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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2012-13

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Information Paper submitted by the United Kingdom in conjunction with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)

Summary

This Information Paper provides an update on data contained in ATCMXXXV/IP42 presented by the United Kingdom, in conjunction with IAATO, with the aim of continuing to share information with other Treaty Parties about the number of yachts operating in the Antarctic during the past (2012-13) season. The data is derived from landings reported by the British team at Port Lockroy, Antarctic Peninsula, and supplemented by additional sightings recorded by IAATO members in the Treaty area and others.

Background

Parties welcomed the information provided by the UK, in conjunction with IAATO, about sighted yacht activities during 2011/12 (ATCM XXXV/IP42) and so this Information Paper provides the same information for the past season.

As last year, the information from Port Lockroy is collected as part of a wider visitor monitoring programme (for all visitors and vessels). The information from IAATO members is from other incidental sightings by their members. We would welcome any supplementary material which adds to or verifies this information.

Compared to last year, the overall number of yachts sighted was down, from 37 in 2011/12 (of which 14 were IAATO members and 23 were not), to 32 in 2012/13 (of which 18 were IAATO members and 14 were not). One vessel was unauthorised and another's authorisation status is unknown.

Recommendation

Whilst the attached list is not exhaustive, the United Kingdom and IAATO continue to believe that it is important that the ATCM continues to monitor the level of yachting activities in Antarctica, taking particular note to identify any yachts that may have been in the region without authorisation from a Treaty Party.

For that reason, we would continue to invite the ATCM to encourage Parties to continue to share information, including for example via the EIES Pre-Season Information facility and via the post-visit site reports, in line with Resolution 5(2005), particularly for any non-IAATO yachts they have authorised in order to increase the level of coordination between Parties about yacht activity in Antarctica.

List of yachts observed in Antarctica during the 2012-13 season

Table 1: IAATO members

| Name of Yacht | Flag State | Authorising Party |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Arctic P | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Australis | Australia | Australia |
| Erica XII | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Golden Fleece | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Hans Hansson | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Hanse Explorer | Antigua | Germany |
| IceBird | UK Overseas Territory | Australia |
| Paradise | France | France |
| Pelagic | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Pelagic Australis | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Podorange | UK | France |
| Selma | Poland | Poland |
| Sherakhan | Netherlands | Netherlands |
| Spirit of Sydney | Australia | Australia |
| Sta Maria Australis | Germany | Germany |
| Suri | Marshall Islands | UK |
| Vaihere | Belgium | Belgium |
| Xplore | Australia | Australia |

(Total = 18)

Table 2: Non-IAATO members, with authorisation from a Treaty Party

| Name of Yacht | Flag State | Authorising Party |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Alado | France | France |
| Antarkticos | Argentina | Argentina |
| Boulard | France | France |
| Endurance of Antarctica | Chile | Chile |
| Hortense | UK Overseas Territory | UK |
| Icebird | France | France |
| Ile d'Elle | France | France |
| Northanger | New Zealand | USA |
| Petit Prince | France | France |
| Providence | Australia | Australia |
| Quijite | Argentina | Argentina |
| Sarah Vorwerk | Germany | Germany |

(Total = 12)

Table 3: Non-IAATO, without authorisation from a Treaty Party

| Name of Yacht | Flag State | Authorising Party |
|---------------|------------|---|
| Pakea Bizkaia | UK | Not authorised. (The yacht was operated and crewed by Spanish nationals, but neither UK nor Spain provided authorisation to the yacht.) |
| Savage | Unknown | Unknown – likely not authorised |

(Total = 2)

Table 4: Update to information in Table 4 of ATCM XXXV/IP42 – Yacht visits to Port Lockroy

| Season | Number of Yacht visits* |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1996-1997 | 15 |
| 1997-1998 | 18 |
| 1998-1999 | 23 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 |
| 2000-2001 | 16 |
| 2001-2002 | 19 |
| 2002-2003 | 25 |
| 2003-2004 | 24 |
| 2004-2005 | 22 |

| Season | Number of Yacht visits* |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 2005-2006 | 19 |
| 2006-2007 | 51 |
| 2007-2008 | 38 |
| 2008-2009 | 42 |
| 2009-2010 | 55 |
| 2010-2011 | 57 |
| 2011-2012 | 52 |
| 2012-2013 | 50 |

^{*}includes multiple visits by the same yacht