Tourism in Polar Regions

International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

- *Founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic*
- *120 members, 56 of which operate expeditions to Antarctica*

Association for Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators

- *Founded in 2003 to support responsible, environmentally-friendly, safe tourism to the Arctic.*
- *46 members. 26 of which operate approximately 32 expedition cruise vessels all over the Arctic (8 - 450 passengers)*

The Arctic

AECO uses the same definition of the Arctic as the IMO:

- 60 degree north (with exceptions)

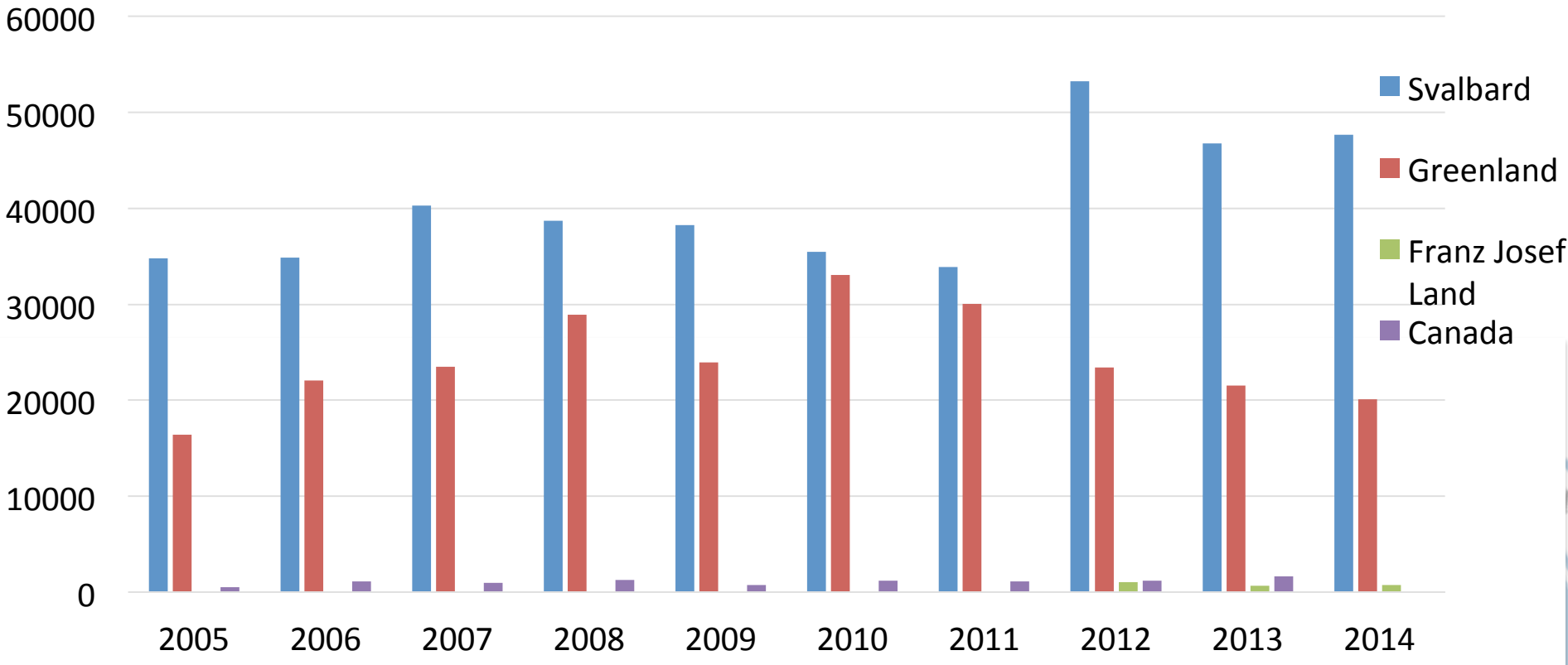
AECO's core areas are Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland, Canada and the national park "Russian Arctic" (Franz Josef Land and northern Novaya Zemlya)

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

Arctic Cruise passengers

Svalbard, Greenland, Franz Josef Land, Canada

Conventional cruise vessels and AECO expedition cruise vessels



Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

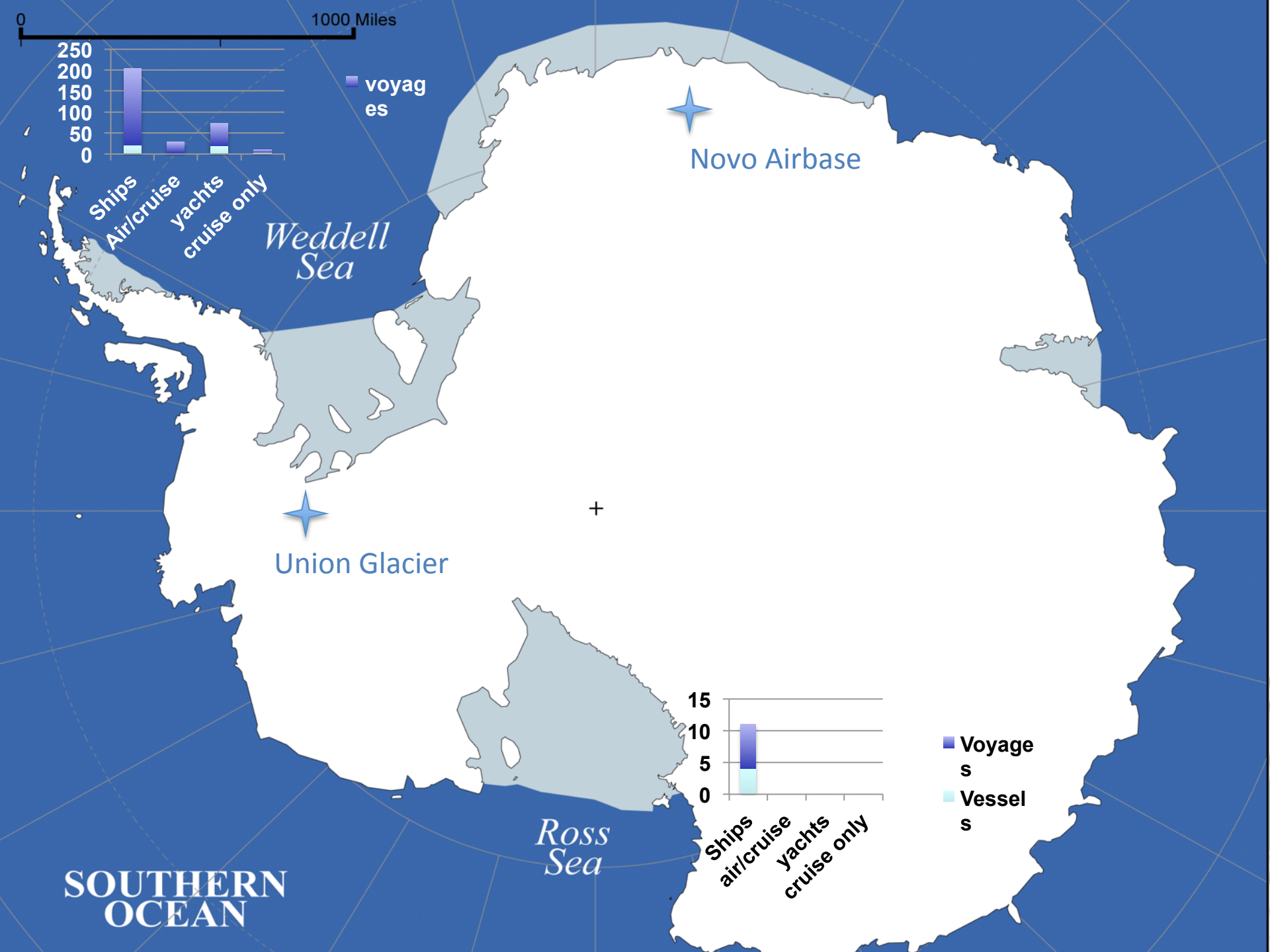
EUROPA

Air and Deep-Field Operations

Antarctic Tourism Numbers

	2015-2016 season *(estimate)*	2014-2015 season	2013-2014 season	2012-2013 season	2011-2012 season	2010-2011 season
Seaborne tourism with landings	28,304	25,341	25,526	23,305	20,271	18,534
Seaborne tourism, no landings	8900	9459	9670	9070	4872	14,373
Air & cruise combination, with landings	2294	1471	1848	1587	860	531
Air & land tourism, Antarctic interior	531	431	361	354	516	386
Over-flights, no landings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**40,029**	**36,702**	**37,405**	**34,316**	**26,519**	**33,824**

Passenger numbers for 2014-15 and 2015-16 as of April 10, 2015, subject to change. See also *www.iaato.org/tourism-statistics*


0
1000 Miles
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voyages
Ships
Air/cruise
yachts
cruise only
Weddell Sea
Novo Airbase
Union Glacier
Ross Sea
SOUTHERN OCEAN
15
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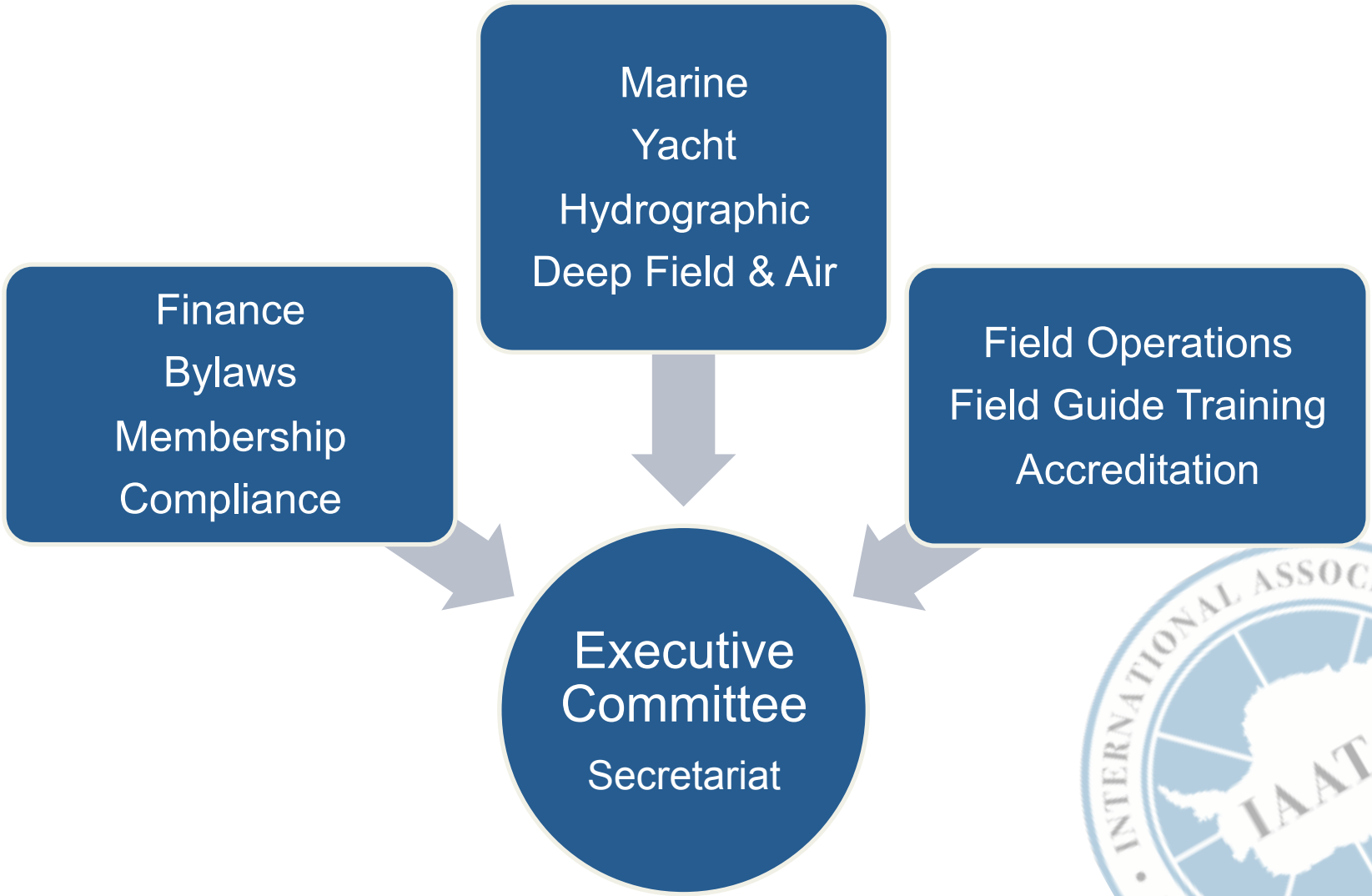
Voyages
Vessels
Ships
air/cruise
yachts
cruise only

What do we do?

- Day-to-Day Operational Support
- Program Development
- Reporting
- External Liaisons

IAATO Organisation



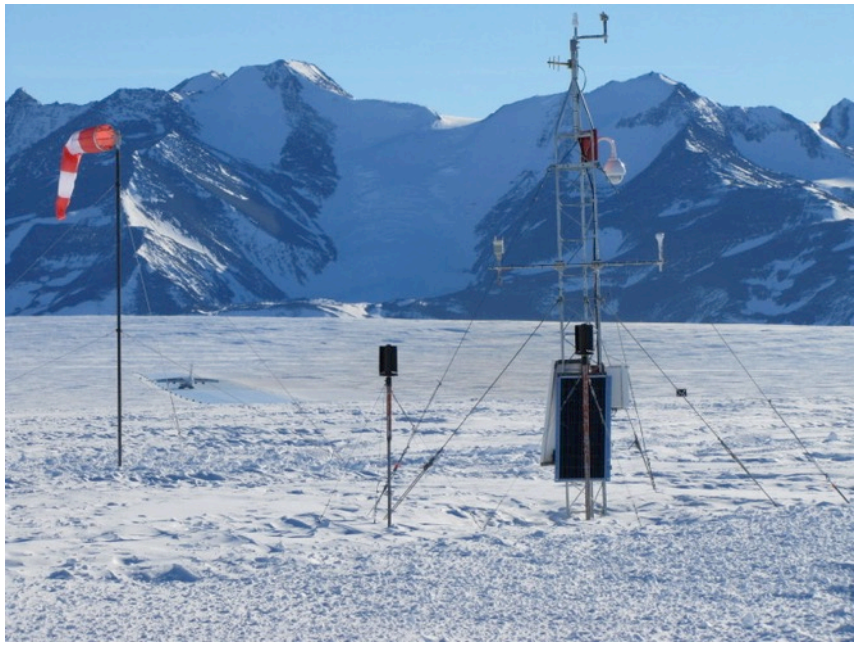
Needs: Ice & Met Info

- Needs are two fold:
  - In field, real time & forecast information (in particular for marine traffic)
  - With advent of IMO's Polar Code… will need reasonable historic data on both ice & temperature information.

In field – Air Operations

Less pressing…

- Potentially improved contact information
- Ideally more weather stations
- Ideally training opportunities



Bases and Logistics Hubs:
COMNAP members / IAATO Members
Good communication & sharing

Roving Groups:
www.weather4expeditions.com

In field – Marine Operations

Marine Operations:

- As near to real time ice information as possible
- Ice imagery (e.g. Polarview.aq ENVISAT data) more useful for experienced navigators, but… Polar Code requirements
- Ice charts, helpful for planning, but can be fractionally less useful given time lag in data transfer and the scale of information
- Improved forecasting

IMO Polar Code - Historic Data

IMO Polar Code requires operators to do an assessment to set limitations on their operations.

- Ice Data – POLARIS:
  - Where and when
  - Types of ice, thicknesses, density, coverage etc.
- Temperature data – Mean Lowest Daily Temperature for 10 years (area & date specific)

Potential Contributions

IAATO is ready and willing to collaborate with the YOPP efforts, in particular to:

- Explore ways to improve coordinated information, as appropriate;
- Provide feedback from users where needed; and
- Encourage voluntary observations

Any Questions?