

# CCAMLR 2025: A foundation built for Antarctic protection

CCAMLR 2025: A foundation built for Antarctic protection - 27 parties agree on 10 MPAs

OSLO, OSLO, NORWAY, October 31, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- 27 parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) have agreed on 10 new marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean. The agreement, reached after a week of intensive negotiations, marks a significant milestone in the region's conservation efforts. The new MPAs will cover a total area of approximately 1.5 million square kilometers, providing enhanced protection for vulnerable marine ecosystems and species. The agreement also includes provisions for monitoring and enforcement, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the region's marine resources.



CCAMLR 2025

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*Matts Johansen, Chairman of Aker QRILL Company and CEO of Aker BioMarine*

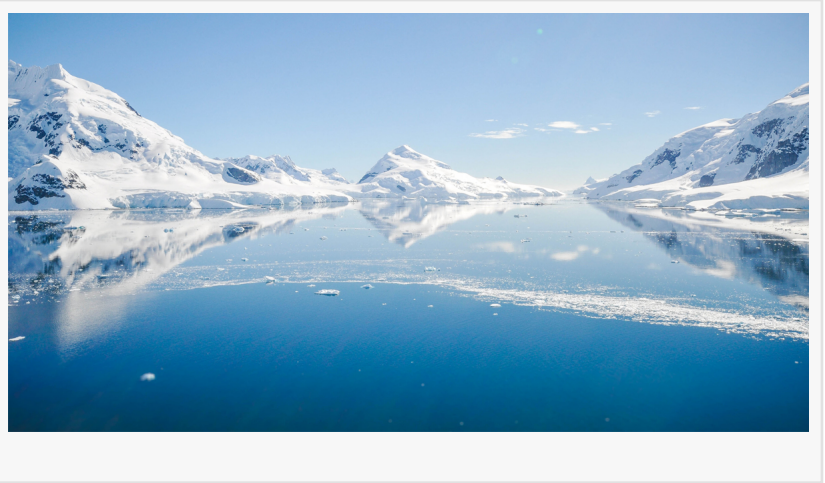
While no formal agreement was reached on these issues this year, the meeting revealed that the possibility of consensus is closer than many thought.

"We came into this meeting realistic about what could be achieved in two weeks," said Matts Johansen, Chairman of Aker QRILL Company and CEO of Aker BioMarine. "What surprised us was how optimism grew as the week progressed. Nations that have been gridlocked for years actually looked like finding common ground. That doesn't happen by accident."

The meeting saw several nations taking joint responsibility for bringing 27 parties together to build consensus on complex proposals. The effort was intense, with development throughout the week right to the very end. While the efforts did not result in immediate agreement, they laid critical groundwork to build on in 2026. What matters now is how we use the next 12 months."

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Aker QRILL Company remains committed to supporting the Antarctic Peninsula MPA proposal — a measure that would close nearly 70% of the area where the company operates. This would create one of the world's largest marine protected areas



"We're not stepping back," Johansen emphasized. "If anything, this meeting reinforced why this work matters. We'll be working throughout 2026 to help build the consensus needed. When nations gather in Hobart next October, we want the hard work already done – so the meeting is about finalizing, not negotiating from scratch."

"The geopolitical situation hasn't gotten easier," said Pål Skogrand, Chief Policy Officer at Aker QRILL Company. "But the conversations have. The countries present showed they're capable of moving beyond entrenched positions when given the right framework and enough time."

The path to Antarctic protection has never been simple, and this year's meeting confirmed that. But it also confirmed something more important: when industry, NGO's scientists, and nations work together with genuine intent, progress is possible.

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