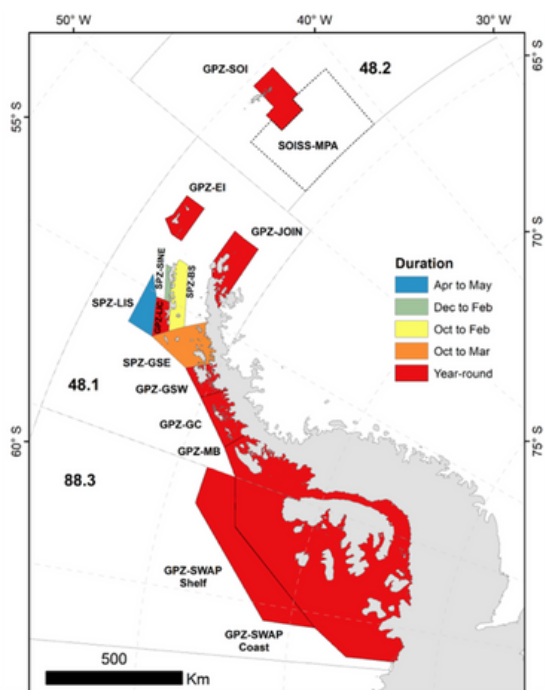




Antarctic Peninsula Marine Protected Area (Domain 1)

The Antarctic Peninsula is the most accessible part of Antarctica and is one of the most rapidly warming places in the Southern Hemisphere. Widely recognized as one of the most abundant, productive parts of the Southern Ocean, this vibrant region is teeming with life.



The Domain 1 Marine Protected Area: General Protection Zones (GPZ) and Seasonal Protection Zones (SPZ) with colors representing the periods of closure.

460,000 square kilometers / 180,000 square miles

Proposal
since 2017

Sponsors: Chile and Argentina

Duration: 70 years with decadal review

Zones: General Protection and Krill Fishing

The Antarctic Peninsula is an area of incredible biodiversity but is also an area that is undergoing some of the most rapid responses to climate change on the planet. Increased fishing activity over the years, coupled with a rapidly expanding tourism sector, means the region is under pressure as never before. The proposed Domain 1 MPA is designed to safeguard this diversity by protecting vital areas for krill and foraging habitats for Antarctic predators. In addition to protecting biotic components, the MPA would safeguard several important benthic and pelagic bioregions. These include canyons, cross shelf valleys, and polynya margins, which are important areas for birds and marine mammals.



The krill fishery has concentrated on the Antarctic Peninsula krill population due to its easy access and high availability of krill. However, this poses a significant risk to Antarctic predators such as whales, seals, and penguins, which heavily rely on krill as their main source of sustenance. As temperatures rise, the extent of sea ice, which is crucial for krill habitat, is declining, further impacting the krill population.



In one day...

- A crabeater seal can consume 11,000 krill
- An Adelie penguin can consume 1,200 krill
- A blue whale can consume 3.6 million krill



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