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Ms Camilla Nichol  
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**30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Camilla,

**Re: Consultation on the Conservation Management Plan for The Endurance, Weddell Sea**

We thank you for the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation on the draft Conservation Management Plan for The Endurance, Weddell Sea.

The JNAPC congratulates both the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and Historic England for the drafting of such a comprehensive document. We are sure that it will serve as useful management resource for the future.

The JNAPC believes that Underwater Cultural Heritage has an important role to play in developing a rich cultural landscape throughout the UK and its territories, as well as potentially having amazingly positive impacts through heritage education and research.

Upon review of the draft Conservation Management Plan for The *Endurance*, the JNAPC has a number of specific comments that you might wish to consider in the final plan. These include:

1. Under **4.2 Risk – Development of new subsea technologies** it could be argued that the statement that “*the technology of deep water ROVs, AUVs, and submersibles is currently at a relatively early stage*” is questionable as there are many examples of this technology having been successfully deployed in wreck searches and investigations.
2. Under **4.5 Risk - Damage to the site through fishing activity** it states that “*...a voluntary code of conduct should be pursued with CCAMLR in order to encourage fishing vessels to avoid the area*”. Rather than attempting to use a “*voluntary code*” the JNAPC would encourage the pursuit of tighter controls with appropriate enforcement to ensure that damage to the site through fishing activity be mitigated.
2. Under **4.6 Risk 4 – Climate and environmental change** the statement that “*Any significant change to the environment is likely to be a slow process and will not impact on the survival of the wreck in the short to medium term*” needs to be supported by authoritative citation, as this broad statement underpins the assessment of this particular risk to the site.

If the JNAPC can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Beattie-Edwards, JNAPC Secretary

**Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee**

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