Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea

Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea

**Working Paper submitted by New Zealand**

Summary

In accordance with the Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, New Zealand has conducted a review of the Management Plan for ASPA 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea.

The review was conducted as a desktop exercise with reference to Annex V of the Protocol and the *Revised* *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* appended to Resolution 2 (2011).

The management plan was circulated for comment to scientists and environmental managers of National Antarctic Programmes, and tourism operators working within the Ross Sea region who conduct research and tourism activities in the Area.

The revisions are minor and outlined in the table below.

Recommendations

New Zealand recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised Management Plan for ASPA 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea.

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| ASPA 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, 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?** | ASPA |
| *First designation:* | Specially Protected Area (SPA) No. 5, Beaufort Island, by Recommendation IV-5 (1966) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Measure 3 (2002) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2003), Measure 4 (2010) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 5 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | No |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 105: Beaufort Island, McMurdo Sound, Ross Sea |
| *Other relevant measures:* | No |
| **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?* | No |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes  Three new maps replace the previous maps. The map parameters for the Lambert projection are updated. An ice-free ground layer was added.  The main changes for each map are:  Map 1: Biological information was removed for clarity and shown in Maps 2 and 3 only. The map shows topography and air access only.  Map 2: The previous map used incorrect data for the skua and vegetation areas. These are updated.  The helicopter landing site is moved 200m due south of its previous location in order to account for the growth of the Adélie penguin colony.  Map 3: Updated background imagery. Changes in captions and graphics for clarity. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | No  The description of the area has minor information and editorial updates that do not relate to identifying the location or boundary of the Area. |
| *(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 |
| *(vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located (especially helpful if the plan is long).* | Minor editorial and formatting updates throughout.  Section 1: Addition of a reference to Important Bird Area 188. Correction of reference to “westward drift” of pack ice, to “northerly drift”.  Section 5: Update of the map information, addition of three photographs  Section 6(i): Removal of “The need for marking should be re-evaluated at each Management Plan review” in light of the island location and minimal shipping activity in the area. Minor changes to the description to incorporate new information about fauna at the site.  Section 7(i): Minor updates on overflight information for consistency with the maps. Addition of Resolution 4 (2018) for the operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems. Update of the helicopter landing site coordinates.  Section 7(v): Addition of “No poultry products, including food products containing uncooked dried eggs, shall be taken into the Area. Addition of “Permanent depots are not permitted”.  Section 8: Addition of one reference to the Bibliography  Replacement of the maps with three new maps.  Addition of three photographs. |
| **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)?** | The primary reason for designation of the Area is that it contains substantial and varied avifauna, that it is one of the most important breeding grounds in the region, and that it should be protected to preserve the natural ecological system as a reference area. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Environmental Domains Analysis for the Antarctic Continent’ appended to Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes |
| *If Yes, the main Environmental Domain should be noted here.* | Environment S – McMurdo South Victoria Land geologic |
| **10. If relevant, have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions’ appended to Resolution 6 (2012))?** | Yes |
| *If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here.* | Region 9 – South Victoria Land |
| **11. If relevant, have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas (Resolution 5 (2015)) represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Important Bird Areas in Antarctica 2015 Summary’ appended to ATCM XXXVIII - IP 27 and the full report available at:** [**http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/**](http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)**)?** | Yes |
| *If yes, the Important Bird Area(s) should be noted here.)* | IBA 188 – Beaufort Island |