Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 145 Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands

**Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 145: Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands**

Working Paper submitted by Chile and Spain

Summary

Chile and Spain present the revised management plan for ASPA No. 145. In view of the extensive changes proposed to the revised plan, Chile and Spain recommend requesting the Subsidiary Group on Management Plans provide a more detailed intersessional review of the revised plan.

Introduction

In 1987, due to the proposal presented by Chile, two Port Foster sites were designated as SSSI No. 27, under Recommendation XIV-5. These were intended to protect the benthic assets associated with two types of seabed, at depths of between 50 and 150 m (sub-site A), and between 100 and 150 m (sub-site B). Subsequently, the site was renamed ASPA No. 145 in accordance with Decision 1 (2002).

After two extensions of the management plan (Measure 2 (2000) and Measure 5 (2009)), a revised version was approved that was incorporated into the package associated with Antarctic Specially Managed Area No. 4, Deception Island, through Measure 3 (2005).

Additionally, studies carried out by researchers from the Spanish Antarctic Programme between 2008 and 2017 indicate that the southern sector of Port Foster, the area surrounding Fildes Point, which lies between 0 and 50 m deep, contains the richest areas of benthic species on the island, and is a sector whose biodiversity has unique characteristics. Given that this area is also the area within the island that receives the most vessels with visitors, it is considered necessary to protect it by including it as a new sub-site of ASPA No. 145.

The following is a review of the management plan considering the three proposed sub-sites.

Amendments

The proposal presented below has changed the format of the Management Plan in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 2 (2011), Guide for the preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The main amendments made to the original plan are presented in the following sections:

**Section 2.** Two new objectives have been added to the original plan.

**Section 3.** The management activities for the Area have been modified, eliminating two of those originally proposed but incorporating four new activities.

**Section 4.** The period for designation of the Area has been modified.

**Section 5.** A third sub-site C has been included in the map.

**Section 6 (i).** The description of the Area was made clearer, detailing a general description, the limits of the Area, its hydrographic characteristics and the main species present in each of the three sub-sites that are presented.

**Section 6 (ii).** Access to the Area has been specified.

**Section 6 (iii).** Structures located in the immediate vicinity of the Area are indicated.

**Section 6 (iv).** The presentation of the ASPAs located in the vicinity of the Area has been improved.

**Section 7.** The introduction to this section summarizes the list of activities for which permission can be granted.

**Section 7 (i).** The description of the conditions for permits has been improved, including two new ones.

**Section 7 (ii).** Information on access to the Area and movement within it has been improved.

**Section 7 (iii).** Activities that can be carried out in the Area are described in detail.

**Section 7 (iv).** Restrictions on the installation of structures and their removal in the Area are detailed.

**Section 7 (vi).** The description of restrictions regarding materials and organisms that can be introduced is improved and supplemented.

**Section 7 (vii).** Information regarding the collection of flora and fauna has been improved.

**Section 7 (viii).** The description regarding the collection or removal of material has been improved.

**Section 7 (ix).** Information regarding waste disposal in the Area is detailed.

**Section 7 (x).** Measures necessary to meet the aims of the Management Plan have been improved and supplemented.

**Section 7 (xi).** Information regarding reporting requirements is enhanced and supplemented.

**Section 8.** The bibliographic review is supplemented with information related to Port Foster and updated results of the studies carried out in the Area.

Recommendation

The draft management plan is submitted for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection. In particular, we ask the CEP to consider the aforementioned changes. Nonetheless, in view of the extensive modifications proposed to the revised plan, Chile and Spain recommend requesting the Subsidiary Group on Management Plans provide a more detailed intersessional examination of the revised plan and report on it in the XXIV CEP Meeting.

***ASPA No. 145 PORT FOSTER, DECEPTION ISLAND***

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| 1. Is a new ASPA proposed? | No. |
| 1. Is a new ASMA proposed? | No. |
| 1. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA? | Yes. The Area was originally designated as SSSI No. 27 in Recommendation XIV-5 (1987). The site was subsequently renamed ASPA No. 145 in accordance with Decision 1 (2002). After two extensions of the management plan (Measure 2 (2000) and Measure 5 (2009)), a revised version was approved through Measure 3 (2005) and the area was incorporated into ASMA 4 (Deception Island). |
| 1. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment: |  |
| 1. Major or minor? | There are both substantial and minor amendments, depending on the point addressed. |
| 1. Are there any changes to the boundaries or coordinates? | Yes. The protected area is expanded with a sub-site in the southeast sector of Port Foster. |
| 1. Are there any changes to the maps? | Yes |
| 1. Are there any changes to the description of the Area that are relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries? | Yes. The descriptions of the polygons that delimit the three sub-sites have been improved. |
| 1. Are there any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM within this area or adjacent to it? | No. |
| 1. Other – brief summary of other kinds of changes, indicating the Management Plan paragraphs containing them. | The information in Sections 2 (objectives), 3 (management activities), 6 (description of the Area) and 7 (terms and conditions for entry permits) has been improved, fully supplementing the bibliographic review (Section 8), with updated information on the results of the studies carried out in the Area. |
| 1. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain a marine area? | It is not a new area, but it contains a marine area. |
| 1. If so, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)? | Although it is a site where CCAMLR activities do not take place, it does require their consideration. |
| 1. If so, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained? | Yes. In 2012, the CCAMLR Scientific Committee reaffirmed the importance of this area for scientific research, stating that it will probably not be exploited and recommending approval of the management plan, which was ratified by the Commission the same year. |
| 1. 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 area is protected mainly because it pertains to a unique marine ecosystem of special interest for scientific research. |
| 1. 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, the main associated domain is G. |
| 1. If applicable, has the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region (ACBR) represented by the ASPA/ASMA been identified? (see the document titled Antarctic Conservation Biographic Regions, appended to Resolution 6 [2012]) Yes/No (if the answer is yes, indicate the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region here). | Yes, the ACBR 3, in the Northeast Antarctic Peninsula. |
| 1. If applicable, Important Bird Areas in Antarctica (Resolution 5 [2015]) represented by ASPA/ASMA been identified? (see the summary appended to the Information Document IP 27 from the XXXVIII ATCM, Important Bird Areas in Antarctica 2015. Summarised report” and the full report at: <http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/>)? Yes/No (if the answer is yes, indicate the main Important Bird Area here). | No. |