



CCAMLR

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**Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area: Reporting, Periodic Review
and Period of Designation Elements**

Delegations of the USA and New Zealand



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Reporting, Periodic Review & Period of Designation Elements of the Proposed Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area

This paper describes the following elements associated with the proposal for a Marine Protected Area in the Ross Sea Region (CCAMLR-XXXIV-29):

- (i) a possible procedure for reporting on research and monitoring activities within the proposed Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area (RSRMPA);
- (ii) how the Commission might review the extent to which the objectives of the RSRMPA are still relevant and are being achieved; and
- (iii) the period of designation for the RSRMPA.

Reporting on Research and Monitoring

A Research and Monitoring Plan for the RSRMPA would be introduced to the Scientific Committee and Commission no later than the annual meeting following adoption of the RSRMPA. All Members would be encouraged to undertake research and monitoring activities consistent with the RSRMPA Research and Monitoring Plan. Members also would be responsible for cooperation and collaboration in the conduct of such research and monitoring activities when possible.

Every five years following adoption of the RSRMPA Research and Monitoring Plan, Members would be required to submit, to the Secretariat, a report on research and monitoring activities conducted in accordance with or related to the Research and Monitoring Plan. This report would summarize both preliminary and final results and contain information that might help the Scientific Committee provide advice for, and the Commission to undertake, the periodic review described below.

Thus, if the RSRMPA Research and Monitoring Plan were adopted at the annual meeting of CCAMLR in 2016 Members would submit the first report(s) on their research and monitoring activities to the Secretariat by 1 March 2021. All Members' reports would be compiled by the Secretariat and made available to the Scientific Committee and all Members (e.g., through the CCAMLR website) by 1 April 2021. The compiled report would be reviewed both by a relevant working group of the Scientific Committee and by the Scientific Committee itself.

Members would be encouraged to submit as it becomes available:

- (i) data collected in accordance with the RSRMPA Research and Monitoring Plan (submitted data would be held by the Secretariat and made available to all CCAMLR Members under normal rules and procedures for data access within CCAMLR),
- (ii) any web-links to relevant public databases (e.g., geological, oceanographic, and sea-ice data that may not be required for submission to the CCAMLR database but could be important in the context of the periodic review described below), and
- (iii) published papers or reports of relevance to the MPA.

The Secretariat would be required to distribute all of these submissions through the CCAMLR website and in a timely manner.

Periodic Review

Procedure

Following its adoption, the Conservation Measure establishing the RSRMPA would be reviewed at least every ten years, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission upon advice by the Scientific Committee. The length of time between periodic reviews would need to take into account, *inter alia*, timeframes associated with the biological and ecological processes identified in the specific objectives for the RSRMPA. Such periodic reviews would be comprehensive, and would not impinge on the Commission's ability to respond to any new advice from the Scientific Committee regarding the Conservation Measure at any time.

During each periodic review, the Commission would evaluate whether the specific objectives of the RSRMPA were still relevant or being achieved and the delivery of the Research and Monitoring Plan. In undertaking its review, the Commission would take into account the advice of the Scientific Committee, all available 5-year reports on research and monitoring, and any other information as appropriate. The review would include consideration of what, if any, changes to management measures may be needed to better achieve the MPA's specific objectives.

Key Review Questions

Drawing on the best available scientific information, the Scientific Committee, in providing its advice, and the Commission, in completing its periodic review of the Conservation Measure establishing the RSRMPA, would consider:

- (i) the extent to which specific objectives of the RSRMPA are being achieved;
- (ii) the extent to which the specific objectives are still relevant in different areas of the RSRMPA;
- (iii) the extent to which the management measures are still consistent with the specific objectives;
- (iv) management actions, if any, that may be required to improve the achievement of the specific objectives for the RSRMPA;
- (v) the extent to which research and monitoring has been undertaken and reported;
- (vi) interactions between the MPA and other existing scientific objectives for the Ross Sea region; and
- (vii) any other relevant criteria as determined by the Commission.

More specifically, these review questions could be considered by addressing questions relevant to objectives, boundaries, activities, and research and monitoring. Suggested specific questions are contained in Annex 1.

Period of Designation

Paragraph 3(v) of Conservation Measure 91-04 (2011) provides that the period of designation of an MPA, if any, must be consistent with the MPA's specific objectives. The RSRMPA period of designation is thus intended to allow sufficient time for the MPA to achieve its specific objectives. The period of designation proposed for the RSRMPA would allow for the completion of several periodic reviews so that there would be information to determine whether the MPA was achieving its specific objectives, noting that the length of time and/or data required to assess changes may vary between specific objectives. The period of designation agreed for this MPA should take into account the average generation times of predator species protected by the RSRMPA and timeframes for Antarctic ecological and physical processes.

Annex 1: Suggested specific review questions

Objectives

- How does the RSRMPA continue to contribute towards a representative system of MPAs, with the aim of conserving marine biodiversity in the Convention Area, consistent with Conservation Measure 91-04?
- How does the RSRMPA continue to contribute towards achieving the specific objectives for which it was designated?
- What new evidence, if any, exists to support changes to the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?

Boundaries

- How do the boundaries of the MPA continue to support the objectives in Article II of the Convention, the general objectives in Conservation Measure 91-04, and the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?
- What new evidence, if any, exists to support changes to the existing boundaries of the RSRMPA?

Activities

- How are the restrictions on and management of activities within the MPA contributing towards the achievement of the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?
- What activities, if any, occurring within and/or outside the MPA compromise achievement of the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?
- What activities, if any, occurring within and/or outside the MPA support the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?
- What other activities, if any, should be encouraged to enhance or support the specific objectives of the RSRMPA?

Research and Monitoring

- What scientific research and monitoring efforts, both within and outside of the MPA, pursuant to the specific objectives of the RSRMPA have been or are being conducted?

- What additional research and monitoring activities, if any and either within or outside of the MPA, are needed to assess the extent to which the specific objectives of the RSRMPA are being achieved?
- What new information, if any, suggests that changes to the RSRMPA Research and Monitoring Plan are needed?
- What, if any, interactions are occurring between the MPA and other existing scientific objectives for the Ross Sea region, including stock assessment.