



# ALL EYES ON ANTARCTICA

**HOLDING CCAMLR TO ITS CONSERVATION MANDATE**



A REPORT FROM THE  
**ANTARCTIC AVENGERS**

# OVERVIEW

Due to the ongoing failure of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) to protect marine life and ecosystems of the waters surrounding Antarctica, a total closure of the Southern Ocean to krill fishing is now unequivocally necessary. Life in the Southern Ocean exists in a fragile balance that is being jeopardised by rampant overexploitation of krill. The following report details the scientific and legal arguments for this closure.

Krill are the species upon which the entire Southern Ocean ecosystem relies. The consequences of the unsustainable extraction of krill is dire: without krill as a food source, the wildlife that calls Antarctica home will starve and whale populations around the world will suffer; without krill as a carbon sink, the global climate crisis will accelerate in dangerous and unknown ways.

This exploitation occurs in the face of multiple planetary crises and without

regard for the critical role the Southern Ocean plays in regulating the Earth's climate system and the ocean's biological pump. Further compounding the issue, the regulatory body tasked with establishing conservation measures for the Southern Ocean (CCAMLR) has been completely ineffective over the past decade.

The ocean has an incredible capacity to rebound if measures are put in place to build its resilience, this includes establishing

protected areas where ecosystems and species can thrive once again.

We must take action now to safeguard the Southern Ocean; the fate of Antarctic wildlife and the health of the global ocean depend on our next steps.

**To ensure Antarctic ecosystem integrity and our planet's health, the international community must:**



## 01

### CLOSE THE SOUTHERN OCEAN TO KRILL FISHING

to protect Antarctic wildlife, and, safeguard ecosystems and global climate stability;

## 02

### ESTABLISH THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA)

removing krill fisheries within, as a minimum first step toward an ecologically representative network of MPAs in the Southern Ocean;

## 03

### CCAMLR REFORM

to ensure the implementation of its conservation mandate to protect Antarctic wildlife;

## 04

### ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF AT LEAST 30% OF ANTARCTICA'S HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE WATERS

as a key contribution by CCAMLR countries to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 target.

“ The trawlers have reached Antarctica, and they are here for the krill. With so few fish left in the ocean, we are now seeking other prey in the furthest corners of our world. These are some of the biggest factories on the sea. They suck hundreds of thousands of tonnes of krill into vast nets.

It's then boiled and processed for fish farms, health supplements and most recently, for pet food. All on board the ship. How can wildlife compete with this? Some claim this is sustainable, but we may now be removing the foundation of an entire ecosystem. ”

David Attenborough, OCEAN, 2025

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# ANTARCTIC AVENGERS

Our Antarctica has mobilised a group of scientists, ocean leaders, wildlife photographers, policymakers and other high ambition individuals, in one united voice of the Antarctic Avengers, calling to protect one of the world's last remaining wildernesses, the Southern Ocean. This report and its recommendations have been supported by the following individuals and organisations:

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