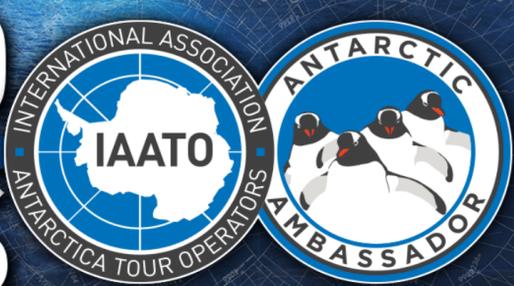


IAATO NEWS



Member Newsletter

February 2020

Dear Members,

This month's newsletter comes to you hot on the heels of the IAATO Managing for Growth Workshop in Miami.

As you would probably expect, it was a packed two days where more than 40 attendees from among our membership discussed solutions for reducing IAATO congestion at the Port of Ushuaia and worked as one to support the ongoing development of the Systematic Conservation Plan (more on that later).

It was no doubt a coincidence, but nevertheless a timely reminder, that the eyes of the world are upon industries such as ours, when the New York Times chose Wednesday – the opening day of our meeting – to publish a piece entitled [Tourism in Antarctica: Edging Toward the \(Risky\) Mainstream](#). It's a well-researched and balanced article, thanks in no small part to the author's willingness not only to speak to IAATO at length, but also to share the views of multiple polar stakeholders with the readership. You should know also, that this article is just one of five pieces that IAATO's communications team has been working on with international reporters this month focused solely on the challenges of visitor growth.

As I said in this newsletter just a few short months ago, if IAATO does not find the solution to its challenges, someone else will. So, it was encouraging to see the enthusiastic engagement of workshop participants in discussing potential solutions to the problem of congestion in the port of Ushuaia. It was even more encouraging to witness them embrace the idea that this was our opportunity to focus not on what Ushuaia needs to do for us, but on what we can do to ease their burden.

There is still some way to go before a clear solution is identified, but thanks to the thoughtful points raised by workshop attendees this week, we are certainly closer.

Terry



Dr Terry Shaller

Acting Executive Director

International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

UKAHT artistic programme *Antarctica In Sight* celebrates 200th anniversary of discovery through art and culture

Antarctica has played a fascinating role in British life since its discovery 200 years ago; from the development of the great whaling fleets, to the Heroic Age of Scott and Shackleton, to the discovery of the hole in the ozone layer - the moment that more than any other laid the grounds for modern environmentalism.

The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first sighting of Antarctica with a new artistic programme, [Antarctica In Sight](#), that will explore Antarctica's past, and the role of humans on the continent. UKAHT is helping to create a future where Antarctica is at the centre of discussions about humanity's role in preserving and safeguarding the planet.

The programme begins with the hoisting of a "Hello" flag, created by artist Peter Liversidge, at Port Lockroy in Antarctica, the location of the UK's most remote post office. Liversidge has also created a book of "Proposals for Antarctica" detailing dozens of artistic ideas inspired by the continent.

Over the course of 2020, UKAHT will host a range of events across the UK, creating a lasting legacy of education about Antarctica. *Antarctica In Sight* will focus on three themes: human endeavour, and the courage and exploration of Antarctica's pioneers, now and in the past; climate and the legacy of scientific work on the continent; and geopolitics, exploring how the human impact on Antarctica has evolved from exploitation to preservation. The programme is curated by creative director Sud Basu, who previously produced 14-18 NOW, the nationwide artistic commemoration of World War I.

[Find out more](#)



A note from the editors...

We love including news from heritage trusts, scientific programs and other non-profits in *Freeze Frame*.

If you have news to share with the readers of *Freeze Frame* or *IAATO Member News*, please send your submissions with any accompanying images to the [IAATO Communications Team](#)



On the IAATO Blog this month...

Within the crystal aquamarine waters of Antarctica lie tiny little organisms you cannot see with the naked eye. They are like plants—in that they use sunlight and carbon dioxide to make energy through photosynthesis—yet, they're not plants. They are also not bacteria, nor fungi, nor animal. They belong to a group of organisms called protists; mysterious otherworldly life that has had millions of years to evolve. Allison Cusick, Graduate student (Ph.D.) Biological Oceanography, shares with us the importance of Phytoplankton to Antarctica and the world.

10-minute read | [Tiny but mighty - why we owe our existence to the phytoplankton](#)

News from the Polar Citizen Science Collective

[Update from the scientists of FjordPhyto](#)

The phytoplankton sampling for FjordPhyto in Antarctica is still under way this season with our IAATO tour ship partners hard at work (and having fun) collecting phytoplankton until late March!

Huge thank you to all collecting samples this season.

Last week (February 16-21), we presented the findings of our work at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in San Diego, California. This conference brings together thousands of ocean sciences researchers (6,300 to be exact) and the ocean-connected community to raise awareness of the truly global dimensions of the ocean, address environmental challenges, and set forth on a path towards a resilient planet for the future.

We are very excited to share the results of our polar Antarctic citizen science project with the broader community through events like this. The poster and oral presentation we gave shows a snapshot of our two recent publications.

Our [first scientific peer-reviewed publication](#) (IAATO/COMNAP Fellowship recipient Mascioni et al) came out August 2019 in *Polar Biology* showing the results from the first year of sampling.

Our [second scientific peer-reviewed publication](#) (Cusick et al) came out shortly after online January 2020 in *Oceanography* detailing the development process of the citizen science framework as an effective way to further science and engage the public in active polar research.

This project could not happen without a team of enthusiastic partners, and we appreciate every person who has been supportive along the way!



In the News...

'Astonishing' blue whale numbers at South Georgia [\(BBC\)](#)

Scientists say they have seen a remarkable collection of blue whales in the coastal waters around the UK sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia.

The One War That the Human Species Can't Lose [\(The New Yorker\)](#)

For almost a half century, I've covered wars, revolutions and uprisings on four continents, many for years on end. I've always been an outside observer watching as others killed each other. I lamented the loss of human life – and the warring parties' self-destructive practices – from an emotional distance. In Antarctica, I saw war through a different prism. And I was the enemy. "Humans will be but a blip in the span of Earth's history," Wayne Ranney, a naturalist and geologist on the expedition, told me. "The only question is how long the blip will be."



International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

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IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.