Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2019-20 and 2020-21

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Information Paper submitted by the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile and 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, while Argentina has provided reports detailing yachts travelling to Antarctica from Ushuaia. From 2016 Chile, Argentina, the United Kingdom and IAATO have presented a joint paper (ATCM XXXIX/WP34, ATCM XL/WP19, ATCM XLI/IP55, and ATCM XLII/IP107).

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 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

***Background***

The ATCM has previously welcomed information about yachts sighted in or planning to travel to Antarctica. This 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 and other vessels in Antarctica. It would be helpful if Parties could provide any supplementary material, which adds to or verifies this information.

A total of 43 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2019-20 season. This represented a decrease from the 50 reported in 2018-19. 16 of these were IAATO members (table 1); 16 were non-IAATO members but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 2); and 11 vessels appear to the cosponsors to be unauthorised vessels (table 3).

The 2020-21 season was significantly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic, with travel restrictions and quarantine requirements reducing the number of yachts travelling to Antarctica. A total of 8 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2020-21 season. This represented a decrease from the 43 reported in 2019-20. 3 of these were IAATO members (table 4); and 5 were non-IAATO members but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 5).

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 (<https://www.ats.aq/devAS/InformationExchange/SummarizedReports?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. Parties are therefore requested to ensure that the EIES is updated regularly to include all authorised tourism vessels.

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 2019-20 season**

**Table 1: IAATO members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Archimedes | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |
| Australis | Cook Islands | Australia |
| Braveheart | New Zealand | United Kingdom |
| Golden Fleece | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |
| Hanse Explorer | Antigua and Barbuda | Germany |
| Hans Hansson | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | USA |
| Icebird | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Australia |
| Legend | Panama | United Kingdom |
| Ocean Seven | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |
| Ocean Tramp | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | United States |
| Pelagic Australis | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |
| Podorange | United Kingdom | France |
| Santa Maria Australis | Germany | Germany |
| Selma Expeditions | Poland | Poland |
| Spirit of Sydney | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Australia |
| Vaihere | Belgium | Belgium |

(Total 16)

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Adm. Bellinghausen | Estonia | Ukraine |
| Antipode | France | France |
| Aukena | France | France |
| Cool Change | United States | United States |
| Galileo | Argentina | Argentina |
| Kotik 2 | Antigua | Brazil |
| L’Esprit D’Equipe | France | France |
| NDS Evolution | United Kingdom | France |
| Nomad IV | Malta | France |
| Paratii | Brazil | Brazil |
| Samai | Germany | Germany |
| Sarah Vorwerk | Germany | Switzerland |
| Shana | France | France |
| Spailpin | United States | United States |
| Tecla | Netherlands | Netherlands |
| Ypake II | Brazil | Argentina |

(Total 16)

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** |
| Bazileus (formely Rusarc Aurora)[[1]](#footnote-1) | Malta |
| Copérnico Doblón | Netherlands |
| Elizaveta | Russian Federation |
| Explorer | Marshall Island |
| Fernande | France |
| Komeu | Brazil |
| Mon Coeur | Latvia |
| Valentina | United Kingdom |
| Wind Dancer | Dominica |
| Xanadu | Russian Federation |
| Yngra | Russian Federation |

(Total 11)

**List of yachts observed in Antarctica during the 2020-21 season**

**Table 4: IAATO members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Australis | Cook Islands | Australia |
| Explorer | Marshall Islands | Australia |
| Voyager | Marshall Islands | Australia |

(Total 3)

**Table 5: Non-IAATO members, with authorisation from a Treaty Party**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Code Rouge | France | France |
| Kotik | Antigua & Barbuda | Ukraine |
| Orionde | France | France |
| Pequod[[2]](#footnote-2) | Argentina | Argentina |
| Zephyros | USA | USA |

(Total 5)

1. Permitted by Romania for some of their 2019/20 activity but not all. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This yacht was authorised by Argentina to visit. As Brown Station remained closed during this period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit was registered before the National Directorate for the Antarctic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Worship. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)