Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 149. Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands

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| ASPA No. 149 Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands | |
| **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:* | Recommendation IV-11 (1966) SPA No. 11 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XV-7 (1989) SSSI No. 32 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005), Measure 7 (2011), Measure 7 (2016) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 7 (2016) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | Resolution 3 (1996), Measure 2 (2000) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 149 Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Decision 4 (1998) |
| **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. Changes to captions and graphics. Position of VHF transmitter has shifted. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | No |
| *(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.* | The scientific description of the Area has been updated to reflect recent information and results, including updates in faunal populations. Details are provided below. |
| **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 is to protect the biota present within the Area, in particular the large and diverse seabird and pinniped populations which are the subject of long-term scientific monitoring. Under Article 3.2 of Annex V the main reasons for special protection are:  (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;  (e) areas of particular interest to on-going or planned scientific research;  (h) sites of recognised historic value. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment E – Antarctic Peninsula, Alexander and other islands and Environment G – Antarctic Peninsula offshore islands. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. ACBR3 – North-west Antarctic Peninsula. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | N/A. |

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1. The Management Plan for ASPA No. 149 Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands was last reviewed in 2016, and review therefore fell due in 2021. Accordingly, the United States has verified with scientists working in the Area that the values under special protection are still valid and that measures for protection of those values are sufficient.
2. Cape Sheriff and San Telmo Island was originally designated as Specially Protected Area (SPA) No. 11 through Recommendation IV-11 (1966) in the light of results from the first census of Pinnipedia carried out in the South Shetland Islands (Aguayo & Torres 1966). The Area was re-designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) No. 32 through Recommendation XV-7 (1989). The current Management Plan reaffirms the exceptional scientific and monitoring values associated with the large and diverse populations of seabirds and pinnipeds which breed within the Area, and in particular those of the Antarctic fur seal colony.
3. The United States is replacing its current scientific facilities at Cape Shirreff, for which an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) is being prepared. The new facility will accommodate approximately the same number of people and occupy a similar footprint in the same general location, although is being moved to avoid waterlogged ground which has become more of a problem in recent years. Because the rebuild is expected to take several seasons, the current review is based on existing facilities and a further update will be presented to the ATCM when the new facility is completed and operational.
4. Detailed input and comment from the scientific community working at Cape Shirreff was requested and received, and information on facilities and management procedures were reviewed and brought up to date. The review concluded that the values of the Area remain valid and no changes have been made to the boundaries of the Area. Therefore the revisions have been classified as ‘minor’ in nature and in effect.
5. It was noted in the review that a rapid decrease in the Antarctic fur seal population of over 87% has occurred since 2007 (Krause & Hinke 2021; Krause *et al.* 2022). Although Cape Shirreff remains the largest Antarctic fur seal breeding center in the Antarctic Peninsula region, the breeding population has recently become precariously low. Recent analyses using U.S. Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMLR) time series of CEMP monitoring data (Watters *et al*. 2020) have revealed potentially negative effects of locally high harvest rates of krill, particularly during years with poor environmental conditions.
6. Moreover, the abundance of breeding chinstrap penguins at Cape Shirreff has declined by 71.5% and gentoo penguins by 12.5% since regular censuses began in 1997/98. The differing magnitudes in population trends have been attributed a higher winter juvenile mortality rate experienced by chinstrap penguins and a greater flexibility in feeding patterns exhibited by gentoo penguins.
7. The principal changes to the provisions of the existing Management Plan include:
   1. Revisions throughout the plan to achieve consistency with the Committee for Environmental Protection *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* adopted in Resolution 2 (2011), and with 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.
   2. The scientific name for Imperial shag recently changed from *Phalacrocorax atriceps* *bransfieldensis* to *Leucocarbo atriceps bransfieldensis* (see BirdLife International Data Zone: http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/imperial-shag-leucocarbo-atriceps/text Accessed Sep 2021). The Chinstrap penguin has been renamed from *Pygoscelis antarctica* to *Pygoscelis antarcticus* (http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/chinstrap-penguin-pygoscelis-antarcticus).The management plan has been amended as appropriate.
   3. *Section 3 Management activities*. In view of regular use of Guillermo Mann Field Camp by Chilean scientists, the requirement was added that the management plan including maps shall be made available at Julio Escudero Station (Chile) and Eduardo Frei Station (Chile), Fildes Peninsula, King George Island.
   4. *Section 5 Maps*. Maps have been updated, including use of color to improve clarity;
   5. *Section 6 (i) Geographical coordinates, boundary markers and features*. The description of the Area was updated to reflect recent scientific results, including population data on fauna that breed within the Area, for example from the U.S. AMLR scientific program;
   6. *Section 6(iii) Location of structures within and adjacent to the Area.* The location of a seal tracking receiving station was updated (Map 3).
   7. *Section 7(ii)* relating to aircraft access and overflight has been updated to include reference to the Environmental Guidelines for Operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica (Resolution 4 (2018)).
   8. *Section 8 - Supporting documentation*. The reference list has been updated. Tables containing detailed data on faunal populations have been moved to this section. A graph of data showing the trends in Antarctic fur seal pup censuses has been added.

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.