

Reporting of Crevasses at Coastal Landing Sites

Background

As average temperatures increase in the Antarctic Peninsula in particular, crevasses are becoming exposed and activity at tidewater glaciers is increasing. Due to this warming phenomena, field staff have reported an increase in the occurrence of crevasses, often very early in the season.

Below are the coastal landing sites where crevasses have been noted - these should be taken as examples only. Nonetheless, extreme caution should be taken and **when in doubt don't go**.

Site	Description
Base Brown	(previously known as Almirante Brown) on the slope where many ships have snow sliding activities.
Cuverville Island	All permanent snow-covered areas, particularly the snow peak and ice cliffs on the southern half of the island.
Damoy Point	At the top of the hill leading up from the hut, close to the outlook over Port Lockroy
Neko Harbour	All higher ground to the east of a line drawn between the upper part of the rookery and the exposed rocky knoll look-out point near the glacier.
Portal Point	Going onto the neck and any area beyond. Position reported in 2018: S 64°30.017' W 061°46.258'
Danco Island	Permanent snow-covered slopes to the south of the penguin colonies.
Orne Harbour	Along the SW side of the ridge. Position reported in 2018: S 64°37.900' W 062°33.409'
Port Charcot	Along the higher slopes.
Pleneau Island	Transverse crevasse at the southwest end of the summit ridge and exfoliating crevasses along northwest side ice cliff
D'Hainaut Island (Mikkelsen Harbour)	Around a depression over a small lagoon near the southeast shoreline, appears later in the summer
George's Point, Ronge Island	On the glacier adjacent to the penguin colony
Yankee Harbour	On the glacier west of the penguin colony - the boundary of this glacier can be tough to discern during the early season with heavy snow cover
Petermann Island	Crevasses caused by snow and ice pulling away at ice/snow cliff, looking south along ridge from the col below Megalisteris Peak

Communicating 'New' Crevasses

If you notice crevasses at these, or any other, coastal landing sites:

- Record GPS co-ordinates and take photographs (if safe to do so).
- Email the information to the Ship Scheduler (shipscheduler@iaato.org).
- Alert any other operators in the vicinity.

Please remember that 'visible' crevasses are not the only crevasses and **extreme caution should be taken** when walking on glaciers or permanent snow slopes.

IAATO requests that the dangers of walking onto glaciers or permanent ice slopes be emphasized. At any time of year, but particularly from mid summer onwards, these activities should be done with the *utmost caution* and *only with the appropriate equipment and skills*.