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Presented by: United Kingdom,
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*In conjunction
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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2016-17

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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). Last year the UK and IAATO joined with Chile and Argentina to present ATCM XXXIX/WP34.

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 2016-17 season. The paper also recommends that Parties invite all those vessels that they authorise to visit Antarctica to report, 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 UK-operated base Port Lockroy; information from Argentina on yachts travelling to Antarctica from Ushuaia, as well as yachts visiting Argentine operated Brown station; information provided by Chile based on details recorded from yachts indicating an intention to travel from Puerto Williams/Punta Arenas to Antarctica; and incidental sightings recorded by IAATO members. It would be helpful if Parties could provide any supplementary material which adds to or verifies this information.

A total of 33 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2016-17 season. This represented a slight decrease from 41 reported in 2015-16. Just less than half were IAATO members (table 1); 13 were non-IAATO members but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 2); and 5 unauthorised vessels were sighted (table 3).

Parties are reminded that the EIES contains a 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 and encourages Parties to share information about yachts they have authorised through the EIES Pre-Season Information facility and via the post-visit site reports, in line with Resolution 5 (2005). We would also point to the continuing activity of yachts that have been in the region without authorisation from a Treaty Party and urge the ATCM to consider further the matter of unauthorised yachts.

List of yachts observed in Antarctica during the 2016-17 season

Table 1: IAATO members¹

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Alucia	Marshall Islands	UK
Australis	Australia	Australia
Hans Hansson	UK	UK
Hanse Explorer	Antigua and Barbuda	Germany
Kotick	Antigua and Barbuda	France
Legend	Panama	UK
Ocean Tramp	St. Vincent and Grenadines	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	St. Vincent and Grenadines	Australia
Vaihere	Belgium	Belgium

(Total 15)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Basic Instinct	Vanuatu	France
Icebird	Australia	Australia
Ionara	Belgium	Belgium
Jonathan	Netherlands	Canada
Juan Sa Bulan 3	Belgium	Belgium
L'Esprit D'Equipe	France	France
Le Boulard	France	France
Moana	Belgium	Belgium
Nashachata II	UK	Poland
Pytheas	France	France
Reliance	UK	UK
Tarka	France	France
Venus	France	Canada

(Total =13)

¹ Bark Europa was included in ATCM XXXIX/WP34 and continues to operate in Antarctica, as an IAATO member vessel. This is however a SOLAS vessel and so will no longer be included in the annual yacht report.

Table 3: Non-IAATO members, understood to be without authorisation or that were not able to present one from a Treaty Party

Name of Yacht	Flag State
Altego II	Slovakia
Antarctic	Australia
Geluk	Netherlands
Peter the 1 st	Russia
Sarah Vorwerk	Germany

(Total 5)