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Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2017-18

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Information 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). For the last two years Chile, Argentina, the UK and IAATO have presented a joint paper (ATCM XXXIX/WP34 and ATCMXL/WP19).

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 2017-18 season.

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 45 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2017-18 season. This represented an increase of 36% from the 33 reported in 2016-17. Around a third of these were IAATO members (table 1); 19 were non-IAATO members but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 2); and 9 vessels appear to the cosponsors to be unauthorised vessels (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.

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 continued activity of yachts that have been operating in the region without authorisation from a Treaty Party. We urge the ATCM to consider further the matter of unauthorised yachts.

List of yachts observed in Antarctica during the 2017-18 season

Table 1: IAATO members

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Australis	Australia	Australia
Cloudbreak	UK	UK
Enigma XK	Marshall Islands	UK
Hans Hansson	UK	UK
Hanse Explorer	Antigua and Barbuda	Germany
Icebird	UK	Australia
Kotick	Antigua and Barbuda	France
Le Sourire	St Kitts and Nevis	France
Ocean Tramp	St. Vincent and Grenadine	USA
Paradise	France	France
Pelagic	St. Kitts Nevis	UK
Pelagic Australis	UK	UK
Podorange	UK	France
Michaela Rose	UK	UK
Santa Maria Australis	Germany	Germany
Selma	Poland	Poland
Spirit of Sydney	St. Vincent and Grenadine	Australia
Vaihere	Belgium	Belgium

(Total 18)

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

Name of Yacht	Flag State	Authorising Party
Anao	France	France
Anna Margaretha	Netherlands	Netherlands
Antipode	France	France
Fernande	France	Brazil
Isflugen	Poland	Poland
Jonathan	Netherlands	Canada
Kotic 2	Antigua and Barbuda	Brazil
Kraken	Australia	Australia
Lady Dana 44	Poland	Poland
La Cardinal	Marshall Islands	France
L'Esprit D'Equipe	France	France
Le Boulard	France	France
Le Grand Jack en Liberte	Belgium	Belgium
Libertaire	France	France
Novara	UK	UK
Petrouchka	France	France
Polar Wind	Antigua and Barbuda	Chile
Sir Ernst	France	France
Tarka	France	France

(Total =19)

Table 3: Non-IAATO members, and yachts without, or unable to present, authorisation from a Treaty Party

Name of Yacht	Flag State
Altego II	Germany
Caiman	Panama
Crilu	Italy
Yvinec	France
La Belle Epoque	Austria
Iron Bark II	Australia
Rusarc Aurora	Malta
Sarah Vorwerk	Germany
Windrose of Amsterdam	Malta

(Total 9)