

Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

**REPORT ON PERMITED ACTIVITIES**

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| Title of Project | Insubrica |
| Permit holder | Skip Novak/Romolo Nottaris |
| Permit number | RAP- 2017/023 |

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| Summary of activity performed under the permit: |
| Traverse of the Shackleton Route from Possession Bay to Fortuna Bay |
| Locations, dates and duration of work performed under the current permit: |
| The team went ashore at 0830 GMT on 20.09 and were re-embarked on to the support vessel Pelagic Australis at 2200 GMT on 23.09 |

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| Details of samples collected under the permit (include site, species, sample type): |
| N/A |
| Were these samples exported from the Territory? N/A |
| Yes/No |
| NOTE: If you have exported samples you should complete an ‘exported material declaration’ within 28 days of the material leaving the Territory |

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| Were any markers, instrumentation or equipment installed at sites within the Territory or attached to species that reside there? N/A |
| Yes/No |
| Details of number of markers etc deployed, how long these are intended to remain in the environment, GPS positions of their locations: |
| N/A |
| Details of plans to remove devices at the end of the project: |
| N/A |

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| Were any markers, instrumentation or equipment installed at sites within the Territory or attached to species that reside there? |
| Yes/No |
| Details of number of markers etc deployed, how long these are intended to remain in the environment, GPS positions of their locations: |
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| Details of plans to remove devices at the end of the project: |
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| Summary of any unexpected impacts on biota as a result of permitted activities and suggestions of possible future mitigation: |
| NONE |

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| Were there any departures from conditions of the permit during the work? |
| Yes/No YES |
| Details of departures from permit conditions noting dates, magnitudes and locations: |
| The permit application was based on a southern traverse (Plan A) and alternatively a northern traverse (Plan B), but due to weather conditions and time constraints the team defaulted to the classic Shackleton Traverse, although beginning in Possession Bay. |
| Justification for departures from permit conditions: |
| Untenable weather for these longer traverses, and then short on time within the charter period. |

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| Comments, additional information or recommendations for improvement: |
| During the Shackleton Traverse, the team had severe weather on the junction of the Compass and Crean Glaciers and were camped at position of 54 09.03’ S 037 00.7’ W for the nights of the 20th, 21st and 22nd. On the night of the 22nd one of the three tents collapsed in wind and spindrift and had to be abandoned (the inner tent only). We intend to alert any other expeditions passing this way to remove this tent if uncovered, which is likely later in the season. |

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| Please provide a short summary (approximately 150 words) of your work which can be published on the GSGSSI website. Ideally this should include a brief background to the project, an overview of research that was conducted on South Georgia and, where appropriate, an indication of what was found. If you have a suitable photograph of your activities to accompany the web entry, please append to this form/ |
| The Swiss team Insubrica completed the Shackleton Traverse from September 20th to 23rd after deciding not to undertake a more ambitious southern traverse from Trolhull Bay to St Andrews Bay due to untenable weather for the first week on the island. A Plan B, Possession Bay to Fortuna via the Briggs, Esmark, and Kohl was also discarded due to time constraints by that point and they defaulted into the Shackleton Traverse, but starting from Possession Bay. The weather was not ideal and they were camp bound for three nights on the 20th (having gone up and over the Razorback Ridge where most parties make their first camp), 21st and 22nd at the junction between the Compass and Crean Glaciers where one of the three tents was collapsed due to wind and spindrift on the night of the 22nd. They successfully crossed the Breakwind Ridge after a long day across the Crean and Fortuna Glaciers and were re-embarked on the support vessel Pelagic Australis on the evening of the 23rd. Once again, this traverse, although now considered by some as a ‘tourist route’ as part of cruise ship adjunct activities, should not be underestimated. In spite of a reasonably benign forecast during their traverse, high winds had caught them out. |

By submitting this form I certify that to the best of my knowledge all information contained within is correct.

Name Skip Novak

Date 03.12.17

**SEND COMPLETED FEEDBACK FORMS TO permits@gov.gs**