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Brief Update on the Antarctic Peninsula Landing Site Visits and Site Guidelines

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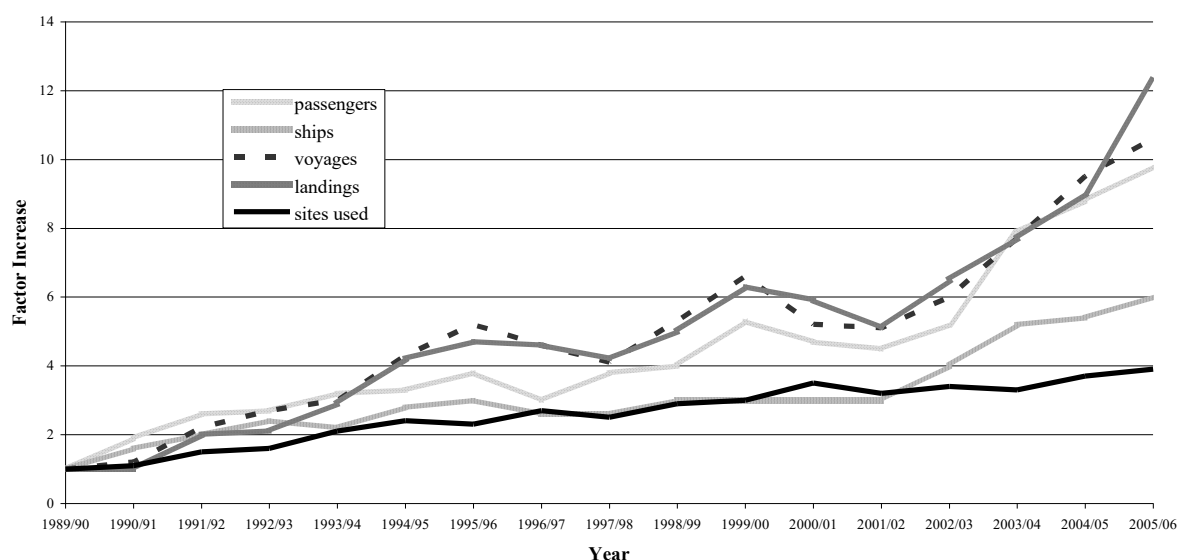
Information Paper submitted by IAATO

Peninsula Landing Site Use

IAATO's Overview of Tourism 2005-2006 (ATCM XXIX IP) details the Antarctica wide levels of reported visitor activity of IAATO members and some non member activities.

As in years past, the majority of this reported activity (90%) was traditional shipborne tourism – with landings – to the Antarctic Peninsula. While there was only a small increase in the number of ships used for this form of tourism during the 2005-2006 season (from 27 to 30) these ships appeared to be making more voyages, hence the increase in number of visitors and landings (Fig.1).

Fig.1: Factor increase in Antarctic Peninsula traditional seaborne tourism (with landings) since 1989/90



During this season, landings continued to concentrate on a very few sites, with 30 sites receiving 85% of the visits and only 6 sites receiving 37% of all visits. The 20 most visited sites (75% of all landings) – not including those from yachts – are shown in Table 1. The season runs from late October until late March, four and a half months total, with each visit lasting 1-3 hours on average.

Table 1. Twenty Most visited sites, 2005-2006

Site	# Visits	Site	# Visits
Whalers Bay	161	Aitcho Barrientos Island	70
Goudier Island (Port Lockroy)	149	Brown Bluff	63
Neko Harbour	131	Pendulum Cove	63
Almirante Brown (Station)	114	Baily Head	48
Petermann Island	112	Danco Island	47
Cuverville Island	108	Paulet Island	45
Half Moon Island	88	Telefon Bay	34
Jougla Point	81	Argentine Islands (not Vernadsky Station)	31

Hannah Point	79	Devil Island	28
Vernadsky Station (Station)	71	Gonzalez Videla Station /Waterboat Point	28

Additional tourism statistics will be posted on the IAATO website (http://www.iaato.org/tourism_stats.html).

Site Guidelines

Throughout the CEP ICG Site Guideline review period between July 2005 and April 2006, IAATO hoped agreement could be reached so that the long term goal was to have a single set of site guidelines. The reformatted guidelines as tabled in ATCM XXIX WP1 are welcomed as an important step forward in visitor management at these landing sites. It is understood that as a package, these guidelines portray a wide range of management tools that can be modified, applied and reviewed as required.

On the basis that these reformatted guidelines will be adopted by ATCM XXIX, IAATO intends to not only adopt them into our current practices and pre season planning, but also to use these reformatted guidelines as a 'recipe' to update the remaining sites currently covered by the 2003 IAATO Site Specific Guidelines. In addition two further sites, Brown Bluff and Useful Island will have guidelines drawn up for visitors. A full list of these sites, in order of perceived priority, is given in Appendix A, and we would note that for three of these sites, Halfmoon Island, Almirante Brown and Snow Hill Island, IAATO would welcome collaboration with Argentina.

It is estimated that it will take a maximum of two years to complete these site guidelines revisions. In the interim, IAATO's own site specific guidelines will remain part of our operating procedures, in particular with regard to the restrictions on ship categories used at specific sites.

Appendix 1: List of Sites to be addressed in update of IAATO 2003 Site Specific Guidelines. Sites given in order of perceived priority.

Site Name	Comment
Brown Bluff	
Gourdin Island	
Devil Island	
Robert Point	
Damoy Point	
Useful Island	
Orne Island	
George's Point, Ronge Island	
Yalour Islands	
Prospect Point	
Mikkelson Harbour	
Hydruga Rocks	
Cape Lookout	
Point Wild	
Halfmoon Island	IAATO would welcome the opportunity to work with Argentina on these guidelines
Almirante Brown	IAATO would welcome the opportunity to work with Argentina on these guidelines
Snow Hill Island	IAATO would welcome the opportunity to work with Argentina on these guidelines