

ARK'S COMMITMENT REVIEW PANEL 2020

Meetings report

The Review Panel (RP) met through videoconference on 15 October and 19 November 2020. At the meeting attended representatives from ARK and NGOs (List of attendees at the bottom) as serving members of the RP by invitation.

RP reviewed the following items:

- ARK Commitment implementation in 2019/20 according to ToR (Appendix 1)
- Main results from the report of the Expert Panel 2020

The Review Panel opened with a presentation of Dr. Olav Godø, Chair of the Expert Panel 2020, on the main findings of their deliberations.

Review of the Compliance of the Voluntary Measures in 2019/20 season

The RP acknowledged ARK achieving 100% compliance with the VRZs for the 2019/20 season.

As also indicated in the 2019 report, the RP is disappointed by the failure to provide all required data to the Expert Panel and asked the ARK Secretariat to seek an explanation if this is a matter in the hands of operators or related to National legislation and policy of data sharing.

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

The RP acknowledges the Expert Panel's development of advice on a year-round VRZ around King George and Nelson Islands (South Shetland archipelago). However, the RP identified that the proposed area in large parts falls outside of the no-take zones identified in the current D1MPA proposal. The RP discussed the importance of harmonizing the ARK Commitment with the D1MPA proposal, and invited the D1MPA proponents to share their view on the Expert Panel report. On a reply dated 12 November 2020, the proponents indicated that the area proposed for the year-round closure would not provide significant ecological benefits to the ecosystem. They further noted that any selected area should be harmonized and follow the boundaries of the D1MPA proposal, and suggested the northern Gerlache Strait as a priority area for an experimental closure.

The RP highlighted the importance of fulfilling the ARK Commitment by closing year-round an area starting the coming fishing season 2020/21. After discussing alternatives, the RP agreed on closing year-round a buffer zone around Hope Bay, at the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 1). This area will be closed to fishing year-round starting on 1 December 2020, in addition to the existing seasonal North Antarctic Peninsula VRZ, for the whole duration of the Industry Commitment.

As advised in the Expert Panel report, the year-round Hope Bay VRZ (Fig. 1), which holds one of the largest colonies of Adélie penguin in the region, would serve as a reference area to collect relevant

information on Adélie penguins, and will require the establishment of an expert group to design appropriate data gathering and analysis.

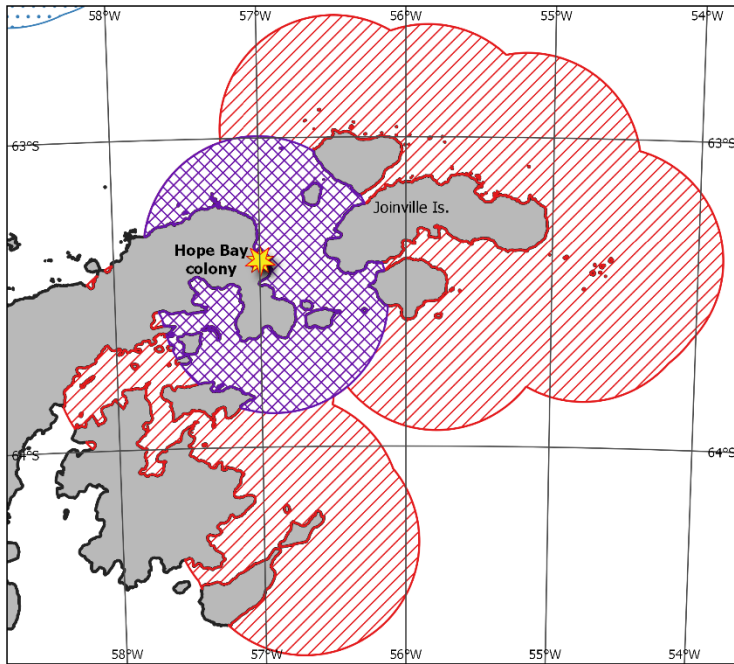


Figure 1. Seasonal North Antarctic Peninsula VRZ (red-dashed area) and the newly adopted year-round protection area around Hope Bay (purple-dashed area).

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 acknowledges the discussion of the Expert Panel on the need for ARK to work with relevant data holders to support collection of key data on penguin foraging range and productivity, whale foraging success and whale – fishery interactions.

The RP considered relevant the recommendations of the Expert Panel on the need for a science-fishery forum where ARK can interact with scientists to –

- a) identify a list of variables and required instrumentation that presently or in the future could be accommodated in support of an Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management
- b) evaluate how ARK can most efficiently organize their data collection in support of the various CCAMLR management initiatives (D1MPA, FBM and risk assessment).

The RP endorsed the establishment of a science-fishery forum to pursue the objectives above. The RP recognised that it is essential to harmonize these requirements with the scientists currently working on CCAMLR programs for krill management (FBM, MPA, Risk Assessment). The RP requests ARK to put forward a plan for establishing such a forum.

List of Attendees, Review Panel Meeting, Hobart, 15 October and 19 November 2020

Ron Naveen - Oceanites

Andrea Kavanagh – The PEW Foundation

Frida Bengtsson - Greenpeace

Chris Johnson – WWF

Will McCallum – Greenpeace

Valeria Carvajal – ARK President

Pal Skogrand – ARK Vice President

Shannon Lee – Jeong-Il

Jakob Remøy - Rimfrost

Runa – Aker Biomarine

Donny Yu – Liaoning Pelagic Fisheries

Bella Ye – Fujian Zhengguan Fishery

Enrique Gutierrez – PescaChile

Luo Junrong - Fujian Zhengguan Fishery

Wang Xiaoh - Fujian Zhengguan Fishery

Jim Mingxiu – CNFC

Yoonhyung Kim - Downgwon

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.