

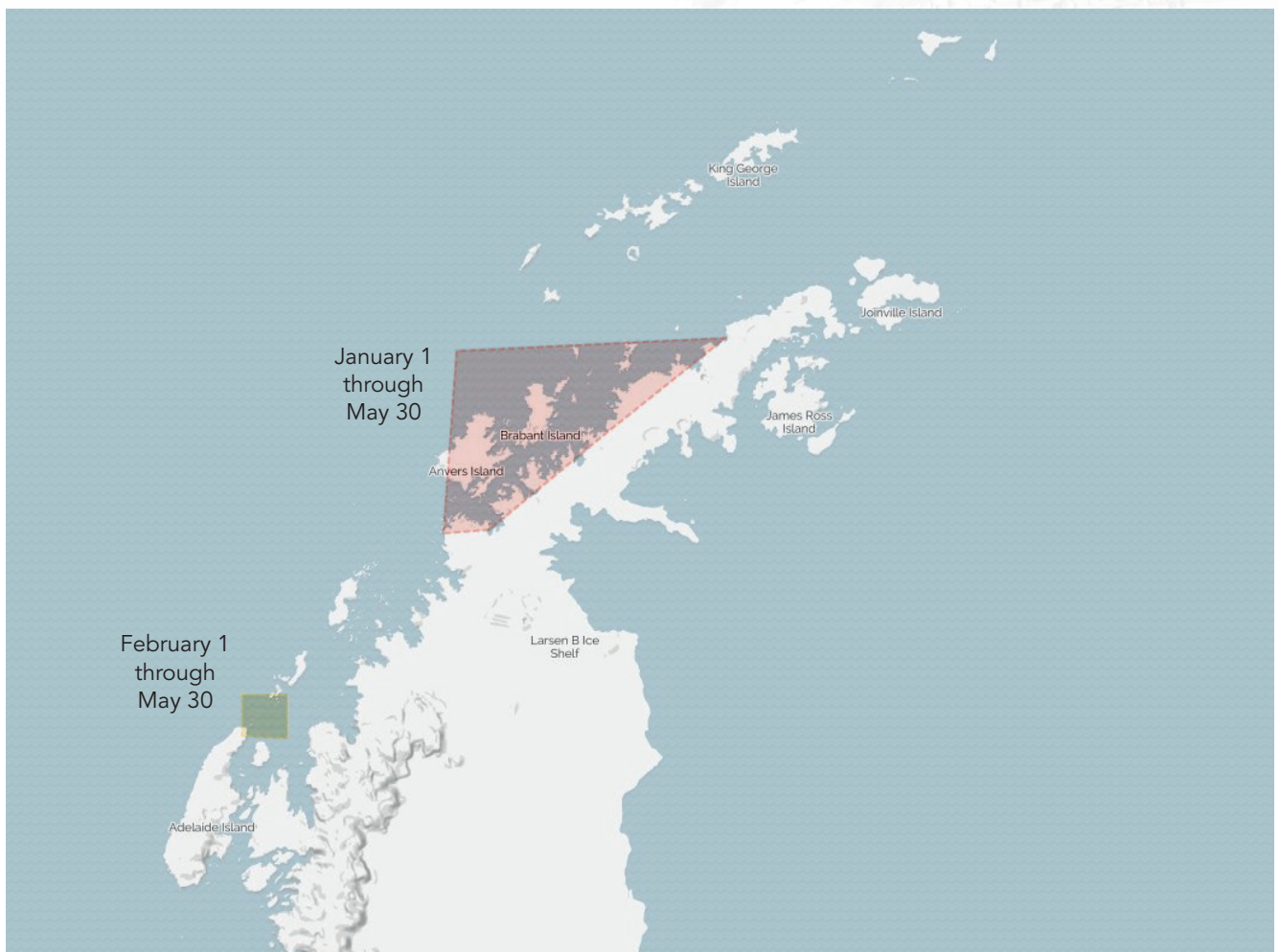
# IAATO's Geofenced Whale Areas

In 2019, IAATO Operators unanimously adopted mandatory procedures to mitigate ship strike risks from vessel operations in the Antarctic Peninsula region. This was in response to studies suggesting that humpback populations are growing and in recognition of the Peninsula being an area of significant human activity. Increased shipping has the potential to lead to increased whale strikes.

IAATO reports whale strikes to the International Whaling Commission (see IAATO Whale Collision Report Form in Section 4 of the IAATO Field Operations Manual).

## IAATO Procedures for Operations in the Vicinity of Whales

*Figure 1 – Geofenced time-areas where IAATO's procedures for operating in the vicinity of whales apply.*



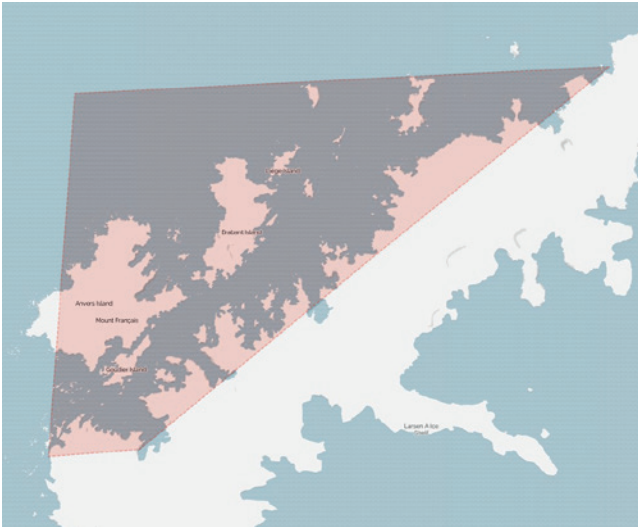
At IAATO's Annual Meeting in 2021, IAATO Operators committed to the following:

1. A 10kn speed restriction for vessels<sup>1</sup> operating in IAATO geofenced time-areas (Figure 1).  
This is a mandatory procedure. All IAATO operators will participate.

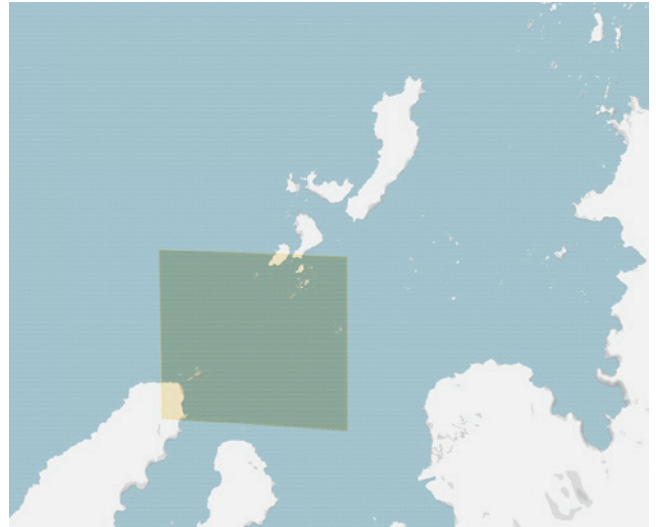
The limit excludes emergency or other extenuating circumstances in which case the need to exceed the speed limit should be recorded in the logbook and communicated to the Secretariat as soon as practicable;

2. Whale watching and whale avoidance mitigation training should be undertaken by all bridge teams while operating in any areas where whales are routinely seen.

The geofenced time-areas are as follows:



- January 1 through May 30 in the Gerlache Strait and adjacent waters, in the area between 63.65°S and 65.35°S, including Dallmann Bay west to 64.2°W;



- February 1 through May 30 in the Marta Passage entering Crystal Sound, 67.8°W to 67.0°W.

The Slow Down areas are also highlighted in the live ship scheduler and RedPort.

<sup>1</sup>Small boats, eg Zodiacs, RIBs and NIADs are exempt from the 10kts speed limit when operating within the geofenced area. If Whales or other marine mammals are notably present, then small craft under this exemption shall take necessary steps to comply with IAATO operating procedures and guidelines, reducing speed and maximizing distance as appropriate".