

IAATO Marine Safety Notice 2012/01

Deception Island - Whalers Bay Anchorage

Following the groundings of MV *Sea Spirit*, December 2011, MV *Clipper Adventurer*, November 2002 and MV *Lyubov Orlova*, 2006 during anchoring manoeuvres at Whalers Bay, Deception Island, the IAATO Marine Committee offers the following safety advisory:

1. Anchoring at Whalers Bay is not advisable due to poor ground holding.
 2. Charted depths are not reliable; in particular the shallower area on the northern section of the bay is believed to extend further south than currently indicated.
 3. The very low profile of the shoreline can result in misleading radar readings, indicating that the shoreline is further away than reality. This is especially the case if the radar has been adjusted to avoid sea clutter.
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