



ASOC Secretariat
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20009 USA
PHONE 202.234.2480 FAX 202.387.4823
www.asoc.org

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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.

	Name	Affiliation	Country
1.	*Dr. Sylvia Earle	Mission Blue	USA
2.	*Dr. John Croxall	Birdlife International	United Kingdom
3.	*Dr. William J.L. Sladen	Airlie Center	United States
4.	Dr. Daniel Pauly	University of British Columbia Fisheries	Canada

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.

*Has worked in the Ross Sea, or conducted analyses that incorporate Ross Sea research findings.

**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.

5.	*Dr. Angelika Brandt	Centre Zoological Museum - Hamburg	Germany
6.	Dr. Cathryn Abbott	Fisheries and Oceans, Canada	Canada
7.	*Dr. Steven Ackley	University of Texas at San Antonio	USA
8.	*Joshua Adams, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Otago	New Zealand
9.	*Dr. David Ainley	H.T. Harvey and Associates	USA
10.	Juan Jose Alava	Simon Fraser University	Canada
11.	Cristiane C. Albuquerque, Ph.D. Candidate	Universite de Montreal	Canada
12.	Nancy Allen, M.Sc.	Oregon State University	USA
13.	*Dr. Sarah G. Allen	Ocean and Wetlands Ecologist	USA
14.	Laura Allum, M.Sc.	Canterbury Conservancy	New Zealand
15.	Dr. Sandra Anderson	University of Auckland	New Zealand
16.	Dr. David Anderson	Wake Forest University	USA
17.	Dr. Daniel W. Anderson	University of California, Davis	USA
18.	*Dr. John B. Anderson	Rice University	USA
19.	Dr. Pia Anderwald	Coastal and Marine Resources Centre ERI, UCC	Ireland
20.	Dr. Dror Angel	University of Haifa	Israel
21.	Dr. Jose Manuel Arcos	SEO/BirdLife International	Spain
22.	Lisa Argilla, BVSc, M.Sc.	Massey University	New Zealand
23.	Linda R. Ashkenas, M.Sc.	Oregon State University	USA
24.	Dr. Karen Assmann	British Antarctic Survey	United Kingdom
25.	Dr. Stephen F. Bailey	Ornithologist	USA
26.	Dr. Nicolas Bailly	Association Aimara	France
27.	Guillaume Bal, Ph.D. Candidate	National Institute of Agronomical Research	France
28.	*Dr. Grant Ballard	PRBO Conservation Science	USA
29.	*Dr. Tosca Ballerini	Old Dominion University	USA
30.	Nathan K. Banfield	Ornithologist	USA
31.	*Dr. Jonathan Banks	Waikato University	New Zealand
32.	Dr. Shannon Barber- Meyer	Wildlife Conservationist	USA
33.	Dr. Andres Barbosa	Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum, CSIC	Spain
34.	Dr. Christophe Barbraud	CEBC-CNRS	France
35.	Dr. Peter Barham	University of Bristol	United Kingdom
36.	Dr. Barbara Barham	Penguin Data Systems	United Kingdom
37.	Dr. Christopher Barrington-Leigh	University of British Columbia	Canada
38.	*Dr. Jacqueline Beggs	University of Auckland	New Zealand
39.	*Dr. Marc Bekoff	University of Colorado, Boulder	USA
40.	Dr. Ilham Bentaleb	University of Montpellier	France
41.	Dr. Carl J. Berg, Jr.	Surfrider Foundation - Kauai Chapter	USA
42.	Dr. Vladimir Bezrukov	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine
43.	*Louise Blight, Ph.D. Candidate	University of British Columbia	Canada
44.	*Dr. P. Dee Boersma	University of Washington	USA

45.	Dr. Pablo Garcia Borboroglu	National Research Council	Argentina
46.	Dr. Gary Borstad	ASL Environmental Sciences	USA
47.	Dr. Thiery Bouludier	CNRS	France
48.	*Dr. Sam Bowser	Polar Benthic Ecologist	USA
49.	Dr. Lorenzo Rojas Bracho	Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada	Mexico
50.	*Dr. Trevor A. Branch	University of Washington	USA
51.	Martha Brandeis, M.Sc.	Univesity Fed. Rural Rio/Brazil	Brazil
52.	Dr. Karsten Brensing	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	Germany
53.	Dr. Paul Broady	University of Canterbury	New Zealand
54.	Dr. Kevin Broady	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
55.	*Dr. Robert L. Brownell, Jr.**	NOAA Fisheries	USA
56.	Dr. Maria Cristina Buia	Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn	Italy
57.	Dr. Rhys Bullman	RPSC	Denmark
58.	Dr. Alan Burger	University of Victoria	Canada
59.	*Dr. Jennifer M. Burns	University of Alaska	USA
60.	Dr. Gregor M. Cailliet	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
61.	Anna Cameron	Resource Management Planner, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society	New Zealand
62.	Dr. Claudio Campagna	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	Argentina
63.	Dr. Belinda Cannell	Murdoch University	Australia
64.	Nicholas Carlile	Dept Enviro & Climate Change – Waters	Australia
65.	Dr. Christina Carrieres	Wild ARC	Canada
66.	Angela Carter, Ph.D. Candidate	Cornell University	USA
67.	Dr. Hal Caswell	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	USA
68.	Dr. Francois M. Catzefflis	University of Montpellier	France
69.	Fernanda Celabuona	USP	Brazil
70.	Dr. Zanna Chase	University of Tasmania	Australia
71.	Dr. Lingbiao Chen	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
72.	*Dr. Chi-Hing Christina Cheng	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	USA
73.	Jonathan Chester	Exteme Images Inc/Kansas City Zoo	USA
74.	*Dr. Maria Chiara Chiantore	University of Genoa	Italy
75.	Dr. Steven L. Chown	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
76.	Dr. Constantino Aucca Chutas	Asociacion Ecosistemas Andinos	Peru
77.	Dr. Phillip J. Clapham	Smithsonian Institution	USA
78.	Dr. Bruce B. Collette	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	USA
79.	*Dr. Simonetta Corsolini	University of Siena	Italy
80.	*Dr. Daniel P. Costa	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA

81.	*Dr. Malcolm C. Coulter	Specialist Group on SIS	USA
82.	Dr. Simon Cragg	University of Portsmouth	United Kingdom
83.	Dr. David P. Craig	Willamette University	USA
84.	Dr. Lisa Crampton	Kauai Forest Birds Recovery Program	USA
85.	Dr. Robert Crawford	Dept. Environmental Affairs	South Africa
86.	Dr. Sarah Crofts	Falklands Conservation	Falkland Islands
87.	Dr. Don Croll	University of California, Santa Cruz	USA
88.	Dr. Jan Czerny	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
89.	*Dr. Kendra Daly	University of South Florida	USA
90.	Dr. Peter Dann	Phillip Island Nature Reserve	Australia
91.	Dr. Eva Danulat	German Society for Marine Research	Germany
92.	Dr. Geneve Darnell	Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens	USA
93.	*Dr. Lloyd S. Davis	Centre for Science Communication	New Zealand
94.	*Dr. Paul Dayton	Scripps Institution of Oceanography	USA
95.	*Dr. Andrea De Felice	ISMAR-CNR of Ancona	Italy
96.	Dr. Michael de L. Brooke	Cambridge University	United Kingdom
97.	Petra Deane, M.Sc.	Cornell University	USA
98.	Petra Deimer	Biologist	Germany
99.	Dr. Thomas Dellinger	University of Madeira	Portugal
100.	Giancarlo Delliomo	Ornis Italica	Italy
101.	Dr. David F. DeSante	The Institute for Bird Populations	USA
102.	Dr. Kim Cornelius Detloff	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union Germany	Germany
103.	*Dr. Arthur DeVries	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	USA
104.	Meagan Dewar, Ph.D. Candidate	Deakin University	Australia
105.	Dr. Giovanni Di Guardo	University of Teramo	Italy
106.	Dr. Tony Diamond	University of New Brunswick	Canada
107.	*Dr. George J. Divoky	Friends of Cooper Island	USA
108.	Dr. Catherine Dorey	Greenpeace International	Australia
109.	Dr. Manuel E. dos Santos	ISPA-IU and Projecto Delfim	Portugal
110.	Dr. Don Drake	University of Hawaii	USA
111.	Sylvain Dromzée	French Marine Protected Area Agency	France
112.	Dr. David Cameron Duffy	University of Hawai'i	USA
113.	*Dr. Katie Dugger	Oregon State University	USA
114.	*Dr. Rob Dunbar	Stanford University	USA
115.	Dr. Fern P. Duvall II	Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii	USA
116.	*Dr. Joe Eastman	Ohio University	USA
117.	Dr. Ann Edwards**	NOAA	USA
118.	Dr. Stuart Egginton	University of Birmingham	United Kingdom
119.	Anne Ehrlich	Stanford University	USA
120.	Dr. Paul Ehrlich	Biologist	USA

121.	*Dr. Regina Eisert	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	Germany
122.	Dr. Julie Ellis	Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine	USA
123.	*Dr. Steven Emslie	University of North Carolina, Wilmington	USA
124.	Dr. Bruno J. Ens	SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology	The Netherlands
125.	Uli Erfurth, Diplom Biology	BIONAUT	Germany
126.	Dr. Paul Farrell	University of Portsmouth	United Kingdom
127.	Dr. Kenneth James Feeley	Florida International University	USA
128.	Daphna Feingold	Cardigan Bay Monitoring Officer	United Kingdom
129.	Dr. Iain Field	Macquarie University	Australia
130.	Dr. John W. Fitzpatrick	Cornell University	USA
131.	Dr. Elizabeth Flint	Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex	USA
132.	Dr. Mary Beth Flynn	Seneca Park Zoo	USA
133.	*Dr. Christine Foreman	Montana State University	USA
134.	Steve Forrest, M.Sc.	WWF - US	USA
135.	Dr. Doug Forsell	US Fish & Wildlife Service	USA
136.	Caroline Fox, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Victoria	Canada
137.	Dr. Chet Frankenfield	Center for Biological Diversity	USA
138.	Wally Franklin, Ph.D. Candidate	Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre	Australia
139.	Trish Franklin, Ph.D. Candidate	Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre	Australia
140.	Dr. Gail Fraser	York University	Canada
141.	*Dr. William R. Fraser	Cold Oceans Research Group	USA
142.	Dr. Pierre Freon	IRD	France
143.	*Dr. Peter Fretwell	British Antarctic Survey	United Kingdom
144.	Dr. Ronald Fricke	Staatliches Museum fur Naturkunde Stuttgart	Germany
145.	Dr. Vicki Friesen	Queen's University	Canada
146.	Dr. Julie Funnell	University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
147.	Dr. Tiffany Garcia	Oregon State University	USA
148.	*Dr. Robert Garrott	University of Montana	USA
149.	Dr. Didier Gascuel	Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Center of Agrocampus Ouest	France
150.	Dr. Gert Jan Gast	Fishion Consultancy	The Netherlands
151.	Dr. Tony Gaston	Environment Canada	Canada
152.	Dr. Jean-Pieere Gattuso	CNRS and Universite Pierre et Marie Curie	France
153.	*Dr. Maria Gavriilo	Arctic & Antarctic Research Institute	Russia
154.	*Heidi Geisz, Ph.D. Candidate	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	USA
155.	Dr. Tilen Genov	Morigenos marine mammal research and conservation	Slovenia

156. Dr. T Luke George	Humboldt State University	USA
157. Vanessa Gillot, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Sydney	Australia
158. Carina Gjerdrum, M.Sc.	Canadian Wildlife Service	Canada
159. Dr. Michael Gochfeld	Enviro & Occup Health Science Inst	USA
160. Dr. Emanuel Goncalves	ISPA - University Institute	Portugal
161. Dr. Roger Grace	Marine Biologist	New Zealand
162. Jacquelyn K. Grace, Ph.D. Candidate	Wake Forest University	USA
163. Dr. Nicole Gravier- Bonnet	University of La Reunion	France
164. Holly Gray, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Nebraska	USA
165. Dr. David Gremillet	CNRS	France
166. Dr. Onno Gross	DEEPWAVE	Germany
167. *Lisa Sheffield Guy, M.Sc.	University of Washington	USA
168. Dr. Erin Hagen	Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge	USA
169. Dr. Jason Hall-Spencer	University of Plymouth	United Kingdom
170. Dr. Kathy Halliburton	Center for Biological Diversity	USA
171. *Dr. Ben Halpern	Nat'l. Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis	USA
172. Dr. Lewis Halsey	Roehampton University	United Kingdom
173. Robert Hansen	PRNPR	Canada
174. Dr. Rob Harcourt	Macquarie University	Australia
175. Dr. Alasdair Harris	Blue Venture	United Kingdom
176. Dr. Paul Hart	University of Leicester	United Kingdom
177. Gary Harthage	Henry Vilas Zoo	USA
178. Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, M.Sc.	Ecologist	New Zealand
179. Dr. Logan Hennessy	San Francisco State University	USA
180. Linda M. Henry	SeaWorld California	USA
181. Dr. Christian Hensen	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
182. *Michelle Hester, M.Sc.	Ecologist, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge	USA
183. Dr. Falk Heuttman	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	USA
184. Dr. Andrew Hill	Ecology Partners	Australia
185. *Dr. Mark Hindell	University of Tasmania	Australia
186. Sue Hiscochs	Skies Above Foundation	Canada
187. Max Hobert, M.Sc.	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	USA
188. Dr. Jan Hodder	Oregon Institute of Marine Biology	USA
189. Dr. Peter Hodum	University of Puget Sound	USA
190. *Dr. Gretchen Hofman	University of California, Santa Barbara	USA
191. Dr. Sidney Holt	Biologist	United Kingdom
192. Liz Home	Penguins Eastern Cape	South Africa
193. Dr. Michael Horn	California State University - Fullerton	USA
194. *Dr. Markus Horning	Oregon State University	USA
195. Dr. Luke Hunt	American Rivers	USA
196. *Dr. George I. Hunt, Jr.	University of Washington	USA
197. Kyle W. Hurst	Mystic Aquarium	USA

198. Dr. Pat Hutchings	Australian Museum	Australia
199. *Dr. K. David Hyrenbach	Hawai'I Pacific University	Spain
200. Andron T. Itmus	Hawaii Pacific University	USA
201. *Stanley S. Jacobs, M.Sc.	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory	USA
202. Jeff Jacobsen, M.Sc.	Humboldt State University	USA
203. Deborah Jacques, M.Sc.	Crescent Coastal Research	USA
204. Dr. Jennifer Jacquet	University of British Columbia	Canada
205. Dr. Vanessa Flora Jaiteh	Murdoch University	Australia
206. Michael Janssen, M.Sc.	Biologist	Canada
207. Dr. Sebastien Jaquemet	Universite de la Reunion	France
208. Dr. Sybil Jaschinski	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
209. *Scott Jennings, M.Sc.	PRBO Conservation Science	USA
210. Emma Jennings, M.Sc.	University of Glasgow	United Kingdom
211. *Dr. Stephanie Jenourvri	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	USA
212. Dr. Helen L. Johnson	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
213. Dr. Paul H. Jones	Seabird Press	Canada
214. Nate M. Jones	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
215. Trevor Joyce, M.Sc.	Scripps Institution of Oceanography	USA
216. Jessica Jozwiak	Detroit Zoo	USA
217. Dr. Mohamed Kacher	ENSSMAL	Algeria
218. Martina Kadin, M.Sc.	Stockholm University	Sweden
219. Varvara Kandia, M.Sc.	Institute of Computer Science, FORTH	Greece
220. Dr. Michelle Kappes	Universite de la Reunion	Reunion
221. Peter J. Kappes, M.Sc.	Universite de la Reunion	France
222. *Dr. Deneb Karentz	University of San Francisco	USA
223. Dr. Nina J. Karnovsky	Pomona College	USA
224. Dr. Kathy Keane	Keane Biological	USA
225. Carol Keiper, M.Sc.	Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge	USA
226. Dr. Jessica Kemper	African Penguin Conservation Project	Namibia
227. Dr. Clement F. Kent	York University	Canada
228. Dr. Dan Kerem	University of Haifa	Israel
229. Dr. Hassan Khalilieh	University of Haifa	Israel
230. Dr. Ranier Kiko	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
231. *Dr. Stacy Kim	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
232. Hugh Knechtel, M.Sc.	Fisheries and Ocean, Canada	Canada
233. Ann Knudson	Sedgwick County Zoo	USA
234. David Kooistra, MSc	Province of Groningen	The Netherlands
235. *Dr. Gerald Kooyman	Scripps Institution of Oceanography	USA
236. Dr. Iryna Kozeretska	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine
237. Maike Kramer, M.Sc.	Institute for Polar Ecology	Germany
238. Dr. Kathy Kuletz	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USA
239. Mark LaBarr, M.Ed.	Conservation Planning, National Audubon Society	USA

240. Dr. Dan Laffoley	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas	United Kingdom
241. Dr. Eric Larsen	University of Wisconsin	USA
242. *Michelle LaRue, M.Sc.	University of Minnesota	USA
243. Dr. Ben Lascelles	Birdlife International	United Kingdom
244. Dr. Sabine Lattemann	Marine Scientist	Germany
245. *Dr. Giancarlo Lauriano	Central Institute of Marine Research	Italy
246. *Dr. Amy Laventer	Colgate University	USA
247. Shena Lawson, M.Sc.	Ornithologist	Canada
248. Dr. Celine Le Bohec	University of Oslo-CEES	Norway
249. Dr. Vincente LeComte	CEBC-CNRS Chizé	France
250. Moira Lemon	Environment Canada, CWS	Canada
251. Crystal Lenky, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Canterbury	New Zealand
252. Dr. David Leonard	Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources	USA
253. *Dr. Amelie Lescroel	Universite de Rennes	France
254. Ron LeValley, M.Sc.	Mad River Biologists	USA
255. Hila Levy, M.Sc.	Oxford University	United Kingdom
256. Jonny Lewis, M.Sc.	RPS Energy	United Kingdom
257. Dr. Hiram W. Li	Oregon State University	USA
258. Dr. Daniela Liggett	University of Canterbury	New Zealand
259. *Dr. Chris Linder	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	USA
260. *Dr. Michael Lizotte	University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh	USA
261. Dr. Valerie Loeb	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	USA
262. Markus Lommer, Ph.D. Candidate	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
263. Nicole Longhi	Perth Zoo	Australia
264. Dr. Katria Ludynia	University of Cape Town	South Africa
265. Geir M. Skek, M.Sc.	Akuaplan University	Norway
266. Dr. Suzanne MacDonald	York University	Canada
267. Luke Mackinder, M.Sc.	Marine Biological Association of the UK	United Kingdom
268. Mairead Maheigan, M.Sc.	Marine Biologist	USA
269. Dr. Patricia Majluf	Center for Environmental Sustainability	Peru
270. Dr. Terri Maness	Wake Forest University	USA
271. Samantha Margum, M.Sc.	US Fish & Wildlife Service	USA
272. Robert Marianne, Ph.D. Candidate	IRD - CRT	France
273. Pervis Marker, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Tasmania	Australia
274. Miriam Marquardt, Diplom Biologist	Institute for Polar Ecology	Germany
275. Marie C. Martin, M.Sc.	CUNY	France
276. Dr. Juan Martinez	Endemics Insuleres	Mexico
277. *Dr. Melanie Massaro	University of Canterbury	New Zealand
278. Beth Anne Masselink	UVIC	Canada
279. Michelle Masselink M.Sc.	Masselink Environmental Design	Canada

280. Monica Mather	BC Ministry of Environment	Canada
281. Dr. James McClintock	University of Alabama at Birmingham	United States
282. Baliee McColl, M.Sc.	University of Victoria	Canada
283. Amy Med, M.Sc.	UVIC	Canada
284. Renata Medeivos	Cardiff University	United Kingdom
285. Dr. Erik Meesters	Wageningen IMARES	The Netherlands
286. Dr. Vivian Mendenhall	US FWS (retired)	USA
287. Tania Mendo, M.Sc.	University of Tasmania	Australia
288. Dr. Iris Menn	Greenpeace International	Germany
289. Pamela Michael	Hawaii Pacific University	USA
290. Anastasia Miliou	Hydrobiologist, Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation	Greece
291. *Mary K. Miller, M. Cert. Science Communications	Project Director, Public Understanding of Science Exploratorium (California)	USA
292. *Dr. Gary D. Miller	University Western Australia	Australia
293. Dr. Carlos Moffat	University of Concepcion	Chile
294. *Dr. Henrik Moller	University of Otago	New Zealand
295. Dr. Solveig Monterde	Waikato University	New Zealand
296. Dr. Geoff Moore	University Marine Biological Station Millport	Scotland
297. Dr. Alison Moran	Royal Roads University	Canada
298. Sylvie Motard	Biodome Montreal	Canada
299. *Dr. Dietland Muller-Schwarze	State University of New York	United States
300. Hannah Munro, M.Sc.	Memorial University	Canada
301. Dr. Marina V. Naboka	National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine	Ukraine
302. Dr. Paul Nader	V.C.CVH	USA
303. Dr. Cornelia Nauen	MUNDUS MARIS	Belgium
304. Dr. R. Wayne Nelson	Behavioral Ecologist	Canada
305. *Hannahrose Nevins, M.Sc.	Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge	USA
306. Dr. Mark Newell	CEM	United Kingdom
307. Jessica Nilsson, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Tasmania	Australia
308. Dr. Ian C.T. Nisbet	I.C.T. Nisbet & Company	USA
309. Anja Nordt, Ph.D. Candidate	Jena University	Germany
310. Dr. Jessica Hardesty Norris	American Bird Conservancy	USA
311. Dr. Anita Dey Nuttall	University of Alberta	Canada
312. Dr. Kristin O'Brien	Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska	USA
313. Dr. Kathryn O'Reilly	University of Portland	USA
314. Dr. David Obura	CORIO East Africa	Kenya
315. Dr. Anna Occhipinti-Ambrogio	University of Pavia	Italy
316. *Dr. Silvia Olmastroni	University of Siena	Italy
317. Dr. Silvia Opitz	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany

318. Steffen Oppel, M.Sc.	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	United Kingdom
319. Dr. John Orbell	Victoria University	Australia
320. Dr. Sylvia Osterrieder	German Oceanographic Museum	Germany
321. Dr. Victor Pairva	Coimbra University	Portugal
322. Dr. Sylvia Papadakos Moralkay	Center for Biological Diversity	USA
323. *Dr. Claire Parkinson	Climatologist	USA
324. Donna Patterson, M.Sc.	Cold Oceans Research Group	USA
325. Jake Pattison	Lasheek Bay Conservation Society	Canada
326. Dr. Timothy A. Pearce	Carnegie Museum of Natural History	USA
327. Dr. Lloyd S. Peck	British Antarctic Survey	United Kingdom
328. Dr. Pieter B. Pelsler	University of Canterbury	New Zealand
329. Jay Penniman	Manager, Seabird Recovery Project, University of Hawaii	USA
330. *Jean Pennycook, M.Sc.	Einstein Fellow	USA
331. Dr. Andreas Pfander	Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals	Germany
332. James Phillips	Laboratory Operations Manager, University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
333. Dr. Dieter Piepenburg	Institute for Polar Ecology	Germany
334. Dr. Nicolas J. Pilcher	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	Malaysia
335. Dr. Robert L. Pitman**	National Marine Fisheries Service	USA
336. Dr. Maud Poisbleau	University of Antwerp	Belgium
337. Dr. Beth Polidoro	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	USA
338. Caroline Poli	Ornithologist	USA
339. *Dr. Paul Ponganis	University of California, San Diego	USA
340. Dr. Margi Prideaux	Cetacean Conservation	Australia
341. Dana Prior	Louisville Zoo	USA
342. Dr. Peter Pyle	Institute for Bird Populations	USA
343. Dr. Paul A. Racey	University of Aberdeen	United Kingdom
344. Jorge Ramírez, Ph.D. Candidate	Iemanya Oceanica	Mexico
345. Dr. Jaime A. Ramos	Coimbra University	Portugal
346. Mark J. Rauzon, M.Sc.	Laney College	USA
347. Dr. Ginger Rebstock	University of Washington	USA
348. Dr. Heidi M. Regehr	Wildwing Environmental Research	Canada
349. Dr. Martin Renner	University of Washington	USA
350. Dr. Andrea Rayz Rey	CADIC-CONICET	Argentina
351. *Dr. Christine Ribic	University of Wisconsin	USA
352. Samantha Richman	University of Quebec	Canada
353. Dr. Rolf Riethmuller	Institute for Coastal Research, GKSS Research Centre	Germany
354. Dr. Stephen R. Rintoul	Oceanographer	Australia
355. Fabian Ritter, Diplom Biologist	President, M.E.E.R. Science and Education	Germany

356. Dr. Callum Roberts	York University	United Kingdom
357. Kate Robinson	McGill University	Canada
358. Kristofer M. Robison, Master's Candidate	University of California, Davis	USA
359. Dr. Michael S. Rodway	Wildwing Environmental Research	Canada
360. Dr. Alex David Rogers	Zoological Society of London	United Kingdom
361. Dr. Rob Ronconi	Dalhousie University	Canada
362. *Dr. Jay Rotella	Montana State University	USA
363. Dr. Andrii Rozhok	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine
364. Dr. Valeria Ruoppolo	IFAW	Brazil
365. *Dr. Joellen L. Russell	University of Arizona	USA
366. Conor Ryan, Ph.D. Candidate	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Ireland
367. Dr. Yvonne Sadovy	IUCN SSC Global Marine Species Assessment	Hong Kong
368. Dr. Carl Safina	Blue Ocean Institute	USA
369. *Dr. Paul Sagar	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research	New Zealand
370. Dr. Leo A. Salas	PRBO Conservation Science	USA
371. Claire Saraux, Ph.D. Candidate	University of Strasbourg	France
372. Dr. Christian Schlosser	IFM-GEOMAR	Germany
373. Dr. Moritz Schmid	University of Gottingen	Germany
374. Tom Schneider	Detroit Zoo	USA
375. Nicole Schuman, Ph.D. Candidate	Deakin University	Australia
376. *Dr. Paul Scofield	Canterbury University	New Zealand
377. Dr. Mary A. Sewell	University of Auckland	New Zealand
378. Dr. Scott A. Shaffer	San Jose State University	USA
379. Dr. Amanda Shaffer	Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium	USA
380. Dr. Charles Sheppard	University of Warwick	United Kingdom
381. *Dr. Thomas C. Shirley	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi	USA
382. Dr. Miles Silman	Wake Forest University	USA
383. *Lucia Simion, M.D.	Antarctic Photojournalist	France
384. *Dr. Donald B. Siniff	University of Minnesota	USA
385. *Dr. Walker Smith	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	USA
386. Dr. Richard Smith	St. Louis Zoological Park	USA
387. Dr. Joanna Smith	The Nature Conservancy	USA
388. Melanie Snith, M.Sc.	Audubon Alaska	USA
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