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ANTARCTIC TREATY
XX CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XX REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XXe REUNION CONSULTATIVE

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XX КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕШАНИЕ

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PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW OF ANTARCTIC TOURISM, 1995-1997

(Agenda item 9)

(Submitted by IAATO)

The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) is pleased to provide a summary of actual numbers of shipborne travelers during the 1995-96 season and a preliminary overview of the estimated number of passengers for the 1996-97 season.

1. Seaborne Tourism

(a) Approximately 9,212 people traveled to the Antarctic on commercially-organized tour vessels in the November 1995 to March 1996 season -- an increase of 1,000 over the total for the 1994-95 season. A summary is appended to this report. A number of private yachts also sailed to Antarctica, some with paying passengers. See XX ATCM INF15 for information on tourist visits, including yachts. Also, the Office of Polar Programs at the U.S. National Science Foundation distributes a summary of Antarctic tourism each July at the annual tour operators meeting.

(b) According to information provided by tour operators to the IAATO Secretariat, 100 voyages are planned for the 1996-97 season, which will carry an estimated 6,500 travelers aboard 13 tour vessels. This represents a significant decrease in the number of travelers over past years, attributable to fewer voyages and to the fact that no voyages are planned by the larger cruise vessels.

(c) All of the 15 commercially-organized Antarctic tour vessels that sailed in 1995-96 were operated by IAATO members. Nine of the vessels were of Russian (or Estonian) registry, which continues a trend over the last several years. These cruise vessels, research vessels and icebreakers carry 36 to 114 passengers and were purpose-built for polar travel.

(d) Following the trend, most of these voyages are concentrated along the Antarctic Peninsula during the four-month Austral summer, departing from Ushuaia or, in fewer numbers, from Punta Arenas or Stanley. The Tourism Board of Tierra del Fuego has compiled useful statistics over the last several years. Only eight of the 100 departures announced for 1996-97 will use Australia or New Zealand as a port of departure.

(e) The average number of passengers per voyage in 1995-96 was 81.5 (ranging from 13 to 452) with an average carrying capacity of 105. The average carrying capacity of the fleet for 1996-97 is 79 passengers (36 to 180).

(f) Commercial Antarctic Tour Vessels

Ship	Capacity	Since
Explorer	96	1970
World Discoverer	138	1977
Bremen (Frontier Spirit)	164	1989
Professor Molchanov	38	1991
Kapitan Khlebnikov	114	1992
Akademik Sergei Vavilov	79	1992
Akademik Ioffe	79	1993
Hanseatic	180	1993
Marco Polo	800*	1993
Alla Tarasova	96	1994
Kapitan Dranitsyn	100	1993
Professor Khromov	38	1994
Livonia	36	1994
Akademik Shokalski	36	1994
Akademik Boris Petrov	45	1995

* The *Marco Polo* has a capacity of 800 passengers but is limited to 400 for Antarctic operations as per IAATO bylaws and agreement with Orient Lines.

2. *Land-based Tourism*

IAATO-member Adventure Network International, which operates a seasonal facility at Patriot Hills, Ellsworth Mountains, brought 155 travelers and 20 staff to the Antarctic in 1995-96, its 10th Antarctic season. Its expeditioners included a group of children from Chile and England as invited guests. In addition to its regular climbing programs to Vinson Massif (53), flights to the South Pole (58), ski journeys (38) and Emperor penguin camp (6), ANI continued logistical and emergency support for all private-expeditions. ANI supported seven private expeditions this season, including two emergency pick-ups in the interior. ANI instituted a satellite weather station at Patriot Hills for the first time this season, providing weather reports for its activities and also for the Antarctic Treaty Parties.

3. ***Overflights***

(a) After a successful inaugural season in 1995-96, Croydon Travel of Victoria, Australia again operated *Qantas Antarctic Day Sightseeing* flights from Melbourne aboard Qantas Airlines Boeing 747 aircraft. Six flights were offered in 1994-95 and nine flights were offered from 26 November, 1995 to 27 January 1996. A total of 2,958 passengers participated in 1995-96 with approximately 23 crew per flight for a total of 3,160 carried for the season. Aerolineas Argentinas has operated commercially scheduled "transpolar" flights between Argentina and New Zealand for years.

(b) Qantas Airlines submitted a *Preliminary Assessment of Environmental Impacts of the Proposal to Conduct Tourist Overflights of the Antarctic Continent* in November 1994. The flights and their potential impacts were reviewed in XIX ATCM INF 34 and XIX ATCM INF 38. Questions of insurance, self-sufficiency and search-and-rescue were thoroughly reviewed in this assessment. XX ATCM INF34 pertains to the 1995-96 overflights.

(c) Several authors have included these overflights in the total number of travelers to the Antarctic. These flights, however, are inherently different -- with no landings and minimal direct impact. While IAATO is continuing discussions with Croydon Travel (which requested membership information), this is a very different operation from that of other IAATO members.

Overview of Actual Seaborne Antarctic Tourism, 1995-1996
(based on information provided by Antarctic tour operators to IAATO and NSF as of 25 April 1996, including all landings and zodiac cruises within the Antarctic Treaty area)

Vessel	Operator/Charterer	Total # Voyages	Total # Passengers	Total # Landings
Explorer	Explorer Shipping	10	714	114
World Discoverer	Society Expeditions[1]	8	901	92
Alla Tarasova	Quark Expeditions[2]	6	601	68
Alla Tarasova	GMMS PTY LTD	1	97	10
Kapitan Khlebnikov	Zegrahm Expeditions	1	92	3
Kapitan Khlebnikov	Quark Expeditions	4	403	43
Professor Khromov	Quark Expeditions[3]	5	157	70
Professor Khromov	GMMS PTY LTD[4]	3	112	29
Professor Molchanov	Quark Expedititons	6	192	66
Professor Molchanov	GMMS PTY LTD	1	34	13
Akademik Shokalski	Southern Heritage Expeditions	3	104	15
Hanseatic	Hanseatic Cruises	5	707	30
Bremen	Hanseatic Cruises	4	539	45
Akademik Ioffe	Marine Expeditions	13	1005	86
Akademik Vavilov	Marine Expeditions	12	867	93
Akademik Boris Petrov[5]	Marine Expeditions	10	381	91
Professor Multanovskiy	Marine Expeditions	10	368	65
Livonia	Marine Expeditions	3	110	27
Livonia	Mountain Travel-Sobek	4	141	30
Marco Polo	Orient Lines	4	1687	17
TOTALS		113	9,212	1,007

[1] including 65 WildWings passengers aboard the 16 Nov 95 departure
[2] including 33 Zegrahm passengers on Dec. 30 and 65 Zegrahm passengers on Jan 10 departure
[3] including the Feb 1 departure with its 13 passengers booked through Nobel Caldedonia (UK)
[4] including 17 Quark Expeditions' passengers aboard the 1 December departure
[5] the 45-passenger *Boris Petrov* replaced the *Golitsyn* reported in Advance Notification

Preliminary Estimate of Seaborne Antarctic Tourism, 1996-97
(Based on information provided by members to the IAATTO Secretariat as of April 22, 1996)

Vessel	Operator/Charterer	Passenger Capacity	Probable # Voyages	Estimated Average Load	Probable Total # Passengers
Explorer	Explorer Shipping	96	9	75	675
Kapitan Khlebnikov	Zegrahm Expeditions	114	1	98	98
Kapitan Khlebnikov	Quark Expeditions	114	2	100	200
Professor Khromov	Quark Expeditions	38	8	30	240
Professor Molchanov	GMMS PTY LTD	38	7	30	210
Professor Molchanov	Quark Expeditions	38	2	30	60
Akademik Shokalski	Southern Heritage Exp.	36	3	33	99
World Discoverer	Zegrahm Expeditions	138	1	125	125
World Discoverer	Society Expeditions	138	7	75	525
Bremen	Quark Expeditions	164	1	110	110
Bremen	Hanseatic Cruises	164	1	110	110
Hanseatic	Hanseatic Cruises	180	6	125	750
Akademik. Ioffe	Quark Expeditions	79	3	75	225
Akademik Ioffe	Marine Expeditions	79	9	75	675
Akademik Sergei Vavilov	Marine Expeditions	79	10	75	750
Professor Multanovskiy	Marine Expeditions	36	5	32	160
Professor Multanovskiy	Mt. Travel-Sobek	36	4	33	132
Akademik Boris Petrov	Marine Expeditions	45	11	40	440
Alla Tarasova	Marine Expeditions	96	8	95	760
Alla Tarasova	Quark Expeditions	96	2	90	180
TOTALS			**100**		**6,524**