

Workshop

“Possibilities for Environmental Management of Fildes Peninsula and Ardley Island”

3 February 2006

Findings

- (1) There was general agreement among all participants that the Fildes Peninsula Region (including Fildes Peninsula, Ardley Island and other adjacent smaller islands) needs a multiple use management system.
- (2) There was also a consensus amongst participants that an ASMA for the Fildes Peninsula Region would provide the most comprehensive approach for managing the area.
- (3) Some participants suggested that from their point of view it would be better to have a 'step by step approach', namely to start with the development of guidelines, followed by a zoning system and finally by a Management Plan for a Fildes Peninsula Region ASMA.
- (4) Some participants suggested a Maxwell Bay ASMA would provide a more comprehensive ecosystem approach in order to include the marine components.
- (5) The Management Plan for the Fildes Peninsula Region could be incorporated into a future Maxwell Bay Management Plan if appropriate.
- (6) It was noted that further ASPAs in the Fildes Peninsula Region may be needed. Results of recent scientific research could be reflected in the revision of existing ASPAs.
- (7) From a practical point of view, there was strong support to have information readily available at stations in order to provide information to visitors, station residents and to coordinate activities. This information should also be used for educational purposes prior to arrival.
- (8) In addition, it was suggested that an integrated web based information system would allow for input of all scientific, tourist and logistical activities in the Fildes Peninsula Region.
- (9) Some participants stressed the lack of implementation of already existing guidelines and recommendations within the Antarctic Treaty System.
- (10) Concerns were raised that not all parties present in this area were represented in the discussions at the workshop. The participants would welcome the participation of all parties with stations or huts in the Fildes Peninsula Region in the discussion process.

Recommendations from the workshop

- Participants were asked to provide their governments with the findings of this workshop. Interested parties will jointly table a paper to the next ATCM containing the summary and the recommendations of this workshop.
- A Working Paper will be the appropriate input to achieve a decision by the CEP to establish an International Working Group.
- According to Paragraph 86 of the Final ATCM XXVIII Report “this International Working Group should be composed by those parties with stations and huts in the area, parties with interests in the area as well as observers to the Antarctic Treaty”.
- Further workshops may be necessary. An earlier consideration of Chile, as a country with one of the largest and long-date installations in King George Island, to host a workshop on the projected Fildes Peninsula Region ASMA is most appreciated.