



THE OCEAN RACE
SUMMITS
STOCKHOLM
1 JUNE 2022





FOREWORD

We often say that Stockholm is built on the ocean, and there is only one ocean. While we may not always feel the connection to the rest of the world, everything is connected when it comes to the ocean. It is the common ground for all people on the planet. Our main life support system.

Stockholm is my home town and I'm really proud to host this edition of The Ocean Race Summits here. We might be a small player in the scheme of things, but I like to think we have always stood for a willingness to drive change, particularly around sustainability and solidarity.

The Ocean Race takes the same approach when it comes to ocean rights and protection. We want to drive change to facilitate a healthier ocean. We do this in partnership with Volvo, 11th Hour Racing and the Southern Ocean Antarctic Coalition.

Richard Brisius
Chairman, The Ocean Race

During this Summit, we focused on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. This part of the world is very far away from Stockholm, but it is a crucial ecosystem for us to try to protect. It also represents an important part of The Ocean Race's field of play. I remember when I did the race for the first time 30 years ago – it is a hardcore and scary field of play, but also the most fantastic sailing experience.

More broadly, we want to be good stewards of the ocean. We have created a concept that we call a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights to make sure the high seas has a fair field of play, like the sport that we love.



ABOUT THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS

The Ocean Race Summits bring together the unique perspectives of sailors and the world's key decision-makers to drive solutions and commitments to tackle the issues facing our seas.

Our current series of 12 Summits, taking place across 2019–2023, is helping to drive new and improved policies around the major issues affecting the ocean: lack of governance, lack of protection, and climate change. The outcome will be a catalogue of draft proposals presented in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023.

The Ocean Race Summit Stockholm is the sixth in the series which started in Genova, Italy (September 2019), with subsequent editions in The Hague, Netherlands (May 2020), Newport Rhode Island USA (September 2020), The Ocean Race Summits Europe (June 2021) and Seychelles, in between.

Developed in collaboration with 11th Hour Racing, a Premier Partner of The Ocean Race and Founding Partner of the Racing with Purpose sustainability programme, and Ulysse Nardin, our Time to Act Partner, the series will conclude as the 2022–23 edition of The Ocean Race draws to a close.

The Ocean Race Summit **Stockholm** key topics explored

- Racing with purpose to protect the Southern Ocean
- Interconnected Antarctica – Ocean rights, relationships and protection

THE SUMMIT IN NUMBERS...



12 speakers from **5** different nations



Antarctic-dwelling krill sequester the amount of carbon emitted by **35 million** cars per year

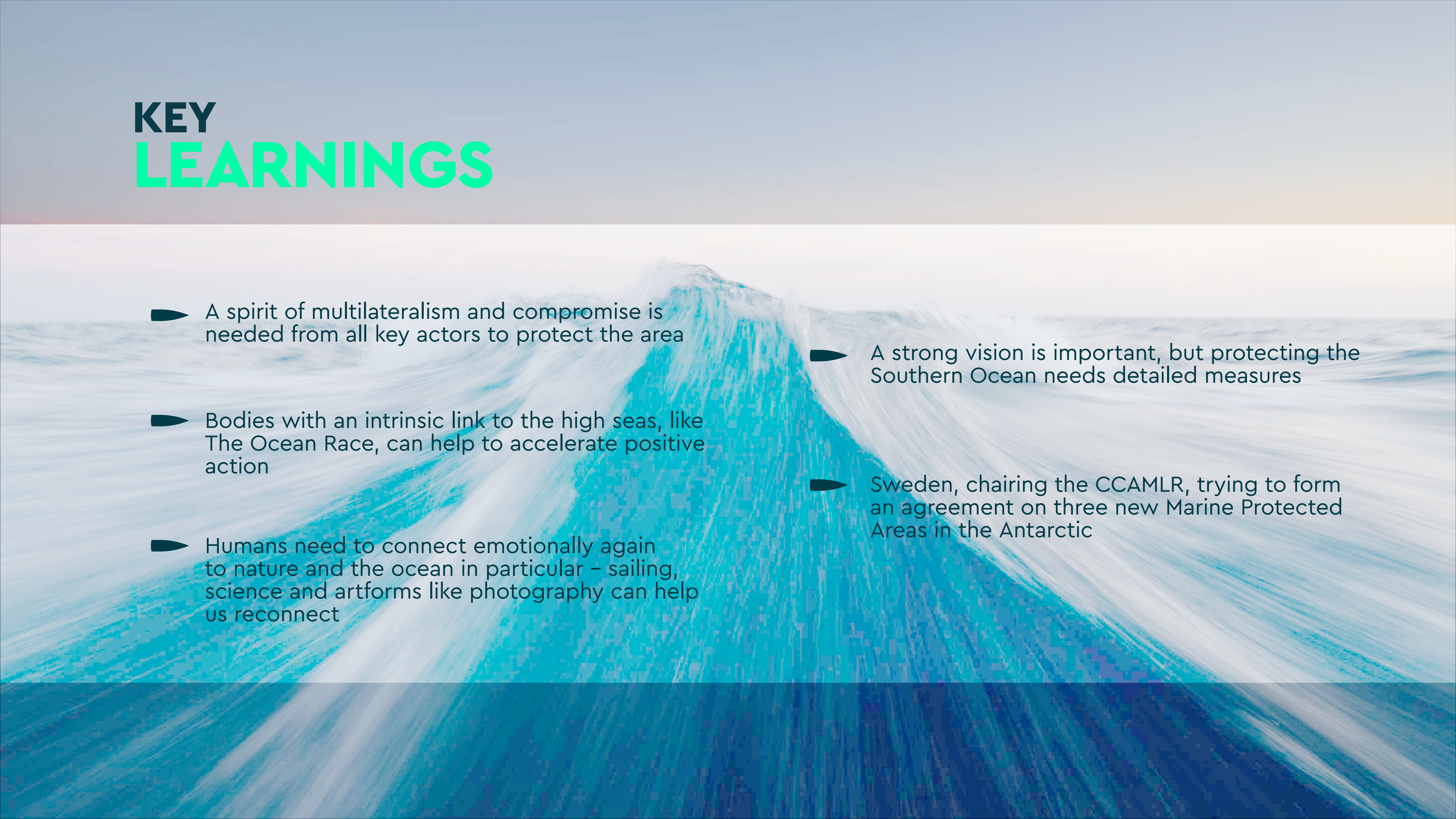


The Southern Ocean has absorbed around **70%** of the excess heat accelerated by global temperature increases



There are only **2** Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean but, with the presidency of CCAMLR, Sweden is aiming to secure **3** more Marine Protected Areas

KEY LEARNINGS

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- A spirit of multilateralism and compromise is needed from all key actors to protect the area
 - Bodies with an intrinsic link to the high seas, like The Ocean Race, can help to accelerate positive action
 - Humans need to connect emotionally again to nature and the ocean in particular – sailing, science and artforms like photography can help us reconnect
 - A strong vision is important, but protecting the Southern Ocean needs detailed measures
 - Sweden, chairing the CCAMLR, trying to form an agreement on three new Marine Protected Areas in the Antarctic

SUMMIT SPEAKERS

RACING WITH PURPOSE TO PROTECT THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

The situation facing Antarctica and the Southern Ocean is a perfect storm. A lack of Marine Protected Areas and drastic alterations in the environment driven by climate change are threatening this critical ecosystem, and making all of us extremely vulnerable by extension. In this part of The Ocean Race Summit Stockholm, we highlighted these challenges and what we need to do to address them.

Andrea Kavanagh, the Director of Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy South Ocean Campaign, illustrated the scale of the challenge well when she explained that, despite its global importance in terms of nutrient distribution and climate regulation, there are only two Marine Protected Areas in the whole Southern Ocean.

The Antarctic Treaty, put in place to regulate international relations around the area, and the creation of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) have been effective at protecting parts of Southern Ocean from illegal fishing, but Kavanagh explained that the state of play was more complex when it came to climate change.

"There's nothing that anyone sitting at the table at an Antarctic Treaty meeting or CCAMLR meeting can do to stop the outward threat," she said. "You have to look at the people who are sitting at the table and they are all countries who are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases on the planet."

A consultation on the Antarctic Treaty is currently ongoing, and while several of the actors are "working in the full spirit of multilateralism" and trying to achieve consensus through compromise, some "outliers are using their position to veto power".

"It's going to take other organisations to help protect the Southern Ocean and Antarctica from the threat of climate change," she added.

Those threats were highlighted through a video produced by Professor **Tim Naish** that was shown during the Summit.

Sea level rise, accelerated by melting ice shelves on the coast of Antarctica, will have significant, dire repercussions for several hundred million people around the world, Naish stressed. Even if we achieve the target of the Paris Climate Agreement – keeping global temperature increases below 2°C – we are still looking at a sea level rise of 50cm during this century, which would impact around 800 million people.

"The latest generation of ice sheet computer models predict up to two metres of sea level rise a century unless we aggressively reduce our emissions," he said. "People feel it's a hopeless situation, but in fact the science tells us we still have a chance to solve this problem. It requires a global response both in terms of how we save the planet and how we save ourselves."

"People feel it's a hopeless situation, but in fact the science tells us we still have a chance to solve this problem."

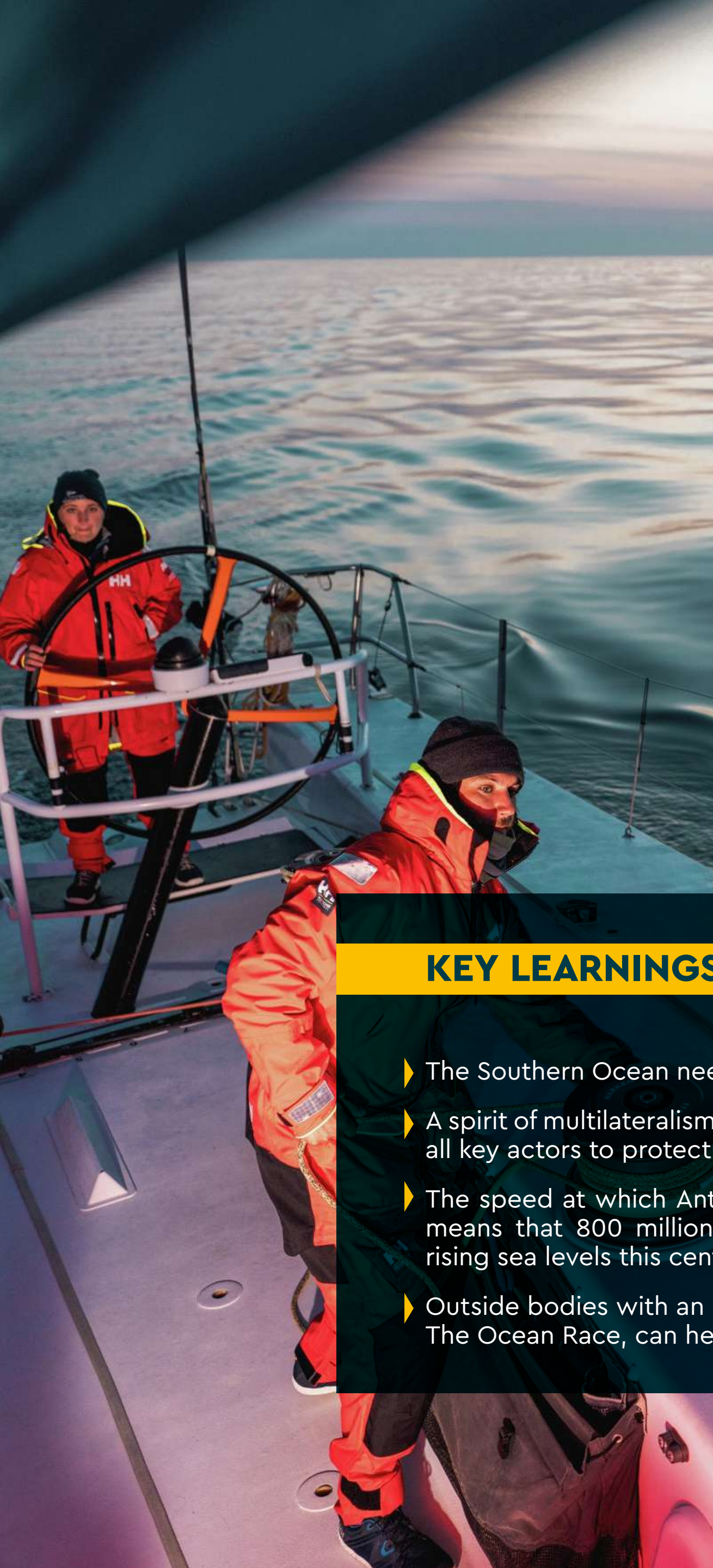
Tim Naish

The Antarctic Treaty and CCAMLR

The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 by 12 nations with active scientists in the region. It now has 54 Parties and three key provisions:

- ▶ The Antarctic shall be used for peaceful purposes only
- ▶ Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end shall continue
- ▶ Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available

With 26 members, the CCAMLR was established to conserve Antarctic marine life and fight against over-exploitation of the Southern Ocean. The body endorses sustainable fishing that "takes into account its effects on other components of the ecosystem".



KEY LEARNINGS

- ▶ The Southern Ocean needs more Marine Protected Areas
- ▶ A spirit of multilateralism and compromise is needed from all key actors to protect the area
- ▶ The speed at which Antarctica's ice shelves are melting means that 800 million people could be impacted by rising sea levels this century
- ▶ Outside bodies with an intrinsic link to the high seas, like The Ocean Race, can help to accelerate positive action

Richard Brisius, Chairman of The Ocean Race, agreed, adding that the sport would be one of the outside bodies doing *"every little bit we can"* to contribute to the protection of the Southern Ocean.

Part of that commitment is the drafting principles for ocean rights, which will be presented in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023 and incorporates learnings and recommendations from The Ocean Race Summits series.

Brisius also touched on The Ocean Race's 'Racing with Purpose' programme that includes ambitious marine science projects that occur in parallel with the race and a learning programme that has *"engaged over 400,000 children"*.

During the 2017/18 edition of The Ocean Race, boats competing deployed scientific drifter buoys to capture data that was shared with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Global Drifter Program, which discovered:

Out of 83 water samples taken, 93% contained microplastic pollution

Perhaps the most visual aspect of The Ocean Race's commitment to ocean rights and protection is the Relay4Nature baton that was showcased in another video at the Summit.

Created in 2021 in a cooperation between The Ocean Race and Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, the baton has been passed around during The Ocean Race Europe 2021 and major environmental conferences, highlighting ocean leaders, innovators and advocates, as well as encouraging messages and calls-to-action to world leaders around good ocean governance.

"Protecting the ocean is in our DNA," said Brisius. *"It comes from inside us that we care about the ocean. We understand our role and bring a spirit of action to this."*

"As sailors the ocean is our playground and the most vital thing for us to be able to perform what we do every day. This means the ocean's health is on top of our list of importance."

Vilma Bobeck

INTERCONNECTED ANTARTICA

OCEAN RIGHTS, RELATIONSHIPS AND PROTECTION

From the desolate Southern Ocean to landlocked Austria, during The Ocean Race Stockholm we were reminded of the interconnectedness of "everything" despite large geographical distances. We are all linked to the ocean, and during this Summit we explored people's connection to it through politics, science, photographs and, of course, sailing.

Summit delegates were transported back to 2012, pulled into a tense negotiating room with national representatives thrashing out the UN Law of the Seas, seen through the eyes of then Member of the European Parliament, **Isabella Lövin**.

The experience is captured in the book of Sweden's former Deputy Prime Minister and current Chair of the Stockholm Environment Institute, *Oceanic Feeling*, which she read during the event.

Lövin painted a picture of domestic politics and competing interests taking precedence over ocean health and protection. The negotiator for Barack Obama, then running for reelection for a second term as US President, displayed concern that backing a strong UN policy would make him look weak to voters. Would the policy have an impact on the fossil fuel industries of Canada and Russia?

There were deliberations about certain words and phrases, meanings changed and arguments between EU and US negotiators before the meeting was adjourned.

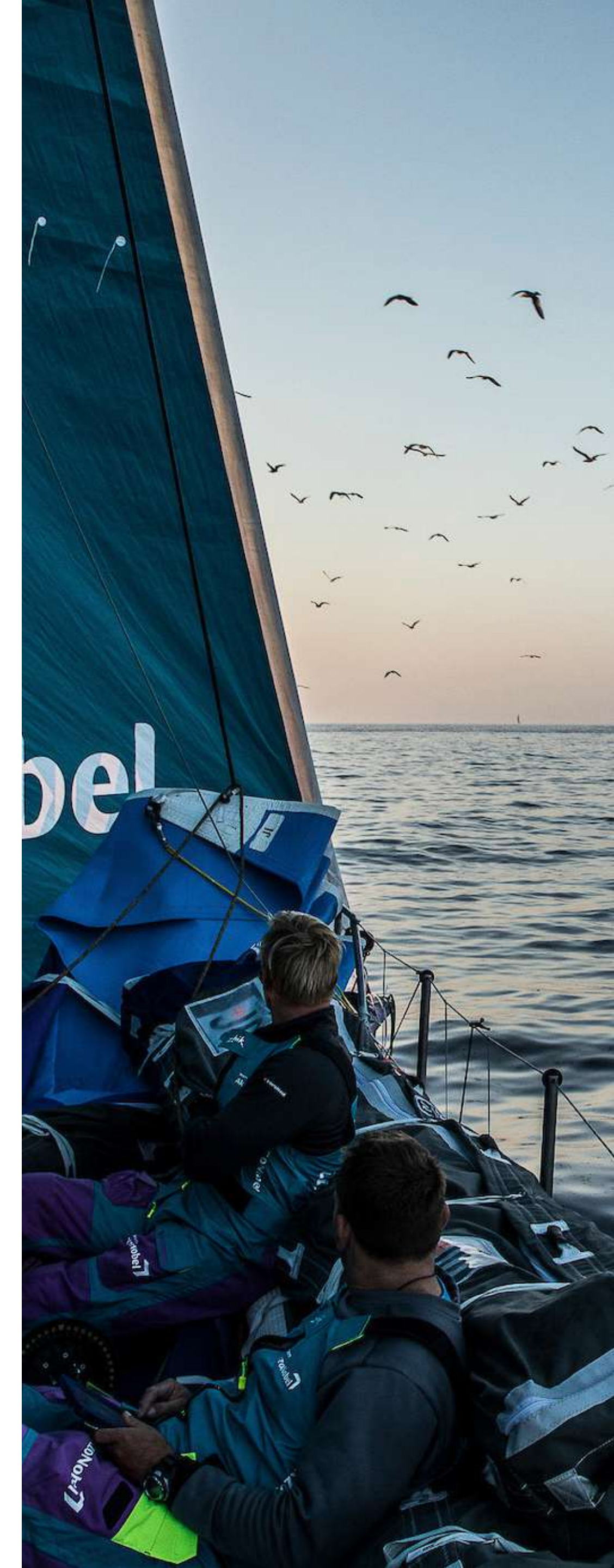
"This passage has good relevance to the question of ocean rights and why we can't protect what is actually a common heritage," Lövin said. "The mechanisms of agreeing internationally are based on consensus, so anyone who wants to throw in their veto can stop all negotiations. We really need to think hard about how we can have more effective mechanisms of governance."

The ocean, Lövin added, is "constantly excluded from conversations" about climate changes and other environmental issues, even though they are connected. In addition, she expressed her doubt that national interests and geopolitical issues could be put aside to preserve the Southern Ocean and Antarctica for science purposes alone.

Summit host Danni Washington, who interviewed Lövin, agreed with her position that over the last few centuries, humans have "lost a fundamental connection to nature" and that the connection has to be rebuilt.

"Once you see the immensity of the sea or even the starry sky above you feel small, however, still connected. And this is true value."

Isabella Lövin





KEY LEARNINGS

- ▶ Policy makers must set aside national interests and geopolitical issues for the greater good of protecting the Southern Ocean and Antarctica – a crucial global ecosystem
- ▶ Humans need to connect emotionally again to nature and the ocean in particular
- ▶ Climate change impacts on the ocean have repercussions in far-away parts of the world – it is all connected
- ▶ Sailing, science and artforms like photography can help us reconnect and better understand what is at stake

Through a powerful video, polar explorer and photographer **Sebastian Copeland** explained that his camera was a tool for recreating this connection by taking pictures that “*speak to hearts and minds*”. “Beauty is a catalyst to wanting to preserve,” said Copeland. “We won’t save what we don’t love, so helping people fall in love is a catalyst to wanting to save it.”

Falling in love is often a process that cannot be rushed, but this has to be the exception, stressed Copeland. While the Southern Ocean is adept at absorbing excess heat driven by climate change, it “cannot go on forever” as the bottom of the ocean is warming up too much, totally threatening the whole ecosystem.

The combination of climate change and unregulated fishing fleets “plundering” the Southern Ocean means that the population of krill that lives there – the “foundational base of the food chain around Antarctica” – is endangered.

Gurra Krantz, who navigated the Southern Ocean several times as a sailor with The Ocean Race, said that the challenging patch of water was an “opponent that would always win”. However, he added that it now resembles a “giant that we are killing slowly with millions of small needle sticks”.

The veteran sailor was joined on a panel by **Anna Luschan**, a young sailor from the Austrian Ocean Race Project, who demonstrated that people living in landlocked nations can have an intrinsic respect and love for the ocean, and make the connection between its health and protection with different climate change impacts in their own communities.

“I grew up in the mountains, but the snow is becoming less and less and the glacier near where I live is getting smaller and smaller,” Luschan said. *“I can see climate change at my front door.”*

“I’ve just spent the last three months surviving and living in the Southern Ocean, and to me it’s the most incredible ecosystem. And it definitely deserves to have a voice.”

Lisa Blair

Shockingly, she explained that she had collected more than 180 different microplastic samples, which she had picked up in various parts of the Southern Ocean. Blair’s samples will be processed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science, while her eight weather research buoys will be analysed by the Bureau of Meteorology.

But, aside from the science, Blair’s boat has become a beacon of hope and amazing demonstration of individual action and citizen science.

“On board my boat you’ll see the entire hull is wrapped in thousands of post-it notes message that I’ve collected from people in communities,” she said. “Each message is an environmental action towards a better future. The goal of the campaign is to showcase and inspire people to take these small actions with a view that as an individual we have the power to create change. It starts with one action.”

ACTION FOR ANTARCTICA

SAVING THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Now is the time for action. And during The Ocean Race Summit Stockholm we heard from Jakob Granit, who is chairing the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on behalf of Sweden, and the nation's Ambassador for the Ocean, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helen Ågren, about their vision for protecting the Southern Ocean.

Having a strong vision is important, but the devil is in the detail. How can we protect the Southern Ocean, Antarctica and the ocean at large?

For Granit, this is mainly about looking at very detailed measures, such as:

- ▶ Where fisheries are allowed to fish
- ▶ What equipment they use to fish
- ▶ How science supports the decision making and monitoring systems of catch trading schemes

In a video shown to the Summit audience, ecologist and professor **Dr. Ari Friedlander** explained that one of the main issues in the Southern Ocean is that whales and fisheries are looking for krill at the same time of year, increasing competition and plundering the krill stocks.

"Listening to nature, listening to the whales and other components of the ecosystem is important because it tells us what the needs are of that system. It tells us how those things function, what the relationships are between animals and their environment, and that's important for us to learn because it gives us a better idea about what we need to protect."

Dr. Ari Friedlander





KEY LEARNINGS

- ▶ A strong vision is important, but protecting the Southern Ocean needs detailed measures
- ▶ Sweden is convening the CCAMLR to agree on three new Marine Protected Areas
- ▶ Coalition building, diplomatic conversations and storytelling are important tools to help the ocean secure more protection
- ▶ International law and science-based decision making must be protected

"We need to avoid a situation like that with fishing vessels in the same area as whales foraging," said Granit. "There is some very detailed work going on around this and I hope we can have an agreement because it's very important to ensure that krill is fished in the right spot."

To support this work, Sweden is convening all 27 members of the CCAMLR in an Extraordinary Session to lay out a roadmap to add another three Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean in a "spirit of multilateral collaboration".

"I think we're almost at an agreement in terms of reference for that procedure," he said. "And then hopefully it can be done either before the main meeting in October or November."

Helen Ågren emphasised Sweden's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, but admitted to be "lagging behind" when it came to the country's pledge to protect 10% of the ocean by 2020. However, the proposal to establish the three new Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean will help Sweden achieve that goal.

Ågren agreed with several other speakers that coalition building and diplomatic conversations were crucial to protecting the delicate Southern Ocean ecosystem, but there was room for storytelling beyond "government bureaucrat" discussions to bring these key issues to a wider audience.

"Our intention with the presidency of CCAMLR is actually to restore and improve the spirit of constructive cooperation and to ensure respect for international law and science-based decision making. This has been put to the test, not least in light of the Russian aggression against Ukraine," said Ågren.

"Now it is really important to stick to the rules and procedures of the whole Arctic Treaty system to continue to collaborate on science, to continue the dialogue and build consensus and strong coalitions with other parties."

