Useful Island (USEF)

CW region (-64.72, -62.87)

An island 2 mi W of Ronge Island, with a string of rocks between, lying in the Gerlache Strait off the W coast of Graham Land (USBGN). This site, and census counts of breeding penguins, includes a much smaller island directly adjacent and E of Useful Island and separated by a small (c. 10 m) channel.

Landings. Useful Island is accessible by zodiac and landing is via a flat wide beach. There is a steep rocky hill up to a plateau that contains a beacon, which may be accessed if care is taken to avoid breeding penguins.

Site Sensitivities. Gentoo and chinstrap penguins breed in groups all over the island, including on the upper plateau, but there are sufficient open areas for visitors to walk without disturbing the penguins. Numerous fur seals are present later in the season and care should be taken to avoid fur seals along the beach when they are present. The second (smaller) islandis also accessible by zodiac but there is limited open space for walking and disturbance to the penguins is more likely.

Proximate visitor sites. Ketley Point (KETL), Beneden Head (BENE), Waterboat Point (WATE).

Antarctic Site Inventory Effort

92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
												✔			✔	✔	✔	✔

Presence / Absence

ADPE	CHPE	GEPE	MCPE	SOGP	ANFU	PIPE	SNPE	BESH	SNSB	SPSK	BRSK	SKsp	WISP	KEGU	ANTE	ELPH
Oc	Br	Br		Oc		Oc		Br	Br	Br	Br	Br	Br	Br	Br	

Recent ASI Census Data

GEPE	CHPE	BESH
1,861 N1 3 Jan 2005 Up >1500% over N3N/4 count of 150 in 1984 (W 93)	160 N1 3 Jan 2005 No change since N3/N4 count of 100 in 1984 (W 93)	17 N1 3 Jan 2005