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# Freedom in NZ's Fiordland

Asia Pacific Superyachts New Zealand have announced a new training program that will allow superyachts to cruise New Zealand's Fiordland pilot-free.

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## **Images APSNZ**

Superyacht cruising in New Zealand has just received a huge boost with the news that it is now possible to undertake a training course to gain a Pilot Exemption Certificate when cruising in Fiordland. This exemption to the pilotage laws, developed in association with Southland's Regional Maritime division, is available to superyachts via Asia Pacific Superyachts New Zealand (APSNZ).

In recent years, cruising Fiordland has been hindered by compulsory pilotage for superyachts but over the past 24 months APSNZ has worked closely with the Southland Regional Maritime Manager to help develop the program and clear the way for more superyachts to enter the region and cruise with guests without the requirement of a full time on board pilot.

"The necessity for a pilot to be onboard whilst cruising Fiordland was always one of the main stumbling blocks for our superyacht clients considering cruising the region," said Duthie Lidgard, managing director of Asia Pacific Superyachts New Zealand. "The South Island, and particularly the Fiordland region, is an amazing place to cruise and we wanted to help open the area up and make it a viable destination that every visiting superyacht could realistically consider."

These two years of hard work have paid off, with a new Pilotage Exemption Certificate (PEC) Structured Training Program, specifically for Superyacht Masters up to 6000GRT, now up and running.

Applicable for both Fiordland pilotage areas and Stewart Island pilot areas, an application for a pilotage exemption certificate will be considered for Class 3 Ships up to 1,000GT; Class 2 Ships 1,001 GT to 2,000 GT; and Class 1 Ships 2001 to 6,000GT.



**The Fiordland region is private and serene, with a world-class standard of service for superyachts, making it increasingly appealing as a cruising ground.**

Requirements and documentation for the program can be submitted via a superyacht agent, well in advance of the yacht's arrival in New Zealand. Asia Pacific Superyachts welcomes all inquiries from yachts looking to come to New Zealand and cruise the Southland Fiords, undoubtedly one of the wonders of the world. Duthie Lidgard is available to discuss the new program in full, and will also be present at the Monaco Yacht Show to answer any questions about cruising, chartering and luxury tourism within New Zealand.

APSNZ is in the middle of a successful summer cruising season, with record numbers of yachts coming to New Zealand over 2014/2015.

The country is proving an increasingly popular choice for superyachts, thanks to a combination of diverse and unique cruising grounds, a strong cultural heritage, safe berthage and world-class provisioning.

"New Zealand is relaxed, but we keep levels of service as high-end as possible," said Lidgard. "The clients are comfortable, there's no harassment from media and nobody knows them. They feel safe and comfortable and they don't need security. It's a secure, welcoming nation and, combined with the attention to detail and service that New Zealanders deliver, that's the icing on the cake for our guests."