



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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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR
OPERATORS (IAATO) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III (2) OF THE ANTARCTIC
TREATY

(Agenda item 5b)

(Submitted by IAATO)

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REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO)
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III (2) OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

(Agenda Item 5b)

(Submitted by IAATO)

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTIC TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO)
is pleased to present a report of its activities to the
XX ATCM, Utrecht, Netherlands April 29 - May 10, 1996
pursuant to Article III (2) of the Antarctic Treaty

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Thirteen Antarctic tour operators based in the United States, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are currently members of IAATO, representing 100% of the companies that organized commercial land or ship-based private-sector travel to the Antarctic in 1995-96. Directory attached. The annual meeting of IAATO was held July 12-14, 1995 in Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.
- 1.2 Recognizing the regular growth of Antarctic tourism and the need to monitor the activities of its members, IAATO adopted two new categories of membership at its July 1995 meeting: Provisional and Probationary. Provisional membership is reserved for new operators; Probationary membership is reserved for past or current members who the full membership decides has not fully met with IAATO objectives and expectations. Members in these new categories are subject to a thorough review of their operations and must carry IAATO-approved observers.
- 1.3 IAATO was founded by seven companies in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to Antarctica.
- 1.4 IAATO is committed to operate within the parameters of the Antarctic Treaty, Environmental Protocol, relevant national legislation and other international

agreements. IAATO member companies urge ratification of the Protocol and continue, as far as possible, to operate as though the Protocol is in place.

- 1.5 IAATO members value the opportunity to participate at this Antarctic Treaty meeting and other international venues. Formal and informal liaison with national Antarctic programs is an important objective of IAATO and its members. Since the XIX ATCM in Seoul, April 1995, IAATO representatives attended or participated in a number of meetings and workshops, including the July 10-12, 1995 workshop, *Managing the Antarctic Environment*, at Byrd Polar Research Center (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) and the NSF/COMNAP Tour Operators Meeting at NSF Headquarters, July 13, 1995. Fifty participants involved in Antarctic tourism, science, logistics and policy attended this seventh annual meeting.
- 1.6 IAATO members strongly believe that responsible tourism, properly managed, is an important and legitimate human activity in Antarctica. A primary objective of IAATO is to create a corps of ambassadors for the continued protection of Antarctica. Greater awareness of the aesthetic, wilderness and scientific values of Antarctica is achieved through first hand experience and its educational programs.
- 1.7 The largest number of travelers ever visited Antarctica in the 1995-96, reflecting a rising trend over the last five seasons during which more than 7,000 people have visited. Since 1966, more than 75,000 people have done so.

2. Field Coordination

IAATO compiled and distributed *Vessel Call Data* in November 1995 as part of its annual operational information exchange (attached to this report). Also, a radio schedule was instituted for expedition leaders to communicate more easily. An IAATO objective is to facilitate communication in the field as a means to exchange general information, coordinate visits to individual sites and increase the probability of effective response in case of emergency.

3. Environmental Assessment and Monitoring

Anticipating ratification of the Environmental Protocol and its call for environmental assessment, a number of members have conducted Environmental Audits or Initial Environmental Assessments of their Antarctic operations. Several IEEs have been filed by IAATO members since the XIX ATCM (Seoul, May 1995), including Orient Line for its four 1995-96 Antarctic cruises aboard the *Marco Polo*, Southern Heritage Expeditions for its three *Akademik Shokalski* voyages, Adventure Consultants for its *Vinson Massif Mount Tyree* supported by Adventure Network International and the joint Russian Antarctic Expedition-View Foundation project at Bellingshausen station. In addition, GMMS PTY submitted a Preliminary Assessment of Environmental Impacts for its *Expedition for Climbers and Photographers to the Antarctic Peninsula, January 1996* to the Australian government, which was authorized. Environmental information was included in the New Zealand and Australian applications filed by Quark Expeditions for its operations in the Ross Sea, Macquarie and New Zealand Subantarctic islands.

4. Reporting of Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities

- 4.1 IAATO members welcome XIX Resolution 3 (1995), which lists the information that should be included in post season reporting. Accurate reporting is an important step in assessing the scope and intensity of human activities, including tourism.
- 4.2 IAATO members currently file Advance Notification and Post Season Reports to an appropriate national authority (Recommendation VIII-9, Annex C).
- 4.3 IAATO endorses the content of the form included in the New Zealand legislation. A number of national programs and non-governmental organizations, however, are distributing versions of such a report asking for substantially similar information.
- 4.4 IAATO proposes to collaborate with the U.S. National Science Foundation and other interested parties on an industry-wide form, which addresses anticipated requirements imposed by national legislation related to the Environmental Protocol. A single form would facilitate the collection and compilation of uniform data on activities and reduce the burden on operators of duplicate reporting. This form could be developed using a data base and distributed by the IAATO Secretariat on disk, a move toward making data more accessible to Treaty Parties.
- 4.5 IAATO members feel strongly that they should not be asked to make assessments beyond the limitations of time and the training of their field staff nor to report on information more already available elsewhere.

4.6 IAATO members support an appropriate standard format for additional reporting of human activities, including tourism, which will contribute to an ongoing monitoring program. The reporting burden, however, should be no greater for tourist activities than other human activities in the Antarctic. Members have participated in an IAATO initiative to identify and assess the most heavily visited, critical sites.

5. Education and Training

5.1 *Lecture program*

A key component of all IAATO activities in the Antarctic is education. All programs carry a team of lecturers, who enhance the firsthand experience on the continent and contribute to public awareness of Antarctic science. Many of these lecturers have extensive experience in Antarctic science and logistics as participants in national Antarctic Research Programs.

5.2 *Implementation of Recommendation XVIII-1*

- (a) IAATO distributed to its members copies of Recommendation XVIII-1, *Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic and Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic* in six languages. It was included in all onboard briefings.
- (b) A draft slide presentation reinforcing Recommendation XVIII-1 is available from the Secretariat. This slide presentation will be used by expedition leaders in the field as a tool for briefing passengers and crew.

5.3 *Publications*

The Office of the Secretariat publishes *IAATO News*, a regular newsletter containing reports on Antarctic tourism, the Antarctic Treaty System and other topics relevant to its members, field staff and passengers. It has also published its *Bylaws*, *Membership Directory*, *Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic* and *Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic*. To receive copies of these publications or be added to IAATO's mailing list, please contact the Secretariat (address attached).

5.4 *Virtual Antarctica*

IAATO Member Mountain Travel-Sobek sponsored *Virtual Antarctica*, a site on the world wide web with detailed Antarctic information, video and live satellite feeds from a voyage to Antarctica aboard the *Livonia*.

5.5 *Medical Information*

IAATO is instituting an industry-wide Medical Information form, intended to help travelers assess their fitness for an Antarctic expedition and educate them about the serious health risk involved. It will also enable members to refuse passengers who might pose a serious health risk. This form reinforces and standardizes the questionnaires and information that is already being distributed to passengers by member companies. See XX ATCM Information paper for the draft form.

5.6 *Expedition Leader's Handbook/Resource Book*

Each IAATO member has an environmental officer and manager of field operations, who is responsible for communicating the obligations of the Antarctic Treaty System to its field staff. Most of these individuals have been active in Antarctica for decades. They are responsible for the Handbook for Expedition Leaders. Such handbooks contain Antarctic Treaty System documents, briefing and safety, guidelines, procedures, emergency contingency plans and information on landing sites. IAATO has tabled an outline of an Expedition Leader's Handbook as an information paper at the XX ATCM.

6. **Contingency Planning**

6.1 *Medical Emergency Contingency*

Recognizing the need for self-sufficiency and standard procedures in the event of a medical emergency, IAATO is designating the Adventure Network International office in Punta Arenas as a 24-hour Emergency Station. A draft Medical Emergency Contingency Plan developed by ANI is being circulated as an information paper at the XX ATCM.

6.2 *Oil Pollution Emergency*

- (a) While individual Antarctic tour vessels carry Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (SOPEP) that fulfill MARPOL requirements (Annex I, Regulation 26), IAATO is consulting with several private companies regarding an industry-wide plan specific to Antarctic operations.

- (b) A number of tour vessels carry limited containment equipment and each has instituted fuel handling procedures. Regular training and plans are requirements of international certification.

6.3 *Marine Emergency Preparedness and Response*

- (a) IAATO-member Antarctic tour vessels maintain regular communication, a key to effective response in case of accident or marine incident.
- (b) While recognizing that the risk of incident increases with more tour vessels in operation, so does the likelihood that another tour vessel will respond to an emergency. Formal emergency response procedures and a survey of training procedures is being discussed by IAATO.
- (c) Most of the 15 Antarctic tour vessels that operated during the 1995-96 season were purpose built for polar operations, commanded by officers and crew with extensive experience in polar regions.

6.4 *Weather emergency*

- (a) A number of operators in recent years have instituted the use of survival gear and other emergency equipment during their landing operations. This is especially true of those that operate in the Ross Sea or other areas outside the Antarctic Peninsula. An industry-wide review of emergency equipment and procedures is in process.

(b) IAATO members are encouraged to educate their passengers as to the real dangers of the Antarctic environment and to ensure that their passengers are equipped for an extended stay ashore in case of a weather emergency.

7. Inspection Checklist (Article VII-3, Antarctic Treaty)

IAATO members welcome the guidance offered by Resolution 5 (1995) regarding inspection of vessels within the Antarctic Treaty Area. Eight of 15 IAATO vessels fly a flag of an Antarctic Treaty Party (Russia) and four vessels of other flags have consented to Article VII-3 inspections. None were conducted in 1995-96.

8. The Antarctic Protected Area System

IAATO members note and share the concern on the part of some Treaty Parties about tourist and other non-governmental activities in proposed Antarctic Specially Managed Areas. IAATO urges that its representatives be included in formal consultation with operators on developing management plans for key sites.

9. 1995-96 Scientific and Environmental Research Initiatives

IAATO member companies continued to provide logistic and scientific support to national Antarctic programs and Antarctic organizations in 1995-96. Members see themselves as a resource for science and welcome the opportunity to assist.

Antarctic travelers benefit from the exposure to science and scientists and most projects cause minimal disruption to tour schedules.

- 9.1 In a cooperative venture with the Russian Antarctic Expedition, travelers participated in a program sponsored by the VIEW Foundation and Marine Expeditions which helped to clear and retrograde waste metal and debris from Bellingshausen Station. A total of some 55 volunteers involved in the project lived and worked at the station in small groups from December 1995 to March 1996.
- 9.2 IAATO members supported the Humpback Whale Catalog by providing fluke identification photos to Allied Whale, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine.
- 9.3 IAATO vessels transported over 100 scientists and support personnel during the 1995-96 season for a number of national programs, including the Alfred Wegener Institute, Arctowski Station, U.S. National Science Foundation, British Sea Mammal Research Unit and the Italian Antarctic Research Program. In addition, researchers with the Scott Polar Research Institute team and Antarctic Site Inventory and Monitoring Program team traveled on IAATO ships.
- 9.4 National Antarctic program personnel from Palmer Station and Macquarie Island were evacuated to port for medical attention by the *Professor Khromov* (Quark Expeditions) and *Akademik Shokalski* (Southern Heritage expeditions). IAATO extends special thanks to the men of Neumeyer Station for assistance rendered this season to the passengers on the ice at the Atka Bay emperor penguin rookery.

9.5 On three of its voyages, Marine Expeditions transported scientists and personnel, conducted Zodiac training and carried supplies for the Ukrainian Antarctic Program at the former Faraday Station. It also carried building supplies for Brown Station.

9.6 In addition to support for science programs, tour operators and passengers continued their tradition of direct financial contributions to organizations active in Antarctica, including the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, Humpback Whale Identification Project and the South Georgia Whaling Museum.

10. International Scientific and Logistic Support

Recognizing that Antarctic science is expensive and that tourism has been an underutilized resource, IAATO calls for proposals by Antarctic national programs, Antarctic organizations and individual researchers. In general, support is provided at minimal cost to research. Proposals for collaborative projects may be made to individual companies or through the IAATO secretariat.

IAATO members are prepared to provide support on a number of levels, including: (1) transporting scientists, support personnel and equipment; (2) conducting surveys and research following standard protocols; (3) carrying scientists who engage in research aboard tour ships and installing remote surveying equipment aboard; (4) providing navigational information to IHO relevant for use on navigational charts; (5) supplying detailed information on individual landing sites.



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practice safe and environ-
mentally responsible private-
sector travel to the Antarctic.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

April 1996

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Orient Lines

PROBATIONARY MEMBER 1995

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VESSEL CALL DATA

NOVEMBER 1995

RADIO SCHEDULE 2400 UT DAILY

PRIMARY: 4146 kHz
SECONDARY: 6224 kHz
TERTIARY: 8294 kHz

VESSEL	COMPANY	CALL SIGN	TELEX	FAX	PHONE
ANI Patriot Hills Base Camp	Adventure Network				
ANI Pta Arenas HQ	Adventure Network			(56) 61 22 167	(56) 61 24 735
<i>Alla Tarasova</i>	Quark Expeditions	UGJE	1403626	1403626	1403627
<i>Akademik Boris Petrov</i>	Marine Expeditions	UKSI			
<i>Bremen</i>	Hanseatic Tours	C6GC3	1103404	1103405	1103404
<i>Explorer</i>	Explorer Shipping	ELJD8	1241223	1241224	1241223
<i>Hanseatic</i>	Hanseatic Tours	C6KA9	1103725/27	1103726/27	1103730
<i>Akademik Ioffe</i>	Marine Expeditions	UKLP	1400655	1400655	1400655
<i>Kapitan Khlebnikov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UTSU	427320014	1402733	1400676
<i>Professor Khromov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UWEC		3016015748	
<i>Livonia</i>	Marine Expeditions	ESBA	56793		
<i>Marco Polo</i>	Orient Lines	C6J27	1306215	630869313	630869216 630869310/1/2
<i>Professor Molchanov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UUQR	4921155	N/A	N/A
<i>Professor Multanovskiy</i>	Marine Expeditions	UJFO			
<i>Akademik Shokalski</i>	Southern Heritage	UUPB	492621363	N/A	N/A
<i>Akademik Sergei Vavilov</i>	Marine Expeditions	UKOS	40507		40507
<i>World Discoverer</i>	Society Expeditions	ELDU3	1242744	1242744	1242744



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sector travel to the Antarctic.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

APRIL 1996

Please complete all sections and append copies of your advance notification and other documents filed with appropriate national authorities

- A. Company Name
- B. Contact Information
- C. IAATO Member since
- D. Number of years operating in the Antarctic
- E. Names of ships used in previous seasons
- F. Incidents in previous years that have resulted in significant damage to the vessel or environment
- G. To what appropriate national authority(ies) have you provided advance notice of your planned expeditions?
- H. Name, registry and specifications of each vessel you plan to use, including the number of crew and carrying capacity of each ship/aircraft
- I. Contact information for each vessel (call sign, INMARSAT Tel and Fax)
- J. Number of voyages planned per vessel and planned itineraries. Please forward any brochures
- K. Do you plan any non ship-based tours and/or plan extended time off the vessel in the Antarctic Treaty Area? If yes, please describe
- L. Total number of passengers you expect to carry in 1996-97
- M. Have you conducted a preliminary environmental assessment of your Antarctic operations? Please attach a statement of the status of compliance with environmental assessment requirements, including oil pollution contingency and waste management plans.
- N. What are the your methods of educating passengers, staff and crew of about Recommendation XVIII-1. Please describe any training programs you have instituted
- O. What are your staff positions aboard and who is on your expedition staff? List their names, specialities and Antarctic experience where possible
- P. Please attach a signed statement that you have read the IAATO Bylaws and Membership Criteria as well as Recommendation XVIII-1 and agree to follow same
- Q. To complete this registration, you must pay annual dues or other fees

Please, wire transfers or checks in US dollars drawn on a US bank only.

Please return to:

IAATO

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