



ANTARCTIC TREATY
XXI CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TRATADO ANTARTICO
XXI REUNION CONSULTIVA

TRAITE SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XXI^e REUNION CONSULTATIVE

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XXI КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

108

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO)

Agenda item 5b

Submitted by IAATO

XXI ATCM/IP108
May, 1997
Original: English



REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO)

To the XXI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
May 19-30, 1997, Christchurch, New Zealand

Under Article III (2) of the Antarctic Treaty

(Agenda item 5b)

(Submitted by IAATO)

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO) is pleased to present a report of its activities to the XXI ATCM, Christchurch, New Zealand, 19 - 30 May 1997 in relation to Article III(2) of the Antarctic Treaty.

IAATO focused its activities in several areas over the last year, including: (1) increasing the level of cooperation and standardization among its members; (2) recruiting new members to the Association; (3) and conducting effective environmental impact assessments for member activities in the Antarctic. IAATO is dedicated to appropriate, safe and environmentally sound private-sector travel to the Antarctic. Its members are further committed to operate within the parameters of the Antarctic Treaty, Environmental Protocol, relevant national legislation and other international agreements.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Founded by seven private tour operators in 1991, the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) has grown significantly in the past year to now include 23 member and associate members in Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. A current Membership Directory is included with this report (ATTACHMENT A).
- 1.2 The number of shipborne travelers to Antarctica on commercially organized expeditions in 1996-97 austral summer (7,322) was about 30% less than in the previous year (9,212), primarily because the single larger cruise vessel currently active in the Antarctic (*Marco Polo*) did not operate in 1996-97. Land-based tourism (91) and overflights (3,448) continued at approximately the same levels as 1995-1996. An overview of the season and projection for the future is given in a XXI ATCM/IP75.
- 1.3 All 13 tour vessels operating in Antarctica during the 1996-97 austral summer were operated by IAATO members.
- 1.4 IAATO held its annual meeting 10-12 July 1996 in Arlington, Virginia, USA. The IAATO Executive Committee met in Arlington, Virginia on 13 July, 1996 and in New York City on March 22, 1997.
- 1.5 IAATO members value the opportunity to participate at this Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and other international venues. Formal and informal liaison with national Antarctic programs as well as scientific and environmental organizations is an important objective of IAATO and its members. IAATO is particularly pleased at the constructive and ongoing dialogue with COMNAP.

Since the XX ATCM in Utrecht, April-May 1996, IAATO representatives hosted, attended or participated in a number of meetings and workshops, as listed below:

IAATO Annual Meeting
10-12 July 1996, Arlington, Virginia

8th Annual Antarctic Tour Operators Meeting
11 July 1996, National Science Foundation, Arlington, Virginia.

Conference on Arctic Guidelines
17-18 August 1996, World Wildlife Fund, Cambridge, U.K.

Conference on Polar Tourism: Environmental Implications and Management
SPRI, 18-21 August 1996, Cambridge, U.K.

COMNAP Annual Meeting
August 1996, Cambridge

Workshop on Cumulative Environmental Impacts in Antarctica
IUCN, 18-21 September 1996, Wash., D.C.

Workshop on Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment
IAATO, 27-29 September 1996, Warrenton, Virginia.

Workshop on How to Implement Guidelines for Arctic Tourism
7-10 March 1997, Longyearbyen, Svalbard.

Public, Private, Governmental: IAATO and the Protection of the Antarctic
Environment, Antarctic Society lecture, 5 March 1997, Wash., D.C.

COMNAP - IAATO: Issues of Common Interest and Concern
21 March 1997, New York City.

2. Field Coordination

IAATO compiled and distributed Vessel Call Data as part of its annual operational information exchange (ATTACHMENT B). An improved radio schedule was also instituted. Field communication is essential for the exchange of general information, coordination of visits to individual sites and to provide for effective emergency response. Several tour vessels have introduced e-mail on board as a means to facilitate communication among vessels and scientific stations.

3. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 3.1 IAATO members have submitted a variety of information on the potential environmental impact of their activities, including permit applications, Preliminary Environmental Evaluations, Environmental Audits and Initial Environmental Evaluations. A list of EIAs conducted by tour operators is included in XXI/IP74.
- 3.2 IAATO organized and hosted, "IAATO Workshop on Environmental Assessment, Building the Frame" on 27-29 September 1996, at Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia. Representatives from the U.S. National Science Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, IAATO members, and independent consultants attended.
- 3.3 The workshop began work on an environmental impact assessment of commercially-organized shipborne Antarctic tourism to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands by IAATO Members. The workshop concluded that the most effective way of addressing potential environmental impacts, particularly cumulative impacts, would be to conduct an EIA on overall activities in the Peninsula by IAATO-member companies with substantially similar operations. Draft terms of reference for this programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment are included in XXI/IP74.

4. Procedures to Prevent the Introduction of Alien Species

- 4.1 Following the concern expressed at the XX ATCM (Final Report, Items 17/19, para 124), IAATO-members continue the practice of safeguarding against introduction of alien species to Antarctica. Recognizing that tourists are a highly mobile population in the Antarctic, visiting a number of sites within a short time, increased measures have been instituted to safer operations.
- 4.2 Boot washing stations are standard on all tour vessels, where all visitors are required to clean their boots before and after each landing. This measure is to eliminate soil or seeds from footwear as a result of visits ashore, avoiding accidental transfer of non-native organisms to the Antarctic or within sites within the Antarctic Treaty area.
- 4.3 As a further step to avoid introduction of non-native species, tour vessels do not discharge ballast water in Antarctica taken on north of the Antarctic convergence.

5. Reporting of Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities

- 5.1 Following the XX ATCM (Final Report, item 9, para 15), IAATO members adopted forms for Advance Notification and Post-Season Reporting for trial use

during the 1996-1997 season. Comments to increase their utility in the field are being compiled.

5.2 IAATO welcomes the use of a single form, which facilitates studies of the scope, frequency and intensity of tourist activities. In particular, IAATO looks forward to working with New Zealand and the United States to institute a database version of the form as proposed in XXI ATCM/IP7.

5.3 A draft standard list of sites visited by commercially-organized Antarctic tourists is appended to this report for comment. This list is intended as a tool to improve the evaluation of the scope, frequency and intensity of visitation by eliminating the use of duplicate place names.

6. Site Assessment, Landing Criteria, and Standard List of Landing Sites

6.1 IAATO members renewed their support for appropriate studies that will contribute to accurate site assessment and monitoring, including the Antarctic Site Inventory project being conducted by Oceanites. IAATO looks forward to the prompt publication of the valuable data collected so far on Antarctic visitor sites.

6.2 Members discussed the need to collect and make better use of systematic basic descriptive information on specific sites and to immediately institute, in the absence of more systematic data, additional measures to assess the environmental sensitivity of specific sites. Following its Bylaws, IAATO continues to manage site visits so that no more than 100 people are ashore at any one site at any one time. Expedition leaders coordinate final tour schedules so that no two ships are in the same place at the same time.

6.3 How landing sites are selected is a key mitigating factor in reducing potential environmental impacts of brief visits ashore by Antarctic tourists. Such criteria for selecting and managing site visits include frequency of past visitation, presence of flying birds (especially nesting giant petrels), vegetation cover, and ongoing science being conducted at the site. An outline of the site selection process is included in XXI ATCM/IP74.

7. Education and Training

7.1 While each individual tour operator conducts its own training programs and hires according to its own standards, IAATO collects systematic information on the qualifications and experience of the field staff employed by its members. According to IAATO By-Laws, members are required to hire staff that as a whole have at least 75% previous Antarctic experience. The 175 staff members employed during the

1996-97 Antarctic season by IAATO members had, on average, seven years of Antarctic experience (ranging from 1-35).

- 7.2 The Office of the Secretariat publishes IAATO News (EXCERPTS AS ATTACHMENT C), 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 By-Laws, Membership Directory, Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic and Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic (Recommendation XVIII-1). To receive copies of these publications or be added to IAATO mailing list, please contact the Secretariat.
- 7.3 To further its educational mission, an IAATO Web Site (<http://www@iaato.com>) is in development. The site is scheduled to go online July 1997.

8. Implementation of Recommendation XVIII-1

- 8.1 IAATO members distributed copies of Recommendation XVIII-1 (which is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, German, and Japanese) to all its passengers, staff and crew. The Recommendation is an integral part of conservation briefings
- 8.2 *Slide Presentation:* IAATO distributed a draft slide presentation at the XX ATCM (INF 101) in order to illustrate the visual material which is used on tour vessels as part of the briefing on Recommendation XVIII-1. A slide presentation was also given at the Annual Meeting of the National Science Foundation/Tour Operators in July 1996. After minor revision, the IAATO slide set was implemented for onboard briefings. Copies of the 42-slide set are available from the IAATO Secretariat.
- 8.3 *Medical Emergency Contingency:* IAATO distributed a Medical Emergency Contingency Plan at XX ATCM (INF 76). The plan was successfully instituted during the 1996-97 operating season with the Punta Arenas office of Adventure Network International acting as an emergency contact station for IAATO-member vessels.
- 8.4 *Standard Inventory of Medical Supplies:* A vital aspect of tourism in Antarctica is that of medical care and capabilities for clients/passengers, whether it be shipborne tourism or land-based. IAATO has contracted an outside consultant to review the medical equipment, physician qualifications and medical inventories of member companies and make recommendations for industry-wide standards.
- 8.5 *Amended SOPEPs for Antarctic Operations:* All IAATO-member companies have Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (SOPEP) in place that satisfy regulation 26 of Annex I of MARPOL. An outside contractor has been hired to provide

amendments to these plans in light of operational considerations and requirements of the Environmental Protocol

- 8.6 *Standard Emergency Equipment for Zodiac, Helicopter Operations:* As a means of ensuring safety for tour operations involving zodiacs (inflated boats) and helicopters, standard operating procedures include safety kits for each zodiac, and an elaborate inventory of equipment for helicopter operations.

9. 1996-97 Scientific and Environmental Research Initiatives

IAATO member companies continued to provide logistic and scientific support to national Antarctic programs and Antarctic organizations in 1996-97. Members welcome the opportunity to assist and look forward to continuing collaboration with national Antarctic programs -- a cost effective and regular platform-of-opportunity for science and logistics. Antarctic travelers benefit from the exposure to science on board tour vessels, and most projects cause minimal disruption to tour schedules. An announcement of assistance is tabled as a separate paper at XXI ATCM

9.1 Russia

Maria Gavrilov, a Russian biologist from Russian Antarctic Expedition traveled on the Kapitan Khlebnikov on its circumnavigation cruise around Antarctica, a 66-day voyage from 24 November 1996 to 27 January 1997.

Support of research activities at Bellingshausen Station included transport of seven scientists, assistance with logistics, arrangements and transport of provisions and other cargo, and through liaising with Argentine immigration officials to expedite visas.

In cooperation with the volunteer international environmental works organization, the VIEW Foundation, the third season was conducted in a long-term clean-up project at Bellingshausen Station, involving clearing and retrograde of abandoned equipment and hazardous oil products.

9.2 Germany

Three scientists were transported to or from Antarctic Peninsula. Six scientists and equipment were transported to Jubany Station. Scientists were transported to and from Ardley Island.

9.3 Poland

Two scientists and samples were transported to/from Arctowski Station. Eight scientists and equipment were transported to Arctowski Station.

9.4 Argentina

Cargo was transported to Brown Station for ongoing refurbishing program (Governor of Tierra del Fuego transported to station to assist).

9.5 United Kingdom

Two scientists transported to and from Arctowski Station.
Scientist transported from Arctowski Station to Ushuaia.

9.6 United States

Four scientists transported to or from King George Island.
Scientist transported to Palmer Station.
Oceanites personnel transported to various sites for its monitoring program.

9.7 France

An icebreaker operating as a tour vessel, Kapitan Khlebnikov, assisted the resupply vessel Astrolabe in reaching Dumont D'Urville Station.

9.8 Other Support

Tour vessels also supported a variety of other projects (while traveling to or from Antarctica), including transport of personnel and equipment to or from the South Georgia Whaling Museum and the sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand.

9.9 Other Initiatives

IAATO members and tour passengers continued to support the Humpback Whale Catalog by providing fluke identification photos to Allied Whale, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine. In addition, experienced biologist staff collected census data, record whale sightings and provided other valuable information.

9.9 Financial Contributions

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 Scott Polar Research Institute, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, South Georgia Whaling Museum, Humpback Whale Identification Project, and Whale and Dolphin Society. The cumulative totals for the above amount to some US\$21,030 and DM 3,253,40.



A member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

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May 1997

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6420 Fairmount Avenue
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132 East 70 Street
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Eric Gordon
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Plancius - Oceanwide

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J. de Korte
Tel: (31) 20 4221411
Fax: (31) 20 4222126

Playguide Tours

Mandai Bldg
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Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102 Japan
Tenshin Kobayashi
Tel: (81) 3 3288 0911
Fax: (81) 3 3288 3391

Radisson Seven Seas Cruises

600 Corporate Drive
Suite 410
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334 USA
Paul Goodwin
Tel: 954 776 6123
Fax: 954 776 2283
E-mail: pgoodwin@radisson.com

Attachment B



A member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

VESSEL CALL DATA

NOVEMBER 1996

VESSEL	COMPANY	CALL SIGN	TELEX	FAX	PHONE
ANI Patriot Hills Base Camp	Adventure Network			(874) 683141498	(873) 683141497
ANI Pta Arenas HQ	Adventure Network			(56) 61 226 167	(56) 61 247 735
				Emergency Tel:	(56) 61 229 712
<i>Bremen</i>	Hanseatic Tours	C6GC3	1103404 1103735	1103405 1103736	1103404 1103735
<i>Hanseatic</i>	Hanseatic Tours	C6KA9	1103725 1103727	1103726 1103727	1103730 1103725
<i>Explorer</i>	Explorer Shipping	ELJD8	1241223	1241224	1241223
			E-mail: 62849546@eln.attmail.com (1st line msg: ATTN: EXPL)		
<i>World Discoverer</i>	Society Expeditions	ELDU3	463630730	363650920	363650910
<i>Kapitan Khlebnikov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UTSU	327307516 427320014	327307514 1402733	327307513 1400676
<i>Professor Khromov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UWEC	N/A	327314910	327314912
<i>Professor Molchanov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UUQR	492621155	N/A	N/A
<i>Akademik Shokalskiy</i>	Southern Heritage	UUPB	492621363	N/A	N/A
			E-mail: 492621363@c-link.net		
<i>Professor Multanovskiy</i>	Marine Expeditions	UJFO			
<i>Akademik Sergei Vavilov</i>	Marine Expeditions	UKOS	1401507	N/A	N/A
<i>Akademik Ioffe</i>	Marine Expeditions	UKLP	1400655	N/A	N/A
<i>Alla Tarasova</i>	Marine Expeditions	UHJG	1403626	1403626	1403627
<i>Akademik Shuleykin</i>	Marine Expeditions	UBNZ	412659	RCSCU	

EL RADIO SCHEDULE

PRIMARY: 4146 kHz
(2400 UT DAILY CONTACT)
SECONDARY: 6224 kHz
TERTIARY: 8294 kHz

ANI RADIO SCHEDULE

PRIMARY: 15.026 MHz
(24 HOUR LISTENING WATCH)
SECONDARY: 11.228 MHz
TERTIARY: 8.992 MHz

July 1996

IAATO NEWS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS
CREATING AMBASSADORS TO THE LAST GREAT CONTINENT



A member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

MORE PEOPLE TRAVEL TO ANTARCTICA IN 1995-96 THAN EVER BEFORE

A record 9,200 people traveled to Antarctica aboard commercially-organized tour vessels this season — an increase of 1,000 over last year. Travelers sailed aboard 15 vessels on 113 departures, most from Ushuaia. All were operated by IAATO members.

In addition, Adventure Network International, celebrating its 10th season, brought 155 travelers and 20 staff to the Antarctic. Besides its regular climbing programs, ANI provided logistical and emergency support for all private expeditions and operated flights to the South Pole. In cooperation with Uruguay, ANI operated a satellite meteorological station at its base camp in Patriot Hills for the first time.

Now in its second season, Croydon Travel of Victoria, Australia offered a series of nine well-received overflights, carrying 2,958 passengers. Each flight

TEN MOST VISITED ANTARCTIC SITES, 1995-96

- Whalers Bay
- Half Moon Island
- Cuverville Island
- Brown Station
- Port Lockroy
- Petermann Island
- Hannah Point
- Pendulum Cove
- Paulet Island
- Waterboat Point

from Melbourne lasted about 12 hours with one or more orbits of scenic areas. The flights aboard Qantas Boeing 747 aircraft were conducted at a minimum altitude of 10,000 feet and featured lectures on the history, conservation and environments of Antarctica.

Looking to the future, 100 voyages are planned for the 1996-97 Antarctic season by 13 IAATO-member vessels, carrying approximately 6,500 passengers. Nine of these vessels are Russian. Neither the *Marco Polo* or the *Vistamar* are planning any Antarctic voyages next year, which accounts for most of the reduction in number. No new vessels or operators are expected.

U.S. LIKELY TO IMPLEMENT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOL — SOON

All were heartened to learn that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 3060: *Antarctic Environmental Protection Act of 1996*. With widespread support from the administration, scientific and environmental communities, WWF president Kathryn Fuller was among those that testified on behalf of this important new piece of legislation.

The bill calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations within two years regarding environmental impact assessment of non-governmental activities, including tourism. The NSF will continue its own internal review of federal activities.

A senate version of the bill (S. 1645), sponsored by Kerry and Hollings, is expected to reach the Senate floor shortly. The United States is one of just four nations (along with Finland, Japan

and Russia) that had not yet ratified the protocol as of the Antarctic Treaty meeting in Utrecht in May, 1996. All four must ratify before this groundbreaking addition to environmental protection comes into force.

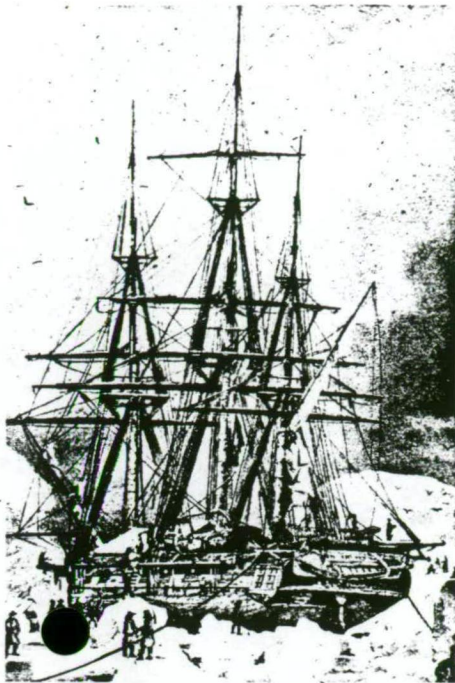
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON DECEMBER 31, 1999?

Internet news groups and the travel press have already been deluged with requests for information on end-of-the-millennium trips. Several IAATO members, including Zegrahm Expeditions of Seattle, have announced voyages to Antarctica. What better place to celebrate? It's the height of the summer season — and fittingly remote from the daily experience of most of us.



IAATO

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YACHT OPERATOR TO ATTEND ANTARCTIC TOUR OPERATORS MEETING

Well-known Antarctic yachtsman Sally Poncet has confirmed that she will attend the eight annual tour operators meeting in Arlington, Virginia, July 11 1996. Author of the popular *Cruising Guide to Antarctica*, Poncet will be able to provide an expert perspective on this segment of Antarctic tourism.

Thus far, IAATO membership has not included the operators of yachts — even though many of these vessels return each season with paying passengers. In Fue.Tur. in Ushuaia has been instrumental in outreach to this community.

In past years, the annual meeting sponsored by the NSF has drawn government representatives, tour operators, conservation organizations and the media as well as representatives from other national Antarctic programs. Over 50 are expected to attend this year, including John Hall from the British Antarctic Survey and Pat McLaren from the U.K. Antarctic Heritage Trust.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LUBRICANT AVAILABLE FOR OUTBOARD ENGINES

A recent Ph.D. thesis by Ron Cairn at Newcastle University confirms that Biolube 100, Synboard and Biolube Grease manufactured by Castrol show excellent biodegradability and no

adverse effect on the environment. Antarctic lecturer and microbiologist Brian Wood reported these findings to longtime IAATO-member Nigel Sitwell. The IAATO Secretariat is investigating with Castrol whether the company would be interested in testing this environmentally-friendly oil under polar conditions. These products are available in Argentina through Castrol Argentine in Buenos Aires, an appropriate outlet for the huge majority of Antarctic cruises.

OCEANITES CONTINUES ANTARCTIC SITE INVENTORY PROJECT

For the second season, IAATO members provided transport to the Antarctic Site Inventory Project team. Principal Investigator Ron Naveen, explained, "We are establishing a baseline so that environmental impact statements related to future activities can be accurately prepared and evaluated. During the 1995-96 season," continued Naveen, "the project conducted 114 surveys at 44 visitor sites."

Over the two years of its initial start-up grant from NSF and EPA, the project established 299 locations for censuses of penguin, flying bird and seal populations. In addition, 38 of 47 key sites have been mapped, supplemented by oblique aerial photography and on-site photos.

Naveen is hard at work putting together an international group of public and private funding sources for this ongoing project.

Contact Naveen at Oceanites: 2378 Route 97, Cookesville MD 21723, Tel/Fax 301 854 6262, E-mail Oceanites@aol.com

PROJECT ANTARCTIC CONSERVATION PUBLISHES ITS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Published in October 1995, the management recommendations feature detailed site descriptions and maps along with some practical advice on how to minimize impact.

The report covers Cuverville Island, Hannah Point, Petermann Island, Hovgaard Island, Pleneau Islands, Port Lockroy, Turret Point, Penguin Island and Yankee Harbor.

A result of the work by the Project Antarctica Team at Scott Polar Institute, the information is particularly useful to new staff members.

VIRTUAL ANTARCTICA

Founding IAATO member Mt. Travel-Sobek continued to explore novel uses of the Internet this season, hosting "Virtual Antarctica" on the web. Heavily reported in the print media, the award-winning site featured video images and live chats with crew and passengers aboard the *Livonia*. It's also a good source for general Antarctic information. You can find the site at <http://www.terraquest.com/guidebook/site.html>. Look for the planned CD-ROM version.



IHB REQUESTS DATA

The director of the International Hydrographic Bureau has proposed that tour vessels contribute to navigational intelligence information as part of IHB's ongoing work to improve Antarctic charts and charting. In a January 1996 letter to IAATO, director Angrisano suggested "the cruises of tour ships might be an excellent opportunity to collect data and improve charts." He went on to note "many tour ships visit places where vessels of national operators do not go." Experienced captains have a wealth of data.

Although any sketch maps of anchorages and other anecdotal information is useful, the best data is derived from echo sounder traces, with the position annotated every 30 minutes at a constant course and speed. Contributions should also include the date and name of ship, positioning system used, position of transducer, setting of sound velocity of echo sounder and general information on sea water characteristics, weather and ice. Forward data to:

International Hydrographic Bureau
7, Avenue President J.F. Kennedy
Post Box 445 Monte Carlo
MC 98011 Monaco
Tel 33 93 50 65 87
Fax 33 93 25 20 03
E-mail ihb@unice.fr

ALIEN SPECIES CONFIRMED IN EAST ANTARCTICA

During the 1995-96 season, The Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition confirmed the presence of an alien grass species, *Poa trivialis*, 25 km south of Syowa Station in East Antarctica (69.00°S, 39.35°E). A widespread weedy species, the plant consisted of a single 20-cm-wide tuft with tall flowering shoots. Given its size, it's likely to have survived several winters. Accidentally introduced grasses have been found in the past on Deception and King George Islands.

IAATO members should continue to be vigilant about requiring passengers to wash their boots and inspect clothing before and after each landing.

MONTREAL ANTARCTIC SOCIETY PUBLISHES ITS FIRST NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1994, the organization is dedicated to providing Antarctic information with a Canadian perspective. Those interested in receiving their quarterly newsletter, *The Seventh Continent* should write president Val Kuroi at 4633 Harvard, Montreal Quebec H4A 2X3.

The first newsletter is eight-pages with a hard-hitting editorial on tour itinerary changes, some travel information, a comprehensive list of Antarctic-themed music and a number of useful contacts. It makes the claim that November is a poor time to visit the Antarctic. Many would disagree.

NEW COMPLETES NEW TRAINING VIDEOS

The Office of Polar Programs has just completed a new series of Antarctic videos, which will replace the customary pre-season briefing for those traveling to the ice. Titles include *Working in Antarctica (Palmer Station, McMurdo and South Pole)*, *Polar Duke*, *Nathaniel B. Palmer* and the previously released *Beautiful Antarctica* and *Managing Your Waste*. Much of the information, entertainingly presented, is relevant to tour operations. IAATO members have traditionally screened for passengers *Beautiful Antarctica*, a 10-minute video highlighting the obligations of the U.S. Antarctic Conservation Act.

Contact the Office of Polar Programs for more information about the video program.

ANTARCTIC RESOURCES

A number of new books on Antarctica will be published soon — including three guide books!

Antarctica, The Traveller's Guide

September 1996. Bernard Stonehouse, author of the wonderful *North Pole, South Pole* — and a grand old Antarctic — has written a practical, detailed guide to Antarctic travel. With a 16-page color insert, it's also illustrated throughout with black-and-white maps and photographs. (UK: Images Publishing, 256 pages, £15.99)



Below the Convergence, Voyages Toward Antarctica, 1699-1839

October 1996. Alan Gurney has written the first of what we hope will be a series of engaging volumes on the history of Antarctic exploration. Those familiar with his dramatic lectures are eagerly looking forward to the book. Gurney is a master storyteller (and wonderful writer), who weaves remarkable tales of exploration. (USA: Norton, \$27.50)

The World of the Penguin

November 1996. The latest volume of a series of authoritative, wonderfully illustrated books on wildlife. Expedition leader, author and photographer Jonathan Chester here presents 58 full color penguin photographs, augmented by a concise text on the biology and historical impressions of these much-loved birds. (USA: Sierra Club Books, 128 pages, \$27.50)



Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit: Antarctica

November 1996. It was inevitable. This Australian-based publisher turns south, wisely choosing environmental writer and Antarctic enthusiast Jeff Rubins to compile the volume — which is not so much a practical guide but an overview of the Antarctic. Reigning in several experts, David Walton contributes the section on Antarctic science and Maj de Poorter addresses environmental issues. It includes a guide to choosing a tour, details on the gateway cities and a full color guide to wildlife. (USA: Lonely Planet, 336 pages, \$15.95)

Antarctica the Beautiful

November 1996. Here's a handsomely produced, large-format overview of Antarctica by Mike Lewis; much more than the simple collection of photos that we expected. It's up-to-date, fact-filled — and a good edition to any Antarctic library. Struik (South Africa) and New Holland (U.K.), 160 pages, \$29.99

Scott's Last Expedition, The Journals (With a New introduction by Beryl Bainbridge)

December 1996. Author of the acclaimed *Birthday Boys*, Bainbridge has been busy! In addition to this wonderfully-presented edition of the Scott's journals, she's also written *Every Man for Himself*, a fictionalized story of the sinking of the *Titanic*. These journals, however, are the real thing — recovered from the tent where Scott and his companions were found dead on their trek back from the South Pole. A classic account of heroism and tragedy. (USA: Carroll and Graf, 464 pages, \$14.95)

Cadogan Guide: Antarctica

February 1997. Intended as a handbook, veteran travel writer Sara Wheeler has written this latest addition to the respected British series. While we bristle at the thought of Wheeler as a self-advertised leading expert on Antarctica, you can't control what marketing departments advertise — and she's a very good travel writer and researcher. For the book, Wheeler journeyed to the Antarctic four times over the last several years — including a stint at remote field camp. Expect it to be heavy on British exploration and science. Not reviewed at press time. (U.K.: Cadogan Guides, paper, £15.99)

Antarctica: A Guide to the Wildlife

1996 Paper edition. This handy guide by popular author and Antarctic expedition leader Tony Soper is scheduled for release in an even-more-convenient paperback edition. (U.S.: Globe Pequot Press U.S., 144 pages, \$17.95; U.K.: Bradt Publications)

CONSERVATION WORK COMPLETED AT PORT LOCKROY

ANTARCTIC HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT NO. 61

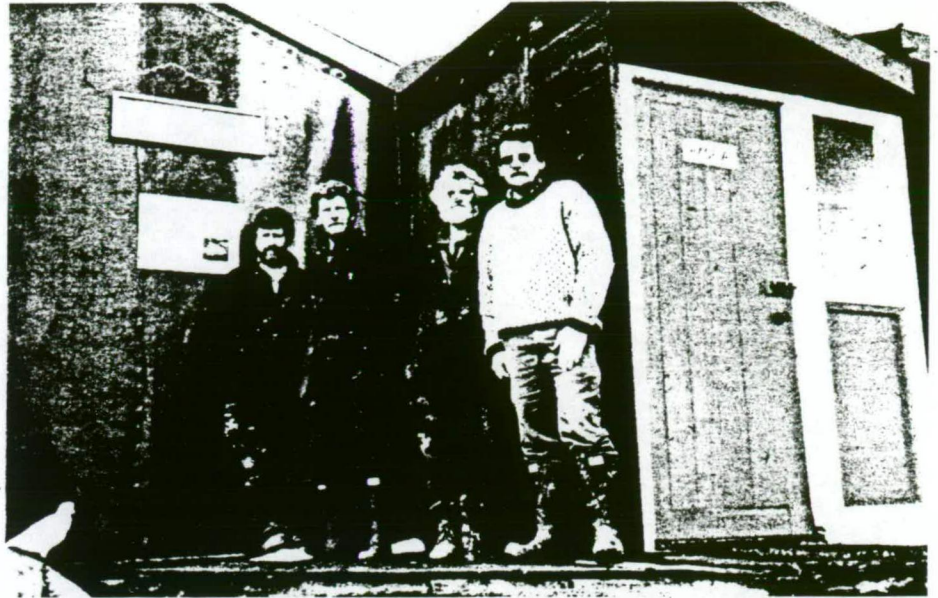
"What a transformation the party of four men made in an incredibly short time at Port Lockroy," reported expedition leader Tony Soper, "the walls and roof of the main building have been made good, the whole complex has had a coat of paint and the interior has had a blast of fresh air. Even the gentoos looked proud of their patch." Some 40 M³ of waste was removed from the site.

The same team continued aboard the *RRS Bransfield* to Charlotte Bay, where they dismantled the Reclus Hut for transport to Stanley. As proposed, the hut was handed over to the Falklands Island Museum, where it will be put on display.

The five-week-long project at Port Lockroy was undertaken by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) in cooperation with the British Antarctic Survey and the Foreign Office. One of the UKAHT's primary objectives is "to preserve select British scientific bases on the Antarctic peninsula for the enjoyment and education of international visitors."

The Trust surveyed 16 unoccupied British bases in 1994, identifying the base as a high priority. Established on February 16, 1944, Base A was occupied until January 16, 1962. The buildings had greatly deteriorated in the intervening years.

In addition to the conservation



work, a leaflet was prepared and displays installed. Limited access to the base will be provided to visitors. Soper had been in radio contact with the conservation team through the season and, on a February voyage aboard the *Khromov*, Ben Hodges invited the travelers to come and visit. Said Soper, "We were welcomed with open arms."

Pat McLaren of the UKAHT and North American representative Dan Weinstein are expected to attend the July Antarctic tour operator meeting, partly to discuss visits to Port Lockroy. Among the ideas for the future of Port Lockroy is to have a team occupy the buildings, an excellent opportunity to carry out monitoring work on the nearby heavily-visited rookeries.

Soper concluded, "This historic base has always been an exciting

place to visit and now it will be an even more valuable and rewarding experience for future expedition groups. The choice between rehabilitation or dismantling unwanted bases will doubtless continue to be a hot potato, but the Port Lockroy experience shows what can be done in a short time by a determined working party."

Among those who became corporate sponsors of the UKAHT in 1995 was Hanseatic Tours, IAATO, Marine Expeditions, Quark Expeditions, Orient Lines and Marine Expeditions. Several other operators sold UKAHT booklets aboard. Those in the U.S. who would like to contribute should contact Dan Weinstein at 3 Ridgley Terrace, Jamestown, NY 14701. Tel. 716 665 6045, Fax 716 665 5119.

MARINE DEBRIS



A POTENTIAL THREAT TO ANTARCTIC MARINE ANIMALS

LINDBLAD COVE APPROVED

The U. S. Board on Geographic Names approved the Antarctic geographic name *Lindblad Cove* (63° 51'S, 59°27'W) at its March 28, 1996 meeting:

"Cove, 5km wide, between Almond Point and Auster Point in Charcot Bay, Trinity Peninsula. Named by US-ACAN in commemoration of Lars-Eric Lindblad (1927-1994), pioneer in Antarctic tourism. A noted conservationist, Mr. Lindblad operated the first cruise to Antarctica in 1966, and was a leader in the concept of expedition tourism as a means of environmental awareness."

The IAATO Secretariat has received CCAMLR Placards in Russian for display on Antarctic Tour Vessels—nine of which carry Russian-speaking crew.

MEETINGS

POLAR TOURISM: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
AUGUST 19-21, 1996
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE, U.K.

This three-day workshop will focus on issues relevant to the management of polar tourism and is intended for researchers, administrators and tour operators. Among the topics to be addressed are key indicators of human disturbance, techniques for education and enhancement of the shore experience and data that should be collected about site visits. Those interested should respond to Bernard Stonehouse in Great Britain: Tel 1223 336515, Fax 1223 336549, E-mail bs111@cus.cam.ac.uk

IUCN WORKSHOP
CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 1996
IUCN, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Continuing its sponsorship of workshops on Antarctic environmental issues, the IUCN is organizing a meeting for The workshop will focus on the identification, mitigation and management of potential cumulative environmental impacts in the Antarctic. About 25 participants are expected, including scientists, Antarctic managers and representatives from IAATO. Those with a particular interest in environmental assessment should contact the organizer Maj de Poorter in New Zealand: Tel 64 9 630 6317, Fax 64 9 630 7121, E-mail maj.depoorter@green2.greenpeace.org

BÄRBEL KRÄMER PARTICIPATES IN
WORKSHOP ON ARCTIC TOURISM
JANUARY 1996
LONGYEARBYN, SPITSBERGEN, NORWAY

Among the international participants at the January 1996 seminar on Arctic Tourism Guidelines in Longyearbyen was IAATO Executive Committee Member Bärbel Krämer. Sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Norwegian Polar Institute, the seminar concluded that guidelines for tourism in the Arctic should include a Code of Conduct, a contract for cooperation, participation by local communities and the involvement of international organizations. IAATO was mentioned as an example of cooperation among tour operators in the interest of environmentally responsible operations. Krämer discussed Arctic and Antarctic operations by Hanseatic Tours as well as giving a history of IAATO and its objectives.

CONFERENCE ON POLAR MEDICAL STANDARDS HELD
AUGUST 1995
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE, U.K.

Under the auspices of Aid for International Medicine, John Levinson held a conference on polar medical standards at Scott Polar Institute in August 1995. A veteran physician on polar voyages, Levinson gathered representatives of government Antarctic medical services, private physicians and others for the lively discussions on how to improve medical care in remote polar regions. A book on the conference is planned.

Two-thirds of the talks focussed on how doctors can best prepare for the role of physician and what kind of challenges they can expect. Those interested in receiving information about the planned volume should contact Aid for International Medicine at PO Box 119, Rockland, Delaware 19732.

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TOUR VESSELS: A RESOURCE FOR ANTARCTIC SCIENCE

IAATO members provided transport to more than 100 scientists during the 1995-96 season, again demonstrating that tour vessels are a cost-effective and convenient platform of opportunity in the Antarctic. Among those transported, two station personnel were taken to port for medical attention. In addition, passengers and staff contributed to censuses and other projects, such as the ongoing work to supply humpback whale fluke identification photos to Allied Whale at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Among IAATO's objectives is to support science in Antarctica through cooperation with national Antarctic programs, including logistical support and research. This support is offered at minimal cost. Tour passengers appreciate the presence of national Antarctic program personnel aboard, who share experiences and often volunteer to lecture on their work. With more than 100 departures on 13 different vessels, most from South America to the Peninsula, scientists have many options for transport and research. Also, itineraries are substantially similar year after year — a bonus in planning and in conducting repetitive work. Corollary to the larger number of small Antarctic tour vessels, is the increased opportunity for science. Much science can be conducted with minimal impact on tour itineraries.

In addition, a number of the vessels — especially the converted Russian research ships — have the expertise, cranes and cargo space to provide significant support in resupply efforts. In 1995-96, the materials and personnel to inaugurate the Ukrainian Antarctic program at the former Faraday station were transported by tour vessels.

IAATO invites proposals by Antarctic national programs, Antarctic organizations and certified individual researchers. Members can collaborate in a variety of ways, whether it is transport, science-conducted aboard or participation in research. IAATO also welcomes proposals that involve resident staff and passengers in work following standard protocols, including CCAMLR surveys of beached marine debris, surveys of pack-ice seals, observational data on breeding birds, recording locations and types of icebergs encountered along vessel itineraries, and collecting data at individual landing sites.

Of special importance to IAATO is the support of monitoring work, which will establish baseline data and determine potential sources of human impact. In the past, members have provided regular transport to Project Antarctic Conservation and Antarctic Site Inventory teams and discussions are currently underway with several national Antarctic programs regarding new initiatives. Proposals with this focus will be given the highest priority by IAATO members.