Data Collection and Reporting on Yachting Activity in Antarctica in 2021-22

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Information Paper submitted by the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile, United States 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, ATCM XLII/IP107 and ATCM XLIII/IP054).

This paper consolidates information from the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile, United States and IAATO relating to yachts sighted in Antarctica, or indicating an intention to travel to Antarctica, during the 2021-22 season.

***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 (Brown Base remained closed for the 2021/2022 season); 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. This year the paper also includes information from the United States on yachts observed from Palmer Station. It would be helpful if Parties could provide any supplementary material, which adds to or verifies this information.

A total of 42 yachts were sighted in, or reported an intention to sail to, Antarctica during the 2021-22 season. This represented an increase from the 8 reported in 2020-21 (a season that was significantly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic, with travel restrictions and quarantine requirements reducing the number of yachts travelling to Antarctica). 16 of these were IAATO members (table 1); 18 were non-IAATO members but had Party authorisation to travel to Antarctica (table 2); and 8 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 (<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, United States 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 10 (2021). 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 2021-22 season**

**Table 1: IAATO members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Australis | Cook Islands | Australia |
| El Doblón | Canada | Spain |
| Hans Hansson | St Vincent Grenadines | United States |
| Hanse Explorer | Antigua and Barbuda | Germany |
| La Datcha | Russia | United Kingdom |
| Legend | Panama | United Kingdom / Australia |
| Moonshadow | UK Overseas Territory | United Kingdom |
| Naia | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |
| Nansen Explorer | Norway | United Kingdom |
| Ocean Tramp | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | United States |
| Santa Maria Australis | Germany | Germany |
| Selma Expeditions | Poland | Poland |
| Spirit of Sydney | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Australia |
| Vaïhéré | Belgium | France |
| Vinson of Antarctica | UK Overseas Territory | United Kingdom |
| Ypake II | Brazil | Argentina |

(Total 16)

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** | **Authorising Party** |
| Atlantis | Argentina | Argentina |
| Golden Fleece | UK Overseas Territory | United Kingdom |
| Marama | Antigua | France |
| Tara | France | France |
| Zephyrus | United States | United States |
| Cava'lou | UK Overseas Territory | Switzerland |
| Fleur Australe | France | France |
| La Louise | France | France |
| Sarah Vorwerk | Germany | Switzerland |
| Sir Ernst | France | France |
| Triton | France | France |
| LifeExplorer | Switzerland | Switzerland |
| Arctic Sunrise | Netherlands | United Kingdom |
| Silver Cloud | Bahamas | United States |
| Sea Wind | Sweden | Sweden |
| Sonabia 2 | France | France |
| Kotik | Antigua & Barbuda | Chile |
| Cool Change | United States | United States |

(Total 18)

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Yacht** | **Flag State** |
| Amazone | Finland |
| Asana | Belgium |
| Global Surveyor (Explorer Discovery) | Czech Republic |
| Hermano[[1]](#footnote-1) | Belgium |
| Le Boulard | France |
| Mon Coeur | Latvia |
| Rusarc Aurora | Malta |
| Wind Dancer | Dominica |

(Total 8)

1. Yacht that initiated proceedings with Argentina and did not conclude them. Confirmation of its voyage to Antarctica is being processed. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)