Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 106 Cape Hallett, Northern Victoria Land, Ross Sea

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| ASPA No. 106 Cape Hallett, Northern Victoria Land, Ross Sea | |
| **1. Is a new ASPA proposed?** | No |
| **2. Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No |
| **3. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?** | Yes |
| *First designation:* | Specially Protected Area (SPA) through Recommendation IV-7 (1966, SPA No. 7) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation IV-7 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Recommendation XIII-13 (1985), Measure 1 (2002), Measure 5 (2010), Measure 6 (2015). |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 6 (2015). |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 106 Cape Hallett, Northern Victoria Land, Ross Sea. |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guidelines for Seabee Hook, Cape Hallett |
| **4. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment:** | |
| *(i) major or minor?* | Minor. |
| *(ii) any changes to the boundaries or co-ordinates?* | The northern boundary of the Area has been adjusted on Seabee Hook to reflect the most recent data on the distribution of breeding penguins. A new Facilities Zone has been designated in the southeast of the Area. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. Changes to graphics with color added to all maps. A map of the new Facilities Zone has been added. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | Yes. A Facilities Zone has been added to the description of the Area and to relevant maps. |
| *(v) any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM within this area or adjacent to it? In particular, please explain any merger with, incorporation of or abolition of any existing area or site.* | No. However, minor changes to the boundary affect the adjacent Visitor Site Guidelines area at Seabee Hook. |
| *(vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located.* | See below for summary of changes. |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area?** | N/A |
| **6. If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)?** | N/A |
| **7. If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained?** | N/A |
| *If yes, please list the CCAMLR Final Report and Paragraph No.* | N/A |
| **8. If the proposal relates to an ASPA, what is the primary reason for designation (*i.e.*, which part under Article 3.2 of Annex V)?** | ((b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems;  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds;  (d) the type locality of two species;  (e) areas of particular interest to on-going or planned scientific research;  (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic value;  (h) sites of recognised historic value. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment U – North Victoria Land Geologic’. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. ACBR8 – North Victoria Land. |
| **11) Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | Cape Hallett is identified as IBA No. 170. |

ASPA No. 106 Cape Hallett, Northern Victoria Land, Ross Sea

1. The Management Plan for ASPA No. 106 Cape Hallett was last revised in 2015, and review thus fell due in 2020. Accordingly, the United States has made a number of revisions to the Management Plan, both as a result of recent changes within the Area and in light of agreements reached by the Antarctic Treaty Parties since the last plan was adopted.
2. Cape Hallett was originally designated as Specially Protected Area (SPA) No. 6 through Recommendation IV-7 (1966) after a proposal by the United States of America. The boundaries of the Area were enlarged in Recommendation XIII (1985) to include extensive stands of vegetation to the south and north of the original Area. The Area was re-named and re-numbered as ASPA No.106 by Decision 1 (2002). The Management Plan was revised and the Area was extended to include Seabee Hook, the breeding area of a substantial colony of Adélie penguins, by Measure 1 (2002). Measure 5 (2010) deleted the Managed Zone and revised the boundary to exclude two areas on Seabee Hook, which are managed by Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guidelines.
3. The primary reason for designation of the Area is that it provides an outstanding example of biological diversity, in particular a rich and diverse terrestrial ecosystem. The terrestrial ecosystem and rich avifauna present are also of high scientific value. The site has been identified as a type locality for two species of mite (*Coccorhagidia gressitti* and *Eupodes wisei*). In addition the site is of important historical and educational value and the location is aesthetically outstanding. The current Management Plan reaffirms these values of the Area.
4. Minor changes have been made to the northern boundary of the Area to reflect recent data on the distribution of penguins on Seabee Hook from an orthophotograph acquired by the Republic of Korea (Jeong-Hoon Kim pers. comm. 2019). The northern boundary follows the perimeter of penguin breeding areas along the shoreline of Seabee Hook, which allows for access to this beach by tourist parties following Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guidelines.
5. Following establishment of a temporary camp by the Republic of Korea at the designated camping site (described in Section 6(iii) of the Management Plan), the present review determined there would be benefit in clarifying the spatial limits of the designated camping area through definition of a new Facilities Zone (Section 6(v)). This zone is designed to contain camping infrastructure (e.g. accommodation, storage and scientific facilities) and associated activities within a defined area, thus minimizing the extent of potential impacts associated with camps. The Facilities Zone is located on beach gravels close to Willett Cove (Map 5), with relatively sparse vegetation and few nesting birds, although South polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*) are known to nest nearby. The site was formerly part of a ‘road’ used when the former Hallett Station was operational, and thus is considered likely to have been previously impacted by human activities. The zone is ~90 m x 40 m in size at its maximum dimensions.
6. An amendment has been made to the Management Plan to allow small vehicles (such as snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles) to be parked on land within the Facilities Zone for the purposes of practical storage and maintenance. Vehicles otherwise remain prohibited from the Area.
7. A new Management Objective has been added to Section 2 of the Management Plan seeking to ‘minimize the possibility of the introduction of pathogens that may cause disease in faunal populations within the Area’. To meet this objective, a new policy has been added to Section 7(vi) of the Management Plan specifying that ‘Raw poultry and raw eggs, or products containing raw poultry or eggs, are prohibited from the Area. Processed and / or cooked poultry and egg products should be avoided where practicable’.
8. Policy on the Disposal of Waste (Section 7(ix)) has been clarified such that Liquid human wastes and Domestic Liquid Wastes may be disposed of into the sea outside of the Area, for example in Willett Cove. Such disposal was considered to pose negligible risks to the environment and local fauna given the assimilative capacity of the ocean and currents in this area, and also because of the inclusion of the new policy in Section 7(vi), as noted above, prohibiting raw poultry and eggs from the Area.
9. No substantive changes to the values of the Area or its overall boundaries have been made. Therefore the revisions have been classified as ‘minor’ in nature and in effect.
10. Other minor changes to provisions in the Management Plan include:
    1. Revisions to the scientific description of the Area, including updates on the number of breeding Adélie penguins within the Area, which was 47,373 breeding pairs in 2017. Important Bird Area (IBA) No. 170 Seabee Hook has been noted in the Description of the Area;
    2. The Latin name for South polar skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) recently changed to *Catharacta maccormicki* (see BirdLife International Data Zone: http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search Accessed Jan 2021). The management plan has been amended as appropriate.
    3. Revisions to take account of new agreements and guidance reached by the ATCM since the previous Management Plan was adopted, and with other management plans recently adopted by the ATCM;
    4. Section 5 Maps. Map graphics have been improved with color used to aid clarity in the context of a relatively complex site.
    5. Sections 6(ii) and 7(ii) relating to aircraft access and overflight have been rationalised, with policies formerly in Section 6(ii) being set out in Section 7(ii), thus keeping all policies relating to air access in one section and avoiding repetition. A Helicopter Access Zone has been defined to clarify the recommended access route to the Secondary helicopter landing site. Aircraft access provisions have also been updated to include reference to the Environmental Guidelines for Operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica (Resolution 4 (2018)).
    6. Section 8 - Supporting documentation. The reference list has been updated.

Recommendation

The revised Management Plan is attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.