



## Media Release

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### Ambassador Moore, Secretary of State John Kerry speak in support of Ross Sea Marine Protected Area

**Washington, D.C. (18 March 2013)** – New Zealand Ambassador to the United States, Rt Hon Mike Moore, and United States Secretary of State John Kerry will speak tonight in support of a joint New Zealand/United States proposal to establish the largest Marine Protected Area in the world in the Ross Sea.

Ambassador Moore and Secretary Kerry will speak, alongside Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr, at a reception at the National Geographic Museum ahead of the screening of the film ‘The Last Ocean’ by New Zealand filmmaker Peter Young.

At 2.27 million square kilometers (890,000 square miles), the MPA would be roughly three and a half times the size of Texas and almost nine times the size of New Zealand. It would include a 1.6 million square kilometer (612,000 square miles) no-take area: almost four times the size of California, and six times the size of New Zealand.

“We are very proud of the United States/New Zealand proposal for a Ross Sea Marine Protected Area (MPA),” said Ambassador Moore. “The proposed MPA, if agreed by the members of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources at its Special Meeting in Germany this July, would be the largest in the world.”

“Our joint proposal is born out of a shared commitment to protection of the Antarctic environment,” Ambassador Moore said. “It balances conservation, fishing and research interests, and represents the best chance of successfully establishing an MPA in this important region.”

Ambassador Moore remarks, as prepared for delivery, follow.

**Ambassador Moore's remarks [As prepared for delivery]**

**[EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERED]**

Secretary Kerry, Senator Carr, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is an honour for me to share the stage with two statesmen who have played such an important role on environmental matters. I see you both as visionaries in this field.

When my Prime Minister, John Key, stood at Robert Falcon Scott's Discovery Hutt earlier this year, he had hitched a ride on a United States supply mission to get to Antarctica. He was there thanks in part to more than 50 years of friendship, collaboration, and cooperation between the United States and New Zealand on oceans, fisheries, and Antarctic issues.

It is that close relationship that we are celebrating tonight: one based on a shared commitment to the environment and a shared vision for the management of our oceans and fisheries.

Our own connection with Antarctica is strong. We played host to preparations for Captain Scott's own race to the Pole on the Terra Nova in 1910. And later America's own Operation Deep Freeze established a base in Christchurch, New Zealand's gateway to the ice. In support of the ongoing US Antarctic programme, the United States Air Force 13th Air Expeditionary Group deploys to Christchurch every year, with supply flights and support missions departing regularly during the Southern summer.

Joint Antarctic science programmes between New Zealand and the US ensure we can collaborate on what we learn from Antarctica, and put those findings to best use for our societies.

Our cooperation on fisheries and oceans issues extends far beyond Antarctica too, including, for example, through close collaboration on maritime surveillance in the Pacific Ocean. United States and New Zealand efforts in the region target illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, helping to safeguard the economic security of our Pacific neighbours' fisheries.

As an island nation, New Zealand's relationship with oceans has made us understand directly the urgent need for collective action on the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans and fisheries, and we play an active role in the international processes that guide and govern human interaction with the oceans.

One such area where we have made great strides forward is the Ross Sea. The Ross Sea is one of the few places in the world with a full suite of top-level predators. Our scientists' contributions, often in conjunction with American scientists, include a substantial amount of research supporting the management of the Ross Sea

toothfish fishery under the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, CCAMLR.

You can imagine how pleased I am to report to you that New Zealand has joined forces with the United States on a joint proposal to establish a Ross Sea region marine protected area.

This joint proposal represents a good balance of conservation, fishing, and research interests. It is the result of almost two years of close coordination and consultation between our scientific and policy communities.

The total size of the marine protected area we are proposing is around 890,000 square miles: roughly three and a half times the size of Texas. If agreed by CCAMLR, it would be the largest MPA in the world, and would include a 612,000 square kilometre no-take area; almost four times the size of California. This is no small thing.

We are proud that the proposal is based on quality science, developed on the basis of research from around the world. This is as an important step forward for enhancing scientific understanding of our Southern Ocean environment, including through valuable climate change and marine ecosystem research.

We believe our joint proposal offers the best chance of successfully agreeing an MPA for the Ross Sea region. We are grateful for Australia's support, and we are pleased to be working so closely with the United States to gather the support of other CCAMLR Members.

We are particularly appreciative of the personal support that Secretary Kerry has been able to lend to this cause. The Secretary's passion for the environment, and his record for action, is formidable and well known.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to stand with him tonight as we celebrate the close relationship between our two countries, and share together a vision for protecting something that is precious not just to New Zealand and the United States, but to the world.

**For information: Members of the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources**

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