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# **Report on IAATO Operator Use of Antarctic Peninsula Landing Sites and ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines, 2013-14 and 2014-15 Season**



# Report on IAATO Operator Use of Antarctic Peninsula Landing Sites and ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines, 2013-2014 and 2014-15 Season

Information Paper submitted by IAATO

## Introduction

IAATO remains committed to reporting to the CEP and ATCM information on IAATO operator landing site and ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines use. This information paper presents the data collected by IAATO from IAATO member Post Visit Report Forms for the 2013-2014 and 2014-15 season. No non-IAATO visits are included in this analysis.

IAATO has recently developed an additional tool for processing of the PVR database. Over the next year period the intention is to conduct further, more detailed analysis of this data. This analysis will be reported to CEP and ATCM, where appropriate, and if so desired. Meantime, additional information on IAATO operator activities can be found in ATCM XXXVIII IP53 *IAATO Overview of Antarctic Tourism: 2013-14, 2014//15 Season and Preliminary Estimates for 2015/16* and on the IAATO website ([www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)).

## Antarctic Peninsula traditional ship-borne tourism

Antarctic tourism continues to be primarily focused on traditional commercial ship-borne tourism in the Antarctic Peninsula, which accounts for *circa* 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 commercial ship-borne tourism to the Peninsula during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons were conducted by IAATO member operators, it is believed that this information is reflective of actual levels of this activity.

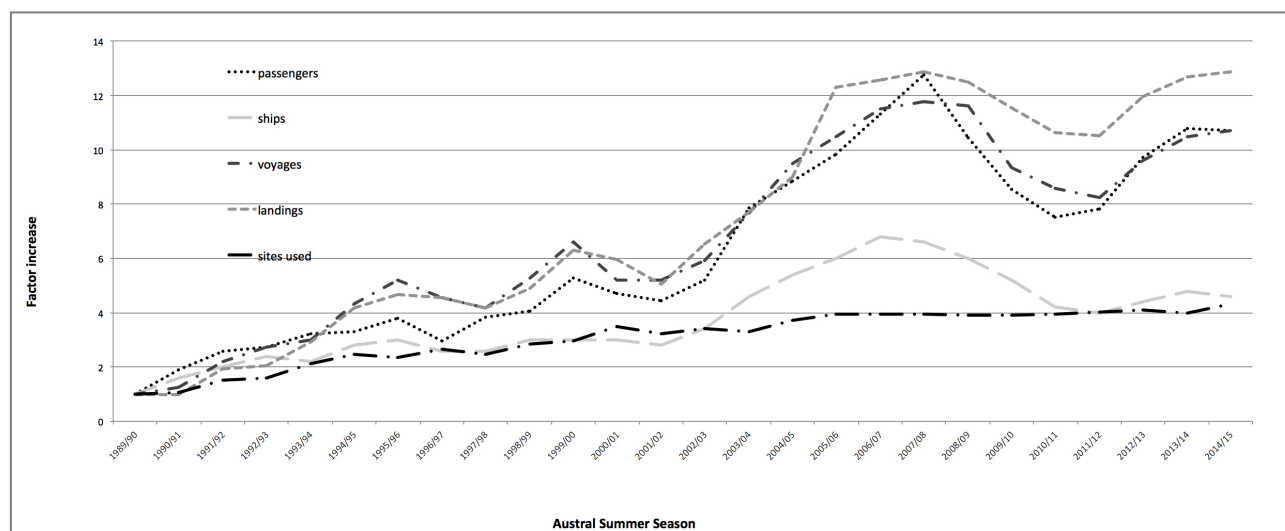


Figure 1: Factor Change in Traditional Landing Ship-borne Tourism (not including sailing or motor vessels carrying 12 or fewer passengers) in the Antarctic Peninsula 1989-2015

Comparing the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons with the peak season of 2007-2008, the following trends are visible:

- Since 2011-2012 there has been a recovery in the number of passengers taking part in traditional ship borne tourism to the Peninsula since the retraction following the global recession in 2008. This growth is variable, and in fact the 2014-15 season saw a slight decrease in numbers from the 2013-14 season, and the number of passengers is still well below the 2007-08 peak.
- Following the steady decline in IAATO ships operating in the area, from 33 in 2007-08 to only 20 in the 2011-12 season, there has been a slight resurgence with 24 SOLAS passenger vessels operating in 2013-14, but only 23 SOLAS passenger vessels operating in the 2014-15 season.
- The most notable increase has taken place in the number of voyages (from 202 in 2012-13, to 220 in 2013-14 then 225 in 2014-15). This is reflective of the increase in air/cruise expeditions which negates the need for four to five days per voyage outside Antarctic waters to facilitate passenger turnarounds. The increase in number of voyages is also reflected in the increase in number of landings.
- The number of landing sites used remains fairly steady showing only a minor increase in each reported season.

### **Specific Landing Site Use**

Appendix 1 Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the 20 most-visited sites in terms of landings made for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons respectively. Unlike previous years where the top twenty most visited sites usually represents *circa* seventy percent (70%) of the total number of landings made, in 2013-14 the top twenty sites received 68% of the total number of visits while in 2014-15 the top twenty sites received only 65% of the visits. Despite this decrease, these relatively high percentages continue to indicate that the trend of landings concentrating at a few popular sites remains strong.

All but one of these most-visited sites – Yalour Island – are covered by site specific management plans, either through ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines or National Program management through their proximity to stations. Although Yalour Island is covered by IAATO's internal site guidelines (See ATCM XXVIII IP90 IAATO's *Site Specific Guidelines in the Antarctic Peninsula*) and visits by IAATO member operators to these sites follow standard codes of conduct for visits to Antarctic landing sites including Recommendation XVIII-1 *Guidelines for Tourism* and Resolution XXXIV-3 *General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic*, there may be value in considering developing site guidelines for Yalour Island. IAATO would welcome working with interested Parties in developing these guidelines.

Appendix 2 illustrates the total number of landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic Peninsula in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons. Landings took place in Antarctica from 31 October 2013 – 30 March 2014 (a total of 151 days) and then 2 November to 30 March 2015 (a total of 149 days). This is considerably less than the peak of 174 days in the 2007/08 season. (The extended season was largely due to the operation of the icebreaker Kapitan Khlebnikov making early season visits to emperor penguin colonies.)

The core period for visitation by ships was 120 days between mid-November and mid-March. On the basis of the full season dates, only Goudier Island received an average of more than one visit per day and three sites (Cuverville Island, Neko Harbour and Whalers Bay) received an average of more than one visit per day during the core season.

Additional tourism statistics can be found on the IAATO website ([www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)).

### **Use of ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines**

An assessment of the use of the sites covered by the ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines was conducted through feedback directly from field staff and an analysis of the Post Visit Report Forms. Appendix 3 illustrates the total number of known landings made at sites covered by ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines, including a listing of the number of occasions the daily visitation limits were met.

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, in both 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons.

**Conclusion**

While the decline of tourism seems to be stabilising, the information extracted from the Post Visit Report Forms shows that tourism levels are still depressed from the peak season of 2007-08, but recovering slightly. The increase in air cruise tourism however, has resulted in a disproportional increase in the numbers of voyages and to a lesser extent landings made.

Almost all the landing sites in the top twenty landing sites on the peninsula are managed by ACTM Visitor Site Guidelines or through National Programme Management guidelines.

IAATO will continue to provide information annually to the CEP and ATCM on its members' activities. In addition, IAATO Members remain interested in gaining a better understanding of the use of ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines by non-IAATO visitors.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites

Appendix 2: Total number of IAATO operator landings made per day, at all sites within the Antarctic 2013-14 and 2014-15 season

Appendix 3: Recorded Site Use at Sites covered by ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines.

**Appendix 1: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites***Table 1: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites during the 2013-14 Season (including yacht visits)*

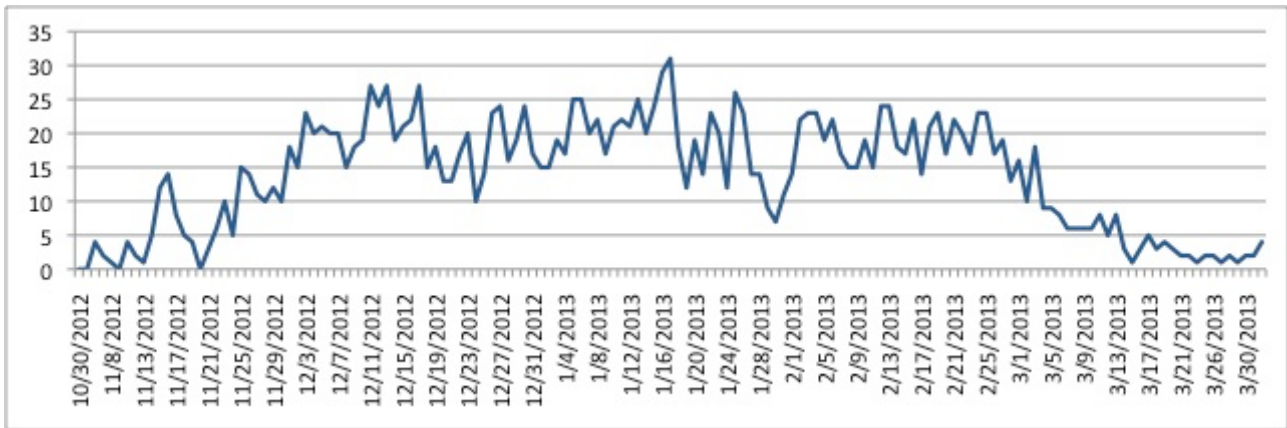
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Landing Site</b>	<b>Number of Landed Visits</b>	<b>Number of Landed Tourists</b>	<b>Site Guidelines / National Programme Management</b>
1	Goudier Island	231	14234	ATCM Site Guidelines
2	Cuverville Island	140	15141	ATCM Site Guidelines
3	Neko Harbor	135	16282	ATCM Site Guidelines
4	Whalers Bay	124	11528	ATCM Site Guidelines
5	Half Moon Island	109	13069	ATCM Site Guidelines
6	Jougla Point	96	6928	ATCM Site Guidelines
7	Petermann Island	91	9169	ATCM Site Guidelines
8	Almirante Brown	82	8839	National Programme Management
9	Vernadsky Station	79	4989	National Programme Management
10	Danco Island	60	6875	ATCM Site Guidelines
11	Brown Bluff	57	6490	ATCM Site Guidelines
12	Damoy Point/Dorian Bay	54	2689	ATCM Site Guidelines
13	Telefon Bay	53	4479	ATCM Site Guidelines
14	Orne Harbor	44	3984	ATCM Site Guidelines
15	Mikkelsen Harbor (D'Hainaut)	43	3062	ATCM Site Guidelines
16	Aitcho - Barrientos Island	41	4275	ATCM Site Guidelines
17	Pléneau Island	36	2208	ATCM Site Guidelines
18	Yankee Harbor	34	3626	ATCM Site Guidelines
19	Port Charcot	28	2084	ATCM Site Guidelines
20	Yalour Islands	27	1953	

Table 2: Top Twenty Most Visited Sites during the 2014-15 Season (including yacht visits)

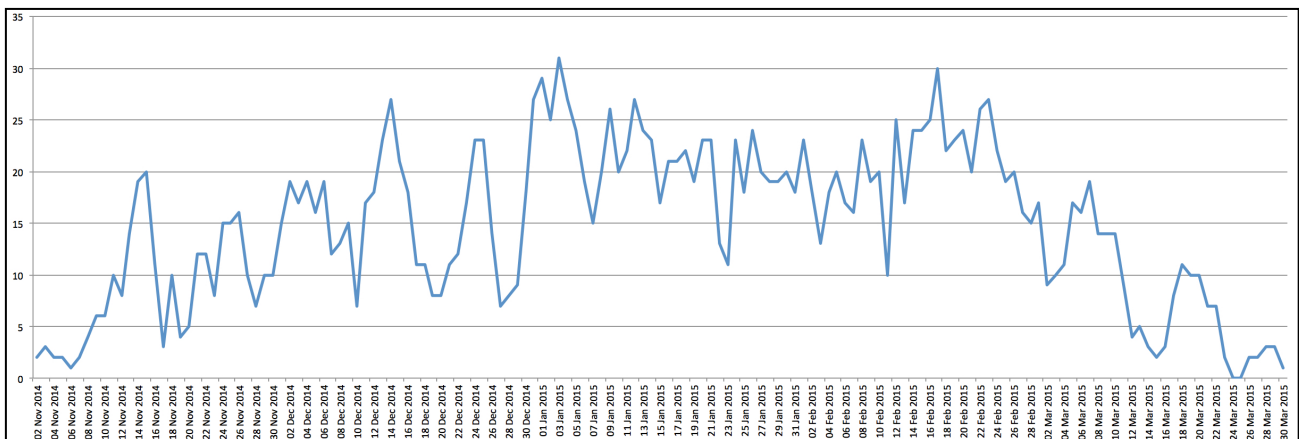
Rank	Landing Site	Number of Landed Visits	Number of Landed Tourists	Site Guidelines / National Programme Management
1	Goudier Island	172	16730	ATCM Site Guidelines
2	Neko Harbour	138	16676	ATCM Site Guidelines
3	Whalers Bay	131	12980	ATCM Site Guidelines
4	Cuverville Island	126	13686	ATCM Site Guidelines
5	Half Moon Island	102	13025	ATCM Site Guidelines
6	Almirante Brown	76	8230	National Programme Management
7	Jougla Point	76	6506	ATCM Site Guidelines
8	Petermann Island	72	8304	ATCM Site Guidelines
9	Danco Island	67	7035	ATCM Site Guidelines
10	Damoy Point/Dorian Bay	61	3787	ATCM Site Guidelines
11	Vernadsky Station	58	3202	National Programme Management
12	Brown Bluff	54	7182	ATCM Site Guidelines
13	Mikkelsen Harbor (D'Hainaut)	47	5136	ATCM Site Guidelines
14	Telefon Bay	46	4541	ATCM Site Guidelines
15	Aitcho - Barrientos Island	42	4478	ATCM Site Guidelines
16	Pléneau Island	34	2823	ATCM Site Guidelines
17	Orne Harbor	33	3180	ATCM Site Guidelines
18	Waterboat Point/Gonzalez Videla Station	33	2674	National Programme Management
19	Portal Point	32	2747	ATCM Site Guidelines
20	Port Charcot	24	2294	ATCM Site Guidelines

**Appendix 2: Total number of IAATO operator landings made per day, at all sites within the Antarctic 2013-14 and 2014-15 season**

*A. Total number of IAATO member landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic 2013-14 season*



*B. Total number of IAATO member landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic 2014-15 season*



*A. Total number of IAATO operator landings made per day at all sites within the Antarctic 2011-2012 season*



### Appendix 3: Recorded Site Use at Sites covered by ATCM Visitor Site Guidelines.

*Recorded Site Use at ATCM Site Guideline Sites 2013-14 and 2014-15*

Landing Site	2013-14		2014-15	
	Total Number of Landings	Number of days where maximum visit limitation was met.	Total Number of Landings	Number of days where maximum visit limitation was met.
Aitcho - Barrientos Island	41	5	42	3
Ardley Island	1	0	5	0
Baily Head	21	3	15	1
Brown Bluff	57	1	54	1
Cape Dennison	0	0	0	0
Cape Evans	7	0	0	0
Cape Hallett	1	0	0	0
Cape Royds	6	0	7	0
Cuverville Island	140	0	126	0
Damoy Point/Dorian Bay	54	3	61	1
Danco Island	60	0	67	1
Detaille Island	14	1	17	2
Devil Island	1	0	0	0
Goudier Island	231	32	172	35
Half Moon Island	109	0	102	0
Hannah Point	22	22	16	16
Horseshoe Island	7	0	6	0
Jougla Point	96	6	76	2
Mikkelsen Harbor (D'Hainaut)	43	1	47	0
Neko Harbor	135	2	138	3
Orne Harbor	44	0	33	0
Orne Islands	2	0	2	0
Paulet Island	5	1	11	0
Pendulum Cove	13	0	13	0
Penguin Island	8	0	9	0
Petermann Island	91	2	72	1
Pléneau Island	36	1	34	1
Port Charcot	28	1	24	3
Shingle Cove	0	0	0	0
Snow Hill - Nordenskjöld's Hut	0	0	0	0
Stonington Island	5	0	3	0
Taylor Valley / Canada Glacier	0	0	2	0
Telefon Bay	53	0	46	0
Torgersen Island	4	0	2	0
Turret Point	9	0	3	0
Whalers Bay	124	0	131	0
Winter Island	16	0	15	0
Yankee Harbour	34	0	24	0