

The Antarctic Site Inventory – 2014 Annual Report



To all Oceanites supporters and friends . . .

The 2014-15 field season of Oceanites' Antarctic Site Inventory has begun — our 21st consecutive season of work. In these 20 years we've now accomplished 1,421 visits to 209 different sites — and remain the only publicly supported science project working in Antarctica, and the only project monitoring significant penguin population changes in the vastly warming Antarctic Peninsula.

With your help, we've kept the work alive. So many thanks! Last season's effort was also assisted by partial funding from the U.K., New Zealand, and Australian governments; and this season, there will be partial funding from the U.K., New Zealand, and Norway.

Moreover, our 'coalition of the willing' has now expanded to include support from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition — making this moment the first time in our history that Oceanites and the Inventory have received partial support from participants and interests in all aspects of the Antarctic Treaty system — governments, the tourism industry, other scientific organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and the general public.

And with the advent of the now, festival-bound documentary THE PENGUIN COUNTERS, we hope that our coalition of support will expand and solidify.

We remain the 'little science engine that could' — and we intend to continue advancing the cause of Antarctic conservation for future generations.

As always . . . Keep Dreaming Penguins!

With all best wishes,
Ron Naveen
President, Oceanites, Inc.
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The PENGUIN COUNTERS movie:
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The 2014-15 Antarctic Site Inventory Field Season – Counting Penguins, Round 21

The Inventory's 21st field season is underway, the project once again working closely with One Ocean Expeditions and its two vessels, *Akademik Ioffe* and *Akademik Sergey Vavilov*, to achieve up to 150 visits at 'core sites' that we census regularly from season to season. There will be 15 departures. This season's roster of researchers includes: Ron Naveen, Heather Lynch, Steve Forrest, Melissa Rider, Rosi Dagit, Sue Trivelpiece, Stacey Buckelew, Lesley Thorne, Phil McDowall, Catie Foley, Maureen Lynch, Michael Schrimpf, Casey Youngflesh, Nicole Bender, and Cecelia O'Leary.

If funding is available, the goal is to resume our 'remote sites' research via yacht in the 2015-16 field season.

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, Brasilia, Brazil, May/June 2014

Ron Naveen again participated as a nongovernmental adviser to the US delegation at the 2014 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, which was held in Brasilia, Brazil.

Three papers regarding the work of Oceanites and the Antarctic Site Inventory were introduced and discussed. There was the 'regular' Information Paper informing all delegates of results from and progress of the Inventory to date; plus a Working Paper and Information Paper regarding the effort of Oceanites and the Inventory, in collaboration with The Lynch Lab at Stony Brook University, to develop a new methodology to assess site sensitivities at visitor sites. This will update two previous assessments of site sensitivities by Oceanites in 1997 and 2003, in the 1st and 2nd editions of Oceanites's *Antarctic Peninsula Compendium*.

The next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in June 2015.



THE PENGUIN COUNTERS

Documentary

With gracious and generous help from The Pew Charitable Trusts, a festival-ready cut of THE PENGUIN COUNTERS documentary has been completed by filmmakers Peter Getzels & Harriet Gordon of Getzels Gordon Productions.

The film recounts Ron's lifetime connection to penguins and Antarctica, as he and his Inventory team were counting all of the chinstrap penguins at Deception Island — work that confirmed the decline of this species throughout the Antarctic Peninsula.

The film is being submitted to numerous film festivals around the world. These festivals play out over the next 6-8 months and will be followed by a series of non-theatrical showings (universities, school groups, museums), all intended to build a national and international audience for the film.

Culminating in late 2015 / early 2016, the goal and intention is to broadcast the film nationally and internationally.

The festival cut was successfully debuted at a private event that The Pew Charitable Trusts hosted in October at the National Geographic Society's Grosvenor Auditorium in Washington, DC. (<http://ow.ly/DVLQ7>)

Festival and other film updates will be posted via Tweets from Oceanites (@Oceanites), *The Oceanites Feed* news blog —

<http://oceanitesfeed.wordpress.com/>

The film's website —

<http://penguincountersmovie.com>

And on *The Penguin Counters Movie* Facebook page —

<http://ow.ly/EWkTK>



Other News

- **Site Sensitivities Symposium.** In November, Ron Naveen participated in a site sensitivities symposium hosted by the Norwegian Polar Institute at its headquarters in Tromsø, Norway. Ron and Catie Foley of The Lynch Lab, Stony Brook University, described the history of Oceanites' efforts since 1997 to examine the environmental sensitivities at Antarctic Peninsula visitor sites, and the effort now underway to develop a new methodology to assist such efforts by Antarctic Treaty nations.

- **Collaboration with NINA.** Beginning in February, work will begin with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research to expand the floral component of the Antarctic Site Inventory database. The concern, of course, is ensuring

The goal, of course, is ensuring that the Inventory detects changes in Antarctica's moss, lichen, grass, and flowering plant communities; and if changes are detected, to analyze why they are occurring.

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- p.1 Chinstrap penguin, Barrientos Island
- p.2 Adélie penguin 'on ice', Admiralty Bay.
- p.3 Adult Adélie penguin and chicks, Marguerite Bay
- p.4 Gentoo penguins amid snowflakes, Cuverville Is.