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## Scientists' Consensus Statement on Protection of the Ross Sea

Few large intact ecosystems remain in the world's oceans. In the Southern Ocean we have a narrow window of opportunity to protect one of these special places: the Ross Sea. In 2008 an independent analysis of human impacts on the world's oceans published in the journal *Science* classified the Ross Sea as the least affected large oceanic ecosystem remaining on Earth.<sup>2</sup>

We, the undersigned scientists, believe that it is essential that the entire Ross Sea, including its shelf and slope, is afforded protection by designating it as a fully-protected marine reserve. Only by adding fisheries to the already excluded minerals extraction, and ensuring that other significant human pressures are removed or minimised, can we preserve the intrinsic values and ecological integrity of the Ross Sea.<sup>3</sup>

Its unique ecology, relatively undisturbed state, and long history of ongoing scientific research make the Ross Sea a 'living laboratory' essential for the study of marine ecosystems and of the effects of climate change independent of complicating factors.

Establishment of the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area by the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) would provide a crucial component of a comprehensive and representative network of marine reserves across the Southern Ocean. It would stand as a shining example for the rest of the high seas.

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<sup>2</sup> Halpern, B.S. et al. 2008. A Global Map of Human Impact on Marine Ecosystems. *Science* 319, pp. 948 – 952. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/319/5865/948>

<sup>3</sup> Signatures indicate personal opinion and do not represent official positions of the organizations or agencies with which they are affiliated.

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382. Dr. Meghana Rajanahally	Victoria University at Wellington	India/New Zealand
383. Jorge Ramírez, Ph.D. Candidate	Iemanya Oceanica	Mexico
384. Dr. Jaime A. Ramos	Coimbra University	Portugal
385. Mark J. Rauzon, M.Sc.	Laney College	USA
386. Dr. Ginger Rebstock	University of Washington	USA
387. Dr. Heidi M. Regehr	Wildwing Environmental Research	Canada
388. Dr. Martin Renner	University of Washington	USA
389. Dr. Andrea Rayz Rey	CADIC-CONICET	Argentina
390. *Dr. Christine Ribic	University of Wisconsin	USA
391. Samantha Richman	University of Quebec	Canada

392. Tim Riding, M.Sc.		New Zealand
393. Dr. Rolf Riethmuller	Institute for Coastal Research, GKSS Research Centre	Germany
394. Dr. Stephen R. Rintoul	Oceanographer	Australia
395. Fabian Ritter, Diplom Biologist	President, M.E.E.R. Science and Education	Germany
396. Dr. Callum Roberts	York University	United Kingdom
397. Kate Robinson	McGill University	Canada
398. Kristofer M. Robison, Master's Candidate	University of California, Davis	USA
399. Dr. Andrew Rodrigues	IUCN Species Survival Commission	United Kingdom
400. Dr. Michael S. Rodway	Wildwing Environmental Research	Canada
401. Dr. Alex David Rogers	Zoological Society of London	United Kingdom
402. Dr. Rob Ronconi	Dalhousie University	Canada
403. *Dr. Jay Rotella	Montana State University	USA
404. Dr. Andrii Rozhok	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine
405. Dr. Valeria Ruoppolo	IFAW	Brazil
406. *Dr. Joellen L. Russell	University of Arizona	USA
407. Conor Ryan, Ph.D. Candidate	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Ireland
408. Dr. Yvonne Sadovy	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	Hong Kong
409. Dr. Carl Safina	Blue Ocean Institute	USA
410. *Dr. Paul Sagar	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research	New Zealand
411. Eva Maria Salas, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Texas, Austin	USA
412. Dr. Leo A. Salas	PRBO Conservation Science	USA
413. Claire Saraux, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Strasbourg	France
414. Dr. Mayumi Sato	Birdlife International	Japan
415. Dr. Christian Schlosser	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
416. Dr. Moritz Schmid	University of Gottingen	Germany
417. Tom Schneider	Detroit Zoo	USA
418. Nicole Schuman, Ph.D. Candidate	Deakin University	Australia
419. *Dr. Paul Scofield	Canterbury University	New Zealand
420. Dr. Mary A. Sewell	University of Auckland	New Zealand
421. Dr. Scott A. Shaffer	San Jose State University	USA
422. Dr. Amanda Shaffer	Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium	USA
423. Dr. Charles Sheppard	University of Warwick	United Kingdom
424. *Dr. Thomas C. Shirley	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi	USA
425. Dr. Miles Silman	Wake Forest University	USA
426. *Lucia Simion, M.D.	Antarctic Photojournalist	France
427. *Dr. Donald B. Siniff	University of Minnesota	USA
428. Dr. Abigail Smith	University of Otago	New Zealand
429. *Dr. Walker Smith	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	USA
430. Dr. Richard Smith	St. Louis Zoological Park	USA

431. Dr. Joanna Smith	The Nature Conservancy	USA
432. Melanie Smith, M.Sc.	Audubon Alaska	USA
433. Dr. Ralf P. Sonntag	International Fund for Animal Welfare	Germany
434. Natacha Aguilar Soto	La Laguna University	Spain
435. *Dr. Sharon Stammerjohn	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
436. Dr. Iain J. Stenhouse	BioDiversity Research Institute	USA
437. Dr. Tim Stephens	University of Sydney	Australia
438. *Dr. Brent Stewart	Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute	USA
439. *Dr. Ian Stirling	University of Alberta	Canada
440. Michael Stocker	Director, Ocean Conservation Research	USA
441. Thomas Stracke, M.Sc.	WRENNZ	New Zealand
442. Dr. Fiamma Straneo	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Italy
443. Dr. Julienne Stroeve	NSIDC	USA
444. Craig S. Strong, M.Sc.	Crescent Coastal Research	USA
445. Dr. Bridget J.M. Stutchbury	York University	Canada
446. *Cara Sucher, M.Sc.	McMurdo Station	USA
447. Dr. Rashid Sumaila	University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre	Canada
448. Dr. Robert M. Suryan	Oregon State University	USA
449. Dr. Meiya Sutisno	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
450. Theresa Tallentine, M.Sc.	Biologist	Canada
451. Scott Taylor, Ph.D. Candidate	Queen's University	Canada
452. Pierre Tellier, M.Sc.	Ecologist	New Zealand
453. Loic Teulier, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Lyon	France
454. Dr. Helmut Thetmeyer	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
455. Dr. Jean-Baptiste Thiebot	CEBC-CNRS	France
456. *Dr. Jeanette Thomas	Western Illinois University, Quad Cities	USA
457. Dr. Rob Thomas	Cardiff University	United Kingdom
458. Alexander Thorton, M.Sc.	CUNY Hunter College	USA
459. Dr. Anoop Kumar Tiwari	National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research	India
460. Deborah Tobin	Rosammon Gifford Zoo	USA
461. *Dr. Jose Torres	University of South Florida	USA
462. *Dr. Susan E. Townsend	Environmental Consulting, Oakland	USA
463. Theodoros Tsimpidis	Managing Director, Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation	Greece
464. Dr. Chris Turney	University of New South Wales	Australia
465. Dr. W. Breck Tyler	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
466. *Dr. Cynthia Tynan	Associated Scientists at Woods Hole, Inc.	USA

467.	Kazuoki Ueda, M.Sc.	Penguin Conference Japan	Japan
468.	Dr. Richard K.F. Unsworth	Swansea University	United Kingdom
469.	Dr. Heather Urquart	New England Aquarium	USA
470.	Sylvia E. van der Woude, M.Sc.	Freie Universitaet	Germany
471.	Schannelle van Dijken, M.Sc.	Conservation International	Samoa
472.	*Dr. Jan A. van Franeker	IMARES	Netherlands
473.	Frederik van Oudenhoven	Agricultural Biodiversity Scientist	Italy
474.	Dr. David van Reyk	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
475.	Amy Vargas	Tantphaus Park Zoo, Idaho	USA
476.	*Dr. Richard R. Veit	City University of New York, College of Staten Island	USA
477.	Dr. Adriana Vellerino	UNAM	Mexico
478.	Dr. P.A. Verlaan	University of Hawaii at Manoa	USA
479.	Dr. Francisca Vermeulen	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand
480.	Dr. J.E.N. Veron	Coral Reef Research	Australia
481.	Vincent A. Viblanc, M.Sc.	University of Strasbourg	France
482.	Dr. Sebastian Villasante	University Santiago de Compostela	Spain
483.	Dr. Alexandre Villers	Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chize	France
484.	Dr. Filip Volckaert	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Belgium
485.	Dr. George E. Wallace	American Bird Conservancy	USA
486.	Dr. Robert Wallace	Milwaukee County Zoo	USA
487.	*Dr. Linda Warren	Aberystwyth University	United Kingdom
488.	Dr. Yutaka Watanuki	Hokkaido University	Japan
489.	Dr. Les Watling	University of Hawaii, Manoa	USA
490.	*Dr. George E. Watson	Ornithologist	USA
491.	*Dr. Sophie Webb	Ocean Ecologist	USA
492.	Lisa Webb, M.Sc.	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
493.	Dr. Lindy Weilgart	Dalhousie University	Canada
494.	Anna Weinstein, M.Sc.	Audubon California	USA
495.	Dr. Geoffrey Wescott	Deakin University	Australia
496.	Dr. Rodolfo Werner	Conservation Specialist	Argentina
497.	Dr. Phil Whittington	East London Museum, RSA	South Africa
498.	Dr. Edith Widder	Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc.	USA
499.	Sunhild Wilhelms, Diplom Biologist	Maritime and Hydrographic Agency	Germany
500.	Dr. Jay Willis	H.R. Wallingford Ltd.	United Kingdom
501.	Mary Jo Willis	Denver Zoo	USA
502.	*Dr. Peter Wilson	Last Ocean	New Zealand

503. Dr. Nerida G. Wilson	Australian Museum	Australia
504. Emily Wilson	Memorial University	USA
505. Dr. George D.F. Wilson	Australian Museum	Australia
506. Dr. Gerd Winter	Research Center for European Environmental Law	Germany
507. Dr. Piet Wit	Commission on Ecosystem Management - IUCN	The Netherlands
508. *Dr. Eric Woehler	University of Tasmania	Australia
509. Dr. Shaye Wolf	Center for Biological Diversity	USA
510. Dr. Jorg-Olaf Wolff	ICBM, University of Oldenburg	Germany
511. Dr. Claudia Wosnitza- Mendo	IMARPE	Peru
512. Dr. Kateryna Wowk	University of Delaware and Earth Resources Technology	USA
513. Mary P. Wright	Shoals Marine Lab	USA
514. Ken Wright	Biologist	Canada
515. Cathryn Wynn- Edwards, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Tasmania	Australia
516. Dr. Carolina J. Zagal	University of Tasmania	Australia
517. Dr. C. Dieter Zander	Zoologisches Institut und Museum, Univ.	Germany
518. Francesca Zardin, M.Sc.	CIBRA Universita di Pavia	Italy
519. Dr. Karl Zbinden	Biologist	Switzerland
520. Ramona Zeno, M.Sc.	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
521. Dr. Ainhoa Leon Zubillaga	Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas- Venezuela	Venezuela