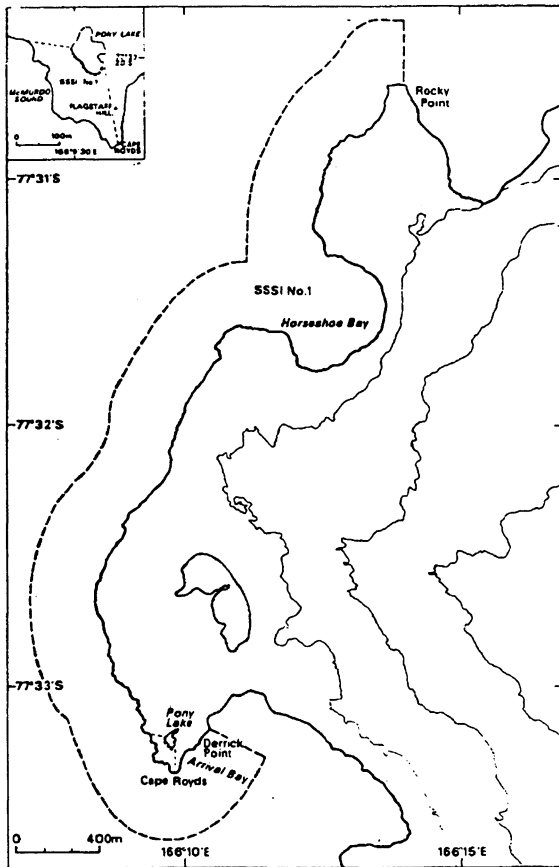


**Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 121 (Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 1)**

**Cape Royds, Ross Island**

i. *Description of Site.* Cape Royds is situated at the western extremity of Ross Island, McMurdo Sound (lat 77°33'S, long 166°08'E), about 37 km north-northwest of McMurdo Station. The Site consists of all that area of Cape Royds west of a line drawn from the south coast of the Cape through Flagstaff Hill to the south-eastern tip of Pony Lake, and the west shoreline of this lake; and south of a line drawn from the western extremity of Pony Lake 280° True to the coast; including the littoral and sublittoral zones from Derrick Point on the east side of Arrival Bay about 4 km northwards to Rocky Point to the north of Horseshoe Bay, extending 500m offshore from highwater mark. The boundaries of the Site are shown on the attached map.



ASPA 121  
Map A\*

ii. *Reason for designation.* The structure and dynamics of the Cape Royds ecosystem, and the relationship with the penguin rookery are the subjects of scientific research. The research area and the main seaward access by Adelie penguins to the rookery should be protected by the creation of a reserve. The coastline of Cape Royds is an important feeding ground for Adelie penguins. The coast between Flagstaff Point and Proposed future research on the Cape Royds coastline incorporates further research on the dynamic of the Cape Royds inshore marine ecosystem. The Cape Royds penguin rookery and historic site provide an

attraction for sightseers from the nearby station complexes at Scott Base and McMurdo. Regular visits are made to the area by tourists from vessels which sail into McMurdo Sound. The Site will help control any possible impact from these activities in the future.

iii. *Outline of research.* The coastal area of Cape Royds is the site of continuing New Zealand research studies on Nototheniid fish population structure and dynamics. These studies, which began in 1981, involve the capture, measurement, tagging and release of *Trematomus bernacchii*. The Adelie penguin rookery population at Cape Royds has been continuously monitored since 1965, and these studies will also continue.

iv. *Date of expiry of designation.* 31 December 1995.

v. *Access points.* The Site should not be entered during the period of penguin occupation (approximately mid-October to mid-March) except by the marked tracks. Only scientists engaged in the scientific studies should approach the penguin colonies at this period. Photographs of the colonies, except for scientific purposes, should be taken from the boundaries of the Site. Access points to the seaward portions of the Site are unrestricted. Boat access from tourist ships or casual visitors should be via the northernmost cove in Backdoor Bay.

vi. *Pedestrian and vehicular routes.* No, vessels, vehicles or helicopters of any description should enter the Site except in event of emergency. Pedestrians should keep to the marked tracks and not move through areas populated by penguins, except as necessary in the course of scientific investigations.

vii. *Other kinds of scientific investigations which would not cause harmful interference.* None specified.

viii. *Scientific sampling.* This should be restricted to the minimum required in connection with the research programme.

ix. *Other restraints.* Any activity which would detract from the scientific research for which the area has been designated should be avoided. In particular, the following activities should be avoided: 1. Landscaping and removing surface material; 2. Construction of huts and buildings; and 3. Depositing of any pieces of equipment or material that would in any way hinder re-occupation of nests by penguins.