Polar Maritime Seminar IMO, London, UK January 23-24, 2025 IAATO Operational Considerations Lisa E. Kelley **IAATO IAATO** Executive Director

# Who is IAATO?

# International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)

Founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe, environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic





# Safe, environmentally responsible private sector travel

Operate within the Antarctic Treaty
 System

 No more than a minor or transitory impact

A corps of ambassadors for Antarctica's continued protection









#### **IAATO Operational Procedures** for Watching Whales1

The procedures apply to ALL vessels including ships, small boats2, kayaks, etc

See a Blow - Go Slow

Vessel Code of Conduct

All applicable international and national legal and policy requirements, including those of the Antarctic Treaty System.

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the mission of AATO to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector

6. Augment voyages with strong and enhancing the standing of Antarctic visitation.

Part 1: General Practices

The MATO Vessel Code of Conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conduct does not supersede existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing maritime safety practices or what may be a conducted existing ma

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2. All MARPOL. SOLAS and STCW (as amended), and all safety related Antarctic Treaty System Decision must be followed.

and other rules and regulations must be followed.

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3. All STCW, as amended and all training related Antarctic Treaty System Decisions, Measures, Re
regulations must be followed.

regulations must be followed.

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Management statements must be followed.

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b. when in areas with vessels and or wildlife, careful consideration should be announcement systems. announcement systems.

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Augment voyages with strong educational programs which also emphasise of Antarctic visitation.

Augment voyages with strong enhancing the standing of Antarctic visitation.

Important to enriching and enhancing the standing of Antarctic visitation.

that Vistors to the Antarctic (IAATO or other) with dignify and respect, while exercising the highest level of profession and very some of the Antarctic (IAATO or other) with dignify and respect, while exercising the highest level of profession and very some of the Antarctic (IAATO or other) with dignify and respect, while exercising the highest level of profession and very some of the Antarctic (IAATO or other) with dignify and respect, while exercising the highest level of profession and very some of the Antarctic (IAATO or other) with dignify and respect, while exercising the highest level of profession and very some of the pro

Prescribed distances of approach/observation must be followed. Any closer interactions should be dictated by the animals.

#### **Encountering whales**

In the presence of whales, all vessels (ships/tenders/small boats) should slow down to no more than 10 knots. Be prepared to slow down to 5 knots if you reach the 400 meters/1300 feet distance. At 400 meters/1300 engines must be in idle if safe for the vessel to do so. Allow whales to pass. Do not position the vessel in the projected path of the whale.

If a cetacean surfaces in the vicinity of your vessel, take all necessary precautions to avoid collisions, while avoiding sudden changes in speed or direction. This may include: slowing down, slowly coming to a stop, and/or steering away from the animal.

Every whale encounter is different; different individuals and different species may respond completely differently to the presence of vessels. Do not assume they will automatically respond to a vessel's presence.

Monitor animal behaviour throughout any encounter for signs of disturbance (see further information on behaviour changes in

If a cetacean approaches a vessel to bow or stern ride, maintain a constant course and speed, or reduce speed gradually. Do not enter a group of dolphins to encourage them to bow or stern ride.

Never chase or pursue animals.



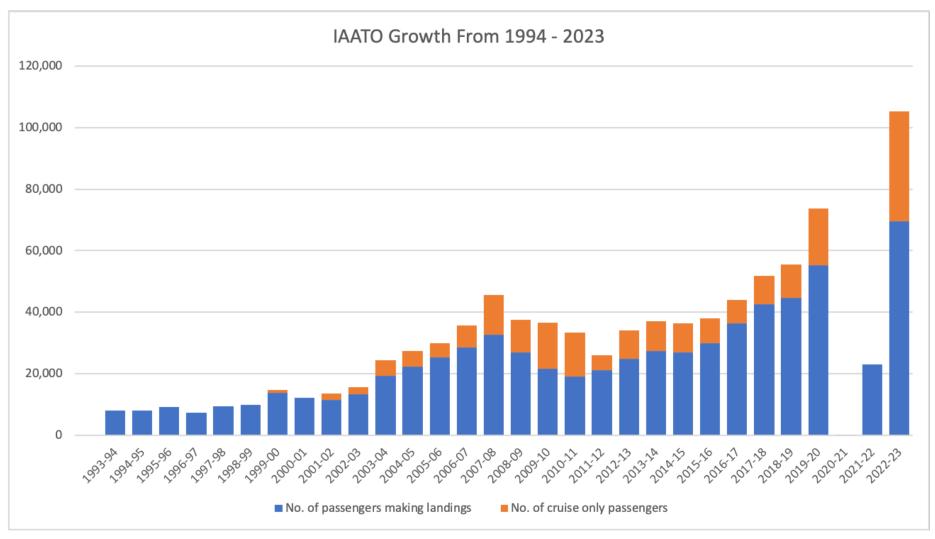
Vessel operators should adhere to any additional national, international or IAATO speed limit requirements. Some areas have special protection measures in place during the year to help reduce disturbance and physical injury to whales. Be aware that IAATO wildlife watching and other Operational Procedures do not replace any domestic governmental laws. Some nations have guidelines or regulations stricter than IAATO's which may override IAATO procedures. Violation of national regulations may be punishable by fines, imprisonment and, in

Stranding Equipmonic Vessel Operations on For

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this document, 'small boats' are defined as zodiac-style Inflatable boats, such as rigid or semi-rigid hull Inflatable boats or any similar small landing craft used for

## Tourism Trends in Antarctica

#### **Tourism Trends**





#### 2023-2024



**Cruise-Only Visitors** 



Landed Visits



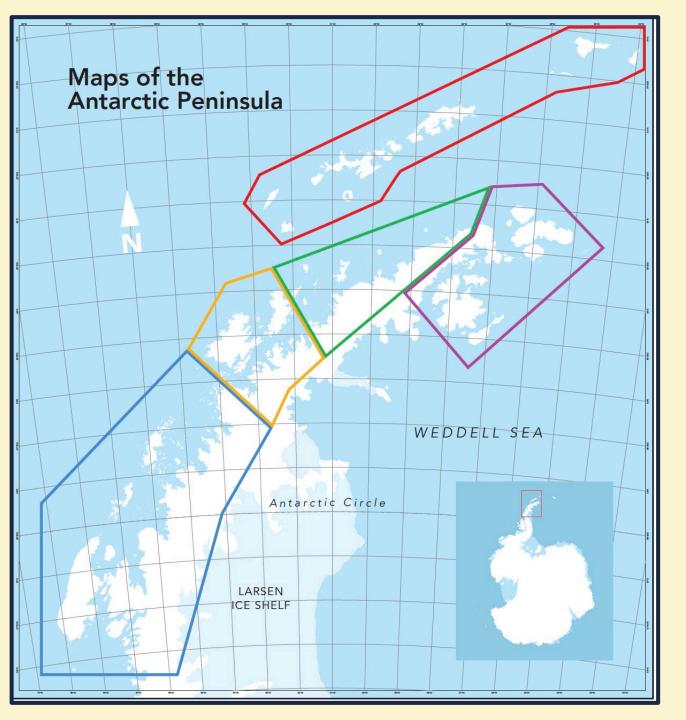
Deep Field Visitors

(43,224)

(80,251)

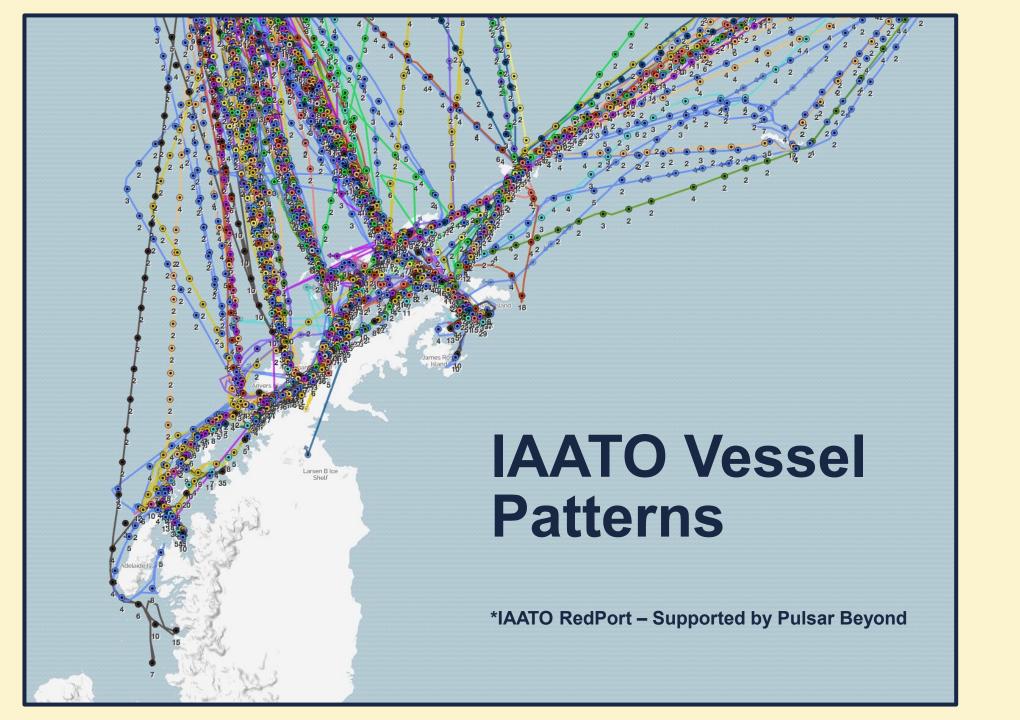
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# IAATO Areas of Operation



#### **IAATO** Areas of Operation

- Deep Field
- Yachts
- Traditional Seaborne Tourism
- Air-Cruise Tourism
- Ross Sea Tourism



**IDAATO** 



# **IAATO Vessel Operations**

### Cruise Only: 501 Pax or more







Yachts: 12 Pax or Less

### **Category 1: 13-200 Pax**



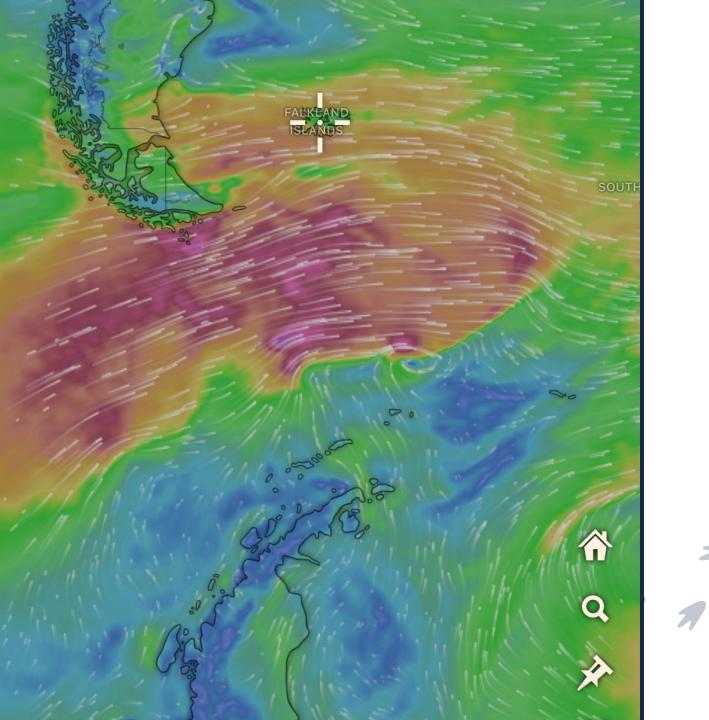


### **Category 2: 201-500 Pax**



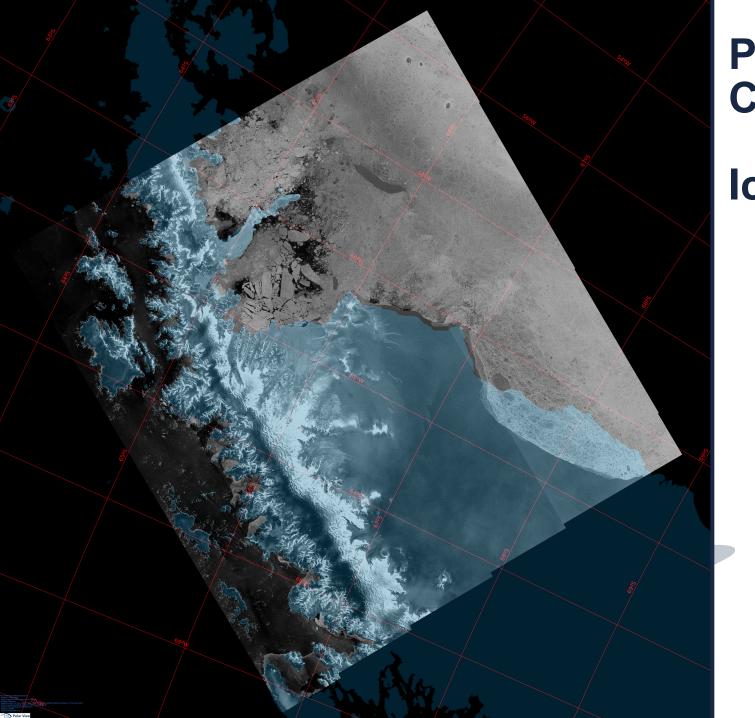


# Planning Considerations



Planning Considerations...

**Wind and Waves** 



# Planning Considerations...

**Ice** 









# Risk Assessment Risk Identification Analysis Monitoring Decision Implementation

### Dynamic Risk Assessment



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## Thank You









#weareiaato #antarcticstewards #responsibletourism

