



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
Manatū Aorere

JULY 2026

# Planning Activities in Antarctica: New Zealand Processes for Approval

A guide for tourism, non-governmental activities, and governmental activities  
not supported by a National Antarctic Programme

July 2026 (Version 4)



# Contents

|                                                                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Introduction.....</b>                                                           | <b>3</b>  |
| This document tells you how to seek approval for activities in Antarctica .....       | 3         |
| The regulations stem from New Zealand’s commitment under the Antarctic Treaty .....   | 3         |
| The ATCM has compiled guidance for tourist and non-governmental activities .....      | 3         |
| Contact MFAT for more information .....                                               | 3         |
| <b>2. Steps to seek approval for your activities.....</b>                             | <b>4</b>  |
| Step 1: Submit an Advance Notification Form to MFAT .....                             | 4         |
| Step 2: Complete an Environmental Impact Assessment .....                             | 5         |
| Step 3: Apply for extra permits and approvals.....                                    | 6         |
| Step 4: Receive authorisation after review of your EIA.....                           | 6         |
| After your visit: Complete post-activity reporting .....                              | 7         |
| Indicative timeframe for submitting your Advance Notification and EIA.....            | 9         |
| Flowchart summary of procedures information .....                                     | 10        |
| <b>3. Tourism operators require Antarctic Observers .....</b>                         | <b>12</b> |
| Observers follow an established assessment framework .....                            | 12        |
| Observers are part of our Antarctic Treaty obligations .....                          | 12        |
| <b>4. Additional information and guidance .....</b>                                   | <b>13</b> |
| Safety in the Antarctic.....                                                          | 13        |
| Approvals or permits you may require under other Acts and from other countries .....  | 15        |
| Other relevant organisations .....                                                    | 19        |
| Guidelines and regulations that may be relevant to your EIA .....                     | 20        |
| <b>5. International and legal context.....</b>                                        | <b>21</b> |
| The Antarctic Treaty .....                                                            | 21        |
| Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 1991 (the Protocol)..... | 21        |
| Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) .....    | 22        |
| New Zealand legislation .....                                                         | 22        |
| <b>6. Acronyms.....</b>                                                               | <b>23</b> |
| <b>7. Appendix 1: Protected Areas in the Ross Sea region.....</b>                     | <b>24</b> |

# 1. Introduction

---

This document tells you how to seek approval for activities in Antarctica

This document sets out the procedures for planning and requesting approval for activities in Antarctica. If you're planning activities in Antarctica, it will help you understand how to get the necessary approvals and permits, and conduct your activity in compliance with the rules and regulations.

It covers Advance Notification, Environmental Impact Assessments, permits, and other considerations and requirements you should be aware of.

This guidance applies to all:

- tourism activities
- non-governmental activities
- governmental activities not supported by the New Zealand National Antarctic Programme.

The regulations stem from New Zealand's commitment under the Antarctic Treaty

All activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area must be planned and conducted in ways that avoid or limit their adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment and ecosystems. Our obligations to the Antarctic environment come from the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (1991) (the Protocol). New Zealand is an original signatory to the Antarctic Treaty and a party to the Protocol.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is New Zealand's Competent Authority for the Antarctic Treaty. That means we're responsible for authorising activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. [Find the contact details for the Competent Authority of each Antarctic Treaty Party.](#)

The ATCM has compiled guidance for tourist and non-governmental activities

The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) has adopted a range of guidelines to ensure that visitors to Antarctica do not adversely impact its environment or its scientific, wilderness, or aesthetic values. We recommend you begin with the guidelines to support the development of Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica (ATCM [Resolution 1 \(2026\)](#)).

Further guidelines are compiled in the [Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#) and the ATCM also issues [specific guidelines for the most frequently visited sites](#).

Contact MFAT for more information

If you're considering travelling to Antarctica, [start by reading the information on our website](#).

For a preliminary discussion about activities you might be planning in Antarctica, please contact MFAT's Antarctica and Environment Unit:

- Email: [Antarctica@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Antarctica@mfat.govt.nz)
- Phone: +64 4 439 8000
- Website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/>

## 2. Steps to seek approval for your activities

---

This section describes the steps you must follow to get approval for activities in Antarctica. As an overview, you'll need to:

1. submit an Activities in Antarctica: Advance Notification Form
2. prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
3. apply for any other permits and approvals required for your activity
4. after review of your EIA, receive an Activity Authorisation and any relevant permits for your activity.

During your activity, you'll need to follow any directions or conditions applied as part of the authorisation. After your return home, you'll need to complete a post-activity report.

For some activities, you may be required to carry an Antarctic Observer to ensure compliance with EIAs, authorisations, permits and any conditions. See Section 3 for more information about Observers.

Follow the indicative timeframe on page 9 to ensure you and we have enough time to complete all the steps. The below information is also summarised in two flowcharts in Figure 1 and Figure 2, starting on page 10.

### Step 1: Submit an Advance Notification Form to MFAT

First, download the Advance Notification form template from our website, fill it in, and submit it to MFAT.

Download the [Activities in Antarctica: Advance Notification form \[pdf 240 KB\]](#)

Advance Notification tells us about your planned activities, contingency plans and insurance, and the potential impacts of your activities. With this information, we can advise:

- what level of EIA you'll need
- whether permits are required
- what timeframes apply to your activity.

Please provide the form even if you don't yet have all the details to complete it – you can update it later (e.g. company travelling with, exact vessel details, etc.). It's important to let us know about all of the activities you're planning – even if you don't think they will have any adverse impacts. Submitting your Advance Notification early gives you more time to prepare your EIA and for us to review it before your proposed activity start date.

If you already have approval for your activity from another country (or you're planning to submit an EIA to another country), you should still contact MFAT to confirm whether you need New Zealand approval.

### Include information about contingency planning and insurance

All tourist and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic need appropriate contingency plans and adequate insurance. It will be a general condition of all Activity Authorisations to maintain these plans and insurance during your trip.

You can find additional information on safety in the Antarctic and contingency planning on page 13.

## Step 2: Complete an Environmental Impact Assessment

All Antarctic activities must have an approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). After you've notified MFAT about your activities, we'll:

- discuss the level of EIA your activities require
- let you know about any extra permits you might need
- provide templates and further guidance.

You'll write your own EIA as a self-assessment. There are three levels of EIAs: Preliminary, Initial, and Comprehensive. The EIA for your activity depends on its likely level of impact. This 'likely level of impact' is a value judgement by MFAT about the severity of a change in a given environment, environmental value, or resource.

Your EIA must provide enough information for MFAT to assess and evaluate the likely impacts of the activity on the Antarctic environment and its ecosystems, as well as on areas of scientific, historic, aesthetic, or wilderness significance.

This EIA process helps us predict impacts before they occur, and identify ways to prevent or minimise their adverse effects on the environment. It also identifies how impacts will be monitored during and after activities. Monitoring verifies the expected impacts and detects impacts that were not identified in the EIA. The process for reviewing and approving EIAs is described in Part III of the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act 1994 (ss 17–24).

The ATCM has adopted guidelines to support the development of EIA in Antarctica ([ATCM Resolution 1 \(2026\)](#)). We recommend you review these guidelines when drafting your EIA.

### Preliminary Environmental Evaluation (PEE)

PEEs are for activities with less than a minor or transitory impact on the environment. After evaluating a PEE, MFAT may decide that a higher level of EIA is needed for your proposed activities. A template will be provided.

Examples of activities that may require a PEE include:

- small science research events, such as observing and tagging Adélie penguins and Weddell seals
- collecting samples of microbial activity in sea-ice cores
- using underwater remote-operated vehicles (ROVs)
- using sonic monitoring equipment
- filming documentaries using drones.

### Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE)

IEEs are for activities that will have no more than a minor or transitory effect on the environment. Specific document structure advice will be provided.

Examples of activities that may require an IEE include:

- vessel-based operations
- traverse operations
- multi-year scientific research activities (such as drilling).

## **Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE)**

CEEs are for large-scale projects with a more than minor or transitory impact on the environment – for example, building a new research base.

### **Include information about contingency planning and insurance**

As in your Advance Notification, your EIA must include information detailing your contingency plans and insurance arrangements. Learn more about these requirements on page 13.

## **Step 3: Apply for extra permits and approvals**

### **Identify any permit requirements in your EIA**

Certain activities in Antarctica require permits under Part IV of the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act 1994 (ss 25–33). These must be identified in your EIA so they can be considered as part of the approval process.

The following activities are prohibited unless you have a permit:

- removing or damaging any part or contents of any Historic Site or Monument
- entering or carrying out any activity in an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA)
- taking or attempting to take any native bird, mammal, or invertebrate out of Antarctica
- removing or damaging native plants in a way that significantly affects their local distribution or abundance
- interfering harmfully with native plants, mammals, birds, or invertebrates
- introducing any species of non-native animal, plant, or micro-organism
- importing any non-sterile soil into Antarctica.

Clearly identify any activities in your EIA that require a permit. This allows us to consider the permit application at the same time we review your EIA.

Appendix 1 has a map of all protected areas in the Ross Sea region. All historic huts in the Ross Sea region are designated as ASPAs and require a permit to enter. For more information on visiting historic huts in the Ross Sea region, visit the [New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust website](#).

### **Apply separately for any other approvals you need**

Some activities also require approvals under other New Zealand laws (related, for example, to marine mammals, fishing, and biosecurity). You'll need to apply for these separately.

Examples of other legislation that may contain relevant obligations are outlined on page 15–18. The flowchart in Figure 2 may also help to identify approvals and permits required for your activity, from MFAT and other agencies.

Please contact MFAT if you have any questions about applying for permits.

## **Step 4: Receive authorisation after review of your EIA**

### **A range of agencies and experts will review your Environmental Impact Assessment**

EIAs are thoroughly reviewed by MFAT, Antarctica New Zealand, other experts, and relevant government agencies – such as the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Environmental Protection Authority.

The review aims to evaluate whether your EIA has appropriately identified all possible impacts, risks, and mitigation measures. Agencies and experts draw on a range of guidelines, research, and international best practice for their review.

If our assessment shows your activity can meet the Act's requirements, MFAT will recommend that the Minister of Foreign Affairs (or their delegate) authorise the activity, with directions and conditions as needed. The Minister (or delegate) makes the final determination.

### **You'll be issued an Activity Authorisation with permits and conditions**

If your activity is approved, you will be issued an Activity Authorisation. Any additional permits, as mentioned under Step 4, will also be issued within the Authorisation.

The Minister also has discretion under the Act to issue 'Ministerial Directions' and 'Permit Conditions' to protect the environment, minimise impacts, and manage issues such as compliance, monitoring, and reporting. These directions and conditions will be included within the Authorisation.

If the Activity Authorisation differs from your EIA – for example, it includes stricter mitigations – the directions and conditions in the Activity Authorisation take priority.

### **Breaching your EIA, Authorisation, or Minister's directions and conditions is an offence**

It's an offence under Section 24 of the Act to carry out your activity other than in accordance with the approved EIA, Activity Authorisation, and any directions or conditions issued by the Minister. Non-compliance carries a maximum punishment of up to a year imprisonment or a fine of up to \$100,000.

### **After your visit: Complete post-activity reporting**

Your Activity Authorisation will describe any reporting requirements for you to follow during your activity. The two types of post-activity report commonly required are described below.

#### **Post Activity Environmental Performance Report**

This report format applies to all activities, and is provided by MFAT.

Using this report, you'll provide:

- qualitative data and details of all landing sites
- a description of actual impacts against the potential impacts identified in your EIA
- any impacts described in your EIA that were observed during monitoring programmes
- any non-compliance against your EIA or Activity Authorisation
- any other relevant information (such as a register of equipment lost).

If your approved activity covers multiple years, you'll need to complete annual 'Interim Environmental Performance' reports and a final 'Environmental Performance' report at the end of the activity.

We'll provide the report template with the Activity Authorisation. You'll need to complete it by the date specified in the Activity Authorisation, along with any other reports specified in the Activity Authorisation.

#### **Post-Visit Report Form for tourism activities**

This form is provided by the Antarctic Treaty. It provides quantitative data to support the analysis of the scope, frequency, and intensity of tourism and non-governmental activities in Antarctica. Tourism operators must complete this report as well as the Post-Activity Environmental Performance Report described above.

The form consists of two parts: an Expedition Record and a Site Visit Record. Both parts must be completed by the Expedition Leader or Captain and submitted to MFAT.

- The Expedition Record (Part 1) must be completed for every expedition to the Antarctic region, regardless of whether any landings or visits to sites were made.
- The Site Visit Record (Part 2) only needs to be completed if the expedition made visits or landings in the Antarctic region.

IAATO, the International Association of Antarctica Tourism Operators, also maintains a database of Antarctic tourism activities. If you're an IAATO operator, you're asked to provide post-visit report forms to them as well.

## Indicative timeframe for submitting your Advance Notification and EIA

This table outlines approximate timeframes for you to target completing the different steps in the approval process.

| Steps                  | For smaller-scale activities requiring a Preliminary Environmental Evaluation                                                                                                                                    | For larger-scale activities requiring an Initial Environmental Evaluation               |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advance Notification   | Submit your Advance Notification by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 June (for activities between October and December)</li> <li>1 August (for activities between January and March).</li> </ul> | Submit your Advance Notification by 1 April.                                            |
| EIA                    | Submit your EIA by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July (for activities between October–December)</li> <li>September (for activities between January–March)</li> </ul>                            | Submit your EIA by early-June.                                                          |
| Activity Authorisation | Receive authorisation approximately 1 month prior to the commencement of your activity.                                                                                                                          | Receive authorisation approximately 1 month prior to the commencement of your activity. |
| Reporting              | Complete post-activity reporting within 1 month of completion of your activity.                                                                                                                                  | Complete post-activity reporting within 1 month of completion of your activity.         |

If you're unsure what level of impact your activity is likely to have (and, thus, whether you'll need a PEE or IEE), please contact MFAT as early as possible.

### PEE Example — Activity on-board a tourist vessel

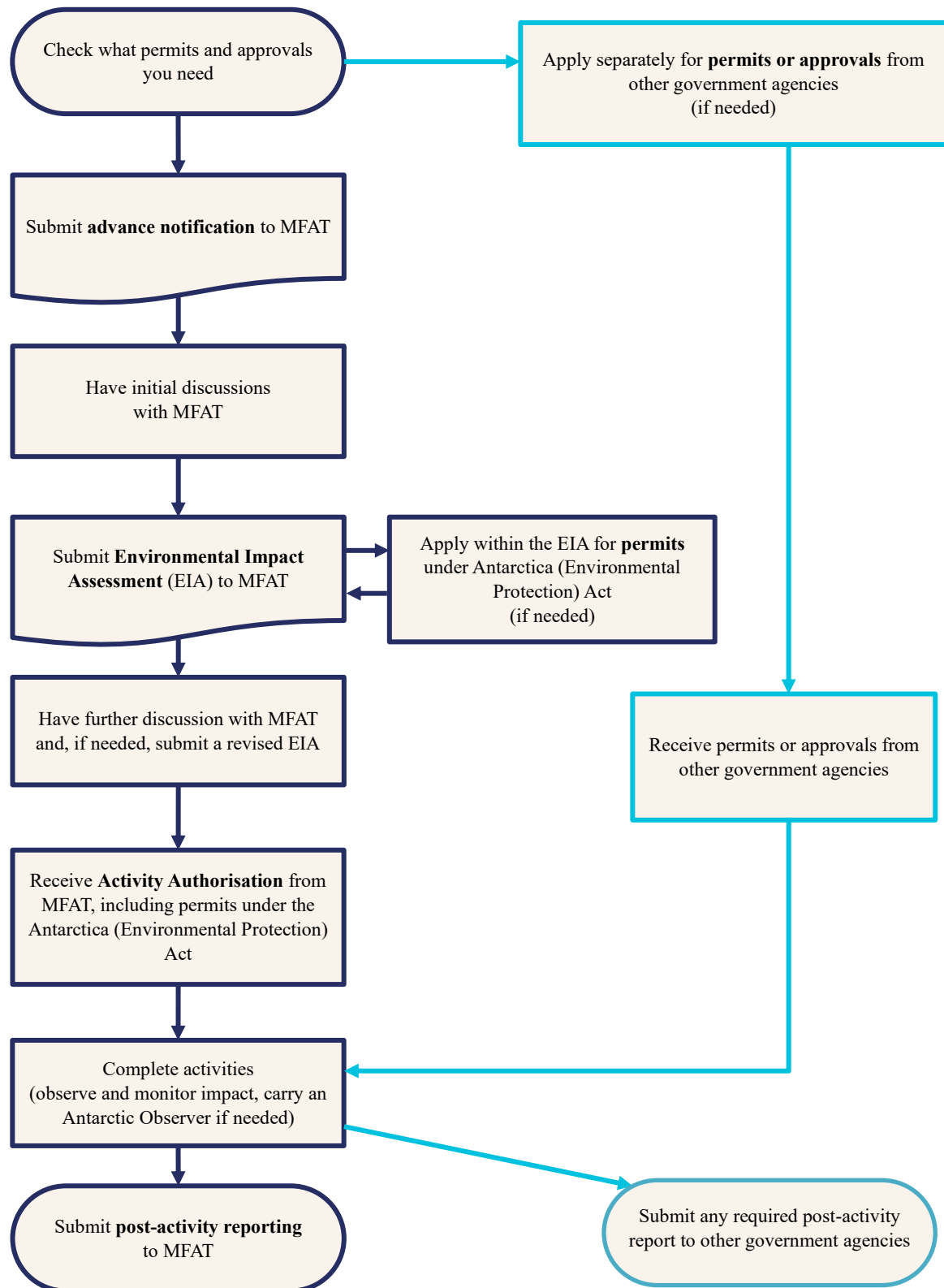
Anna has funding to film a short wildlife documentary in Antarctica, and secures a spot on a tourist vessel travelling in January. She knows that, among other activities, she wants to fly a drone near penguin populations.

To avoid jeopardising her plans, Anna sticks to the following timeline, ensuring that she has enough time to complete every step, and MFAT has time to review her submissions.

- **Six months out from her activity onboard a tourism voyage**, Anna submits her Advance Notification to MFAT. She fills in as much as she can about her planned activities. Following review of the Advance Notification and discussions to clarify any questions, MFAT confirm she needs to complete a Preliminary Environmental Evaluation (PEE) for her planned activities.
- **Five months out**, Anna finishes preparing her PEE and sends it to MFAT. We work with her to fill in a few gaps, and after a formal review, recommend the Minister approve her activities.
- **One month before she's due to travel**, Anna receives her Activity Authorisation.
- **Within a month of returning** from her successful trip, Anna sends a completed Post-Activity Environmental Performance report.

## Flowchart summary of procedures information

Figure 1: Guide to procedures when planning an activity in the Antarctic



**Figure 2: Approvals and permits that may be required for your activity to check before submitting your Advance Notification**

| If your activity involves...                                                                                                                                                                                        | You'll need to apply for...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Entering protected areas                                                                                                                                                                                            | A permit under the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act — <b>apply to MFAT in your EIA application</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Using RPAS in, over, or near protected areas                                                                                                                                                                        | A permit under the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act — <b>apply to MFAT in your EIA application</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Collecting anything or taking samples                                                                                                                                                                               | Relevant permits or approvals under the Biosecurity and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Acts — <b>apply to the EPA</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Taking or disturbing plants or animals                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For terrestrial plants or animals, a permit under the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act — <b>apply to MFAT in your EIA application</b></li> <li>For marine mammals, a permit under the Marine Mammal Protection Act — <b>apply to DOC</b></li> <li>For other marine plants or animals, a permit under the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Act — <b>apply to MPI</b></li> </ul> |
| Manipulating any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amphibians</li> <li>birds</li> <li>crabs, crayfish, or lobsters</li> <li>fishes</li> <li>mammals</li> <li>octopuses or squids</li> <li>reptiles</li> </ul> | Approval under the Code of Ethical Conduct — <b>apply to MPI</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### 3. Tourism operators require Antarctic Observers

---

It has been standard practice for New Zealand-authorised commercial tourism operators to carry an Observer since the 1970s.

New Zealand's Observer Scheme provides an effective and independent mechanism to monitor and verify compliance with:

- approved EIAs
- authorisations and permits
- relevant conditions under New Zealand legislation
- applicable international obligations.

#### Observers follow an established assessment framework

The role of an Observer is to independently observe activities and report on compliance. Observers are not enforcement officers, and do not have the authority to approve or direct activities. If an Observer sees an apparent breach, they will:

- raise it with the operator where appropriate
- record it in their report
- for serious breaches, immediately report the breach to MFAT via satellite phone.

Observers also follow the established visitor impact and site assessment framework (VISTA) coordinated by Antarctica New Zealand. The aim of this framework is to determine if sites are being affected by activities – either directly or cumulatively – to support informed management and impact mitigation. Observers also report any fishing vessels sighted in the Southern Ocean, to help detect and deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

#### Observers are part of our Antarctic Treaty obligations

Observers support New Zealand in meeting its obligations under Article 13 of the Environmental Protocol.

New Zealand's Observer Scheme is jointly facilitated by MFAT – as the competent authority – and the Department of Conservation (DOC), which administers New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands. When a voyage visits both the Subantarctic Islands and the Antarctic, MFAT and DOC work together to select and train Observers, supported by Antarctica New Zealand. Observers are selected from relevant New Zealand government agencies.

## 4. Additional information and guidance

---

This section sets out additional information and guidance that may be useful when planning your activities, submitting your Advance Notification, and completing your EIA. It covers safety and contingency planning, as well as other relevant:

- approvals and permits
- organisations
- guidelines and regulations.

### Safety in the Antarctic

Antarctica is an isolated and extreme environment. Keeping your operations safe requires specialised planning, procedures, and equipment. If your vessel, equipment, or operations aren't up to the task, they could cause a risk to human life, as well as environmental damage.

Private expeditions, including their contingency plans, need to be self-sufficient. Don't assume that National Antarctic Programmes in the region (stations, field camps, vessels, and aircraft) will provide safety coverage unless you've made formal arrangements with them.

Contact [Maritime New Zealand](#) for further information on distress and radio services, and search and rescue available from New Zealand in the Antarctic.

The guidelines below are to help you take appropriate account of the risks of operations in the Antarctic.

### Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) requirements

Review the relevant ATCM requirements to understand the background and purpose for requiring contingency planning in your application.

- The tourist guidelines under [Recommendation XVIII-I](#)
- Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, [Measure 4 \(2004\)](#)
- Guidelines on Contingency planning, insurance and other matters for tourist and other non-governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty area, [Resolution 4 \(2004\)](#)

New Zealand has approved Measure 4 (2004), which requires people planning tourist or other non-governmental activities in Antarctica to demonstrate that they have:

- appropriate contingency plans
- sufficient arrangements for health and safety, search and rescue, medical care, and evacuation
- adequate insurance, or other arrangements to cover the associated costs.

### Carry out robust contingency planning

Your contingency planning must include a comprehensive safety plan and operations manual. Please see the ATCM's 'Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area', [Resolution 6 \(2017\)](#), for further information.

Your contingency planning should be based on the principle of self-rescue. This means that, under all normal circumstances, you plan and operate your operations with sufficient resources to carry out a rescue operation if necessary – without help from a third party.

As part of the application process, you must send us evidence that you have:

- contingency plans and sufficient arrangements for health and safety, search and rescue, and medical care and evacuation
- adequate insurance or other arrangements to cover the costs of search and rescue, and medical care and evacuation.

If your arrangements rely on other operators or National Antarctic Programmes, you must have their written agreement. If you don't have their agreement, you'll need to provide proof of meeting extra requirements, which include:

- equipment in good working order with back-ups
- participants who are prepared medically, physically, and psychologically
- participants who can use equipment properly
- first-aid equipment and experience.

#### **Follow equipment and training guidance**

Make sure that:

- ships, small boats, and vehicles are adequate for Antarctic conditions, and pilots or drivers fully trained for their use
- passengers are briefed on safe use and emergency procedures relevant to the craft
- all expedition members wear adequate clothing for the conditions, with stringent checks for inexperienced participants, to help avoid hypothermia
- expedition membership comprises enough people with adequate knowledge and experience for survival situations — such as first aid qualifications and snow-craft and other outdoor skills.

#### **Take precautions with activities away from the ship or base**

When undertaking activities away from the ship or base, always:

- designate a back-up vehicle, vessel, or party
- carry a radio or satellite phone capable of contacting the ship or base and other members of the expedition, and check in regularly
- carry adequate survival equipment, or keep to a party size and distance from the ship or base that allows rapid rescue.

A useful limit for these activities is the 'one hour rule': the maximum distance that any party (by foot, sea, or air) travels away from the ship or base is the distance the designated back-up can travel from the ship or base in one hour. Similarly, the size of the travelling party should be limited to the carrying capacity of the back-up.

#### **Use up-to-date charts and information**

Use the most up-to-date and reliable information available, including sourcing charts and maps and consulting the 'Notice to Mariners', which advises on matters affecting navigational safety.

## Approvals or permits you may require under other Acts and from other countries

This table sets out the separate permits or permissions you may require from other New Zealand agencies or other countries, depending on your activities.

| Legislation or requirement                      | Relevant activity and description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Contact                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Antarctic Marine Living Resources Act<br>(AMLR) | <p><b>Taking marine organisms from Antarctica</b></p> <p>The AMLR Act gives effect to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). It applies to any marine organism of any species found south of the Antarctic Convergence. Under the AMLR Act, no marine organism, alive or dead, can be ‘taken’ (see below) from the area without a permit from the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries. This applies to both scientific and exploratory commercial fishing activities. Commercial fishing vessels are required to carry both New Zealand and international observers. The Ministry for Primary Industries manages this process.</p> <p>Under the Act, to ‘take’ includes to catch, kill, injure, attract, poison, tranquillise, herd, harass, disturb, or possess; to brand, tag, mark, or do any similar thing; or to attempt to do any of these things (Antarctic Marine Living Resources Act 1981, section 2).</p> | <p><b>MPI Fisheries Head Office</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>Domestic: 0800 00 83 33<br/>Overseas: +64 4 830 1574</p> <p><a href="#">Email MPI</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the Fisheries website</a></p> |
| Marine Mammal Protection Act 1978               | <p><b>Taking marine mammals</b></p> <p>This Act provides for the protection, conservation and management of marine mammals. It applies to New Zealand and New Zealand fisheries waters, and to all New Zealand vessels and citizens wherever they may be.</p> <p>Under the Act, a permit from the Minister of Conservation is required to hold in captivity or ‘take’ a marine mammal (seal, whale, dolphin, porpoise, dugong or manatee), whether alive or dead.</p> <p>To ‘take’ includes to catch, kill, injure, attract, poison, tranquillise, herd, harass, disturb or possess; to brand, tag, mark or do any similar thing; to flense, render down, or separate any part from a carcass; or to attempt any of these things (Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 section 2).</p>                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Department of Conservation</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 3 371 3700</p> <p><a href="#">Email DOC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the DOC website</a></p>                                            |

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 | <p><b>Bringing outside species into New Zealand</b></p> <p>Under this Act, approval is required to import a species that has not been brought into New Zealand since the Act came into force. The Act provides for rapid assessment of applications to import species that cannot survive in the New Zealand environment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Environmental Protection Authority</b></p> <p><a href="#">Email the EPA</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the EPA website</a></p> <p><a href="#">Learn about the HSNO Act</a></p>                                           |
| Biosecurity Act 1993                            | <p><b>Bringing outside species into New Zealand</b></p> <p>The Biosecurity Act aims to exclude unwanted organisms from New Zealand. Under the Act, importing any plants, animals, or plant or animal products is allowed only under an existing Import Health Standard or an Import Health Permit.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Biosecurity New Zealand</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 4 470 2754</p> <p><b>Fax</b><br/>+64 4 498 9888</p> <p><a href="#">Visit the Biosecurity website</a></p>                                                       |
| Animal Welfare Act 1999                         | <p><b>Animal research and testing</b></p> <p>Under this Act, nobody can carry out research, testing, or teaching involving the use of animals (as defined under the Act) unless they are working under an approved code of ethical conduct. Most research institutions have an Animal Ethics Committee with an approved code.</p> <p>If your activity includes research involving animals, include a copy of a valid approval from your institution with your EIA to demonstrate compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.</p> | <p><b>Ministry for Primary Industries</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>Domestic: 0800 00 83 33<br/>Overseas: +64 4 830 1574</p> <p><a href="#">Email the Animal Welfare team</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the MPI website</a></p> |
| Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989            | <p><b>Activities involving endangered species</b></p> <p>This Act enables New Zealand to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It promotes the management, conservation, and protection of endangered, threatened, and exploited species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Department of Conservation</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 4 471 0726</p> <p><a href="#">Email DOC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the DOC website</a></p>                                                                |

|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Maritime Transport Act</p>                              | <p><b>All ship activity</b></p> <p>The Maritime Transport Act implements the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in New Zealand law. Specific provisions of MARPOL apply to ships operating in Antarctic waters. These provisions are also referenced in Annex IV of the Protocol.</p> <p>In particular, MARPOL provisions regulate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the discharge of oil or oily mixtures into the sea</li> <li>• the disposal of garbage</li> <li>• the discharge of sewage at sea.</li> </ul> <p>Under this Act, Maritime New Zealand has certain responsibilities in Antarctica, as in other areas of the world. These relate to the qualifications of seamen and the crewing of ships, the standards for the ships themselves, the operation of the ships, communications, and search and rescue.</p> <p>Maritime NZ Inspectors check all ships — New Zealand or foreign — calling into New Zealand ports and heading to Antarctica for both crew and ship standards and documentation. Maritime New Zealand also investigates maritime accidents and incidents in Antarctica, and prosecutes as necessary.</p> | <p><b>Maritime New Zealand</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>Domestic: 0508 225 522<br/>Overseas: +64 4 473 0111</p> <p><a href="#">Email Maritime NZ</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the Maritime NZ website</a></p>                       |
| <p>Permits to visit New Zealand's Subantarctic islands</p> | <p><b>Visiting New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands</b></p> <p>Although New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands are outside the Antarctic Treaty Area, they are sometimes visited during Antarctic voyages.</p> <p>The Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Bounty Islands, Campbell Island, and the Snares Islands are all strictly protected as national nature reserves, administered by the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) under the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>Non-governmental landings at the islands require a permit from DOC. DOC representatives may join vessels to share their knowledge and enhance the trip. They will also assist expedition leaders to ensure compliance with permit requirements.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>Department of Conservation</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 3 211 2400</p> <p><a href="#">Email DOC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Visit the DOC website</a></p> <p><a href="#">Learn about visiting the Subantarctic Islands</a></p> |

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Permission to visit Australia's Macquarie Island                | <p><b>Visiting Macquarie Island</b></p> <p>Macquarie Island is part of the Australian state of Tasmania. The island and surrounding waters are a nature reserve and part of a World Heritage Area. Access requires written permission from Tasmania's Director of National Parks and Wildlife.</p>                                                                                                                               | <p><b>Australian National Parks and Recreation</b></p> <p><a href="#">Visit Tasmania's Parks website</a></p> <p><a href="#">Read the guidelines for visiting Macquarie Island</a></p>                                                                      |
| Permission to visit Antarctic research stations and field camps | <p><b>Visiting Antarctic research stations</b></p> <p>If you plan to visit any Antarctic research stations, you must get permission from the relevant station. Please be aware that visits by non-governmental visitors cannot always be accommodated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Contact the relevant countries to seek permission.</p> <p>MFAT can answer questions and provide support.</p>                                                                                                                                            |
| Permission to visit Scott Base                                  | <p><b>Visiting Scott Base</b></p> <p>Scott Base is New Zealand's Antarctic Base. You must get permission from Antarctica New Zealand before you depart if you plan to visit Scott Base. You also need permission from the Scott Base Leadership Team before visiting any other New Zealand field camps.</p> <p>You must also confirm your visit details with the Scott Base Leadership Team 24–72 hours before your arrival.</p> | <p><b>Antarctica New Zealand</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 3 358 0200</p> <p><a href="#">Visit the Antarctica NZ website</a></p> <p><b>Scott Base Leadership Team</b></p> <p><b>Phone</b><br/>+64 2 409 9700</p> <p><a href="#">Email Scott Base</a></p> |

## Other relevant organisations

Depending on your planned activity, these other organisations may have relevant rules or guidance.

### **Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT)**

The AHT is a private charitable trust with a major programme to conserve historic huts and artefacts in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. The Trust seeks donations from hut visitors and has briefing material, including a code of conduct for visitors.

[Visit the AHT website](#)

### **Council of Managers of Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP)**

Formed in 1988, COMNAP brings together governmental National Antarctic Programs. The programmes are responsible for delivering and supporting scientific research in the Antarctic Treaty Area on behalf of their respective governments and in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty.

[Visit the COMNAP website](#)

### **International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)**

IAATO is an industry member organisation founded in 1991 to advocate, promote, and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. The organisation maintains the database of trip reports by tour operators.

[Visit the IAATO website](#)

### **Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)**

LINZ help to provide topographic and hydrographic information in the Ross Dependency, including Ross Sea charts and Notices to Mariners (up-to-date advice about matters affecting navigational safety).

[Visit the LINZ website](#)

### **Maritime New Zealand**

Maritime NZ provides distress and safety radio services to the Antarctic seas between 160°E and 120°W (NAVAREA XIV). Working with LINZ, Maritime NZ also provides marine warnings for this area. Maritime NZ is responsible for search and rescue over part of the area under the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea.

[Visit the Maritime NZ website](#)

### **The Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ)**

RCCNZ coordinates New Zealand's response to search and rescue emergencies within New Zealand's search and rescue region. This includes the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic Continent between 163°E and 131°W, which covers the Ross Sea. The Centre is part of Maritime NZ.

[Visit the RCCNZ webpage](#)

## Guidelines and regulations that may be relevant to your EIA

In addition to the guidance above, we recommend that you consider the frameworks and guidance below when planning your activities and preparing your EIA.

### Overarching tourism frameworks

- The Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty area, adopted by ATCM XLIII through [Decision 6 \(2021\)](#)
- Guidelines for Tourism, ATCM [Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\)](#)
- General Principles of Antarctic Tourism, ATCM [Resolution 7 \(2009\)](#)
- General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic, ATCM [Resolution 4 \(2025\)](#)

### Insurance and contingency planning

- Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-governmental Expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area, ATCM [Measure 4 \(2004\)](#)
- Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, ATCM [Resolution 6 \(2017\)](#)

### Activity-specific guidelines

- Landing of Persons from Passenger Vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area, ATCM [Measure 15 \(2009\)](#)
- Yachting Guidelines, ATCM [Resolution 10 \(2012\)](#)
- Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica, ATCM [Resolution 4 \(2018\)](#)
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Handbook, [COMNAP \(2023\)](#)

### Environmental protection

- Revised Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica, ATCM [Resolution 1 \(2026\)](#)
- Non-native Species Manual, ATCM [Resolution 2 \(2026\)](#)

### Resources from other organisations

- Preparing For Your Expedition, [IAATO](#)
- Human Activities, [Antarctic Environments Portal](#)
- Field Codes of Conduct, [Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research \(SCAR\)](#)

## 5. International and legal context

---

Activities in Antarctica are subject to strict regulation by New Zealand laws which themselves implement international agreements. These regulations reflect Antarctica's extreme environment, its unique and fragile biodiversity, and the nature of international cooperation central to its history.

This section outlines the international and legal context behind the approval process for activities in Antarctica.

### The Antarctic Treaty

The Antarctic Treaty of 1959 sets aside a tenth of the globe for peace, science, and international cooperation. New Zealand was an original signatory to the Treaty.

The Antarctic Treaty puts aside disputes over territorial claims, bans nuclear explosions and the dumping of nuclear waste, and prohibits military activities, except to support peaceful purposes (science and logistics). The Treaty also requires all activities to be conducted with transparency, using established mechanisms for active scrutiny and compliance monitoring. The Treaty enables scientific research, but does not preclude other types of activity.

A number of other instruments now support the Treaty, including the:

- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (1980)
- Protocol on Environmental Protection (1991), which designated Antarctica as 'a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science'.

Together, these agreements constitute the Antarctic Treaty System, along with all the measures and decisions adopted annually by the Treaty Parties.

[Learn more about the Antarctic Treaty](#)

### Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 1991 (the Protocol)

The Protocol was adopted by Antarctic Treaty Parties in 1991 and provides for comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

In New Zealand, the Protocol is implemented by:

- the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act 1994 (the Act)
- in respect of Annex V, the Marine Protection Rules Part 160: Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships in the Antarctic Treaty Area, issued under the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

In addition, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) provides a management regime for activities involving marine organisms. The associated domestic legislation is the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Act 1981.

The Protocol requires that activities in the Antarctic Treaty area be planned and conducted in ways that limit their adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment. It also specifies that activities prioritise scientific research and preserve the value of Antarctica as an area for conducting such research.

The Protocol includes six practical annexes with provisions for:

- environmental impact assessment before any activity takes place

- the conservation of Antarctic fauna and flora
- waste disposal and waste management
- the prevention of marine pollution (consistent with the MARPOL convention)
- area protection and management
- liability for environmental emergencies in Antarctica.

[Learn more about the Protocol](#)

## Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR provides for the conservation of all species of living organisms, including birds, south of the Antarctic convergence. It also provides for the rational use of these resources. Under CCAMLR, any living marine resource must be harvested in accordance with the following principles of conservation:

- prevention of decrease in size of any harvested population to levels below those which ensure its stable recruitment
- maintenance of the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources
- prevention of changes or minimisation of the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem which are not potentially reversible over two or three decades, taking into account the state of available knowledge.

[Learn more about CCAMLR](#)

## New Zealand legislation

The Antarctic Treaty is implemented into New Zealand law by the Antarctica Act 1960. The Protocol is implemented by the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act 1994.

This legislation applies to all Antarctic expeditions organised by New Zealanders, organised in New Zealand, or departing from New Zealand. Exceptions apply when an expedition has been organised by a company, entity, or individual of another country and approved by another country.

For Annex IV (Prevention of Marine Pollution) of the Protocol, the Marine Protection Rules applicable to Antarctica are issued under the Maritime Transport Act 1994. Certain other New Zealand legislation applies in the Ross Dependency – the area of Antarctica where New Zealand maintains a territorial claim. For example, the Antarctica Act 1960 extends New Zealand's criminal jurisdiction to the Ross Dependency. Other legislation that may be relevant to your activity is outlined on pages 15–18.

## 6. Acronyms

---

|                                    |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AHT</b>                         | Antarctic Heritage Trust                                                                                                          |
| <b>AMLR</b>                        | Antarctic Marine Living Resources Act                                                                                             |
| <b>ASMA</b>                        | Antarctic Specially Managed Area, designated under Annex V of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctica Treaty   |
| <b>ASPA</b>                        | Antarctic Specially Protected Area, designated under Annex V of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctica Treaty |
| <b>ATCM</b>                        | Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting                                                                                             |
| <b>CCAMLR</b>                      | Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources                                                              |
| <b>CEE</b>                         | Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation                                                                                            |
| <b>CEP</b>                         | Committee for Environmental Protection                                                                                            |
| <b>COMNAP</b>                      | Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs                                                                                |
| <b>DOC</b>                         | Department of Conservation                                                                                                        |
| <b>EIA</b>                         | Environmental Impact Assessment                                                                                                   |
| <b>EPA</b>                         | Environmental Protection Authority                                                                                                |
| <b>IAATO</b>                       | International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators                                                                            |
| <b>IEE</b>                         | Initial Environmental Evaluation                                                                                                  |
| <b>MARPOL</b>                      | International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships                                                                |
| <b>MFAT</b>                        | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade                                                                                             |
| <b>MPI</b>                         | Ministry for Primary Industries                                                                                                   |
| <b>NCA</b>                         | National Competent Authority                                                                                                      |
| <b>PEE</b>                         | Preliminary Environmental Evaluation                                                                                              |
| <b>ROV</b>                         | Remotely Operated Vehicles. This can include underwater vehicles.                                                                 |
| <b>RPAS (or UAV / ROV / Drone)</b> | Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV), or drones).    |

## 7. Appendix 1: Protected Areas in the Ross Sea region

The map below shows all Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) in the Ross Sea region. Full management plans for each area can be downloaded from the [Antarctica Treaty Secretariat website](#).

**ASPA 104** SABRINA ISLAND, BALLENY ISLANDS, NORTHERN ROSS SEA



Sabrina Island was designated in 1966 on the grounds that the Balleny Islands are the most northerly Antarctic land in the Ross Sea region and that they support a variety of species of flora and fauna which reflect many circumpolar distributions at its latitude. The Balleny Islands are one of the only oceanic archipelagos located within the main Antarctic coastal current and are the only known breeding site for Chinstrap penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) between Bouvetoya and Peter I Islands (a span of 264° longitude). Sabrina Island in particular provides a representative example of such flora and fauna and due to difficult weather and ice conditions, has had very little human disturbance.

 Proposed by New Zealand

**ASPA 105** BEAUFORT ISLAND, MCMURDO SOUND, ROSS SEA



Beaufort Island was designated in 1966 on the grounds that it contains substantial and varied avifauna. The primary reason for designation of the area is that it provides an outstanding example of biological diversity, in particular a rich and diverse terrestrial ecosystem. In particular, the area includes a small area of particularly rich vegetation used for monitoring vegetation changes in Antarctica, the most diverse antitropical community known in the Ross Sea region and a substantial Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) breeding colony that is recolonizing the site of the former Hallett Station (NZ/USA).

 Proposed by New Zealand

**ASPA 106** CAPE HALLETT, NORTHERN VICTORIA LAND, ROSS SEA



Cape Hallett, designated in 1966, is situated on the northern extremity of the Hallett Peninsula. The primary reason for designation of the area is that it provides an outstanding example of biological diversity, in particular a rich and diverse terrestrial ecosystem. In particular, the area includes a small area of particularly rich vegetation used for monitoring vegetation changes in Antarctica, the most diverse antitropical community known in the Ross Sea region and a substantial Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) breeding colony that is recolonizing the site of the former Hallett Station (NZ/USA).

 Proposed by the United States

**ASPA 116** NEW COLLEGE VALLEY, CAUGHLEY BEACH, CAPE BIRD, ROSS ISLAND



Two areas at Cape Bird, Ross Island (SSSI No.10 and SPA No. 20) were originally designated in 1985 on the grounds that these areas contain some of the richest stands of moss and associated microflora and fauna in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. The two areas were merged under a single management plan. The area has a diverse range of moss and algal species and springtails, mites and nematodes. The absence of lichens makes the species assemblage in the area unique on Ross Island. It is the only area on Ross Island where protection is specifically given to plant assemblages.

 Proposed by New Zealand

**ASPA 116** NEW COLLEGE VALLEY, CAUGHLEY BEACH, CAPE BIRD, ROSS ISLAND



"Cape Royds was designated in 1975 on the grounds that the area supports the most southerly established Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) colony known, and which has a long time series of population data that is of unique value. The area includes a coastal strip to protect the seaward access and near shore feeding ground of the Adélie penguins and research on the inshore marine ecosystem. The Adélie penguin rookery at Cape Royds has been monitored continuously since 1965, and fish populations have been studied since 1981. Located close to the frequently visited Shackleton's Nimrod Expeditions (1907-1909) historic hut (ASPA 157), the ASPA protects thereascharea from disturbance.

 Proposed by the United States

**ASPA 116** NEW COLLEGE VALLEY, CAUGHLEY BEACH, CAPE BIRD, ROSS ISLAND



Arrival Heights was designated in 1975 to prevent disturbance to an electromagnetically 'quiet' area for the study of the upper atmosphere. It is the site of long-running experiments using highly sensitive upper atmospheric measurement equipment. The area is also used for a number of other scientific studies, including trace gas monitoring, auroral and geomagnetic studies and airquality surveys.

 Proposed by the United States

**ASPA 123** BARWICK AND BALHAM VALLEYS, SOUTH VICTORIA LAND



The Barwick and Balham Valleys were designated in 1975 on the grounds that it was one of the least disturbed and contaminated of the Dry Valleys of Victoria Land and was important as a reference base against which to measure changes in comparable ecosystems of the other Dry Valleys where scientific investigations werebeing regularly conducted. The area contains examples of a wide variety of the environments found in the polar desertecosystem.

 Proposed by the United States

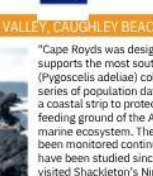
**ASPA 124** CAPE CROZIER, ROSS ISLAND



Cape Crozier was originally designated in 1966 on the grounds that the region supports a rich bird and mammal fauna as well as microfauna and microflora, and that the ecosystem depends on a substantial mixing of marine and terrestrial elements of outstanding scientific interest. In 1975, the area was redesignated to protect long term studies of the population dynamics and social behaviour of Emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) and Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) colonies in the region. The skua population and vegetation community are also important values at the site with one of the most southerly and extensive occurrence of snow algae recorded at this site.

 Proposed by the United States

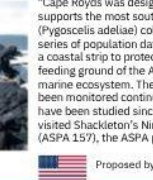
**ASPA 131** CANADA GLACIER, LAKE FRYXELL, TAYLOR VALLEY, VICTORIA LAND



Canada Glacier was designated in 1985 on the grounds that it contains some of the richest plant growth (bryophytes and algae) in the McMurdo DryValleys. The area was designated primarily to protect the ecosystem for its intrinsic and scientific value, and particularly to allow vegetation recovery rates at known pointsof disturbance to be measured. The Canada Glacier 'flush' has been well studied and documented.

 Proposed by New Zealand

**ASPA 124** CAPE CROZIER, ROSS ISLAND



Northwest White Island was designated in 1985 to prevent disturbance to a small, isolated breeding population of Weddell seals. The population is one of very few which feed under an ice shelf and has beenstudied year-round.

 Proposed by the United States

**ASPA 124** CAPE CROZIER, ROSS ISLAND



Ulnaues Terrace was designated in 1985 on the grounds that the area is one of the richest known localities for the cryptofolitic communities that colonise theBeacon Sandstone. The sandstones exhibit a range of biological and physical weathering structures,as well as trace fossils. Many of the formations are fragile and vulnerable to disturbance and destructionby trampling and sampling.

 Proposed by the United States

**ASPA 131** CANADA GLACIER, LAKE FRYXELL, TAYLOR VALLEY, VICTORIA LAND



Botany Bay was designated in 1997 on the grounds that the area is an extremely rich botanical refuge for such a high latitude location, with a lichen and moss species diversity and abundance that is unique for southern Victoria Land. It is one of the richest botanical sites in the whole of continental Antarctica. There is a high diversity and abundance of lichens (at least 30 species) and mosses (9 species) with abundant growths of algae (at least 85 taxa). The area also has a diverse community of invertebrates and a colony of South polar skua(*Catharacta maccomicki*).

 Proposed by New Zealand

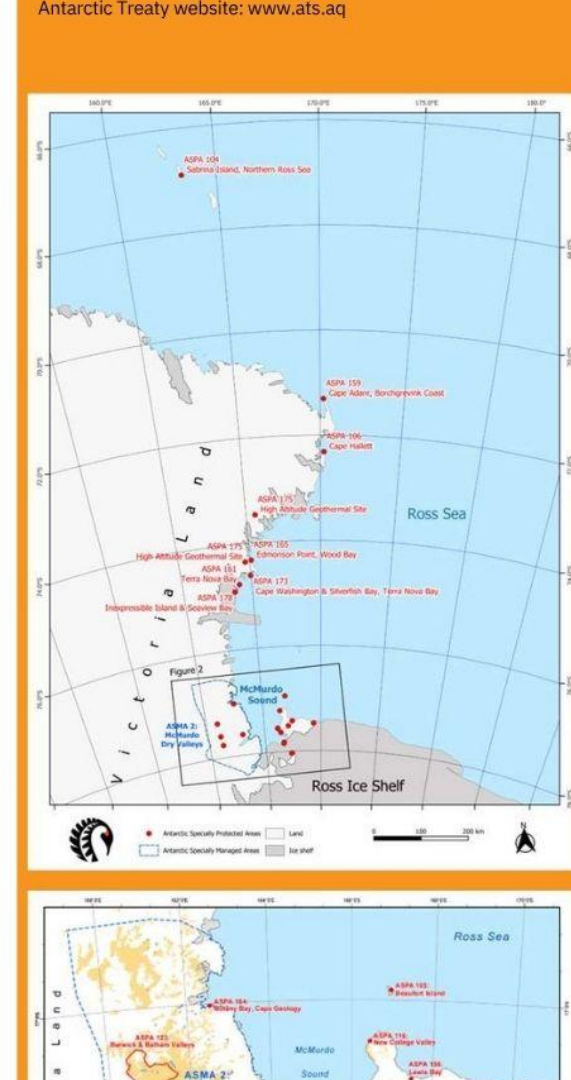


# ANTARCTIC SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN THE ROSS SEA REGION

Under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty any area, including any marine area, may be designated as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) to protect outstanding environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic or wilderness values. This poster outlines the twenty two ASPAs that have been designated in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica.

A permit is required to enter any ASPA, and permit holders must comply with entry requirements as laid out in the areas management plan. All Treaty Parties recognise the management plans and have provisions for the issue of permits.

Up to date full text and maps of the management plans for each ASPA found in the Ross Sea region are available from the Antarctic Treaty website: [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq)



**ASPA 155** CAPE EVANS, ROSS ISLAND (INCLUDING HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT NO. 16 AND 17, THE HISTORIC TERRA NOVA HUT OF CAPTAIN R.F. SCOTT AND ITS PRECINCTS, AND THE