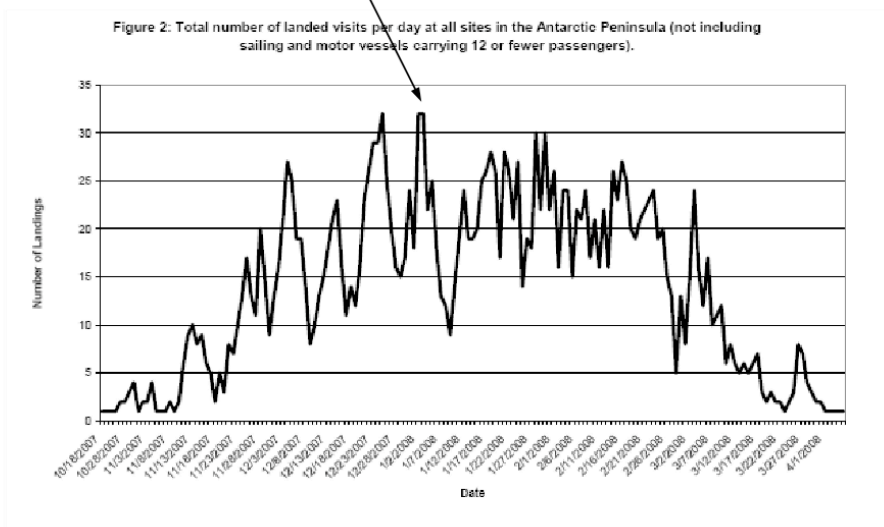


Playing With Numbers

ECO has always been curious as to how many people are in the Antarctic each day as a result of tourism activities, and how that compares with the number of people with National Antarctic Programs. Luckily IAATO has provided useful information in IP 82 that allows an estimate of that number. It tracks the number of landings conducted during the past season from mid-October 2007 to the end of April 2008. This is interesting information. At the peak of the season over 30 landings a day take place. If we assume that 100 passengers land each time, this means that up to approximately 3000 people may set foot ashore in the Antarctic Peninsula on peak days. In contrast, and according to COMNAP data, the station peak population Antarctic wide is of 3,967 people, with a station winter average population of 1,077 people. What do these estimates mean? On peak tourism days there are more tourists setting foot in the Antarctic Peninsula than scientists and logisticians in the whole of Antarctica. Of course, this is something we already knew, but it is nice to have the figures. Thanks to IAATO for the information.

Tourist Peak Population/day \approx 30+ landings x 100 tourists \approx 3000 people/day



MPAs

ECO was surprised to learn that ATCPs couldn't agree on a simple Resolution in Kiev reminding themselves of commitments to create a representative system of MPAs by 2012, much less doing something more ambitious. Given the exciting developments on Marine Protected Areas around the world in the past year, including establishment of the largest one in the world off the coast of Hawaii, this is a bit of a shock. ECO wonders if there is a disconnect between officials working at national level and delegates to the ATCM.

ECO suggests that all ATCPs prepare Information Papers for ATCM 32 describing how MPAs are developing in their countries, including criteria, processes, and management plans. That would provide crucial information for upping the pace of work at the ATCM and CCAMLR.

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