

Cape Hallett Sea Ice History

Compiled by Peter Cleary

1959 to 2003

Most notes in this section are taken from NZARP/ AntNZ Logistic reports 1959 to 2003 and RDRC monthly science reports 1959 to 1964.

Historic aircraft operations Cape Hallett

Open	Close
16 Sept 1959 (landing gear collapse)	25 November 1959 ('thinning ice')
15 October 1961 (24 October 1961 first LC130 landing)	6 November 1961
10 October 1962	20 November 1962 ('melt')
30 September 1963 ('ice thinner than expected)	
3 October 1964	
November 1987 (access Seabee Hook by Twin Otter)	

Recorded sea ice accidents

- 20 August 1959: Weasel with 3 people on board goes through sea ice 40 miles south of C Hallett (between C Daniell & C Phillips) en route Coulman Is. All three escape safely. Ice 12 to 15 inch thick (0.3 to 0.4m) thick.
- 7 Sept 1959 Weasel lost through sea ice 20 to 25 miles North East of C Hallett, no casualties.

Other sea ice comments 1959 to 2003

1 April 1959 "bay freezing over, 2ft (0.6m) thick"

July 1959 5ft "60inches (1.5m) at runway"

30 Nov 1959 "ice less than 1 metre, shore leads opening, major leads 2 miles off shore"

30 Dec 1959 ' ice has broken out & then packs in again"

March 1960 "bay starting refreezing",

April 1960 "bay rapidly thickening"

20 May 1960 " bay ice completely broken out after major storm",

July 1960 ice 4 to 5 ft (1.2 to 1.5m),

May 1961 "sea completely frozen"

1 Jan 1962 Icebreaker 'Eastwind' in,

Feb 1962 bergs breaking up,

15 July 1962 "5ft ice" (1.5m)

28 Dec 1962 ice breaks out.

April 1963 bay ice solid.

Late Dec 1963 ships at C Hallett

Jan 1984 access by helicopter

Jan-Feb 1984 "much ice movement, >5 knot current at point"

3 Nov 1984 "sea ice 2m thick at shore, 1.5m at dump site 1 mile offshore to north"

11 Nov 1987 " all sea ice >1.2m",

24 Nov 1987 "no active cracks except tide crack"

3 Dec 1987 "sea ice work complete"