

## Hydrurga Rocks (HYDR)

CW region (-64.13, -61.62)

Low-lying, rocky islands located E of Two Hummock Island in the Palmer Archipelago, and named after the leopard seal, *Hydrurga leptonyx*. Snow cover may totally cover the area in November. The narrow shingle beach is made up largely of pebbles and cobbles of angular to subrounded blocks, with some minor sand and granules. Several of the smaller rocks surrounding the main island are connected by causeways of this shingle material. Glacially polished rock surfaces are extensive.

**Landings.** Rock-strewn island, which approaching zodiacs must negotiate carefully to avoid shallow rocks. Visitors must climb uphill from the regular landing rocks, sometimes through deep early-season snow, to reach numerous, discrete groups of chinstrap penguins. An additional set of chinstrap colonies to the N are more difficult to access. Shag nests are relatively inaccessible in heavy snow cover, but may be more accessible in mid- to late-summer. Concentrations of fur seals can make access difficult in late-summer.

**Site Sensitivities.** Restricted visitor space and upward climb (often, through snow) to reach the penguins, whose nests are readily approached. Steep cliff edges. Walk slowly and carefully around the penguins; avoid impeding their access to and from the water. If extensive snow cover, avoid “highways” penguins have made through the snow. Stay clear of — and do not hike upon or wander over — cliff edges.

**Proximate visitor sites.** Sprightly Islands (SPRI), Portal Point (POPT), Eckener Point (ECKE), Mikklesen Harbor (MIKK), Skottsberg Point (SKOT), and Tetrad Islands (TETR)

### 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	Oc		Oc		Oc		Br	Br			Br	Br	Br	Oc	

### Recent ASI Census Data

CHPE	BESH
c. 700 nests in 2008/09 (ASI, unpublished)	11 N1 3 Jan 2002 13 C1 3 Jan 2002 12 N1 11 Jan 2003