bush
- the plane flight over
- this survey is too long and ambiguous

Trampers' Responses for Worst Aspects

Track and Facilities

- 3 days walk track a bit too easy
- bedbugs in my sleeping bag
- boardwalks (2 times)
- doesn't match topo map
- Freshwater - North Arm slog
- having to go through 'great walk' at start/end
- lack of lights in huts
- lack of pictures of plant and bird life
- last part from north arm to Halfmoon Bay
- long days
- many one day walks include lots of walking along roads
- mislabelled times between freshwater and north arm huts
- no cooking facilities
- no division between kitchen/sleeping area in North Arm Hut
- no firewood
- no firewood at some huts
- no mileage/distance on signs
- no private changing room/facilities
- no shower
- not enough sign
- not remote enough
- old and small DOC huts
- poorly maintained areas of trail
- Rakiura didn't feel like a great walk
- some places could use repair of the trails
- the indications about the time required to tramp are never the good ones
- the times of tramping are wrong!
- toilets (2 times)
- track maintenance
- track times
- trail conditions
- trail conditions sometimes
- unmaintained track

Conflict with Other Recreationists

- dirty hut
- disrespect for nature by others
- German
- German shirt
- group-intern conflicts
- having tourists pay the same as New Zealanders
- lack of knowledge of hut behaviour
- little kids at mason bay
- loud people in huts
- noise by others
- noisy off shore fisherman
- smelly German (4 times)
- smelly people (2 times)
- snoring in the hut
- some noisy groups on Ulva Island
- the disrespect of some people
- untidy/unswept huts
- young people don't respect the rules

Litter

- rubbish left at hut
- hut not clean - rubbish left
- huts left unclean
- litter in huts
- poos on track
- rubbish
- rubbish in huts (2 times many rubbish on the beaches from the fishing industry and many parts of plastics)
- trash in some huts

Personal Discomforts (i.e. Blisters)

- bad shoes/gaiters
- blisters
- everything hurts after North West Circuit hike
- wet shoes/socks every morning
- very heavy backpack the first days
- heavy pack
- injuries (2 times)
- my unfitness
- pain
- seasickness
- shoe problem
- sore calves
- sore knee
- to stink like a pig

Conflict with Hunters

- one night sharing a hut with hunters who listened to classic hits
- egoist hunters
- hunters
- hunters (life with them)
- hunters at Bungaree
- hunters crowding huts
- hunters smoking in hut
- presence of hunters

Mud

- mud (21 times)
- mud (but it adds to the experience though)
- mud and sliding roots
- muddy track to Bungaree
- muddy track towards Bungaree
- lots of mud and bogs
- numerous swampy patches
- too much mud

Weather Conditions

- bad weather (2 times)
- bad weather a bit frustrating
- rain (5 times)
- weather was not great
- short daylight hours (winter time)
- weather (3 times)

Crowding

- crowded huts (2 times)
- crowded Mason Bay hut (2 times)
- huts too full
- overcrowded hut (3 times)
- too many people

Lack of Wildlife

- I didn't see penguins
- not as much birdlife as led to believe
- wanted to see more wildlife (penguins)

Visit Not Long Enough

- lack of time spent
- leaving
- tight time frame for visit

Presence of Pests or Other Wildlife Disturbance (i.e. Sand flies)

- sand flies (9 times)
- several non native species
- the sand flies on the beaches

Noise of Motorised Vehicles

- helicopter and airplane noise
- the noise of one tourist motor boat
- too much air traffic

Cost

- cost
- high internet cost
- water taxis are expensive

Commercialisation

- commerce
- increase in commercial walking opportunities - not necessarily bad in itself but needs some control to avoid major safety concerns.
- guided groups

Not Seeing a Kiwi

- did not see a kiwi (7 times)
- no kiwis on Rakiura track

Doc Policies

- fire ban

Other

- 8 days no beer
- chopping green trees for fire wood
- civilisation
- getting lost
- houses of Halfmoon bay
- lack of fresh food
- lack of open space - a bit too enclosed (might be irremediable)
- missing a track junction
- no beer at pub
- no fresh food
- not allowed to rent solo kayak
- pub with no license

APPENDIX 7 – REASONS FOR SATISFACTION (RE. QUESTION 17)

Hunters' Responses

Very Satisfied

- Stewart Island, enough said
- Have visited for the last 25 years and have seen little change
- It was a great experience which I intend to repeat
- Everything was what expected and more
- High enjoyment value
- I saw and shot deer
- Wonderful experience
- For me, simply paradise
- Good hunting, quiet solitude, no people beyond our party
- It been enjoyable
- Great because I love coming to Stewart Island
- Needed time out (hunting)
- Good friends, good hunting, excellent bird life
- It's a beautiful place and not commercialised
- Seeing wildlife, being with mates
- DOC are obliging, hut was good
- It was heaps of fun
- Any trip away from everyday life is good
- Hunting block to ourselves
- New Zealand as it used to be
- Local commercial operators provided good service, planning the trip was made very easy. Costs were reasonable
- It's up to me to enjoy myself and I did
- Good to get away from it all
- Peace and quiet
- I love anywhere where there is no people
- Very satisfied, good friends
- So peaceful
- It met my expectations for remote, quiet, good wildlife and hunting and low people encounters
- Peaceful, untouched and good hunting and fishing
- Plenty of deer, kiwi and fish
- Recharged the batteries
- More good than bad
- The worst day on the island beats the best day at work
- Because it's the best place in the world
- I always am happy here
- Shot first whitetail
- Great place for a holiday
- Achieved all goals set for this trip
- Awesome trip but had to get picked up early due to bad weather
- Young hunter shot deer
- Very good company
- A good works holiday
- Pretty good weather with good company

- 3rd trip over 7 year period. Little has changed
- Because of the place itself
- Successful hunting
- Surroundings and hunting experience
- Excellent weather
- Good time
- Meeting people from other places and tranquillity
- Beautiful
- Reasonable number of people
- Great facilities (hut)
- Always a great trip
- Great place to unwind
- Every trip getting better
- Everyone enjoyed themselves
- Achieving objectives
- Great place. No nasty surprises
- See question 13
- Best hunting trip ever
- A lovely spot
- Just a great place
- Every trip is special
- Terrific trip, it's a great place

Satisfied

- Great place but didn't shoot any deer
- Good food, good company, good location
- Weather was not that good
- Remoteness bird life good skipper on boat
- Didn't get the big buck
- Had a good time with mates
- New experience
- Great holiday
- Great trip all around. Lovely place. Just a shame we didn't shoot any deer and didn't get much sun
- Very few trophy stags
- Saw everything I want to before coming
- Good fishing, no deer
- Not enough deer
- All expectations met
- Didn't shoot a deer
- Missed one deer
- Well satisfied - although area over utilized
- Always love Stewart Island and would have top scored apart from the above fishing vessel spotlighting our block. After we paid a substantial amount of money to have sole hunting
- Well set up hut
- Beautiful spot
- Good weather

Neutral

- No trophy. Rest ok
- Not as much deer and bird life around as I thought there would be
- No deer as yet - still time though

Very Dissatisfied

No comments

Trampers' Responses**Very Satisfied**

- Achieved all goals except kiwi
- The North West Circuit was the best track I have done in my life
- It was an experience like a Stewart Island odyssey. The place gets under your skin after 10 days (and under your nails too)
- Went to places and saw things I hadn't seen and done before
- Good huts, good scenery
- Because it was fun
- Had the best time getting away from the city
- Waited too long for this trip. Everything I expected
- I felt totally free and survived the mud challenge
- Beautiful island. Unimpacted by tourism
- Commercial operators and DOC staff very welcoming and only too happy to help
- Loved the uniqueness of the whole Stewart Island experience
- Unique nature
- Because of sharing this experience with some good people
- Did all thing we wanted
- Just all awesome
- See above³¹. And Mason Bay hut was very new looking and spacious. Need more like that!
- Very good experience
- See best aspects!³²
- Enjoyed the Rakiura track very much
- Time out with partner
- Sense that Stewart Island remains the same, while other places get busier/more developed
- The experience was what I wanted - getting away from it all, seeing a different part of New Zealand and enjoying the scenery
- Excellent walk
- It was hard but the island is beautiful
- Stewart island is beautiful
- I was able just to enjoy it
- Beautiful island
- Landscape and wildlife spotting better than expected
- It was wild as I wanted it to be
- Because it was just what I needed
- I had a fantastic trip there. I love being outside and tramping
- First visit; challenging; longest tramp I've done (Southern Circuit)

³¹ List of best aspects from question 16.

³² Question 16.

- Did what we set out to do
- Great services, nice tracks
- Nice weather, nice people, great walk
- Nice nature
- I loved it, hardly any people, good weather, great trail

Satisfied

- Would have been very satisfied with a good weather
- A good break from work
- Good tramping/exercise/weather; uncomfortable shoes and no shower
- Exhilarating being outside in nature
- Sea was too rough to hire cajacs³³. Otherwise 5
- Enjoyed tramp, chance to get away from everyday life
- Enjoyed it, track conditions should improve
- Awesome, except mud and cost
- Enjoyment
- Overall a good place to visit - but surprised at numbers around Mason Bay
- Amazing location
- Cause I saw 4 kiwis, my reason for being here
- This island is beautiful
- It were a really good tramp
- Too many people (hunters and trampers) did not feel remote
- Fairly satisfied. Fishing trip was great, tramping was fairly good, it's a pretty island but it hasn't blown me away!
- Awesome tramp, but too much forest/jungle

Neutral

- Didn't see as many birds as I'd hoped, not much variety over the 3 days and board walk uncomfortable
- Interesting walk (Rakiura track) without being spectacular
- Too tamed
- Didn't feel like a great walk. Expected to see more birdlife. On the positive side, it was quiet and peaceful
- Great to be in such wild wild wilderness, but track itself was often more drudgery than enjoyment

³³ Kayaks

APPENDIX 8 – CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS LISTED BY RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED BEING MEMBERS OF ‘OTHER’ GROUPS IN QUESTION 24

Hunters’ Responses

- Black Powder Club/Clay Target Club
- Fishing Club
- Firearms Club

Trampers’ Responses

- Climbing Club
- Natural History
- Golf Club
- Pony Club
- British Mountaineering Council
- Caving Club
- Unicef

APPENDIX 9 – LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS (RE QUESTION 25)

Hunters' Responses

- Carpet layer
- Trade apprenticeship
- Automotive trade
- Professional qualification
- Trade certificate
- Diploma
- Electrician
- Trade training
- Trade qualification
- Trade
- Trade qualification
- Trade qualification

Trampers' Responses

- Polytechnic certificate
- Qualification for University
- School of life

APPENDIX 10 – COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS³⁴

Hunters' Responses

- I believe that numbers of people to blocks should be no more than 6 per day. Some of your questions are ambiguous in question 6.
- We fed two lots of trampers with fish and they loved it! When surveying hunters you need to use simple language and questions. Make it easy to answer.
- Problems with ambiguity with question and the way they were couched. Eg.20. Who says conflict exists - cannot assume. If visitor numbers are high then extra hut space may be needed in some areas. "deer are an exotic animal that should be hunted" and managed.
- Some of the questions don't really apply. We went where no trampers ever go
- Most litter found in the bush was associated with New Zealander's most popular party drug of choice. i.e. bottles and cans that contained alcohol. A total ban on alcohol being taken onto DOC land would eliminate so many conflict issues and nearly all rubbish problems - and would save me having to pick up the discarded drug containers of others. Cheers! Section 15 not really applicable to where we go hunting.
- Get DOC to manage deer numbers as an asset to New Zealand. We were born hunting!
- It is ridiculous seeing red and orange ribbons all through the bush.
- This visit was to the Upper Lords (third time). It is my understanding that the Hunters Trust wants to put a hut in to replace the rough shelter on this block but have not been given permission. Surely the hut would be much better than the shelter (which already exists). How about allowing the hut to go in.
- I'm quite happy to use a tent (referring to Q20). I usually choose remote hunting areas. Not much troubled by other people, prefer to avoid if possible (referring to blank answers in Q15)
- That the whitetail deer remains on Stewart Island in moderate numbers. That there can be a clean up off wild cats.
- I believe deer should be managed to a level that allows regeneration of canopy species.
- Hunters do share the tracks and the forests with other people and enjoy meeting and talking to people especially if they are from a foreign country. Hunters are more respectful of the fauna and flora than DOC as we don't poison our backyards or pollute it.
- Whitetail deer are a valued resource to many hunters and bring revenue to Bluff and Stewart Island. They must be managed accordingly.
- Comment on Q20: should be good to get along.
- We had a lot of contact with trampers during our trip and did not experience conflict although we were careful to be considerate of trampers.
- Too many passing through!!! Let nature build - most hunters like to preserve the bush, not brainless trampers - not impressed with shell life on beach and deer numbers are getting far too low.
- I think money expenditure in area and travel costs to get to block may have been good question: in area \$1362.00, getting there \$1278.00 +

³⁴ Some passages were suppressed to ensure anonymity.

- Maybe getting more commercialized in last 25 years but that is the way the country (world) is going but still a unique and beautiful place.
- I believe that deer are not a pest, they provide a food source and enjoyment for humans and they keep the bush reasonably clear.
- By sending people like the nice young lady who showed great communication skills between age groups of hunters and trampers to hear people's views about things that really matter to people's recreational sport areas and equipment used in their hunting, tramping.
- Keeping hunters and trampers separate reduces nervousness and safety issues over the storage of firearms and ammunition. From a hunters perspective the permit system for hunting blocks improves safety and conflict issues between hunting parties and trampers. Hunters generally stay off tracks so encounter trampers infrequently, and set while actively hunting but when leaving or returning to huts.
- The deer are not native but a valuable asset all the same. Hunting seems to me to be a very good way of keeping numbers in check while providing recreation opportunity to many hunters who would otherwise not visit the island.
- More work on trapping possums and cats in this area of the island and less on exterminating deer.
- Stewart Island is an amazingly special place and it is a privilege to be able to visit the area. Stewart Island is a biannual trip I am sure I will continue in the future.
- I would like to see Stewart Island free of wild cats, rats, and possums, but not deer. Hunter huts have been an excellent project and it's great to see tidy campsites (huts) and not the old rat invested black plastic tarp ones.
- Don't let DOC 1080 Stewart Island.
- Hunters eat steak, stew, bread, etc. while trampers eat freeze dried food and tend to get a bit jealous. Although we usually share (depends on numbers).
- We all enjoyed the relaxation, hunting and fishing as well as trampers. Trampers are interesting to get to know and learn of their home countries and experiences. Thanks for this opportunity.
- Question 6c - I don't think we should change any protected natural area, but it's too late for that. Between tree falling, mining, and pest introduction we have no choice but to continually clean up after our ancestors. Unfortunately greed and money still rule today.
- Both tourists and hunters need to be aware of each others needs. I have found poor attitudes shown to hunters, particularly kiwi spotters in the homestead area. I also believe tourists are not educated about New Zealand hunting philosophy and culture.
- This place is awesome. I have been going there every second year. The deer population is good and should stay that way as it's the best experience I've had. The trampers are good value and love to have a cuppa tea/coffee and chat. Bush layout is amazing and bird life awesome. Have worked for DOC before and it's a buzz to have the bush life we have. And should always be preserved.
- (...) This trip is the 3rd I have done since 2000 to the Lords River area. What I enjoy the most is the fact that the place doesn't change and there is a feeling of stepping back in time to an almost unspoilt piece of New Zealand. This is what I miss the most when away as a lot of the world is polluted and overcrowded. It's very satisfying to know there are still places in New Zealand where you can experience this while able to hunt, fish and

relax at a reasonable cost. The daily experience of kiwis while out hunting is priceless!!!!

- Stewart Island is a magnificent place relatively unspoilt, wildlife is exceptional. My view is too much hunting pressure, would like to see closed seasons and game management to preserve deer trophy potential. Possum numbers higher than I've seen in my previous 13 trips to the island since 1985.
- I would like to see the status quo remain and would like to see a reduction in the number of vermin (rats, cats, and possums). We have noticed an increase in the number of birds.
- This place should be kept how it is for hunters and trampers not to have white tail extinct on the island.
- Some hunting parties do make trampers uncomfortable but some trampers can't help themselves either. Been coming here for over twenty years, never had an issue with any tramper, we have gone out of our way to make them feel welcome. And have aided many on their travels.
- The whitetail deer of Stewart Island are an asset that should be preserved - through control and not attempted to be eradicated. The majority of Stewart Island is visited only by hunters and solely because of the whitetail deer. The native fauna certainly adds to the experience but there must be a level where the two can co-exist together.
- Great to go, tracks need more maintenance done to them, meat safes would also be good at each hut and outside (covered) seating areas.
- As a hunter I aim to be considerate of the trampers' experience, as does our entire group. We do our best not to cause frustration to others and like to provide them with cooked fish, cold beer and other "extravagances" (showers, etc.). On this trip we offered to take a French tramper fishing (he declined because the weather was not too good and he wanted to get on the track). Previously we have taken a German tramper out fishing and he loved it (caught his first fish). I believe it is good to mix hunters and trampers as long as people are mindful of others and want them to have a good experience.
- Segregating hunters and trampers prevents interaction between groups of people and go nowhere to encourage tolerance of other people's values and or beliefs.
- DOC's attitude to the future management of Stewart Island is disturbing. They must remember that national parks in New Zealand are for New Zealand people. Not necessarily DOC special people. Hunting, fishing, camping, tramping, boating, etc. is a culture and right for New Zealanders and should not be taken away from us by a single minded conservationist. DOC should be managers not law makers.
- [few] guys waiting 12 months to hunt one of Stewart Island's better hunting blocks (...). We had a (...) group walking, studying through some of better areas. We had one concessionaire kiwi spotting group in parts of hunting area. We had one DOC worker come in hunting while we had a permit. We heard and saw more than a dozen planes/helicopters operating over/in area. We saw around 15 trampers for the 5 days we booked the block, 12 months in advance, which is quite hard, as other hunters also "roar" (...) We got delayed flying in 3 days due to bad weather (...). So we had five days left of hunting. We encountered all of listed groups etc in this time. We altered our hunting plans accordingly. We still had a good time. We shot (...) deer in the time. We saw a few more. Our expectations didn't eventuate on the hunting score. Expectations due to using this area for many years. (...) As a hunter, one learns to put up with the "bad weather", lack of deer

numbers etc. it's part of hunting. It's a bit hard to put up with other users walking over prime hunting ground. We concede that "the park" is for all users. We would have appreciated if DOC had informed us in advance of the (...) group being in area. We felt very annoyed that a long standing DOC worker could get dropped into area (...), go hunting and get taken out the next day (...) without permit. All paid for by DOC (our taxes). (...) I've hunted Stewart Island for 20 years. I've seen the increase of trampers since becoming a national park. I've seen the kiwi spotter groups increase from none. Hunters are the park's biggest users. They have been in past and will most likely be in future (as long as hunting opportunities still exist). My opinion is that DOC don't acknowledge hunters very well. Imagine the cost saving on deer numbers that hunters shoot yearly. We do a huge service. I feel that hunters in general get treated as lower class, secondary users. Behind trampers and concessionaires (kiwi spotters). Hunters have proven their intentions – Hunter Hut Trust, rat eradication, search and rescue, etc. sure there are a few that tarnish the rest. But so do trampers. One only has to witness the trail of toilet paper just off main tramping tracks etc. kiwi spotter groups acting like they have "right of way" over others because they pay a concession. Our hunt trip cost over one thousand dollars between [few] guys – money for flights, hut usage, food, etc. we feel now that a more wilderness area may be more suitable for next years' trip. Fiordland or South Westland will offer better hunting – no trampers, no kiwi spotters or DOC workers flaunting rules.

Trampers' Responses

- A good knowledge of boundaries between all blocks, DOC and Rakiura Trust Land.
- I was surprised to see how well done are the tracks (Rakiura track). In a few questions I can feel that you expect conflicts between trampers and hunters; I don't really understand that. This island is big enough and I don't think hunters are dumb enough to hunt on the tracks used by most of the trampers where they won't catch many animals. I find strange that DOC still sells hut tickets if they know that 40 people will have to sleep in a 20 bed hut.
- Some questions are ambiguous, e.g. Deer are an exotic animal (strongly agree) that should be hunted (disagree).
- Sometimes is not clear why some parts of the path are planned and some are not. It's quite weird to be walking over 20 meters of plank and then have to slosh through 30 meters of mud. How does DOC decide what plank and what not to plank? It's more of a question than a comment.
- Deer are an exotic animal and should be removed completely from New Zealand bush. This is New Zealand's responsibility to the bush, the hunters could get involved to help out.
- Stewart Island was for me an awesome experience which I will never forget in my whole live. A big challenge: mud till knees, always wet, I did the whole North West Circuit on my own. Nobody was there and I had the chance to experience what it means to be in the bush and I could enjoy the real peace and silence. I can only recommend it to every body but you need to have the right motivation.
- Overall really impressed with this, my first visit to Stewart Island. Huts are wonderful. Recent track cutting makes a great difference. So was much appreciated. Mud? Oh well, it was fully expected, and constant with the grade of the track. My views on hunting - deer, etc. are pests, so as long as

recreational hunters are assisting with pest control then its a good thing. However, if they hinder pest control (through objecting the use of 1080 to reduce possum numbers, for example) then they are no longer helping with pest control. Provision of recreation hunting opportunities shouldn't be management objectives for a natural park!

- Would like to have posters in hut to help in identifying birds of area.
- Hunting is ok with me but I think that hunters should have huts so that they don't offend vegetarianism or other trampers who don't understand hunting or want to be around it simply because they want to take a vacation/hike? I don't like the poison baiting and wish that there was a better way to deal with pest control issue!
- My relationship with nature is more than just coming and experiencing. I believe that, if there is a god, then it is nature in all its aspects. The environment, all inhabitants (including humans). We are all part of an energy system that rolls on, forever changing. Death is merely re-absorption into this natural energy. Birth is that energy being expressed in a myriad of ways. As energy is re-expressed, this could be interpreted as re-incarnation. Tramping allows you to become very close to this source - I've had several times when everything has come together and you feel very much as though you are part of a much bigger phenomenon.
- Two things I would request: 1) put distance, not just time, on trail signs, 2) maybe posters with pictures and names of birds and plants. Also: North Arm hut could have hooks to hang clothes on.
- I feel as though I was misinformed about track conditions/mud. I think the DOC should have properly informed me of actual track conditions. Saying its 'very muddy' has no context – what's better would have been - "there is standing water and mud on about 50% of the track, you are advised to take knee waders". Also - the cost of getting to the island is very high! Hunters were very nice!
- Stayed in hut with 7 hunters. They were friendly and offered me food. I don't believe there is conflict between trampers and hunters.
- I think there is a natural unspoken animosity between hikers/trampers and hunters, but this is all but unapparent here. Though they (hunters) probably scared away a few kiwis I could have spotted, the two groups were well separated and really actually amiable. The two groups can easily coexist, even if they have to be separated like children, which you've done nicely on these trails. If any problems with hunters are reported, I assume is hyper sensibility and a foregone distaste for hunting seeking any outlet of indignation. In truest truth, there exists no conflict on Stewart Island.
- I've never came across any hunter while tramping in New Zealand.
- The DOC just have to check the time required: my legs, the signs seen on the tracks and the times seen on brochures disagree... Try to find a better average time... All the rest was great. This island is amazing!
- Appreciated the lack of possums, nice to be somewhere in New Zealand without lots of them! Shame about all the garbage that washes up but awesome DOC cleans it up! I was lucky to have 2 days/nights at Doughboy Bay with nobody there because a group of hunters flew in as I was leaving. I think it's good to get rid of the deer but it 'cheapens' the experience with them flying/boating in all over.
- The Maori lady at the DOC office is very prepared and knowledgeable. It would be nice if you could see penguins, etc., maybe more information on when to come to see these, because if you come and don't see those I suppose you get a bit disappointed. Also I was really interested in the

"Aurora Australis' - southern lights - at the DOC office there should be more information and promotion of this. I would love to see this phenomenon.

- The time was great. Separate hut might help but I didn't notice a problem to begin with. Hunters I met were very nice as were the trampers. I think that if there is conflict hunters should be allowed to make temporary camps wherever.