

Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 32

Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands

1. *Geographical location.* Cape Shirreff is a low, ice-free peninsula towards the western end of the north coast of Livingston Island, situated at latitude 62°27'S, longitude 60°47'W, between Barclay Bay and Hero Bay. Telmo Island is the largest of a small group of ice-free rock islets, approximately 2 km west of Cape Shirreff.

2. *Management plan*
 - i. *Description of site.* The Site includes the entire area of the Cape Shirreff peninsula north of the glacier ice tongue margin, and most of the Telmo Island group (see map).

 - ii. *Reason for designation.* The presence of both Antarctic fur seal and penguin breeding colonies, and of krill fisheries within the foraging range of these species, make this a critical site for inclusion in the ecosystem monitoring network being established to help meet the objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The purpose of the designation is to allow planned research and monitoring to proceed, while avoiding or reducing, to the greatest extent possible, other activities which could interfere with or affect the results of the research and monitoring programme or alter the natural features of the Site.

 - iii. *Outline of research.* Long-term studies are being planned better to assess and monitor the feeding ecology, growth and condition, reproductive success, behaviour, vital rates, and abundance of pinnipeds and seabirds that breed in the area. The results of these studies will be compared with environmental data, offshore sampling data, and fishery statistics to identify possible cause-effect relationships.

 - iv. *Date of expiry of designation.* 31 December 1999.

 - v. *Access points.* The Cape Shirreff part of the Site may be entered at any point where pinniped or seabird rookeries are not present on or near the beach. Access to the islands in the Telmo group is unrestricted but should be at the least densely populated areas and cause minimal disturbance to the fauna. Access for other than the aforementioned types of research should avoid disturbing pinnipeds and seabirds.

vi. *Pedestrian and vehicular routes.* Boats, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft and land vehicles should avoid the Site except for operations directly supporting authorized scientific activities. During these operations, boats and aircraft should travel routes that avoid or minimize disturbance of pinnipeds and seabirds. Land vehicles should not be used except to transport needed equipment and supplies to and from the field camp to be established. As far as possible, establishment and resupply of the field camp should be done before or after the pinniped and seabird breeding seasons. Pedestrians should not walk through wildlife population areas, especially during the breeding season, or disturb other fauna or flora except as necessary to conduct authorized research.

vii. *Other kinds of scientific investigations which would not cause harmful interference*

Geological, glaciological, and other studies which can be done outside of the pinniped and seabird breeding seasons, and which will not damage or destroy pinniped or seabird breeding areas, or access to those areas, would not adversely affect the planned assessment and monitoring studies. Likewise, the planned assessment and monitoring studies would not be affected adversely by periodic biological surveys or studies of other species which do not result in killing, injuring or disturbing pinnipeds or seabirds, or damage or destroy pinnipeds or seabird breeding areas or access to those areas.

viii. *Scientific sampling.* Killing, capturing, handling, photographing, and taking eggs, blood, or other biological samples from pinnipeds and seabirds should be limited to that necessary to characterize and monitor individual and population parameters that may change in detectable ways in response to changes in food availability or other environmental factors. Sampling should be done and reported in accordance with: 1) the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, and 2) the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals.

ix. *Other restraints.*

a. Only structures directly supporting authorized scientific research and monitoring programmes may be built within the Site to house research personnel and their equipment, and shall be occupied only within the period 1 September to 1 June.

b. All non-burnable or non-biodegradable materials brought to the Site should be removed when no longer in use. Landfill disposal of non-biodegradable materials, and the burning of non-organic materials, is not permitted.