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# **Report on IAATO Operator Use of Antarctic Peninsula Landing Sites and ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines, 2012-13 Season**



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Information Paper submitted by IAATO

## Introduction

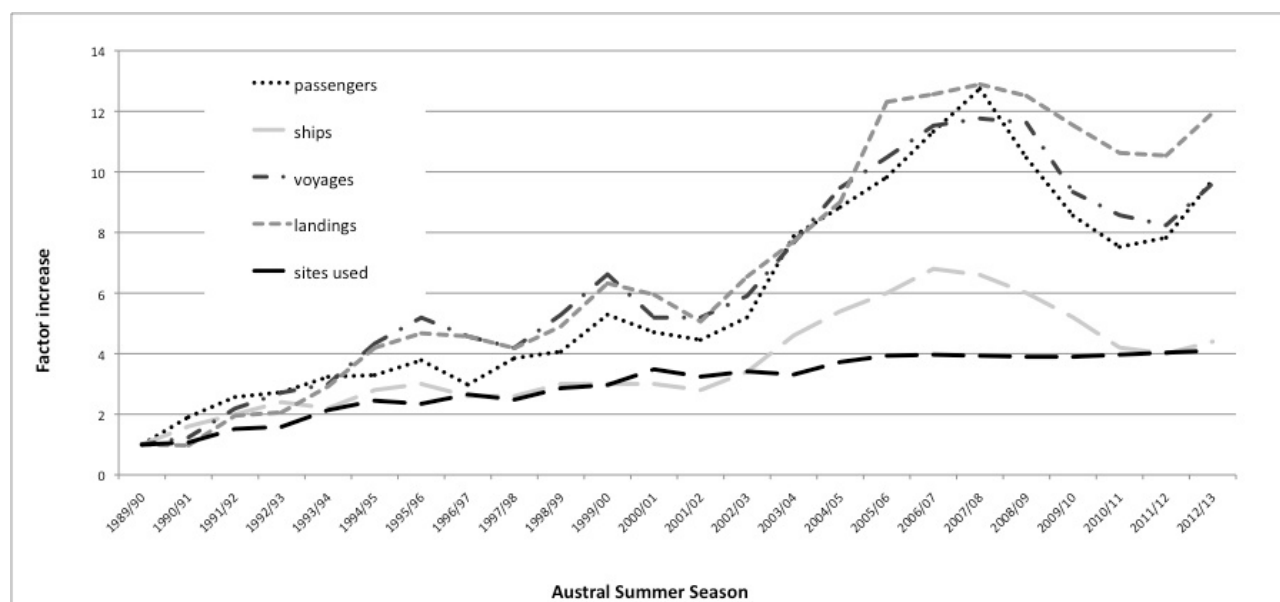
IAATO remains committed to reporting to the CEP and ATCM information on IAATO operator landing sites and site guideline use. This information paper presents the data collected by IAATO covering the landing sites and site guidelines use for the 2012-13 season.

Additional information on IAATO member activities can be found in ATCM XXXVI IP103 *IAATO Overview of Antarctic Tourism: 2012/13 Season and Preliminary Estimates for 2013/14 and Beyond*.

## Antarctic Peninsula traditional Ship-borne Tourism

Antarctic tourism continues to be primarily focused on traditional ship-based tourism in the Antarctic Peninsula, representing over 95% of all landed activity. Figure 1 provides a comparison of the factor increase in different aspects of this activity (number of passengers, ships, voyages, landings made and sites used). As all traditional ship-based tourism to the Peninsula during the 2012-13 season was conducted by IAATO member operators, it is believed that this information is reflective of actual levels of this activity.

Figure 1: Factor Change in Traditional Landing Ship-borne Tourism (not including sailing or motor vessels carrying 12 or fewer passengers) in the Antarctic Peninsula 1989-2013



There has been an increase in the levels of traditional ship-borne tourism in the Peninsula area, with a number of vessels returning or re-entering the arena. The numbers are still below the peak in the 2007-08 season prior to the global economic downturn. The numbers of passengers visiting the Peninsula is still 24% less than the 2007-08 season. Since the peak season of 2007-2008, there was a steady decline in ships working in the area, from 33 in 2007-08 to only 20 in the 2011-12 season. However, the 2012-13 season saw the first increase (up to 22 vessels). The number of voyages, and consequently the number of landings, has

also increased from last season by 16% and 13% respectively. The number of landing sites used has increased by two from last year. Both were anchorages that were newly recorded from yacht operators.

### ***Specific Landing Site Use***

Appendix 1 Table 1 illustrates the 20 most-visited sites in terms of landings made for the 2012-13 season. As in previous years, this represents seventy two percent of the total number of landings made and over seventy-six percent of the landed passengers. This indicates that the tendency for landings to concentrate at a few popular sites continues.

All but one of these most-visited sites – Portal Point – are covered by site specific management plans, either through ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines or through National Program management through their proximity to stations. Portal Point is a continent landing with a short walk onto the edge of a glacier with no breeding wildlife present. However, the site is covered by IAATO Site Specific guidelines, and IAATO member operators follow standard guidelines whenever they make a landing in the Antarctic. Because there is no breeding wildlife and the ATCM has already adopted general guidelines for visitors, IAATO does not feel it necessary to create ATCM visitor site guidelines for Portal Point.

Appendix 2 illustrates the total number of landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic Peninsula. For 2012-13, the season was 149 days down from 157 the previous season, with the first vessel landing on 6 November 2012 and the last vessel leaving the Antarctic Treaty Area on 4 April 2013. The core period for visitation by ships was 120 days from mid November to mid March. On the basis of the full season dates, only Goudier Island received an average of more than one visit per day. Three sites, Goudier Island, Neko Harbour and Whalers Bay, received an average of more than one visit per day during the core season.

Additional tourism statistics will be posted on the IAATO website ([www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)) by June, 2013.

### ***Use of ATCM Endorsed Site Guidelines***

An assessment of the use of the sites covered by the ATCM Site Guidelines was conducted through feedback directly from field staff and analysis of the Post Visit Report Forms.

The total number of known landings made at sites covered by the ATCM Site Guidelines, including a listing of the number of occasions the daily visitation limits were met for both seasons, is shown in Appendix 3. Co-ordination among IAATO field staff remains very effective. Analysis of the Post Visit Report Forms indicates that the daily limits set in the site guidelines were honoured, with no exceptions.

### ***Conclusion***

The Post Visit Report forms indicate a growth in the levels of landed activities, although levels are still lower than the peak season of 2007-08 by approximately 15%. While there is an increase in the number of ships operating, voyages and passengers, the greatest increase has been in the number of landings in particular. This is in part accountable to the increase in air/cruise activities this past season. Air/Cruise itineraries mean that the vessel will not leave the region and so can maximise the landing opportunities.

Almost all the sites in the top twenty landing sites on the Peninsula are regulated by ACTM Visitor Site Guidelines or through National Program management guidelines. IAATO will continue to provide this information annually to the CEP and ATCM for their members' activities.

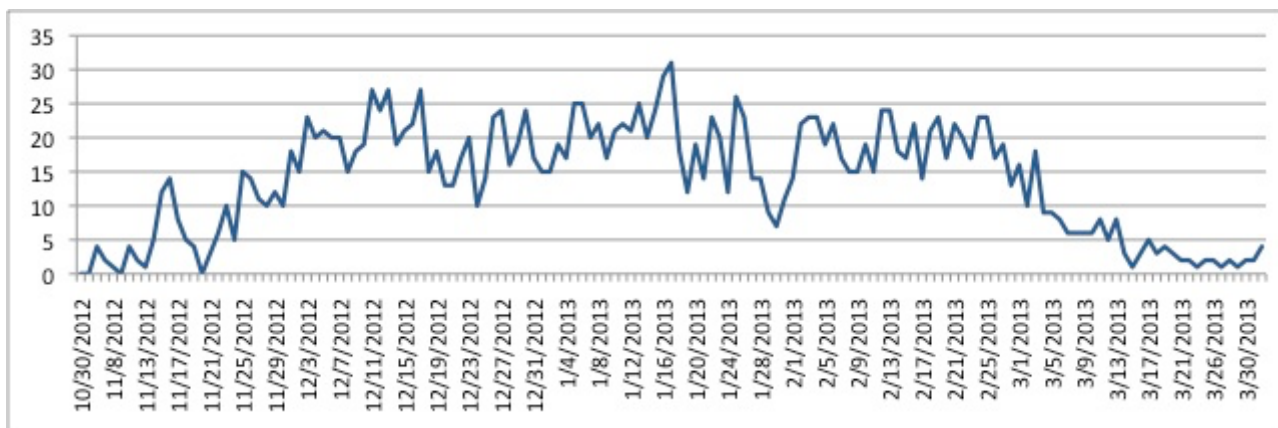
IAATO Members remain interested in gaining a better understanding of the use of ATCM Site Guidelines by non-IAATO visitors.

**Appendix 1: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites***Table 1: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites during the 2012-13 Season (including yacht visits)*

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Landing Site</b>	<b>Number of Landed Visits</b>	<b>Number of Landed Tourists</b>	<b>Site Guidelines / National Programme Management</b>
1	Goudier Island	172	19248	ATCM Site Guidelines
2	Neko Harbour	141	17990	ATCM Site Guidelines
3	Whalers Bay	134	15848	ATCM Site Guidelines
4	Cuverville Island	121	12189	ATCM Site Guidelines
5	Petermann Island	114	13876	ATCM Site Guidelines
6	Half Moon Island	101	12969	ATCM Site Guidelines
7	Jougla Point	97	9135	ATCM Site Guidelines
8	Brown Station	90	11247	National Programme Management
9	Vernadsky Station	76	5278	National Programme Management
10	Danco Island	51	6040	ATCM Site Guidelines
11	Damoy Point/Dorian Bay	50	3790	ATCM Site Guidelines
12	Aitcho - Barrientos Island	46	5178	ATCM Site Guidelines
13	Mikkelsen Harbour (D'Hainaut)	41	3550	ATCM Site Guidelines
14	Brown Bluff	40	5540	ATCM Site Guidelines
15	Telefon Bay	37	3855	ATCM Site Guidelines
16	Frei Station	36	2798	National Programme Management
17	Orne Harbour	34	3020	ATCM Site Guidelines
18	Port Charcot	29	2427	ATCM Site Guidelines
19	Portal Point	29	2081	
20	Waterboat Point/Gonzalez Videla Station	27	1868	National Programme Management

**Appendix 2: Total number of IAATO operator landings made per day, at all sites within the Antarctic 2012-2013**

*A. Total number of IAATO member landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic 2012-2013 season*



**Appendix 3: Recorded Site Use at ATCM Site Guideline Sites***A: Recorded Site Use at ATCM Site Guideline Sites 2012-13.*

<b>Landing Site</b>	<b>Total Number of Landings</b>	<b>Number of days where maximum visit limitation was met.</b>
Aitcho - Barrientos Island	46	4
Ardley Island	4	
Baily Head	20	
Brown Bluff	40	
Cape Dennison	0	
Cape Evans	9	
Cape Hallett	1	
Cape Royds	4	
Cuverville Island	121	3
Damoy Point/Dorian Bay	50	1
Danco Island	51	
Detaille Island	20	4
Devil Island	1	
Goudier Island	172	20
Half Moon Island	101	
Hannah Point	23	23
Horseshoe Island	5	
Jougla Point	97	3
Mikkelsen Harbor (D'Hainaut)	41	
Neko Harbor	141	
Paulet Island	1	
Pendulum Cove	14	1
Penguin Island	9	1
Petermann Island	114	3
Pléneau Island	24	
Port Charcot	29	3
Shingle Cove	0	
Snow Hill - Nordenskjöld's Hut	0	
Stonington Island	2	
Taylor Valley/Canada Glacier	2	
Telefon Bay	37	
Torgersen Island	4	
Turret Point	5	
Whalers Bay	134	
Winter Island	9	
Yankee Harbour	26	