



UK RETAILER STATEMENT: PROTECT THE ANTARCTIC

Healthy oceans are vital to providing food security for billions of people around the world, helping us avoid devastating effects of climate change, and as a home to marine life.

We recognise that our customers are increasingly concerned about ocean conservation, and we are committed to playing our part in safeguarding important marine ecosystems for future generations. We understand our responsibility as retailers to help tackle the threats facing our oceans from climate change, over-fishing and pollution, and are committed to contributing to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We recognise the need for an ecologically coherent network of large-scale fully-protected marine protected areas to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are supportive of efforts to agree an ambitious global goal for ocean protection by 2030, in line with scientific evidence to conserve biodiversity and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

We understand that the Antarctic Ocean has been identified in several scientific programs as globally significant, yet parts of the Antarctic are warming at one of the fastest rates on the planet. We are learning from experts that warmer and more acidic waters are already impacting on the Antarctic ecosystem, with marine life vulnerable to future impacts.

Where trading relationships exist, we are demonstrating our support for the establishment of marine protected areas by co-operating with our suppliers to put in place a precautionary approach that will voluntarily restrict fishing activity in selected areas that are being considered for marine protection by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

We believe in having a voice, and using responsible sourcing to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and the marine products that are sold on UK shelves. We will continue to use our voice to advance marine conservation.

We support the creation of a network of marine protected areas in the Antarctic Ocean, and therefore urge the governments within the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to establish a 1.8 million km² marine protected area in the Weddell Sea this year, and another marine protected area in Eastern Antarctica.



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