



Seabee Hook, Cape Hallett

72°19'S, 170°13'E

Two separate small sites located on the NW and SE coasts of Seabee Hook, adjacent to Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 106 Cape Hallett.

Key features

- Large Adélie penguin colony (~64,000 pairs);
- Site of former NZ/US station that operated from 1956-73, which has been decommissioned and cleaned up;
- Scenery of Edisto Inlet and the Admiralty Mountains, including Mt. Herschel (3335m);
- The terrestrial ecology (plants, invertebrates, and birds) of Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 106.: Cape Hallett.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Seabee Hook is a large flat cusped spit composed of coarse material deposited in a series of beach ridges, with gently undulating terrain. It is joined to steep scree forming part of the western slopes of northern Hallett Peninsula.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) (~64,000 pairs in 2009-10) and South Polar skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) (~37 breeding pairs in 2009) on Seabee Hook and adjacent scree. Wilson's storm petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and snow petrels (*Pagodroma nivea*) are known to breed in the region.

Occasional visitors: Southern giant petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*), emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*), leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) and minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*).

Regularly haul out: Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

FLORA

No significant flora in the visitor areas.

HISTORIC

Site of former NZ/US station that operated from 1956-73, which has been decommissioned and cleaned up. Artifacts from the former station may be found washed up on shore.

OTHER

The site is bordered by Antarctic Specially Protected Area No 106.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

At the time of its operation, the station had a substantial impact on the breeding Adélie colony. Since station decommissioning and clean-up, breeding birds have started to re-occupy the site of the former station. Recovery of the site is an important subject for scientific study.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife, damage to or removal of historic artifacts.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 200 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time.

AIRCRAFT

Overflight and landings within ½ nautical mile (~930m) of the Adélie colony on Seabee Hook for tourism is strongly discouraged.

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. 1 guide per 20 visitors.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Visitor access is restricted to two defined Visitor Sites located on the northern / NW and SE coasts of Seabee Hook (see Figure 1 and Map 2).

Visitor Site 'A' is located on the northern / NW coast of Seabee Hook between 170° 14' 19.3"E, 72° 19' 04.9"S and 170° 12' 21.8"E, 72° 19' 07.9"S.

Visitor Site 'B' is located on the SE coast of Seabee Hook between 170° 12' 54.3"E, 72° 19' 19.1"S and 170° 12' 58.7"E, 72° 19' 15.3"S.

The preferred landing sites are those in Visitor Sites 'A' & 'B', but if conditions make these sites dangerous, an alternate landing site along the shoreline between these two sites may be used. This alternative should only be used for safety reasons and following the restrictions noted under *Guided Walking Areas*.

CLOSED AREAS

Entry into the protected area is prohibited without a permit.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

When sea ice is absent or unsafe, small, closely guided groups may walk along the shoreline boundary of the protected area between the two visitor sites. These walking groups must be strictly controlled and maintain a ratio of 1 guide to 10 passengers.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely within the defined Visitor Sites (Figure 1 and Map 2).

*A ship is defined as a vessel which carries more than 12 passengers.

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Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Ensure footwear is clean before going ashore. No poultry or food containing poultry products (eg, chicken, eggs) are allowed ashore.

Take care not to disturb penguin or South Polar skua nesting sites. Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 meters from wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour observed.

If a historic artifact is found, draw it to the attention of a guide: do not disturb or remove it.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Strong tidal currents are known to exist in Edisto Inlet. Pack and brash ice are frequently blown onto the beach area.

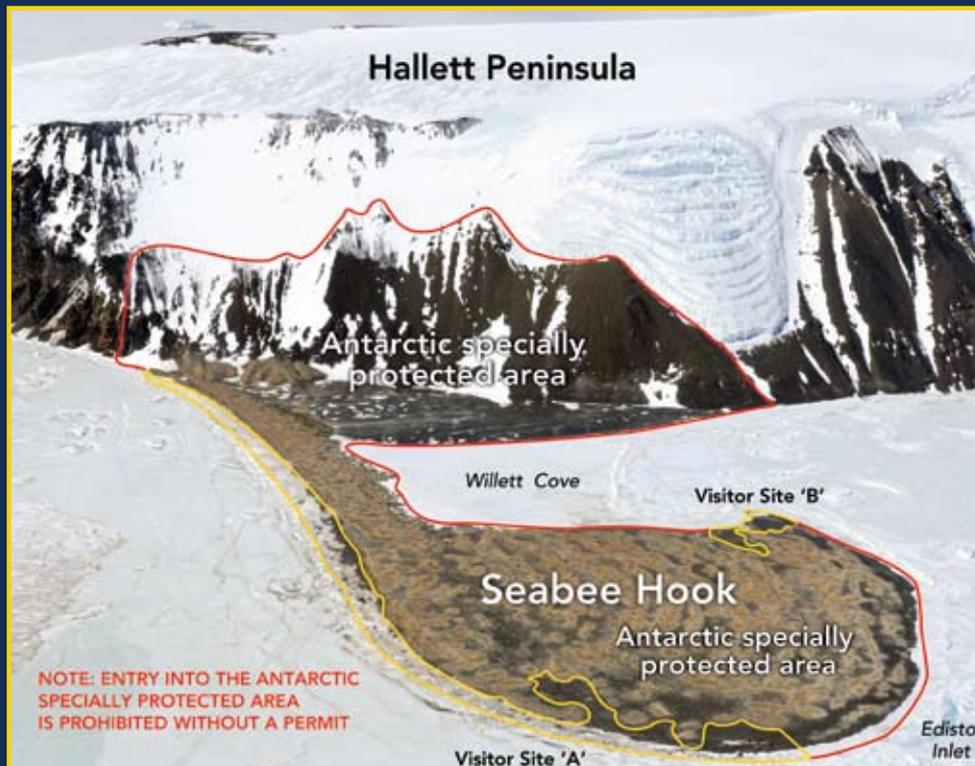


Figure 1: Seabee Hook (26 Nov 2009. Photo: C. Harris)

