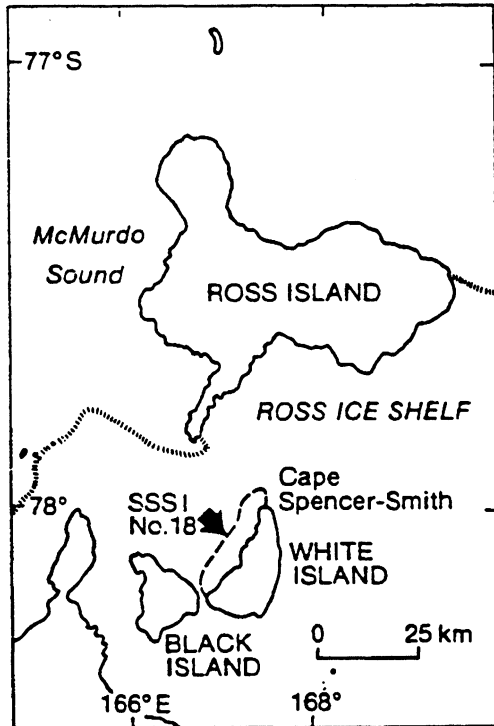


Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 137 (Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 18)

Northwest White Island, McMurdo Sound

i. *Description of Site.* White Island (lat 78°10'S, long 167°25'E) rises out of the Ross Ice Shelf, about 30 km south-south-east of Hut Point, Ross Island. The Site includes the north-west coastline of White Island from Cape Spencer-Smith in the north to a point protruding into the Strait between White and Black Islands in the south-west. It extends from high water mark to 5 km offshore, across the Ross Ice Shelf. The boundary of the Site is shown on the attached map.



ASPA 137
Map A*

ii. *Reason for designation.* This Site supports a small breeding population of Weddell seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) which is physically isolated from the rest of mainland Antarctica by shelf ice. It is one of very few areas where Weddell seals feed under shelf ice. It is also one of the most southerly Weddell seal populations and has been studied year round.

iii. *Outline of research.* This unique Weddell seal population is the focus of continuing research in the area. Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain how this population originated and has remained isolated, 25 km from the nearest open water.

iv. *Date of expiry of designation.* 31 December 1991.

v. *Access points.* None designated.

vi. *Pedestrian and vehicular routes.* Vehicles should approach no closer than 50 m to the seal population and helicopters and low-flying aircraft should avoid the area, approaching no lower than 250 m altitude.

- vii. *Other kinds of scientific investigations which would not cause harmful interference.* None specified.
- viii. *Scientific sampling.* Taking samples of Weddell seals by killing or capture should be done only for compelling scientific purpose and in accordance with the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora.
- ix. *Other restraints.* No underwater explosives may be used for any purpose.