

Antarctic Treaty
XXIII Consultative Meeting

Traité sur l'Antarctique
XXIII^e Réunion consultative

Tratado Antártico
XXIII Reunión Consultiva

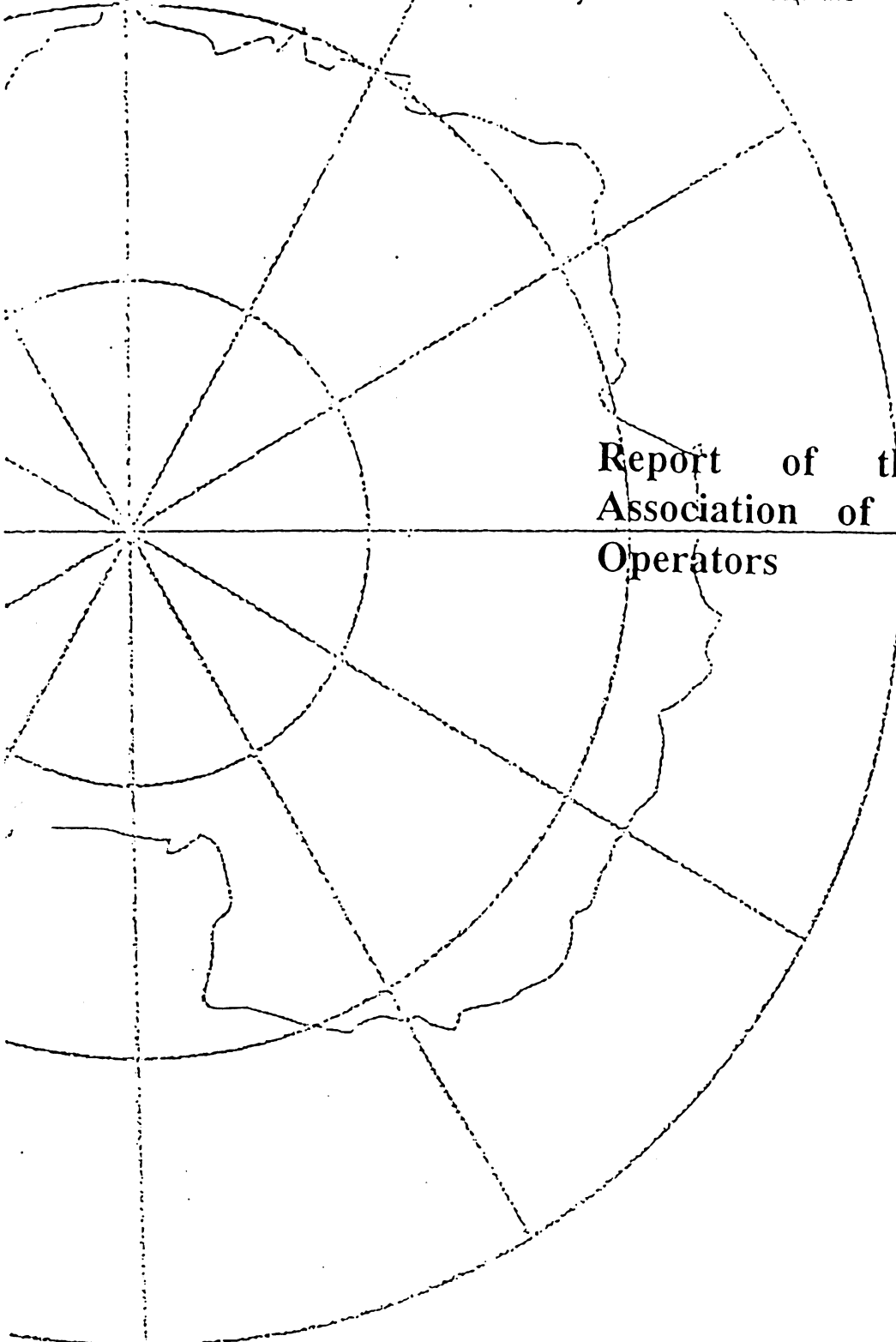
Договор об Антарктике
XXIII Консультативное Собрание

XXIII ATCM/ IP97

May, 1999

Original: English

Agenda Item 5b)



Report of the International
Association of Antarctica Tour
Operators

Submitted by
IAATO

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO) is pleased to present a report of its activities to the XXIII ATCM, Lima, Peru, 24 May - 4 June 1999 in relation to Article III (2) of the Antarctic Treaty

IAATO is dedicated to appropriate, safe and environmentally sound private-sector travel to the Antarctic. Over the last year IAATO has focused its activities in several key areas, including improved exchange of information among its members, emergency response and contingency planning, and the role of IAATO relative to larger cruise vessels in the Antarctic. Liaison with national Antarctic programs, scientific and environmental organizations, is an important objective of IAATO and its members.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Founded by seven private tour operators in 1991, the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators has grown to include 30 member and associate member companies in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States. A current Membership Directory is included with this report (ATTACHMENT A).
- 1.2 Antarctic tourism has grown along with IAATO. From November 1998 to March 1999, a total of 10,026 persons traveled to the Antarctic on privately organized expeditions, including 9,857 passengers aboard commercially organized ships, 90 persons on chartered yachts and 79 land-based visitors. This continues a trend, representing a slight increase over the total of 9,604 visitors and 9,378 ship-borne visitors in the 1997-98 season. An overview of Antarctic tourism activity is presented as a separate information paper to the XXIII ATCM under agenda item 13.
- 1.3 IAATO held a general meeting on 15-17 July 1998 in Arlington, Virginia, USA, attended by 19 IAATO members representing 14 Antarctic tour operators. In addition observers and experts participated from the U.S. National Science Foundation, COMNAP, International Hydrographic Office (IHO), Australian National Antarctic program (ANARE), British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Government of South Georgia, and the German Federal Environment Agency and other organizations.
- 1.4 IAATO will hold its 10th general meeting in Hamburg at the offices of IAATO-Member Hapag Lloyd Seetouristik, 27 June – 01 July 1999. This will be the first time IAATO will hold its annual meeting outside the United States, marking the growing international nature of Antarctic tourism and IAATO. The meeting will include a visit to the Antarctic expedition vessel *M/S Hanseatic*, which will be in port, and a visit to the Alfred Wegener Institute. Interested parties should contact the IAATO Secretariat.
- 1.5 IAATO representatives and members attended the July 1998 COMNAP meeting, a meeting on visitor management in the Ross Sea, a public meeting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meetings with the German Department of the Environment, a World Wildlife Fund conference on Arctic tourism and other

international meetings.

2. Membership

- 2.1 At its July 1998 meeting, IAATO reviewed the membership status of Adventure Associates (AUS), Clipper Cruise Line (USA), Pelagic Expeditions (UK) and Special Expeditions (USA), all of whom were elected as full members after one year as provisional members of IAATO, a category reserved for new members.
- 2.2 No new tour operators applied for membership at the July 1998 annual meeting although incentives for membership by yacht owners, the status of associate members and the issue of companies operating ships carrying more than 400 passengers was discussed at length. According to the 1991 IAATO Bylaws, IAATO member companies agree to carry no more than 400 passengers per voyage. The role of IAATO in relation to larger vessels and the 400-passenger limit will be discussed at the Hamburg general meeting of IAATO members.
- 2.3 As a matter of principle and in practice, all tour operators – whether or not associated with IAATO – are included in emergency contact information, exchange of information and other activities of the IAATO Secretariat.

3. Field Coordination

- 3.1 As part of its annual exchange of operational information, IAATO compiles and distributes Vessel Call Data (ATTACHMENT B). Contact information for private camps (ANI), tour vessels and yachts is included in the Antarctic Communications Directory (MINIATOM) compiled and distributed by the COMNAP Secretariat.
- 3.2 In addition, preliminary cruise itineraries are compiled by the IAATO Secretariat and distributed to Antarctic tour operators and national Antarctic programs via COMNAP.
- 3.3 Expedition leaders and ship's officers circulate advance itineraries and maintain regular contact throughout the season to coordinate site visits and exchange general information, a key factor in managing Antarctic tourism and mitigating any potential environmental impact. An example of the annual instructions to ships' captains, radio officers and expedition leaders is included here. (ATTACHMENT C).
- 3.4 This ongoing and routine contact between vessels and with the Adventure Network Emergency and Medical Evacuation Response office in Punta Arenas (EMER) is also a key component of effective emergency response.

4. Environmental Impact Assessment

4.1 According to information received by the IAATO Secretariat, all IAATO members prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment of planned activities for the 1998-99 season, which were submitted to appropriate national authorities in accordance with national procedures, including documents submitted to authorities in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States.

4.2 IAATO, its members and particularly Toronto-based Marine Expeditions urge non-Consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty such as Canada to ratify the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty.

5. Procedures to Prevent the Introduction of Alien Species

5.1 IAATO participated in the Diseases of Antarctic Wildlife workshop hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division (Hobart, Oct 1998), a report of which was distributed to Antarctic tour operators along with the poster produced by the workshop.

5.2 Recognizing that tourists are a highly mobile population in the Antarctic, visiting a number of sites within a short time, IAATO looks forward to continuing advice from SCAR and experts on the best practices to avoid transfer of exotic organisms to Antarctica and translocation of organisms between sites.

5.3 Pending further research, IAATO intends to adopt a standard protocol to report any high mortality incidents and to avoid the introduction and translocation of alien diseases. Comments on the draft procedures (ATTACHMENT D) should be directed to the IAATO Secretariat.

6. Reporting of Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities

6.1 Antarctic tour operators made use of a standard reporting form as noted by ATCM XXII (Final Report, Annex J).

6.2 IAATO strongly supports the continued use of this single form, which reduces the burden of paperwork and facilitates studies of the scope, frequency and intensity of tourist activities. As part of its ongoing work, IAATO is investigating the development of a database version of the form that will facilitate compilation and analysis of tour data.

6.3 Antarctic tourism trends as compiled by the U.S. National Science Foundation since 1989 presented to this meeting as part of the Information paper, "IAATO Overview of Tourism Activities." This information is also posted online at www.iaato.org.

7. Implementation of Recommendation XVIII-1

- 7.1 In consultation with COMNAP, individual national Antarctic programs and consultants, IAATO continues to research, develop and use industry-wide programs and standards wherever necessary to ensure self-sufficiency and proper conduct in the Antarctic.
- 7.2 These initiatives include a medical evacuation contingency plan, standard medical information, slide presentation on "Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic," and a standardized table of contents for training materials and handbooks. IAATO values its growing and constructive dialogue with COMNAP on these operational issues.
- 7.3 A pre-season checklist is appended to this report, indicating the kind of educational materials prepared and distributed by IAATO each Antarctic season. (ATTACHMENT E).
- 7.4 Recommendation XVIII-1, "Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic" has been translated and made available to tour operators in English, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

8. Emergency Response Action and Contingency Planning

- 8.1 Following Resolution 1 (1997), IAATO presented a report on emergency response and contingency planning (ATCM XXII/IP104). At the July 1998 meeting, the Maritime Committee identified several areas that may not be already covered in detail by the provisions of the ISM Code (International Safety Management), including notification of shore authorities, specialized containment equipment that may be required, and specialized training for ship's officers and crew.
- 8.2 IAATO is seeking advice from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and ship operators to examine existing international regulations as they apply to Antarctic shipping and to determine where any further work may be needed given the special operating conditions and nature of the Antarctic.
- 8.3 Several IAATO members participated in the "Antarctic Oil Pollution Control Course sponsored by the British Antarctic Survey and Oil Spill Response Limited (Southampton, August 20-21, 1998) and the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC, Seattle, March 8-11, 1999).
- 8.4 IAATO is completing a survey of the types and quantities of fuel carried by Antarctic tour vessels, which preliminary research indicates may be a significant factor in determining appropriate response in the event of a catastrophic marine pollution emergency. Unlike national supply vessels, Antarctic tour vessels do not carry quantities of bulk diesel fuel for shore-based generators and no refueling is carried out in the Antarctic Treaty Area. Most Antarctic tour vessels use light diesel fuels.
- 8.5 In addition to the survey of fuels, IAATO is completing a survey of tour vessels and specifications and other information that would contribute to a risk assessment of

Antarctic tourism activities.

- 8.6 IAATO is also seeking advice from experts in the field regarding recommended oil spill containment equipment and collecting the results of a survey of the spill kits currently being carried by tour vessels operating in the Antarctic. In addition, IAATO is seeking advice regarding appropriate specialized oil spill response training.
- 8.7 Following Resolution 1 (1997), IAATO supports emergency drills and exercises, an example of which is a two-day emergency response exercise for cruise vessels operating in Glacier Bay, Alaska (March 22-23, 1999). IAATO members who also operate in Alaska participated in these exercises. Adventure Network International (ANI) which provides Search and Rescue and Emergency Medical Evacuation for IAATO members, participated in an emergency response drill this season with the British Antarctic Survey. IAATO looks forward to joint exercises, both practical and theoretical, involving national and private operators.
- 8.8 All IAATO member companies have Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (SOPEP) in place that satisfy regulation 26 of Annex I of MARPOL. A "Special Antarctic Addendum" to the SOPEP was developed by IAATO and distributed to Antarctic tour operators for implementation and comment in 1998. While the addendum has no legal status, it includes notice to contact Antarctic stations in the vicinity of any marine pollution incident along with appropriate national authorities.

9. 1998-99 Scientific and Environmental Research Initiatives

- 9.1 IAATO member companies continued to provide logistic and scientific support to national Antarctic programs and Antarctic organizations in 1998-99. Tour vessels have provided a cost-effective resource for science and IAATO members the opportunity to assist. More than 100 scientists and others from five Antarctic Treaty Parties and their gear were supported, mainly in transport to and from stations and field areas, in the 1998-99 season. Specific requests for logistic or other support should be made to individual members or the IAATO Secretariat. A current IAATO Membership directory is attached to this report. (ATTACHMENT A).
- 9.2 Support offered this season included major transfer of personnel for Australian Antarctic program as a result of problems with their supply ship, *Aurora Australis*. Four personnel and gear were transported from Fremantle to Davis Station, and four from Auster Station to Davis Station, 12 scientists were transported from Davis to Hobart, (including two personnel from the United States Antarctic Program who had worked at Zhongshan Station) to Hobart, and 22 scientists, support personnel, and their gear were transported from Casey Station to Hobart.
- 9.3 IAATO members also transported one German scientist from Argentina to Bellingshausen Station; two personnel to Jubany Station; four to Great Wall Station; seven plus gear to Bellingshausen for station clean-up, and nine from that station afterwards. Provisions were also donated to the Bellingshausen. Two U.S. scientists

were transported from Ushuaia to Palmer Station. Logistical and planning assistance were provided to the Argentine Antarctic Program as part of preparations for operating Almirante Brown Station. Support was provided to the Bulgarian Antarctic Program in transporting four personnel and gear to and from Livingston Island. Other tour vessels in various capacities of support transported an additional 30 personnel.

- 9.4 Members of the Antarctic Site Inventory Project were provided with accommodations, transport and access to visitor sites. Transportation was also provided to members of Project Antarctic Conservation.
- 9.5 In addition to support for Antarctic science and logistics, IAATO members provided transport for researchers, personnel and material in the sub-Antarctic, including the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Macquarie island and the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands.
- 9.6 Antarctic 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, Antarctic Heritage Trust, South Georgia Whaling Museum and Humpback Whale Identification Project.
- 9.7 According to the annual report of the Antarctic Heritage Trust (31 March 1998), \$17,368 or 13% of the annual income was provided by per person donations by tour operators with itineraries including the historic huts. An additional contribution of \$16,259 was made through the raffle of a donated Antarctic cruise.

Appendices:

- A. IAATO Membership Directory, May-99
- B. IAATO Call Data 1998-99
- C. IAATO Annual Instructions
- D. IAATO Disease Protocol
- E. IAATO Pre-Season Checklist

Members

Abercrombie & Kent/
 Explorer Shipping Corporation
 1520 Kensington Road
 Oak Brook IL 60523 USA
 Victoria Underwood
 RES 800 323 7308
 TEL 630 954 2944
 FAX 630 572 1833
 vunderwood@compuserve.com
 www.abercrombiekent.com

Adventure Associates
 197 Oxford Street Mall
 PO Box 612
 Bondi Junction, Sydney, NSW 2022
 Australia
 Dennis Collaton
 TEL (+612) (02) 9389 7466
 FAX (+612) (02) 9369 1853
 mail@adventureassociates.com
 www.adventureassociates.com

Adventure Network International
 Canon House, 27 London End
 Beaconsfield, Bucks
 HP9 2HN U.K.
 Anne Kershaw
 TEL 44 1494 671808
 FAX 44 1494 671725
 adventurenetwork@compuserve.com
 www.adventure-network.com

Aurora Expeditions
 Level 1, 37 George Street
 Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
 Greg Mortimer
 TEL 61 2 9252 1033
 FAX 61 2 9252 1373
 auroraex@world.net
 www.auroraexpeditions.com.au

Clipper Cruise Line
 7711 Bonhomme Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63105
 Naomi Morse
 RES 800 325 1933
 TEL 314-727-2929
 FAX 314-727-5246
 nmorse@intrav.com
 www.clippercruise.com

Hapag-Lloyd Cruiseship
 Management GmbH
 Ballindamm 25
 20020 Hamburg Germany
 Bärbel Krämer
 TEL 49 40 3001 4600
 FAX 49 40 3001 4601
 baerbel.kraemer@hls-cruises.com
 www.hapag-lloyd.com

Heritage Expeditions
 PO Box 20 219
 Christchurch, New Zealand
 Rodney Russ
 TEL 64 3 359 7711
 FAX 64 3 359 3311
 hertexp@ibm.net

Lindblad Special Expeditions
 720 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10019 USA
 RES 800 397 3348
 TEL 212 765 7740
 Peter Butz
 peterb@specialexpeditons.com
 www.expeditions.com

Marine Expeditions
 890 Yonge Street, 3rd fl
 Toronto, Ontario
 M4W 3P4 Canada
 Patrick Shaw
 RES 800 263 9147
 TEL 416 964 5751
 FAX 416 964 2366
 pat@marineex.com
 www.marineex.com

Mountain Travel-Sobek
 6420 Fairmount Avenue
 El Cerrito, CA 94530 USA
 Olaf Malver
 RES 800 227 2384
 TEL 510 527 8105
 FAX 510 525 7710
 richard@mtsobek.com
 www.mtsobek.com

Pelagic Expeditions
 92 Stachell Lane
 Hamble Hants
 SO314HL UK
 Skip Novak
 TEL/FAX 44 1703 454120
 skipnovak@compuserve.com
 www.pelagic.co.uk

Quark Expeditions
 980 Post Road
 Darien CT 06820 USA
 Denise Landau
 RES 800 356 5699
 TEL 203 656 0499
 FAX 203 655 6623
 quarkexpeditions@compuserve.com
 www.Quark-expeditions.com

Society Expeditions
2001 Western Avenue, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98121 USA
John Tillotson
RES 800 548 8669
TEL 206 728 9400
FAX 206 728 2301
Societyexp@aol.com
www.societyexpeditions.com

Travel Dynamics
132 East 70 Street
New York, NY 10021 USA
Jim Smith
RES 800 367 6766
TEL 212 517 7555
FAX 212 517 0077
jim@travdyn.com

Wildwings
International House
Bank Road, Bristol
BS15 2LX Avon U.K.
John Brodie-Good
TEL 44 117 9848040
FAX 44 117 9674444
John.brodiegood@wildwings.co.uk
www.wildwings.co.uk

Zegrahm Expeditions
1414 Dexter Avenue, Suite 327
Seattle, WA 98109 USA
Werner Zehnder
RES. 800 628 8747
TEL 206 285 4000
FAX 206 285 5037
werner@zeco.com
www.zeco.com

Associate Members

Agencia Maritima Internacional
25 de mayo 555 / 20th Floor
10002 Buenos Aires
Argentina
Gonzalo Chantir
Tel. 54-1-310-2400
Fax 54-1-313-1996
amisa@interprov.com

Asteria Travel
Middelburg 2
b-1170 Brussels Belgium
Herman Hannon
Asteria Antarctica
TEL (32) 2 675 11 88
FAX (32) 2 675 1188

Japan Euro-Asia Service Co.
9-3 Rokubancho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102 JAPAN
Matsui Sadaaki
Michi Takahashi
TEL (81) 3 3221 9121
FAX (81) 3 3221 9120
jes@jes-tour.co.jp
www.jes-tour.co.jp

LaTour Chile
Fidel Oteiza 1933
Santiago CHILE
Mike Gallegos
TEL (56) 2 225 2883
FAX (56) 2 225 2545

LifeLong Learning
101 Columbia, Suite 150
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Bill Diebenow
RES. 800 854 4080
TEL 714 362 2900
FAX 714 362 2075
jwdiebenow@msn.com

Natural Habitat Adventures
2945 Center Green Court
Boulder, CO 80301
Sean Jones
RES 800 543 8917
TEL (303) 449 3711
FAX (303) 449 3712
nat@nathab.com
www.nathab.com

Ocean Adventures
Two Jays, Kemple End, Burdy
Brow, Stonyhurst
Lancashire BB7 9QY U.K.
TEL 44 1254 826116
FAX 44 1254 826780
ocean@birdquest.com.uk

Overseas Adventure Travel
626 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Robin Price
RES 800 221 0814
TEL 617 876 0533
FAX 617 876 0455

Park East Tours
1841 Broadway
New York, NY 10023
Eric Gordon
RES. 800 223 6078
TEL 212 765 4870
FAX 202 265 8952

Plancius-Oceanwide
 Rapenburgerstraat 1009
 Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
 J. de Korte
 TEL (31) 20 4221411
 FAX (31) 20 4222126
info@ocnwide.com
www.ocnwide.com

Playguide Tours
 Mandai Building
 4-4 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo
 102 JAPAN
 Tensin Kobayashi
 TEL (81) 3 3288 0911
 FAX (81) 3 3288 3391

Radisson Seven Seas Cruise
 600 Corporate Drive, No 410
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL USA 33334
 Paul Goodwin
 RES. 800 333 3333
 TEL 954 776 6123
 FAX 954 776 2283
pgoodwin@radisson.com
www.rssc.com

Sintec Tur
 Reconquista 34, Piso 5
 1003 Buenos Aires Argentina
 Pedro Bachrach
 TEL 54 1 325 3883
 FAX 54 1 325 5941

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003
 Austin, TX USA 78746
 800 328 8368
 Tel 512 328 5221
 Fax 512 328 2919
Ventbird@aol.com

Office of the Secretariat

Darrel Schoeling
 IAATO Secretariat
 114 East 14 Street, No. 110
 New York, New York 10003 USA
 TEL 212 460 8715
 FAX 212 529 8684
 E-mail: iaato@iaato.org
www.iaato.org

Denise Landau
 IAATO Secretary Elect
 0025 Dakota Meadows Drive
 Carbondale, CO 81623
 TEL 970 704 9178
 FAX 970 704 9660
iaato@iaato.org

Spokesperson

John Splettsstoesser
 235 Camden, Suite 32
 Rockland, ME 04841
 Tel. 207 594 7594
 Fax. 207 594 7594
 E-mail: Jspletts@midcoast.com

Name	Operator	Call Sign	Fax	Voice	Email	Telex
<i>EMER</i>	Adventure Network PUQ	24 hour Emergency Station	(56) 61 226167	(56)61247735 Emergency: (56) 61220565	Ani@chilesat.net	
<i>Patriot Hills</i>	Adventure Network		874-683-141498	874-683-143497	113251.2240@compuserve.com	
<i>Blue One</i>	Adventure Network		871-683-141511	871-683-141510		
<i>Bremen</i>	Hapag-Lloyd	C6JC3	xxx-110 3405 xxx-110 3736	xxx-110 3404 xxx-110 3735	captain_bremen@bremenms.comail.compuserve.com	1103404 1103735
<i>Caledonian Star</i>	Special Expeditions	C6BE4	xxx-330 818 213	xxx-330 818 210 xxx-330 818 211 xxx-330 818 212		
<i>Clipper Adventurer</i>	Clipper Cruise Line	C6PG6	xxx-330 999 716	xxx-330 999 710 xxx-330 999 711 xxx-330 999 712 xxx-330 999 713 xxx-330 999 714		330999718
<i>ko</i>	Marine Expeditions	OVQV	xxx-321 969 321	xxx-321 969320 xxx-321 969310		
<i>Explorer</i>	Abercrombie & Kent / Explorer Shipping	ELJD8	xxx-(81)124 1224	xxx-(81)124 1223	explorer@super-hub.com	xxx-124 1223
<i>Hanseatic</i>	Hapag-Lloyd	C6KA9	xxx-110 3726 xxx-110 3727	xxx-110 3730 xxx-110 3725 0171-6426938 MOBIL	captain_hanseatic@hanseaticms.comail.compuserve.com	1103725 & 1103727
<i>Ioffe</i>	Marine Expeditions	UAUN	xxx-140 0655 (V/F)	xxx-140 0655 (V/F)		
<i>Kapitan Khlebnikov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UGSE	xxx-140-2733	xxx-140-0676		
<i>Marco Polo</i>	Orient Lines	C6J27	xxx-6308 69313 xxx-130 6216	xxx-6308 69310 xxx-6308 69311 xxx-6308 69312		130 625
<i>Molchanov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UUQR	xxx-627 315412	xxx-627 315410 xxx-627 315411		473-00256
<i>Mutanovsky</i>	Quark Expeditions	UJFO	xxx-327 374 912	xxx-327 314 910		
<i>Pelagic</i>	Pelagic Expeditions	ZJL5390	4378 00434 (F)			
<i>Shokalskiy</i>	Heritage Expeditions	UBNF				427 320 148 (incoming)
<i>Shuleykin</i>	Marine Expeditions	UBNZ	xxx-321-410	xxx-761-321-399	Ubnz@globeemail.com (Via Globe Wireless)	286-06
<i>Vavilov</i>	Quark Expeditions	UAUO	xxx-140-1507	xxx-140-1507		
<i>World Discoverer</i>	Society Expeditions	ELDU3	Xxx-363 650 920	xxx-363 650 910	xxx-463 650 730	

ANI monitors HF radio frequencies (mhz):

15026, 11228, 8992

IAATO HF radio schedule (khz) (0700, 1900 Ushuaia local time)

44146 (1°), 6224 (2°), 8294 (3°)

September 25, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO All Antarctic Captains, Expedition Leaders and Radio Officers
FM IAATO
RE 1998/99 Season

We developed the following notice at the IAATO annual meeting to help guide the exchange of information among vessels, co-ordination of itineraries and reporting for the season.

Exchange of Itineraries

- IAATO members agree to exchange itineraries and coordinate schedules. This is a key factor in self-regulation, monitoring of activities and also in effective emergency response.
- Consult the IAATO preliminary schedule (and updates circulated by In.Fue.Tur) to determine which vessels will be in your cruising area.
- Circulate your proposed final itinerary via fax, telex or radio (preferred) or e-mail. (Please note that few tour vessels have regular real-time exchange of e-mail)
- Itineraries may also be circulated via In.Fue.Tur but this is a method of last resort. Not all ships call at Ushuaia and the responsibility to circulate information is on individual vessels.
- Be sure to also exchange environmental information and management recommendations for individual landing sites or other notices with your colleagues as the season progresses.

Itinerary Changes

- To avoid conflicts, notify vessels in the region of any changes in planned itinerary as soon as practical.
- Notification can be by fax, telex, VHF or HF (see below).
- To preserve the spirit of discovery, vessels should also make efforts to stay out of sight of each other.

Landing Priority

- In general, priority is given to the first vessel that has made its intentions known.
- In the event of conflict, expedition leaders should coordinate between themselves to determine priority, which is best accomplished through negotiation via HF or VHF.
- Please resolve any conflicts equitably. It is assumed that vessels visiting a site with some regularity will give way to a vessel that is not but any number of factors may come into play.
- Two vessels are not to land at the same place at the same time and, to avoid any potential environmental impacts, efforts should be made to spread out visits over time.

Station Visits

- Tour operators have agreed to provide at least 72 hour-notice of any planned station visit.
- Follow individual procedures determined by national programs/station leaders.
- Provide timely notice of cancellation, generally at least 48 hours in advance.
- Please include any additional station contact information, standard procedures or incidents involving stations in your voyage report to the home office.

Channel 16

- Channel 16 is used for hailing purposes only, NOT general communication.
- After making contact, immediately switch to another channel to continue conversation.
- Expedition Leaders should periodically review radio etiquette with staff. The airwaves during the height of the season in the Peninsula have been crowded, an issue with IAATO members and potentially with research stations. Take care to follow standard international procedures.

IAATO Radio Schedule

- IAATO members have agreed to implement a twice daily radio schedule.
- All ships should report in with their position/destination at 0700 and 1900 daily (Ushuaia local time). Each radio officer should record this information.
- Suggested HF hailing frequencies are: 44146 (1°), 6224 (2°), 8294 (3°), to be finalized by radio officers during the season based on experience.
- Expedition leaders should make use of this schedule whenever VHF communication is impossible for exchange information. This will reduce communication costs.
- Please switch to another frequency for any extended conversation.

EMER (Emergency and Medical Evacuation Response)

- Review the IAATO Emergency Contingency Plan included in your briefing package.
- The reporting scheme indicated above is an integral part of emergency response. Please insure that it is followed and report any difficulties to your home office.

Post-Visit Reporting

- Following Antarctic Treaty recommendations, complete Part 1 and Part 2 of the standard Post-Visit report for every expedition. This should be the ONLY form completed and it should be completed carefully and returned to the office. This information is tabulated and circulated internationally.
- Please note guests of the company, guest lecturers, other "non-revenue passengers" should be reported as passengers *for the purposes of this report* unless they have a specific role ashore. In general, those responsible for supervising passenger operations ashore who report to the expedition leader are considered staff. Your office will provide additional guidance.
- Please use the standard list of "Antarctic Peninsula Region Landing Sites" for Part 2, in which case you need not complete the Latitude/Longitude. Please correct duplications or inconsistencies. In general, the most specific place name is used.
- Make additions to the list of landing sites as necessary -- taking note of the standard procedures included in your briefing packet for assessing new or rarely visited sites.

Have a safe and successful Antarctic season.

Introduction or Detection of Diseases in Antarctic Wildlife, IAATO Perspective

Preamble

Inherent in the mandate of IAATO member companies is a long term commitment to environmentally sensitive travel to Antarctica. For a number of years IAATO members, being mindful of Environmental Protocol Recommendation XVIII-I, have been using simple precautionary techniques to ensure that foreign material and/or potential pathogens are not introduced into Antarctica by tourists. In the last several years these procedures have been formalized and reviewed by national authorities via Environmental Impact Assessments.

Recognizing that tourists in Antarctica are a highly mobile population and that little is known about the introduction and translocation of alien organisms in the Antarctic, IAATO hopes to play a continuing active role in responding to new information.

Resulting from the Diseases of Antarctic Wildlife workshop hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division (Hobart, Oct 1998), this document is intended to address the concern about the potential translocation of diseases by tourists in Antarctica, and to suggest a cost effective, practical solution. Given the current lack of scientific data on natural disease status and microbial populations of Antarctic wildlife, and of methods to prevent anthropogenic transmission, a sensible precautionary approach is proposed.

Antarctic tour operators and staff can be a resource for disease surveillance, reporting and containment. Vessels operated by IAATO members cover a wide variety of coastal terrain in a short space of time and can provide valuable data to the scientific community on the overall state of wildlife populations.

IAATO members have continued to make use of boot-washing stations before and after each landing along with a visual check of clothing and gear for any exotic organisms. Following the Diseases of Antarctic Wildlife workshop, IAATO researched a simple effective antiseptic which could be used to limit possible translocation of diseases, such as in penguin feces, when passengers moved from one rookery to another for example.

We were surprised to find that experts in the field do not agree whether any further action is required beyond simply washing boots and soiled clothing in clean water. A number of researchers suggested that a weak solution of iodine might be a suitable antiseptic. Bearing in mind the variance in opinion amongst experts in the field, IAATO suggests the following:

1. PREVENTATIVE ACTION

- * Prior to their first landing in Antarctica, all passengers receive a comprehensive briefing on Antarctic conservation. An integral part of this briefing is explaining the importance of preventing the possible introduction of foreign materials to Antarctica, and the potential for translocation between Antarctic sites.
- * Before each shore visit passengers and staff are asked to check their clothing for seeds and other extraneous material and scrub their boots in a foot bath on the ship's deck.

Given that most voyages depart from Ushuaia and many passengers spend time in Tierra del Fuego before embarkation, the opportunity to transport material to the Antarctic is obvious and a thorough cleaning before the first landing is particularly important.

- * Following each landing for the duration of the voyage, passengers scrub boots at the water's edge prior to boarding Zodiacs and again aboard the ship at the head of the gangway. The foot bath should contain a diluted iodine solution (ratio: three tablespoons of saturated solution to a ten gallon bucket).
- * Disposal of the used iodine solution, which may possibly contain pathogens and is a poison, must be considered. Iodine occurs naturally in the ecosystem and is present in foot bath water in low enough concentrations that it is not considered a threat to the environment. We propose that dirty foot bath water should be disposed into the sea at the place of anchorage at each landing rather than flushed into the ship's tanks. In this way any contaminants acquired at that site will be returned to the waters from which they came, rather than being translocated.
- * Zodiacs are kept clean between landings and care is taken to remove stones, kelp etc. from the floor of the Zodiac after each landing.
- * Helicopter skids and passenger compartments are cleaned between landings using clean sea water.

2. PROCEDURES UPON THE DISCOVERY OF A HIGH MORTALITY EVENT

Antarctic tour vessels can potentially act as monitors of the health of wildlife populations, traveling along coastal areas throughout the Antarctic summer. We are not proposing that IAATO vessels take any formal responsibility of monitoring the health of wildlife populations but rather that IAATO instigates a code of practice for responding to a high mortality event.

While acknowledging that high mortality events are open to interpretation in size and cause, the critical issue is that any perceived, highly unusual event be noted and reported appropriately. In the event of discovering a mortality event, tour operators should:

- * Describe and report the event to the nearest scientific station and ships operating in the area. The national authority that the tour organizer provided advance notification should also be notified and an incident report should be prepared for IAATO.
- * In such a scenario, the primary responsibility of the operator is to say that he/she has seen something unusual.
- * Where the operator has reason to believe that landing passengers could lead to translocation of disease or may otherwise be ill-advised, the landing should be aborted.
- * In the event of a landing being made and a mass mortality event not being recognized, then normal boot scrubbing procedures and adherence to approved landing procedures should be enough to minimize the risk of spreading disease.

IAATO Pre-Season Checklist

1998-99 Season

- Memorandum to Antarctic Captains, Expedition Leaders and Radio Officers
- Antarctic Peninsula Region Landing Sites [REVISED]
- Antarctic Communications Directory (COMNAP MINI-ATOM)
- IAATO Call Data, 1998-99
- Preliminary Ship Schedules, November 1998 – March 1999
- Copy of Environmental Impact Assessment (varies by organizer)
- CCAMLR Marine Debris in Antarctic Waters (placard)
- Ship Observation of Antarctic Icebergs
- Help Stop Toothfish Poaching
- Diseases of Antarctic Wildlife (conference poster)
- Approved 1998-99 Palmer Station Cruise Ship Visits

General

- Post-Visit Report, Part 1 (Expedition Record) and Part 2 (Site Visit Record) [REVISED]
- General Medical Information, Parts I, II and III
- IAATO Emergency and Medical Response Contingency Plan
- Recommendation XVIII-1 (English, Spanish, French, Russian, German, Japanese)
- IAATO Slide Presentation, Safety and Conservation Briefing
- Antarctic Tourism statistics, graphs and charts compiled by NSF
- IAATO Annual report to the ATCM and other relevant papers
- Compendium of Antarctic Peninsula Visitor Sites
- "Behold Antarctica" Video (produced by U.S. National Science Foundation)
- Handbook off the Antarctic Treaty System