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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2013-14

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

Summary

Since 2010, the United Kingdom, in conjunction with IAATO, has provided reports to the ATCM about the number of yachts sighted in the Antarctic during each previous season (ATCMXXXIII/WP52; ATCMXXXIV/WP20; ATCMXXXV/IP42; ATCMXXXVI/IP54). This Information Paper provides such information for the past (2013-14) season. The data is derived from landings reported by the British team at Port Lockroy, Antarctic Peninsula, and supplemented by additional sightings recorded by other UK vessels, IAATO members in the Treaty area, and others.

Background

Parties have previously welcomed information about sighted yacht activities, which have enabled Parties to both consider the overall volume of yachts known to be visiting the continent, and to confirm whether appropriate authorisations for such activities had been obtained.

As in previous years, the information from Port Lockroy has been collected as part of a wider visitor monitoring programme (for all visitors and vessels). The information from IAATO members and others is from other incidental sightings. We would welcome any supplementary material which adds to or verifies this information. For the first time we have also included details of yachts identified on the EIES system but which were not sighted (by either the UK or IAATO members) in the Treaty area.

Compared to last year, the overall number of yachts sighted showed a minor increase, from 32 in 2012-13 (of which 18 were IAATO members and 14 were not), to 36 in 2013-14 (of which 20 were IAATO members and 16 were not). One vessel was confirmed as unauthorised.

Recommendation

Whilst the attached list is not exhaustive, the United Kingdom and IAATO 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, the UK and IAATO would **invite the ATCM to encourage Parties to continue to share information about yachts they have authorised, including for example via the EIES Pre-Season Information facility and via the post-visit site reports, in line with Resolution 5(2005). IAATO would continue to welcome information about non-IAATO yachts receiving authorisation.**

List of yachts observed in Antarctica during the 2013-14 season

Table 1: IAATO members

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Arctic P	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Asteria	Marshall Islands	UK
Australis	Australia	Australia
Endurance of Antarctica	UK	UK
Golden Fleece	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Hans Hansson	UK Overseas Territory	UK & Netherlands (separate voyages)
Hanse Explorer	Antigua	Germany
IceBird	Australia	Australia
Kotick	Antigua	France
Lord Nelson	UK	UK
Louise	UK	UK
Paradise	France	France
Pelagic	St Kitts & Nevis	UK
Pelagic Australis	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Podorange	UK	France
Santa Maria Australis	Germany	Germany
Selma Expeditions	Poland	Poland
Spirit of Sydney	Australia	Australia
Vaihere	Belgium	Belgium
Xplore	Panama	Australia

(Total = 20)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Commitment	Australia	Australia
Dana Felicia	UK	UK
Elinca	UK	UK
Faraway	South Africa	South Africa
Fleur Austral	France	France
Fraternidade	Brazil	Brazil
Ile d'Elle	Belgium	France
Invubu II	South Africa	South Africa
Kotick II	Antigua	Brazil
La Boulard	France	France
Leava	Belgium	Belgium
Necton	Netherlands	Netherlands
Sarah Vorwerk	Germany	Germany
Vivid	UK	USA
Windjammer	Australia	Australia

(Total = 15)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Infinity	Germany	Not authorised

(Total = 1)

Table 4: Recorded on EIES but not sighted in the Treaty area (by the UK or IAATO)

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Balane V	France	France
Beijing Echo	China	China
Carmen	Australia	Australia
Storm Bay of Hobart	Australia	Australia
Polo Flat	Australia	Australia
Tarka	France	France
Lyra	Netherlands	Netherlands

(Total = 7)

Table 5: Update to information in Table 4 of ATCM XXXVI/IP54 – 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
2013-2014	48

**includes multiple visits by the same yacht*