Between now and the 20th, there will be approximately 15 turnarounds in Ushuaia. As we have discussed prior, there continues to be a significant strain on local resources, especially as it relates to testing and accommodations. We have also heard that Buenos Aires is also feeling the broader national strain.

We know that the decision-making processes this season - assessing the risk, reviewing and amending protocols and considering the impact to your business, operations, team members and guests - has put a tremendous strain on your organization. It is anticipated that some of you may decide to postpone your next voyage due to quarantine issues while others will be forced to due to a lack of accommodations. As different solutions are considered, there may be deliberations given to extreme workarounds.

One of the strengths of IAATO, which has made it a unique association, is the commitment that you have made to each other, due to the recognition that - if one falters, we all do. The actions and hard decisions that many of you have made over the last few weeks has demonstrated that safe and responsible travel starts way before the ships arrive at 60 degrees south.

We will continue to monitor the situation over the next week, provide up to date information and forums for sharing experiences amongst yourselves. Please let us know if there is anything additional we can do to support you as you continue to fulfil your commitment to each other.

Additionally below we would like to provide you with some further updates for your operational consideration.

1. 2021-22 Seasonal Instructions
With the mid-season staff and crew switch out happening, please ensure the new members of the expedition and bridge teams read the 2021-22 Seasonal Instructions (FOM Section 2). The most pertinent topics for this season have been highlighted in this document.

In particular due to COVID, there are new recommendations to avoid possible virus transmission to wildlife. Main highlights for shore landings below.

- If wildlife approaches people, take appropriate action to safely maintain the advised minimum distances of 5m from wildlife wherever possible;
- Emphasise the importance of ensuring all belongings (including masks if used) are secured to avoid anything being blown away;
- Refrain from sitting or lying on the ground;

2. Specific Site Booking Restrictions
   i. Snow Hill – Nordenskjold's Hut Closing January 20 – February 20, 2022
The Argentine Antarctic Division (DNA) will be performing maintenance work on Nordenskjold's Hut between January 20th and February 20th. Due to COVID restrictions,
and our agreements with the National Antarctic Programs, visits to the hut will not be allowed during this time. We are sorry if you have the hut booked and hence schedule changes needed - we have only just been made aware of this maintenance period. Thank you for your attention to this new restrictions, and flexibility of those who have booked.

ii. Brown Station – Landings possible until January 28th
The Argentine Antarctic Division (DNA) will not be arriving to Brown Station until January 29th. Therefore, bookings for Brown Station in the ship schedule have been opened up until January 28th.

iii. Port Lockroy Visits for January
UKAHT has sent a new information sheet (attached here) regarding visits for the rest of January. Do note that currently bookings for Port Lockroy (Goudier Island) are blocked from January 17 – 22 inclusive to allow the team to set up. Vessels can still visit Jouglia Point during this time.

iv. Station requests for Visits
We understand that some of the stations have been inviting ships to visit despite strict COVID Protocols, and IAATO Operator adherence to the current guidelines of no station visits is greatly appreciated. It is important we stand by our agreement with the National Antarctic Programs and COMNAP. IAATO’s reputation would be greatly damaged if we deviated from this agreement, and it would be disastrous if the industry were somehow implicated in bringing COVID to a station.

3. Entangled Humpback Whale Seen on the Peninsula
On 12 January 2022 Logan Pallin and Natalia Botero-Acosta identified an entangled juvenile humpback whale near Mikkelson Harbor (-63.9092S, -60.7895W) on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Logan and Natalia are working from the Crystal Endeavor who are supporting researchers from the California Ocean Alliance, the University of California Santa Cruz and Macuaticos (Colombia) to study Antarctic baleen whales. The animal’s dorsal fin and flukes were photographed as was the attached fishing gear which appears to include a float line and green netting. A skin and blubber biopsy sample was collected that will be used to identify the breeding stock from which the animal came as well as the sex of the whale and the levels of stress hormone circulating in the animal. No matches to the flukes were found in either our or the full HappyWhale database. The animal had lighter skin coloration than normal and appeared to be laboring while swimming. The net appears to be fully encircling the peduncle and at least the right side fluke blade. Abrasions from the line are apparent on both the leading and trailing edge of the flukes. As very few entangled whales are observed in the Antarctic it is critical that we learn as much about the fate of this animal as well as the potential location from where the fishing gear is from and what type of fishery it is from. Please keep an eye out for this animal and collect additional images or observations that can help better determine the nature and extent of this unfortunate entanglement. Please contact Ari Friedlaender (mailto:ari.friedlaender@ucsc.edu) with any new information or questions about this animal.

If an IAATO operator does encounter this whale, do not attempt to intervene with this entanglement unless trained and equipped entanglement response personnel are available. But please do seek to photograph and document the status of the entanglement (particularly, if
possible, the extent of wrapping around the base of the tail and any other body parts) without disturbing the individual. The entangling gill net almost certainly will have originated from northern waters outside of Antarctica, and therefore the entanglement is likely weeks or months old.

From here forward, Happywhale will be looking out for the individual with every fluke image received. For those who may wish to follow the whale’s fate: [https://happywhale.com/individual/76615;enc=270437](https://happywhale.com/individual/76615;enc=270437)

4. South Georgia Cooper Bay Landing Sites Closed
GSGSSI has had reports from a science team working at Cooper Bay, of unusually high levels of mortality among adult chinstrap penguins within the colony. Consistent with GSGSSI’s published values, they are taking the precautionary measure of closing all of the Cooper Bay sites to landings until they can establish the cause. Zodiac cruising however, is still permitted. The sites closed until further notice are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site code</th>
<th>Place name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO001</td>
<td>Cooper Bay centre cove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO002</td>
<td>Cooper Bay 'Albatross Cove'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO003</td>
<td>Cooper Bay macaroni’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO004</td>
<td>Cooper Bay main beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO005</td>
<td>Cooper Bay chinstraps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GSGSSI are working with scientists to establish an evidence base upon which to make further decisions. They are not aware of impacts on other species at this time. Please be assured that these closures are precautionary and will be reviewed as soon as we have the information available to do so.

As always, please use this situation and take the opportunity to emphasise the well-established biosecurity protocols you all follow. Additionally, please make sure you continue to report any unusual levels of mortality among penguin colonies.

5. IAATO EMER v11 Attached
Please find the latest version (v11) of the vessel EMER attached.

Please reach out should you need anything or have any questions.

#weareIAATO
Gina and Lisa