



For Immediate Release

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Decision time for world's largest marine reserve proposals in Antarctica's Southern Ocean *"Opportunity for global leadership and lasting legacy"*

BREMERHAVEN, Germany, July 10, 2013 – At its media briefing today, the Antarctic Ocean Alliance (AOA) and its partners called the meeting of the 25 Members¹ of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) starting this week in Bremerhaven, Germany a landmark opportunity for ocean protection. CCAMLR Members will decide the fate of two key proposals for Antarctic marine protection, either of which would be the world's largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) if designated.

The special CCAMLR meeting, from 11 – 16 July, has been called because the Commission couldn't agree on the two proposals, years in the making, at its meeting last October. All CCAMLR decisions require consensus of the Members.

The United States and New Zealand propose that CCAMLR designate a Ross Sea MPA of 2.3 million square kilometres including a "fully protected" area of 1.6 million square kilometres. The Ross Sea is often referred to as "the last ocean" because it is one of the only large ocean habitats that is still relatively intact and home to a dazzling array of marine wildlife. A second proposal from Australia, France and the European Union would designate seven marine protected areas in East Antarctica covering about 1.63 million square kilometres.

"These proposals would more than double the area of the world's ocean that is protected, and conservation on this scale can only be achieved through international action and collaboration," said Andrea Kavanagh, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Southern Ocean campaign. "We urge all members of CCAMLR to seize this opportunity for global leadership on our oceans."

"More than 1 million people around the world have joined the global call for large-scale marine protection in Antarctica over the last two years", said Jim Barnes, Executive Director of the Antarctic and Southern Coalition (ASOC). "If CCAMLR Members decide in favour of the Ross Sea and East Antarctic proposals, that will leave a lasting legacy of immense value to the world."

The Southern Ocean is home to more than 10,000 unique species including most of the world's penguins, whales, seabirds, colossal squid and the commercially targeted Antarctic toothfish. The region is critical for scientific research, both for studying how intact marine ecosystems function and for determining the impacts of global climate change.

“The waters and wildlife around Antarctica are under increasing pressure and right now CCAMLR has a rare chance to do the right thing before it is too late and once again put itself at the vanguard of ocean protection,” said Richard Page, Greenpeace Oceans Campaigner.

The Antarctic Ocean Alliance partners will attend the CCAMLR meeting in Bremerhaven working to ensure CCAMLR delegates to step up to the challenge and designate the Ross Sea and East Antarctic proposals.

“Marine protected areas promote scientific research in Antarctica and ensure the regions ocean resources are well managed for future generations,” said Bob Zuur, Manager of WWF’s Antarctic and Southern Ocean Initiative. “Antarctica’s ocean is the least protected on Earth. We ask CCAMLR to act on the best available scientific evidence and create these critical protected areas.”

“The world is watching the outcome of this CCAMLR meeting,” said Steve Campbell, Campaign Director of the [Antarctic Ocean Alliance](#), a group of more than 30 environmental organizations. “The Southern Ocean is a global commons like no other and protecting these vital marine habitats would benefit all of us, now and in the future.”

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Note: High-resolution video b-roll and photos of Antarctica’s Southern Ocean and interviews with AOA experts in English and German are available at:

http://www.reru.com.au/Mediafiles/Antarctic_Ocean_Alliance/Videos/

Information:

www.antarcticocean.org, www.pewenvironment.org/SouthernOcean

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Antarctic-Ocean-Alliance/23393386663875?fref=ts>

Twitter: #Antarcticocean, #JointheWatch

About: The Antarctic Ocean Alliance is a coalition of high-profile individuals such as actor Leonardo DiCaprio, actor and UN Biodiversity Ambassador Edward Norton, oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle and entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson as well as 30 leading environmental groups. These include The Pew Charitable Trusts, Greenpeace, WWF, Humane Society International, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Blue Marine Foundation (UK), Mission Blue (US), Oceans 5 (US), Deep Wave (Germany), The Last Ocean, the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), Greenovation Hub (China), Forest & Bird (NZ), ECO (NZ), and associate partners the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Oceana, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Ocean Planet (Australia).

¹ CCAMLR Members includes 24 countries and the European Union.