

# Anchorage Etiquette for Vessels Operating Air Cruises at Fildes Bay, King George Island (KGI)

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## A Recommendation from the IAATO Air-Cruise Working Group

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The following anchorage etiquette concerns IAATO vessels operating air cruise voyages at Fildes Bay, King George Island, that are involved in passenger exchange arriving/departing from Frei Station airfield. By promoting good communication and harmonious coexistence among vessel operators, this etiquette is intended to enhance safety and smooth operations for Zodiac shuttles between shore and ship by facilitating proximity to shore to the vessel involved in passenger turnaround.

- 1. Communication and Coordination:** The day prior to the flight, air cruise vessels should maintain effective communication with each other through ELs and bridge teams to exchange information regarding expected take-off times from Punta Arenas or other continental airports and flight sequences for the next day. Vessels should also notify KGI stakeholders via the IAATO broadcast system or group email, as appropriate. This coordination ensures smoothness in operations and maximizes safety.
- 2. Closest Anchorage:** In consideration of zodiac operations between the ship and shore, air cruise vessels should coordinate the usage of the closest anchorages to shore based on the flight sequence. The vessel that has completed the embarkation or disembarkation of passengers should vacate a close anchorage, allowing the next vessel in the flight sequence to approach closer to the shore. Special consideration should be given to those vessels involved in passenger turnovers that are anchored at distance from shore. Air cruise vessels coordination should be shared with the rest of the IAATO fleet. This coordination prioritizes safety of zodiac operations and mitigates potential congestion when multiple air cruise operators are involved.
- 3. Ships should avoid anchoring in the middle of Fildes Bay, as this closes all possible options for other ships with their swinging circle.**
- 4. Exceptions:** Vessels involved in medical evacuations or in emergency operations are not expected to adhere to the anchorage etiquette.
- 5. Non-IAATO vessels, such Government or others, shall not be required or expected to adhere to the anchorage etiquette, nonetheless they should be informed for coordination purposes.**