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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.²

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.³

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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¹ Statement opened for signature on June 14, 2010. Signatures as of November 19, 2010.

² 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>

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

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**The opinions of this person do not represent an official position nor endorsement of third party certification schemes for fisheries by NOAA and the United States Government.

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389. Dr. Ralf P. Sonntag	International Fund for Animal Welfare	Germany
390. Natacha Aguilar Soto	La Laguna University	Spain
391. *Dr. Sharon Stammerjohn	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
392. Dr. Iain J. Stenhouse	BioDiversity Research Institute	USA
393. *Dr. Brent Stewart	Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute	USA
394. *Dr. Ian Stirling	University of Alberta	Canada
395. Michael Stocker	Director, Ocean Conservation Research	USA
396. Thomas Stracke, M.Sc.	WRENNZ	New Zealand
397. Dr. Fiamma Straneo	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Italy

398. Dr. Julienne Stroeve	NSIDC	USA
399. Craig S. Strong, M.Sc.	Crescent Coastal Research	USA
400. Dr. Bridget J.M. Stutchbury	York University	Canada
401. *Cara Sucher, M.Sc.	McMurdo Station	USA
402. Dr. Rashid Sumaila	University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre	Canada
403. Dr. Robert M. Suryan	Oregon State University	USA
404. Dr. Meiya Sutisno	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
405. Theresa Tallentine, M.Sc.	Biologist	Canada
406. Scott Taylor, Ph.D. Candidate	Queen's University	Canada
407. Pierre Tellier, M.Sc.	Ecologist	New Zealand
408. Loic Teulier, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Lyon	France
409. Dr. Helmut Thetmeyer	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
410. Dr. Jean-Baptiste Thiebot	CEBC-CNRS	France
411. *Dr. Jeanette Thomas	Western Illinois University, Quad Cities	USA
412. Dr. Rob Thomas	Cardiff University	United Kingdom
413. Alexander Thorton, M.Sc.	CUNY Hunter College	USA
414. Dr. Anoop Kumar Tiwari	National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research	India
415. Deborah Tobin	Rosammo Gifford Zoo	USA
416. *Dr. Jose Torres	University of South Florida	USA
417. *Dr. Susan E. Townsend	Environmental Consulting, Oakland	USA
418. Theodoros Tsimpidis	Managing Director, Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation	Greece
419. Dr. W. Breck Tyler	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
420. *Dr. Cynthia Tynan	Associated Scientists at Woods Hole, Inc.	USA
421. Dr. Heather Urquart	New England Aquarium	USA
422. Sylvia E. van der Woude, M.Sc.	Freie Universitaet	Germany
423. Schannelle van Dijken, M.Sc.	Conservation International	Samoa
424. *Dr. Jan A. van Franeker	IMARES	Netherlands
425. Frederik van Oudenhoven	Agricultural Biodiversity Scientist	Italy
426. Dr. David van Reyk	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
427. Amy Vargas	Tantphaus Park Zoo, Idaho	USA
428. *Dr. Richard R. Veit	City University of New York, College of Staten Island	USA
429. Dr. Adriana Vellerino	UNAM	Mexico
430. Vincent A. Viblanc, M.Sc.	University of Strasbourg	France

431. Dr. Alexandre Villers	Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chize	France
432. Dr. George E. Wallace	American Bird Conservancy	USA
433. Dr. Robert Wallace	Milwaukee County Zoo	USA
434. Dr. Yakutat Watanuki	Hokkaido University	Japan
435. Dr. Les Watling	University of Hawaii, Manoa	USA
436. *Dr. George E. Watson	Ornithologist	USA
437. *Dr. Sophie Webb	Ocean Ecologist	USA
438. Lisa Webb, M.Sc.	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
439. Dr. Lindy Weilgart	Dalhousie University	Canada
440. Anna Weinstein, M.Sc.	Audubon California	USA
441. Dr. Rodolfo Werner	Conservation Specialist	Argentina
442. Dr. Phil Whittington	East London Museum, RSA	South Africa
443. Dr. Edith Widder	Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc.	USA
444. Sunhild Wilhelms, Diplom Biologist	Maritime and Hydrographic Agency	Germany
445. Dr. Jay Willis	H.R. Wallingford Ltd.	United Kingdom
446. Mary Jo Willis	Denver Zoo	USA
447. *Dr. Peter Wilson	Last Ocean	New Zealand
448. Dr. Nerida G. Wilson	Australian Museum	Australia
449. Emily Wilson	Memorial University	USA
450. Dr. George D.F. Wilson	Australian Museum	Australia
451. Dr. Piet Wit	Commission on Ecosystem Management - IUCN	The Netherlands
452. *Dr. Eric Woehler	University of Tasmania	Australia
453. Dr. Shaye Wolf	Center for Biological Diversity	USA
454. Dr. Jorg-Olaf Wolff	ICBM, University of Oldenburg	Germany
455. Dr. Claudia Wosnitza-Mendo	IMARPE	Peru
456. Mary P. Wright	Shoals Marine Lab	USA
457. Ken Wright	Biologist	Canada
458. Cathryn Wynn-Edwards, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Tasmania	Australia
459. Dr. Carolina J. Zagal	University of Tasmania	Australia
460. Dr. C. Dieter Zander	Zoologisches Institut und Museum, Univ.	Germany
461. Francesca Zardin, M.Sc.	CIBRA Universita di Pavia	Italy
462. Dr. Karl Zbinden	Biologist	Switzerland
463. Ramona Zeno, M.Sc.	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA