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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2015-16

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Working Paper submitted by the United Kingdom, Argentina and Chile in conjunction with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)

Summary

Since 2010, the United Kingdom and IAATO have 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; ATCM XXXVIII/IP96). Additionally, Argentina has in past years provided reports informing of yachts travelling to Antarctica from Ushuaia (ATCMXXXIV/IP21rev.1; ATCMXXXVII/IP88; ATCMXXXVIII/IP127rev.1).

This paper consolidates information from the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile and IAATO relating to yachts sighted in Antarctica, or indicating an intention to travel to Antarctica, during the 2015-16 season. The paper also recommends that Parties invite all those vessels that they authorise to visit Antarctica to report to them, as soon as possible, any yachts sighted in Antarctica which are not listed in the EIES Summarised Report of authorised vessels.

Background

The ATCM has previously welcomed information about sighted yacht activities, which has enabled Parties to 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, this paper includes information collected as part of a wider visitor monitoring programme (for all visitors and vessels) at the British-operated base Port Lockroy; and incidental sightings recorded by IAATO members. This year, the paper also includes information kindly provided by Chile, based on details recorded from yachts indicating an intention to travel from Puerto Williams to Antarctica and provided by Argentina in relation to yachts travelling to Antarctica from Ushuaia, as well as yachts visiting the Argentine base Brown. It would be helpful if Parties could provide any supplementary material which adds to or verifies this information.

41 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2015-16 season. This represented a slight increase from 38 reported in 2014-15. Just less than half were IAATO members (table 1); 16 were non-IAATO members, but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 2); 1 vessel was sighted in Antarctica having been denied authorisation, 2 were understood to have not had Antarctic authorisation, and the authorisation status of a further 4 yachts remains unclear (table 3).

During this past year, the Secretariat developed an EIES summarised reporting tool, which can generate a complete list of all vessels included in pre-season information as having obtained authorisation to operate in Antarctica (http://www.ats.aq/devAS/ie_reports.aspx?lang=e). This facility makes it much easier to determine whether a yacht is authorised, and consequently, this may be a useful tool for use in-season to expedite the verification of the authorisation status of any sighted yachts.

Recommendation

Whilst the attached list is not exhaustive, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile 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. The proponents also recommend that the ATCM:

1. Continues to encourage Parties to share information about yachts they have authorised, notably through the EIES Pre-Season Information facility and via the post-visit site reports, in line with Resolution 5 (2005); and
2. Encourages Parties to invite all those vessels that they authorise to visit Antarctica to report, as soon as possible, to them any yachts sighted in Antarctica which are not listed in the EIES Summarised Report of authorised vessels, to expedite the ability of Parties to verify authorisation status.

List of yachts observed in, or reporting an intention to travel to, Antarctica during the 2015-16 season

Table 1: IAATO members

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Australis	Australia	Australia
Bark Europa	Netherlands	Netherlands
Enigma XK	Marshall Islands	UK
Golden Fleece	UK	UK
Hans Hansson	UK	UK
Hanse Explorer	Antigua and Barbuda	Germany
Icebird	Australia	Australia
Ocean Tramp	Marshall Islands	USA
Paradise	France	France
Pelagic	St Kitts Nevis	UK
Pelagic Australis	UK	UK
Podorange	UK	France
Santa Maria Australis	Germany	Germany
Selma	Poland	Poland
Spirit of Sydney	Australia	Australia
Vaihere	Belgium	Belgium
Vava II	UK	UK
Xplore	Panama	Australia

(Total = 18)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Abel Tasman	Cook Islands	Australia
Alkyone	Germany	Germany
Casa	Germany	Germany
Cachoeira	France	France
Commitment	Australia	Australia
Dagmar Aaen	Germany	Germany
Dakota 2016	Netherlands	Netherlands
Issuma	Canada	Canada
Jonathan III	Netherlands	Netherlands
Juan sa Bulan 3	Belgium	Belgium
Lady Free	Norway	Norway
L'île d'Elle	Belgium	France
Le Boulard	France	France
Manta	Finland	Finland
Tarka	France	France
Venus	France	Canada

(Total = 16)

Table 3: Non-IAATO members, without authorisation from a Treaty Party or where authorisation status is unknown

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Angelique II	France	<i>Unknown</i>
Ch'timagine III	France	Denied by France
Hanna	Germany	<i>Unknown</i>
Kestrel 1	Canada	Not authorised for Antarctica (authorised to depart Chile for international waters)
Kotick II	Brazil	<i>Unknown</i>
Sarah Vorwerk	Germany	Not authorised
13 Beaufort	Netherlands	<i>Unknown</i>

(Total = 7)