

# ARK'S COMMITMENT REVIEW PANEL 2021

## Meetings report

The Review Panel (RP) met through videoconference on 11 November 2021. The list of representatives from ARK and NGOs is presented at the end.

RP reviewed the following items:

- Main results from the report of the Expert Panel 2021
- ARK Commitment implementation in 2020/21 according to the ToR (Appendix 1)

The Review Panel opened with a presentation of Dr. Olav Godø, Chair of the Expert Panel 2021, on the main findings of their deliberations.

### **Intersessional meeting between the Expert and Review Panels**

Members of the RP reflected on the successful meeting between the two panels. This meeting was beneficial in clarifying many issues for both panels. From the EP perspective, the meeting helped clarify the main goals sought by members of the RP. Vice versa, the RP had an opportunity to express directly to the EP the scope of the ARK Commitment and the expected advice from the EP they forsake in the future.

Accordingly, the RP agreed to conduct regular meetings between the two panels, with an annual meeting scheduled at the beginning of the season (e.g., March).

### **Review of the Compliance of the Voluntary Measures in 2020/21 season**

The RP acknowledged ARK achieving 100% compliance with the VRZs for three consecutive years. At the same time, the RP is disappointed by the recurrent failure to provide all required data to the Expert Panel.

### **Review the required changes to modify the seasonal VRZs into a year-round protection measure**

There were no specific recommendations from the EP on this matter this year. Instead, the EP discussed several ideas on improving the VRZ, which require further discussion and, thus, would be better to be analyzed in the context of the 5-year review process due in 2023. Accordingly, the EP asked for specific guidelines to prepare for this review and asked the RP to consider the extra capacity that this effort would entail.

The RP acknowledged the advice from the EP and agreed that any significant changes to the ARK Commitment should be deferred until such review is conducted.

Likewise, the RP agreed with the importance of developing a guideline for the 5-year review process and noticed that having a targeted meeting on this issue was the best way forward. The RP discusses that although the VRZ's main objective remains to be the establishment of marine protected areas, other benefits have been highlighted recently (e.g., contributions to the feedback management strategy led by

CCAMLR), which should also be considered in the review process. Accordingly, the RP recommended having a meeting next January 2022 to develop these guidelines. This meeting should be followed up with an inter panel meeting to assess the capacity to deliver the review report.

### **Review efforts and progress on achieving a network of MPAs and improved the ecosystem-based management of the krill fishery, by ARK and other stakeholders**

The RP thanked the Expert Panel for reaching out and having discussions with the proponents of the D1MPA proposal. Some proposals to improve the VRZ were discussed during this meeting, which will be considered during the 5-year review process.

The RP also acknowledged the recommendation of establishing a Science-Industry Forum (SIF). The SIF would facilitate the flow of information between scientists and the industry, with the expectation that data gathered by the industry will be more readily incorporated into CCAMLR discussions. Members of the RP also informed on efforts to continue long-term monitoring census on penguins and the incorporation of new variables to assess breeding performance. The RP supported the creation of the SIF.

### **Other components of the ARK Commitment**

The RP commented on the several transgressions to CM 10-09 on transshipment last season and recalled the commitment to develop best practices on this issue. Members discussed the need to improve crew officers' training and further examined the several recommendations presented by the CCAMLR Secretariat last October. The RP agreed on developing an intersessional e-group to develop these points, with the aim to submit a report to CCAMLR next year.

### **List of Attendees, Review Panel Meeting, 11 November 2021**

Ron Naveen - Oceanites  
Frida Bengtsson – Stockholm Resilience  
Centre/Greenpeace

Valeria Carvajal – ARK President  
Pal Skograd – ARK VicePresident  
Shannon Lee – ARK Treasurer  
Gao Xu – CNFC

Invitee: Olav Godø – Chair, Expert Panel 2020  
Secretary: Javier Arata – ARK's Executive Officer

## Appendix 1

# ARK COMMITMENT (ArkCom) REVIEW PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Mission

Provide advice to ARK on options to improve the principles and objectives of the ARK Commitment towards improved sustainability in krill fishing activity.

### Goal

To provide a yearly review and advice on the performance and need for improvements of ARK's Commitment to protecting krill-dependant predators.

### Objectives

1. Review the compliance to the VRZs, based on the outcome from the Expert Panel.
2. Review the required changes to modify the seasonal VRZs into a year-round protection measure.
3. Review the harmonization of the current voluntary measures with the development of the D1MPA and related initiatives discussed in CCAMLR (i.e., FBM, CM 51-07).
4. Review efforts and progress on achieving a network of MPAs and improved the ecosystem-based management of the krill fishery, by ARK and other stakeholders.
5. Review progress on best practices for transshipments and how ARK can be of assistance to CCAMLR in the development of transshipment regulations.
6. Propose possible changes to the current ARK's Commitment guidelines for the coming fishing season.

### Outcome

A Report to be submitted to the ARK AGM.