



## Antarctic Ocean Sanctuary

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The **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**, is considering the proposal of creating the **East Antarctic marine park**, in its **38<sup>th</sup> meeting** starting from **21<sup>st</sup> October 2019**.

- **China and Russia have been key in blocking the proposal**, which was **first floated by Australia, France and the European Union in 2010** before being scaled down in 2017.

Both China and Russia have **fishing interests** in the region.

- The proposed park, almost **a million square kilometres**, would **protect important foraging areas** and **essential food sources** for emperor penguins as well as seals, whales and other seabirds.
  - **Rampant sailing** has brought some species of the ocean like seals, whales, fish, **to the brink of extinction**.
  - Also looming are the **consequences of the changing climate**. The ocean is warming, acidifying and ice shelves are thinning and collapsing.
- The **consent of all 26 members** of the CCAMLR **is required** for the creation of marine park.

CCAMLR has previously established other major ocean **Antarctic sanctuaries** — including the world's **largest** spanning **1.55 million square kilometres** in the **Ross Sea**.

### Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

- CCAMLR was established by international convention in **1982** with the objective of **conserving Antarctic marine life**.

This was in response to increasing commercial interest in **Antarctic krill resources, a keystone** component of the Antarctic ecosystem and a history of over-exploitation of several other marine resources in the Southern Ocean.
- It's Secretariat is located in **Hobart, Tasmania, Australia**.

**Source: TH**