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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2014-15

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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; ATCM XXXVI/IP54; ATCM XXXVII/IP55). This Information Paper provides such information for the past (2014-15) 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.

Compared to last year, the overall number of yachts sighted showed a minor increase, from 36 in 2013-14 (of which 20 were IAATO members and 16 were not), to 38 in 2014-15 (of which 15 were IAATO members and 23 were not). Three vessels were confirmed as unauthorised, and the authorisation of three yachts registered to Switzerland is unknown.

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 those yachts that may have been in the region without authorisation from a Treaty Party.

For that reason, the UK and IAATO **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 2014-15 season

Table 1: IAATO members

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Anne Margaretha	Netherlands	Netherlands
Australis	Australia	Australia
Drumbeat	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Hanse Explorer	Antigua and Barbuda	Germany
Hans Hansson	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Golden Fleece	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Icebird	Australia	Australia
Paradise	France	France
Pelagic Australis	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Podorange	UK	France
Pumula	UK Overseas Territory	UK
Santa Maria Australis	Germany	Germany
Spirit of Sydney	Australia	Australia
Vaihere	Belgium	Belgium
Selma	Poland	Poland

(Total = 15)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Ariana	Swedish	Sweden
Balane V	France	France
Fidelis	UK Crown Dependency	United States
Flores	France	France
Isfluglen	Poland	Poland
Jonathan III	Netherlands	Netherlands
Katharis II	UK	Poland
L'île de Elle	Belgium	France
La Boulard	France	France
Polonus	Poland	Poland
Safari	France	France
Saoirse	New Zealand	New Zealand
Storm Bay of Hobart	Australia	Australia
Tarka	France	France

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Triton	Marshall Islands	Australia
Sam Simon	Netherlands	Australia
Bob Barker	Netherlands	Australia

(Total = 17)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Beserk	Russian Federation	Not authorised
Sarah Vorwerk	Germany	Not authorised
Kat	Brazil	Not authorised
Iorana	Switzerland	Unknown
Libellule	Switzerland	Unknown
Suditode	Switzerland	Unknown

(Total = 6)

Table 4: Update to information in Table 5 of ATCM XXXVII/IP55 – 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
2005-2006	19

Season	Number of Yacht visits*
2006-2007	51
2007-2008	38
2008-2009	42
2009-2010	55
2010-2011	57
2011-2012	52
2012-2013	50
2013-2014	48
2014-2015	49

**includes multiple visits by the same yacht*