



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

Weddell Sea Marine Protected Area (WSMPA)



Our ambition

- The **Antarctic** is one of **our planet's last remaining nature reserves**. It boasts vast biological resources and unmatched biodiversity. This biodiversity has immense ecological value.
- Ensuring that this **outstanding ecosystem** remains intact is of paramount importance to Germany.
- This is why the **creation of marine protected areas is key** for us.
- We are still far away from fulfilling our **international obligations** as already set out in the conclusions of the **Johannesburg Summit** on Sustainable Development in **2002**.

Our ambition

- **2010** the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity** adopted in Nagoya stated that at least **10% of coastal and marine areas** should be **protected**.
- **2015** this goal has been reaffirmed at the **UN Sustainable Development Summit** in New York and is now part of the **Sustainable Development Goal 14** on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- Following these commitments **Germany** has developed a **proposal for a MPA in the Weddell Sea**. The abundant scientific data collected in the last 30 years and all relevant studies were compiled, checked and consolidated as a basis for effective protection of the Weddell Sea.

The science

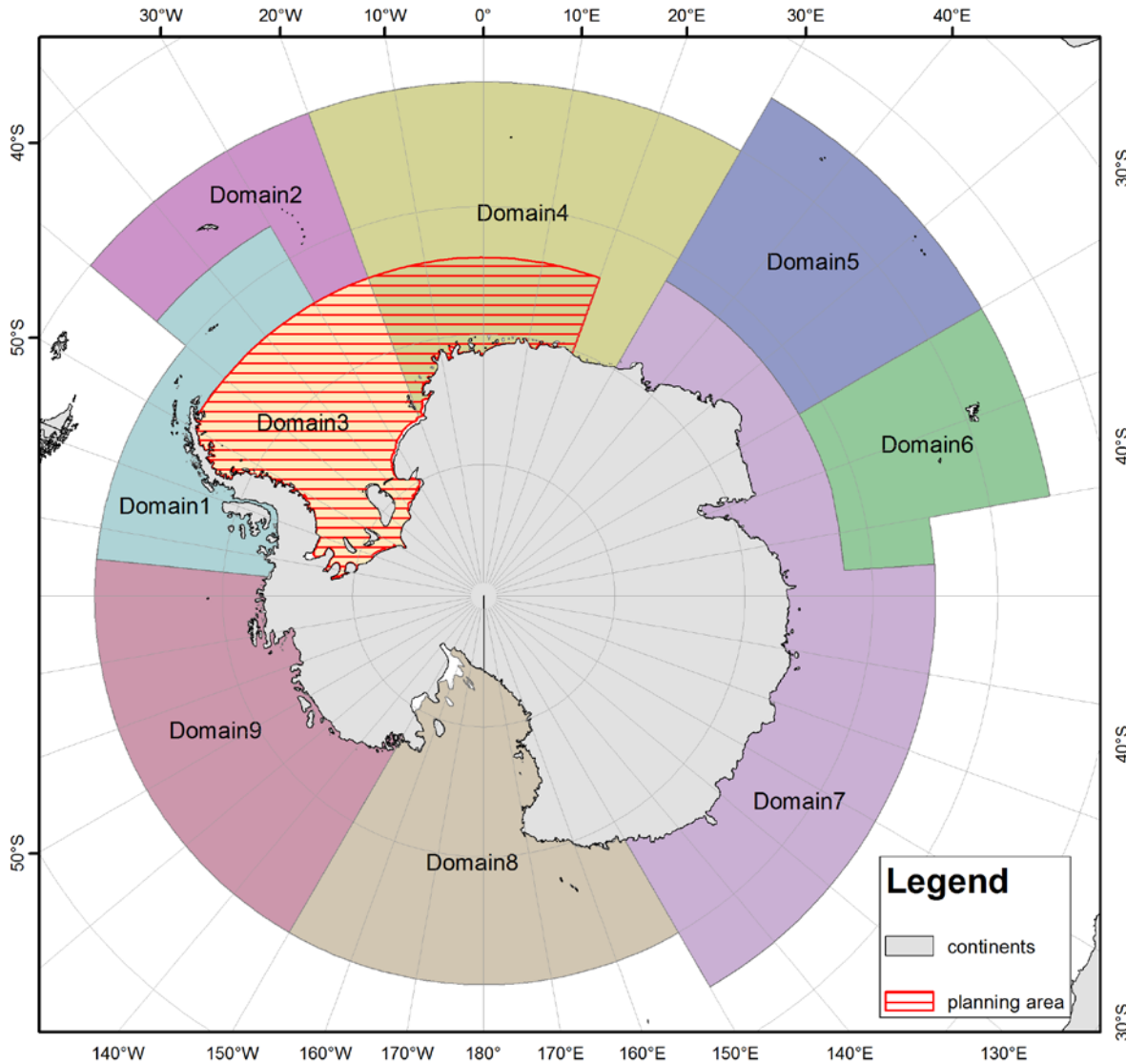
The whole WSMPA was developed in an open, transparent and science-based process with numerous consultations and contributions by many CCAMLR members.

- Two international expert Workshops
- Special CCAMLR e-group

Scientific background document

- Part A: General context of the establishment of MPAs and background information on the Weddell Sea MPA planning area
- Part B: Description of available spatial data
- Part C: Data analysis and MPA scenario development

The planning area



Area covered:
4.2 million km²

The objectives

Based on the comprehensive analyses of scientific data and in accordance with Article II and IX of the Convention and paragraph 2 of CM 91-04:

- **6 General Objectives**

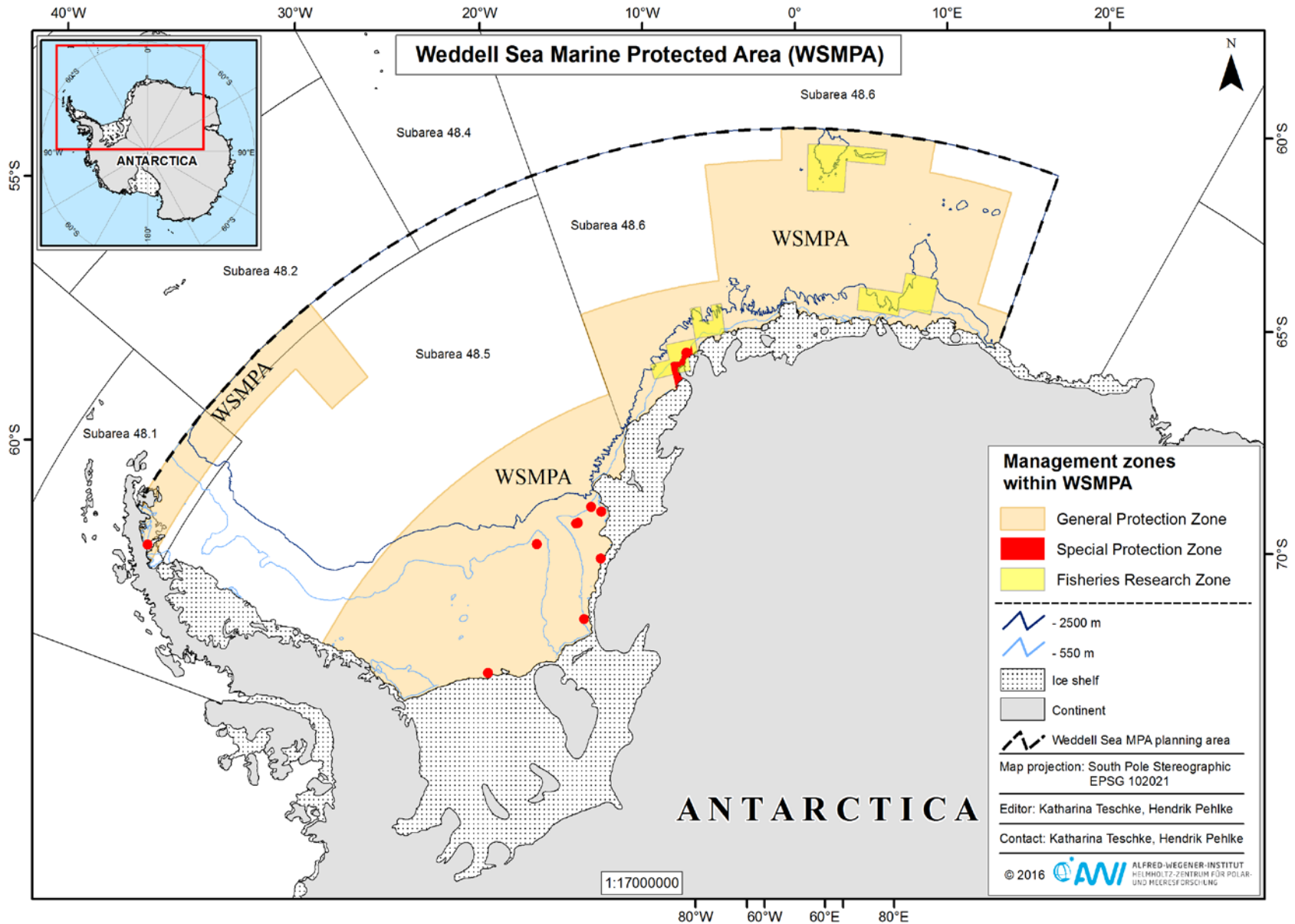
- Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Environment

- **12 Special Objectives**

- Pelagic conservation objectives
- Benthic conservation objectives
- Research objectives

were established.

Original Proposal 2016



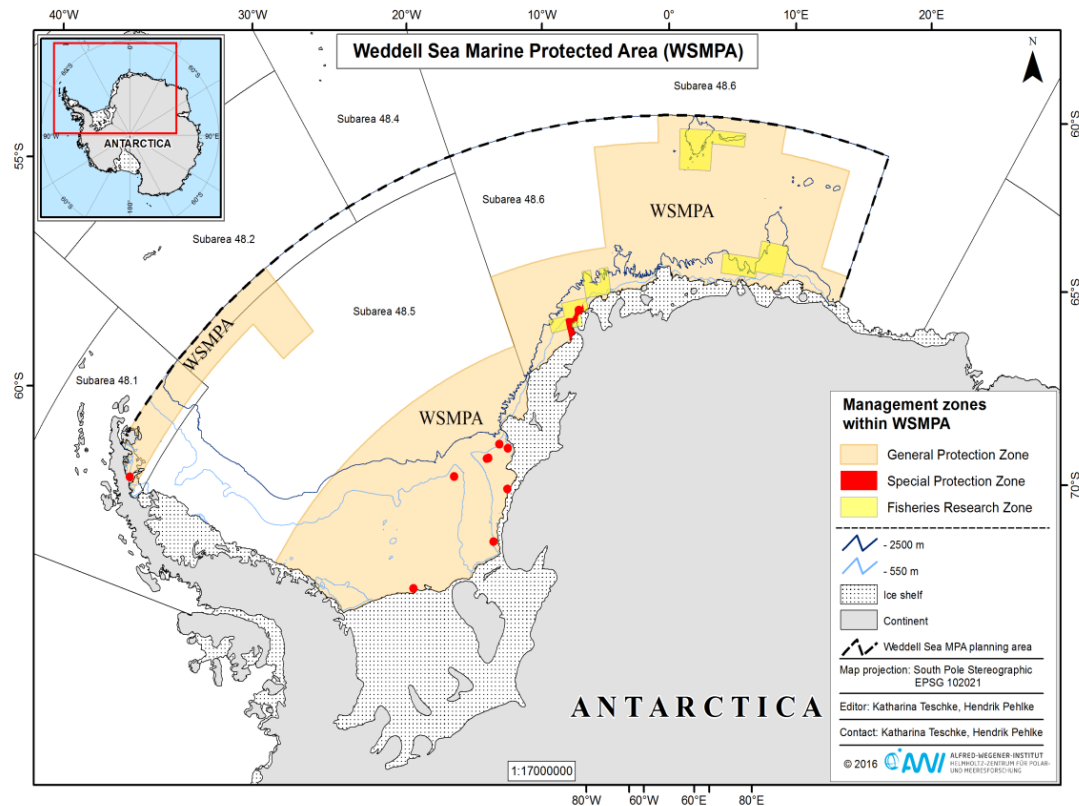
The Weddell Sea Marine Protected Area (WSMPA)

The WSMPA covers approx. 1.8 million km² and consists of three management zones:

The **General Protection Zone (GPZ)** is comprised of two areas

The **Special Protection Zone (SPZ)** is comprised of in total ten areas

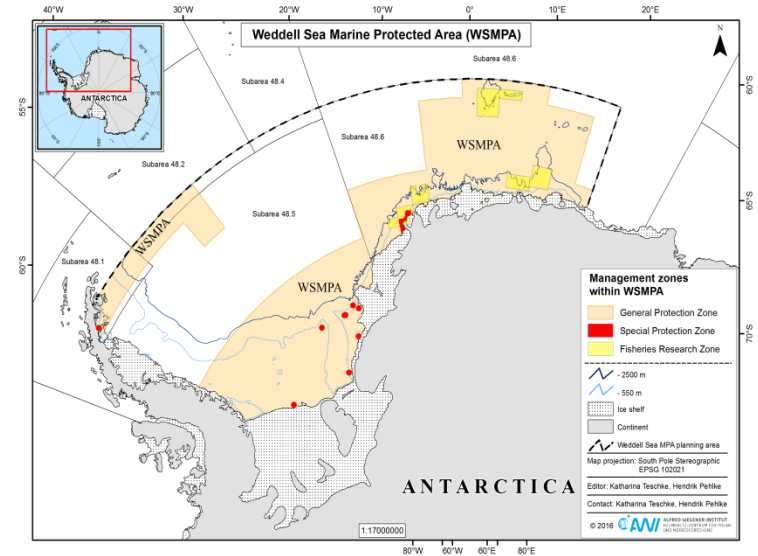
The **Fisheries Research Zone (FRZ)** is comprised of three areas



The General Protection Zone (GPZ)

Is designed to provide protection of:

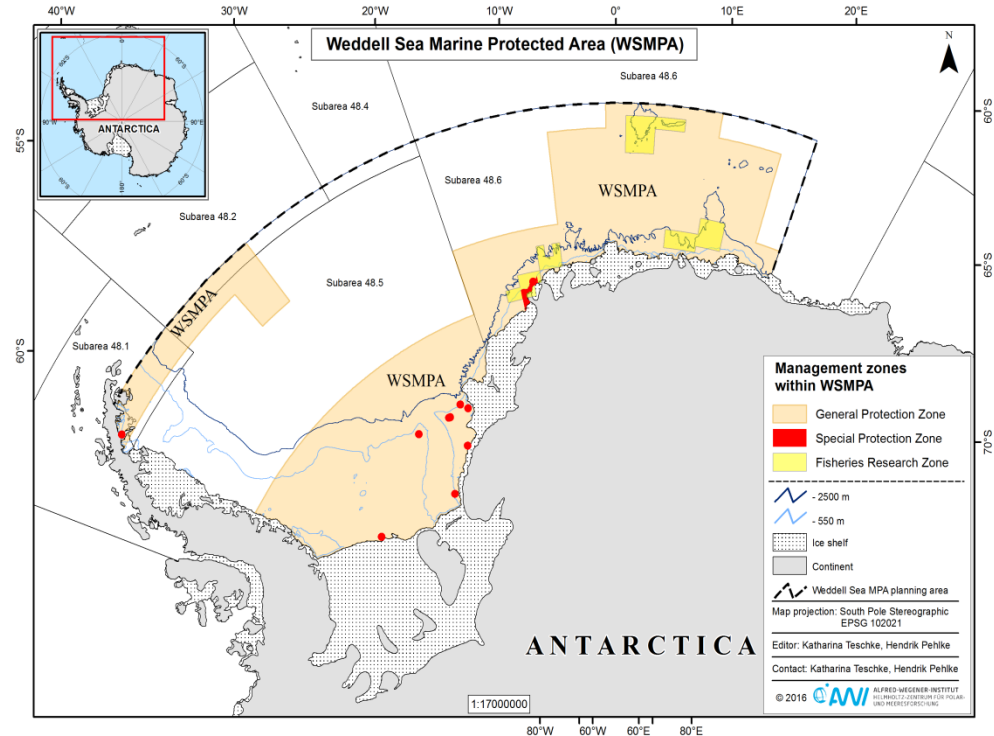
- **marine living resources**, incl. representative examples of pelagic and benthic ecosystems, **biodiversity and habitats together with the environmental and ecological conditions which support them**;
 - **key species and top predators** in the Antarctic food web as well as important areas / habitats for their life cycle;
 - **higher productivity areas** to support key ecosystem processes and functional integrity of the ecosystems;
- and to support **research & monitoring** to increase our understanding about the Antarctic ecosystems and the effects of climate change and human activities on these ecosystems.



The Special Protection Zone (SPZ)

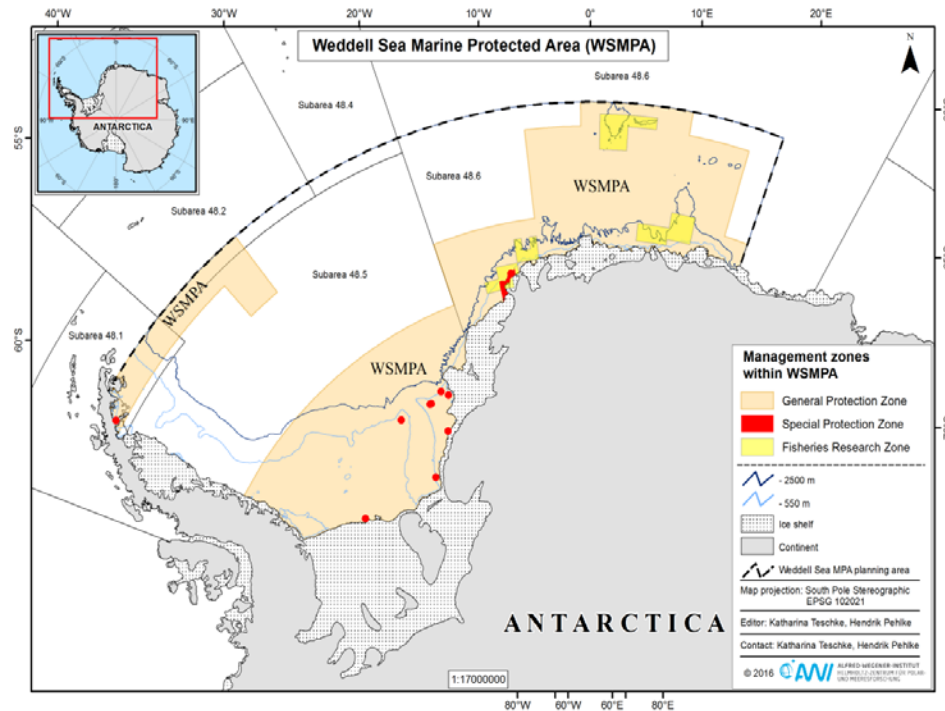
is designed to provide:

- enhanced protection of **known and potential vulnerable marine ecosystems, unique, rare or biodiverse and/or endemic habitats and features;**
- **scientific reference areas** to monitor the natural variability and long-term changes on the Antarctic marine living resources and to study effects of climate change and human activities on Antarctic ecosystems



The Fisheries Research Zone (FRZ)

= existing fisheries research boxes in Subarea 48.6

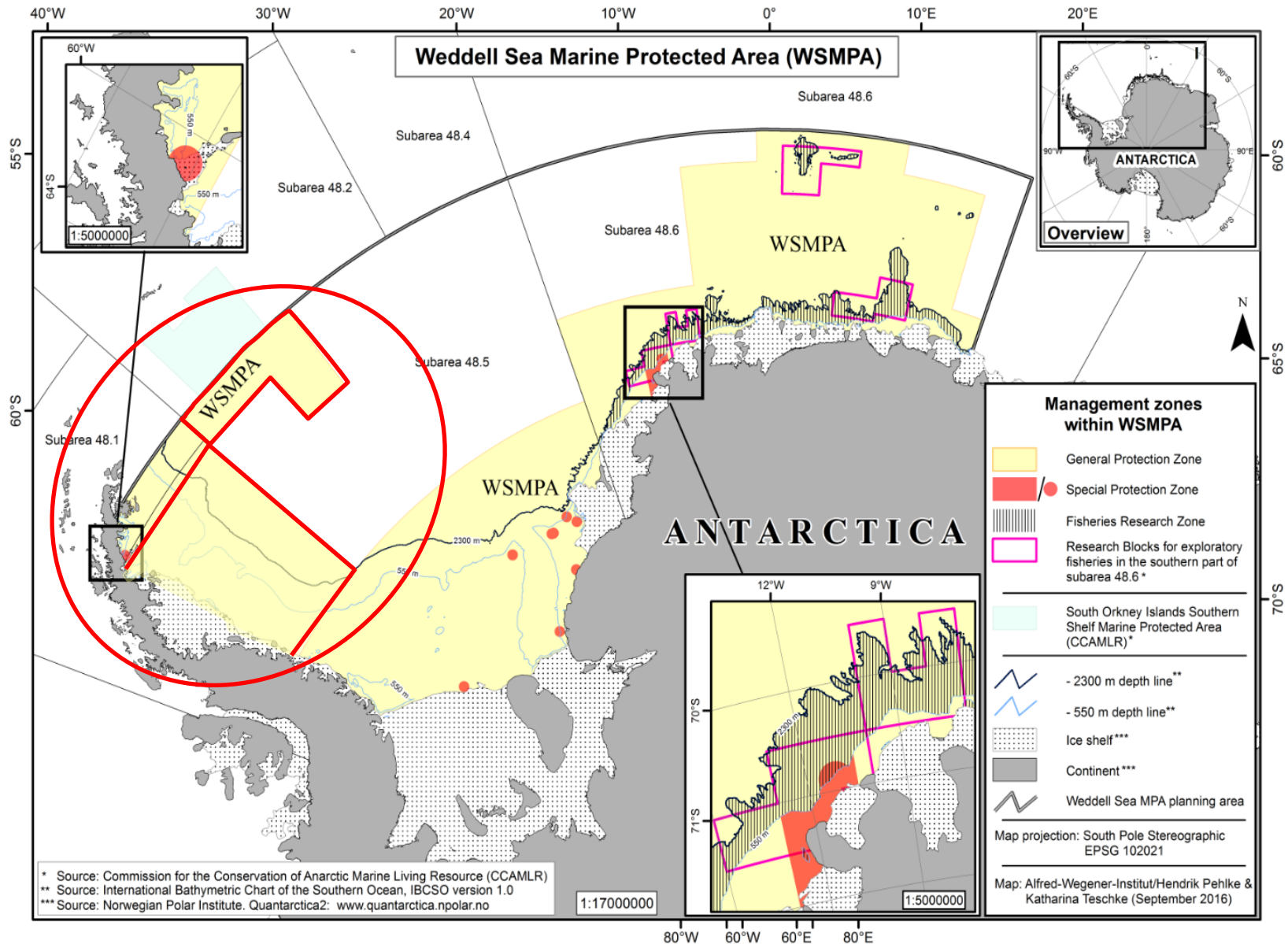


Is designed to advance our understanding about the ecosystem effects of fishing and to continue to inform the science-based management of the region's toothfish stock (including life history hypotheses, biological parameters, ecological relationships, and variations in biomass / production of fish).

The measures

	General Protection Zone	Special Protection Zone	Fisheries Research Zone
Research fishing	<p>Fishing for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i> limited to 5 tonnes per vessel per year</p> <p>Fishing for all other finfish taxa and non-fish taxa (including krill) prohibited</p>	Prohibited	<p>Exploratory long-line fishery for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i> in Subarea 48.6 permitted in the current research blocks with the TACs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48.6 (G): 50 tonnes • 48.6 (H): 100 tonnes • 48.6 (I): 190 tonnes <p>Fishing for all other finfish non-fish taxa (including krill) prohibited</p>
Other research on Antarctic marine living resources	The use of towed gear that interacts physically with the seafloor is limited to 1 km ² per vessel per season	The use of towed gear that interacts physically with the seafloor is prohibited.	Consistent with the WSMPA R&M Plan
Dumping and discharging of wastes	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Transshipment	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

Revised Proposal 2018



Review and duration

- **Review every 10 years**
- **The Commission will decide whether any provisions of the WSMIPA CM need to be changed or adjusted based on the outcome of the review.**

If no changes or adjustments are considered necessary, or no decisions on such changes and adjustments can be reached, the original wording of the Conservation Measure prior to the review will remain in effect until the next review.

- **The WSMIPA ... will be in effect until the Commission upon advice by the Scientific Committee decides to modify the boundaries of the WSMIPA.**

Annex B: The Management Plan

- **provides further details about the areas and features within the WSMPA associated with the WSMPA objectives as well as the management provisions and administrative arrangements for achieving them;**
- **gives for each WSMPA Management Zone a detailed description of the activities which are to be restricted, prohibited and managed (in addition to already existing and applicable CCAMLR Conservation Measures);**
- **sets out the responsibilities of the Commission, the Scientific Committee, the Secretariat and CCAMLR members with respect to the management of the WSMPA.**

Annex C: The Research and Monitoring Plan

- Research and Monitoring in the WSMPA is the **responsibility of all CCAMLR members** and:
 - **supports the implementation of the specific objectives and the review of the WSMPA** by specifying the necessary research and monitoring activities to evaluate the achievement of the WSMPA objectives;
 - **provides data and information** to evaluate the potentially adverse impacts of specific activities and whether the management measures are being effective.
- The R&M Plan for the WSMPA is **fully developed and operational**, incl. the offer for two dedicated CCAMLR R&M expeditions into the WSMPA with RV Polarstern.
- **Other research and monitoring activities**, that are consistent with the specific objectives of the WSMPA but not explicitly outlined in the R&M Plan, **are encouraged**.