



My dear Field Staff colleagues,

Many of you are now heading home after a busy, informative and productive Polar Field Staff Conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The conference was the latest bi-annual collaboration between IAATO and the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and brimming with enthusiastic discussions about leadership and dealing with a crisis, managing visitor expectations, and citizen science, promoting ambassadorship and why the 'rules' are our 'tools' for delivering safe, environmentally responsible polar travel.

In the years I have been involved with IAATO and AECO, I have watched the development of support for the field staff grow from a gathering of three people during a coffee break at an IAATO Annual Meeting to this - now the third joint meeting, and with so many people representing myriad member companies.



**Your feedback is important for shaping future conferences.**

**Don't forget to complete your PFSC attendee survey**

I am grateful to IAATO and AECO Operators for supporting this conference and for sending you to Sturbridge to be part of the conversation around responsible field leadership. We, the Field Staff, are the face of the responsible polar tourism industry, and while we all represent different brands, we are a team.

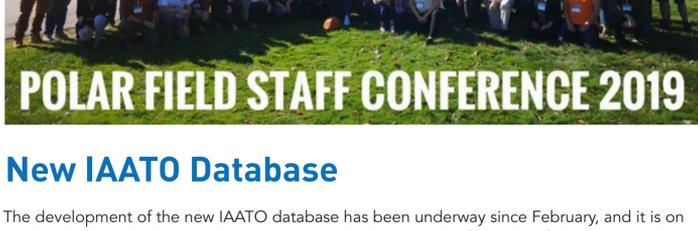
We are responsible to our companies who we signed contracts with, we are responsible to our guests to whom we have pledged to educate on the wonders of the poles and the wildlife that calls them home. We have responsibilities to the teams we work with, the ship, the captain, the crew and to our fellow expedition team members – and of course, we have a duty to the destination - to the polar world in which we explore.

I always tell anyone who joins our team, that in addition to all those responsibilities, they have a duty to the person standing next to them. Part of their job is to help others succeed at theirs, regardless of what that role is; we all have a responsibility to help each other succeed.

My obligation does not end with my brand, it goes on to all of you; to Antarctica to the Arctic. Working as a team we have the power to help protect the special places we so dearly love.

It is a privilege to call you my polar family, and I wish you a safe and remarkable season.

**Susan Adie**  
Chair of Field Operations Committee  
International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators



**THANK YOU!**  
**POLAR FIELD STAFF CONFERENCE 2019**

## New IAATO Database

The development of the new IAATO database has been underway since February, and it is on track to be launched on October 1st. Because the last couple of months of development have focused on making sure the Live Ship Scheduler comes online in time for the season (see below for further information), the October 1 version of the database will be limited in scope. It will initially be operating with only the essential sections needed for seasonal operation which are the Membership and Vessel Directories and the Ship Scheduler. Other sections, which are not as time-sensitive, like PVR imports and the Fees and Dues section, will continue with development after the initial launch. In the next weeks the Secretariat will send you further information about the new database and how to use it.

### Live Ship Scheduler Update

The new IAATO Live Ship Scheduler will be active for the 2019-20 season and was launched on October 1. This new system will greatly diminish the need for the email back and forth between the vessels. Using a web-based app that operates on low bandwidth (similar to RedPort), the new Scheduler allows changes to be made in real-time.

For any questions about the New database or Live Ship Scheduler please [email Lisa Kelley](#).

## FOM Sync App V4 has landed

The FOM Sync App v4 allows IAATO members to electronically access and download the most up to date files from the FOM to your computer. It also now allows users to search the FOM for specific documents and/or contents within a document. If at any time during the year a new document is added to the FOM, it will download automatically when the App is synced.

After the initial download, the App will download only new documents, not the entire FOM.

Please delete FOM Sync v3 from your computer from last year and download the new version FOM Sync v4 following the instructions.

To download FOM Sync App v4, for Mac, [use this link](#). Please move FOM Sync App download from the downloads folder to a different folder (such as Documents or Desktop) before launching.

To download FOM Sync App v4, for Win, [use this link](#).

To allow for smoother syncing, PPT briefings and animations are no longer synced through the App, and should now be downloaded directly from the [IAATO website](#). They can also be found on the Flash Drives delivered to the ships.

The FOM is a living document and relies on your feedback and input. The IAATO Secretariat is here to assist you with any queries or issues. Please do not hesitate to get in touch; we are here to help and support you. For feedback on the FOM please [contact IAATO Operations](#).

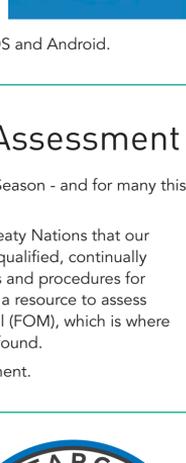
## Heading South? Don't forget to sync your Polar Field Guide: Antarctica app!

With the Antarctic season almost upon us, it's time to sync your IAATO Polar Guide: Antarctica app for new content and updates.

The app enables you to access the latest essential, publicly available IAATO, Antarctic Treaty System and South Georgia information from a phone or tablet while in the field. It also includes the current International Maritime Organisation (IMO) information for effective yacht and ship operations and ways in which you can support Antarctic science and conservation, including citizen science.

No phone signal is required.

IAATO Polar Guide: Antarctica is FREE and can be downloaded for iOS and Android.



## Helpful Hints for the Field Staff Assessment

If you haven't already, now is time to start preparing for the 2019-20 Season - and for many this means taking the IAATO Online Assessment.

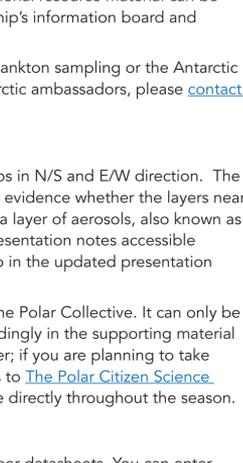
The Online Assessment is one of the tools IAATO uses to show the Treaty Nations that our Operators' Officers, Crew, Field Staff, Observers, and Office staff are qualified, continually training, and learning the most up to date information regarding rules and procedures for operating in and around the Antarctic. The Online Assessment is also a resource to assess knowledge of, and become familiar with, the Field Operations Manual (FOM), which is where the answers for IAATO and Antarctic Treaty related questions can be found.

Check out IAATO's [Helpful Hints](#) for a helping hand with your assessment.

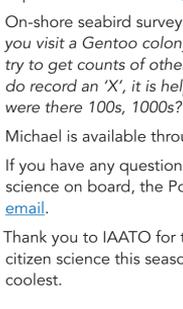
## Could you be the face of Antarctic Ambassadors?

In December, IAATO will be launching a monthly 'Meet an Antarctic Ambassador' feature on Instagram and Facebook; and we're looking for volunteers.

If you want to promote responsible tourism and what you are doing to support it, check with your operator and then please [email Hayley](#) with a good quality Antarctic profile photo and a short biography (including your Instagram handle) and we'll do the rest!



## Meet IAATO's new Antarctic Fellows



**Martina Mascioni** from the University of La Plata, Argentina, and **Daniela Cajiao Vargas** from the Autonomous University of Madrid have been named as the first recipients of the [IAATO Antarctic Fellowship](#).

The fellowships are a joint endeavor by IAATO and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), funded by IAATO.



Martina (top) will analyze phytoplankton samples collected from IAATO vessels since 2017 by citizen science project FjordPhyto. She will receive training that will enable her work to change our view of phytoplankton diversity in the Western Antarctic Peninsula.

Daniela (bottom) will focus her research on two different sectors of Antarctic tourism to explore how visiting Antarctica affects one's experience and understanding of the region. Her answers will inform responsible tourism management, strengthen educational experiences and contribute to policy discussions.

## News from The Polar Citizen Science Collective

Citizen Science is becoming more relevant each season: it's engaging, educational and collects important data for scientists they don't have access to without the expedition fleet. Are you ready to be a part of it?

A variety of projects, supported by IAATO, are accessible online within the [Field Operations Manual](#) via the IAATO website.

Within the [Supporting Science Section](#), you'll find detailed project descriptions for Penguin Watch, Polar Tag, Happywhale, Antarctic Site Inventory seabird surveys, the Globe Clouds projects, and the Secchi Disk project. For the latter four, additional resource material can be downloaded [here](#); featuring updated flyers to post on your ship's information board and presentations (adaptable to your needs).

If you are interested in participating in the FjordPhyto phytoplankton sampling or the Antarctic Travel Experience project (ATEP) which surveys potential Antarctic ambassadors, please [contact Allison Cusick](#) or the [team at the ATEP](#).

### Globe Clouds

This year, NASA asks to include the horizon when taking photos in N/S and E/W direction. The photographs of the horizon will provide researchers with clear evidence whether the layers near the ocean being detected by different satellites are clouds or a layer of aerosols, also known as haze (more info on the implications of this are found in the presentation notes accessible [here](#)). You'll find more details on how to do this within the app in the updated presentation available via the resource material.

The satellite overpass schedule is calculated each season by the Polar Collective. It can only be calculated ~2 months ahead of time and will be posted accordingly in the supporting material throughout the season – the first one available by mid-October; if you are planning to take clouds observations please send your on-board email address to [The Polar Citizen Science Collective](#) so we can send you the updated overpass schedule directly throughout the season.

### Seabird surveys:

An electronic datasheet is now available in addition to the paper datasheets. You can enter your data here if you want to avoid scanning the paper sheets before sending them to lead researcher [Michael Schrimpf](#).

If you are an experienced eBird app user, you can record your surveys in the app. Michael explains how to do that [here](#).

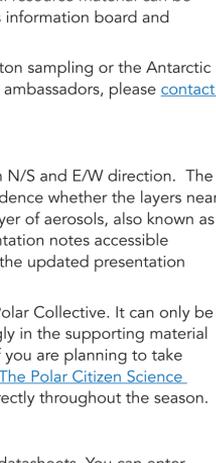
On-shore seabird surveys: A note from Michael: "You can mix counts and presence data - so if you visit a Gentoo colony, you can mark an 'X' and the breeding status for Gentoo's, and then try to get counts of other species like skuas, sheathbills, or the lone Chinstrap walking by. If you do record an 'X', it is helpful to have some idea of the scale - were there just one or two, or were there 100s, 1000s?"

Michael is available throughout the season to help with any questions.

If you have any questions/comments about any of the projects, or about how to bring citizen science on board, the Polar Citizen Science Collective is more than happy to help. [Send us an email](#).

Thank you to IAATO for the ongoing support and all of you out in the field for participating in citizen science this season. Have fun out there – Antarctica is where citizen science is at its coolest.

*The Polar Citizen Science Collective*



## In the news...

### Polar expedition experts meet for international Field Guide Conference (MercoPress)

The two-and-a-half-day meeting, which started this Monday has drawn more than 80 guides, expedition leaders and operations managers working for AECO and IAATO to share learning and knowledge to support the two associations' joint mission of promoting safe and environmentally responsible travel to the polar regions.

### IPCC on why choices made now are critical for oceans and the planet's frozen places (IPCC.ch)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has accepted the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. It provides new evidence on the benefits of limiting global warming to the lowest possible level.

### Wanted: A design team for a building project at Earth's most remote location - Antarctica (CNN)

The government of New Zealand is looking for a crew to lead the redevelopment of its research headquarters in Antarctica.

### Airbnb wants to send you on a monthlong climate research expedition to Antarctica (CBS News)

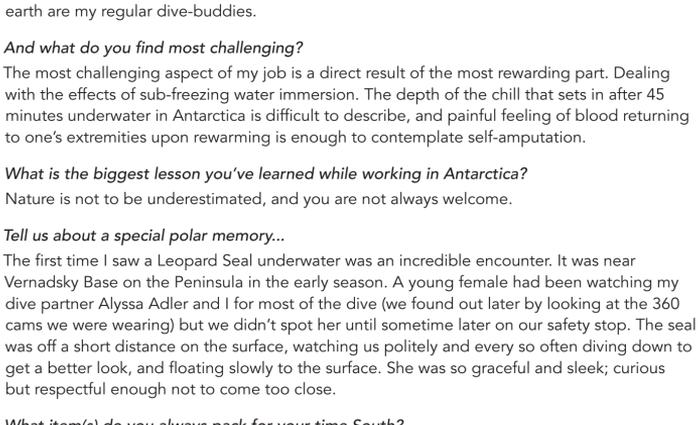
Airbnb is partnering with the Ocean Conservancy for the trip to Antarctica this December with Kirstie Jones-Williams, an environmental scientist studying the [impact of microplastics](#) in Antarctica.

### 'Boaty McBoatface' ship named after Sir David Attenborough (BBC)

The UK's new polar research ship has been officially named after broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.

## Ice-breaker

### James Hyde | Undersea Specialist, Lindblad Expeditions



**How long have you been working in the Antarctic?**

I am eagerly awaiting the start of my fourth season in Antarctica.

**What areas of Antarctica have you worked in?**

The Peninsula and South Georgia

**What do you love most about your job?**

The best part of being an Undersea Specialist in Antarctica is getting to explore places few people have ever been and even fewer have been diving. Some of the least seen animals on earth are my regular dive-buddies.

**And what do you find most challenging?**

The most challenging aspect of my job is a direct result of the most rewarding part. Dealing with the effects of sub-freezing water immersion. The depth of the chill that sets in after 45 minutes underwater in Antarctica is difficult to describe, and painful feeling of blood returning to one's extremities upon rewarming is enough to contemplate self-amputation.

**What is the biggest lesson you've learned while working in Antarctica?**

Nature is not to be underestimated, and you are not always welcome.

**Tell us about a special polar memory...**

The first time I saw a Leopard Seal underwater was an incredible encounter. It was near Vernadsky Base on the Peninsula in the early season. A young female had been watching my dive partner Alyssa Adler and I for most of the dive (we found out later by looking at the 360 cams we were wearing) but we didn't spot her until sometime later on our safety stop. The seal was off a short distance on the surface, watching us politely and every so often diving down to get a better look, and floating slowly to the surface. She was so graceful and sleek; curious but respectful enough not to come too close.

**What item(s) do you always pack for your time South?**

Salty brand fleece neck-warmer, waterproof camera, bathing suit for polar plunges!

**Interested in being featured?**

Speak to your employer and [contact Hayley](#) in the IAATO Secretariat

