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## 2009 Annual Report

### PROTECTING ANTARCTICA SINCE 1978

This report provides a summary of ASOC's accomplishments during 2009. To learn more about our work, please check our website -- <http://www.asoc.org> -- you can read all ASOC position papers, ECO newspapers, reports on the meetings we've attended, press releases and media articles. The website includes a calendar of upcoming events, news and photo archives, links to the websites of other Antarctic organizations and activities, and the Antarctica Blog.

# ***Board of Directors***

## ***Chair:***

Gerry Leape  
Pew Environment Group-US

## ***Vice-Chair:***

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Australian Conservation Foundation-Australia

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Center for International Environmental Law-US

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WWF-US

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Fundacion Vida Silvestre-Argentina

John Grandy  
Humane Society-US

Michele Perrault  
Sierra Club-US

Sarah Duthie  
Greenpeace International-Netherlands

Barry Weeber (Member of Executive Committee)  
ECO-New Zealand

Janet Belkin  
US

## ***Of Counsel:***

David Bederman  
Emory University Law School-US

# *ASOC Council*

**Acoustic Ecology Institute (US)**

**Amigos de la Tierra (Argentina)**

**Centro Ecoceanos (Chile)**

**ECO (NZ)**

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**Friends of the Earth (Norway)**

**Friends of the Earth (US)**

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**Humane Society International (Australia)**

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**Oceana-South America/Antarctica (Chile)**

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**WWF-Russia**

**Australian Conservation Foundation**

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**Cetacean Society International (US)**

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**Friends of the Earth-KFEM (South Korea)**

**Fundacion Vida Silvestre (Argentina)**

**Greenpeace (Netherlands)**

**Humane Society of the US (US)**

**Korea Green Foundation (South Korea)**

**Oceana-Europe (Spain)**

**Oceana-US**

**Sierra Club (US)**

**Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society (UK)**

**WWF-ASOI (Australia)**

## ***ASOC Campaign Team***

David Ainley (*ASOC Advisor, Independent Scientist, H.T. Harvey & Associates - US*)

Gunnar Album (*ASOC Advisor, Friends of the Earth - Norway*)

Rebecca Bird (*ASOC ACAP Representative, WWF - New Zealand*)

Ulisses Bremer (*ASOC Advisor, Friends of the Earth - Brazil*)

Ricardo Burgo Braga (*AKCP Organizer, Friends of the Earth - Brazil*)

Elsa Cabrera (*ASOC Advisor, Centro de Conservacion Cetacea - Chile*)

Juan Carlos Cardenas (*ASOC Advisor, Centro Ecoceanos - Chile*)

Yeyong Choi (*ASOC Advisor, KFEM-Friends of the Earth - South Korea*)

Claire Christian (*ASOC Secretariat Director – US*)

Veronica Cirelli (*ASOC Advisor, Coordinator Southern Ocean Program, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina - Argentina*)

Adriana Fabra (*AKCP European Organizer, Pew Environment Group - Spain*)

Virginia Gascón (*AKCP Policy Advisor, Pew Environment Group - Argentina*)

Lyn Goldsworthy (*ASOC Senior Advisor and AKCP Organizer - The Wilderness Society - Australia*)

Alistair Graham (*ASOC Advisor - Tasmanian Conservation Trust - Australia*)

Sidney Holt (*ASOC-IWC Representative - Independent Fisheries Scientist - Italy*)

Gerry Leape (*AKCP Director - Head of ASOC delegation to CCAMLR, Pew Environment Group - US*)

Ewa Milewska (*AKCP Organizer, Independent Fisheries Analyst - Poland*)

Irina Mikityuk (*AKCP Organizer, Independent Fisheries Analyst - Ukraine*)

Gennadi Milinevsky (*AKCP Organizer, Professor, National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv - Ukraine*)

Rob Nicoll (*ASOC Advisor - Manager of WWF Antarctic Southern Ocean Initiative - Australia*)

Jessica O'Reilly (*ASOC Advisor, Independent Scientist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography - US*)

Richard Page (*ASOC Advisor, Oceans Campaigner, Greenpeace International - UK*)

Jie-Hyun Park (*AKCP Organizer, Center for International Environmental Studies - South Korea*)

Michele Perrault (*NGO Representative on US Antarctic Treaty meeting delegation, Sierra Club - US*)

Sian Prior (*ASOC Advisor and IMO Representative - UK*)

Ricardo Roura (*ASOC Senior Advisor and Tourism Campaign Coordinator - Netherlands*)

Ayako Sekine (*AKCP Organizer - Japan*)

Vassily Spiridonov (*AKCP Organizer, Senior Scientist, WWF - Russia*)

Karli Thomas (*ASOC Advisor, Marine Campaigner, Greenpeace - New Zealand*)

Tina Tin (*ASOC Advisor and IPY Representative - France*)

Estelle van der Merwe (*ASOC ACAP Representative and AKCP Organizer -South Africa*)

Barry Weeber (*ASOC Advisor and AKCP Organizer - New Zealand*)

Rodolfo Werner (*AKCP Science Advisor and ASOC representative to CCAMLR Scientific Committee - Pew Environment Group - Argentina*)

Konstantin Zgurovsky (*AKCP Organizer, Senior Scientist, WWF - Russia*)

# ***MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***

January 12, 2010

Dear Friends of Antarctica,

2009 marked the end of ASOC's *30th anniversary celebration* as well as the 50th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty. ASOC was actively engaged in a series of major events focusing on that important milestone, including the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Baltimore (April), and the Antarctic Treaty Summit in Washington, DC (December), where I was privileged to speak during the wrap-up session.

We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the demise of the proposed Antarctic Minerals Convention in 1989, which would have opened Antarctica to mining and oil development. Board Vice-Chair Denise Boyd and longtime ASOC advisor Lyn Goldsworthy participated in a high-level symposium in Canberra to honor former Prime Minister Hawke, who along with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard had the courage to say 'no' to that future for Antarctica. The result was an indefinite ban on all commercial minerals activities in the 1991 Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty - which also provided the modern environmental framework for managing most activities in the Antarctic.

People around the world look to ASOC - which holds the only "green" non-governmental seat at meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCPs) and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) - as the key voice for protecting the Antarctic environment. In addition to ATCM and CCAMLR meetings, ASOC's international campaign team were active at meetings of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Taken together, these treaties provide the legal basis for protecting Antarctic ecosystems and managing activities. I am very proud of the excellent work of our dedicated campaign team and the Antarctic experts employed by ASOC member organizations.

ASOC's campaign team was enhanced in 2009 through our partnership with the Antarctic Krill Conservation Project (AKCP) funded by the Pew Environment Group, and support for ASOC's *Southern Ocean Initiatives* from the Prince Bernhard Trust (Netherlands), Peter Scott Trust (UK), Prince Charles Charities Foundation (UK) and the Marisla Foundation (US). These initiatives are divided into two categories - *campaigns* and *critical issues*:

## **A. Campaigns**

(1) *Antarctic krill Conservation Project*: This is a multi-year effort to convince CCAMLR to establish comprehensive ecosystem-based management for the krill fishery, including taking into account the impacts of climate change in Antarctica. ASOC and the AKCP have convinced most governments to accept 100% observer coverage on each krill fishing vessel, and precautionary caps on allowable catches in some crucial sub-areas where krill fishing is centered. ASOC sent a large delegation to the annual CCAMLR meeting in Hobart in October and introduced seven Information Papers on marine protected areas, krill conservation, climate change and illegal fishing in the region.

(2) Regulating Antarctic tourism and shipping: This is a multi-year effort whose goals are a comprehensive regulatory system for commercial tourism by the ATCPs and a legally binding Polar Code at the IMO that sets appropriate standards for all vessels operating in the Southern Ocean. ASOC's advocacy efforts have convinced a majority of the ATCPs to support legally binding regulations that limit the scope, scale and growth trajectory of the industry -- but so far they have not achieved the full consensus needed to establish a comprehensive regulatory system for tourism. The 2009 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting agreed on a formal Resolution preventing landings from ships carrying more than 500 passengers, a good step. ASOC introduced a major new paper at the IMO in April calling for better vessel ice-strengthening standards, a ban on use of heavy fuel oils in the Southern Ocean, and a legally binding Polar Code, which was endorsed by US Secretary of State Clinton. It will be negotiated at the IMO in 2010. The heavy fuel phase-out agreed last year at the IMO will go into place later this year. ASOC sent a large team to the 50th anniversary ATCM in Baltimore and Washington, DC in April, and three campaigners participated in the special Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts on Tourism and Vessel Safety held in New Zealand in December.

(3) Achieving Marine Protected Area status for the Ross Sea, as part of a representative system of marine reserves in the Southern Ocean: Since it is the last wild ocean of its type and because of its unique evolutionary biology, its relatively pristine wildlife and its capacity to be a climate change monitoring zone, ASOC is working for the Ross Sea to be fully protected by CCAMLR and the ATCPs. During 2009 ASOC strengthened its partnership with Friends of the Ross Sea (FORSE), an internationally acclaimed group of scientists, headed by Ross Sea expert Dr. David Ainley, who have carried out decades of research in the region; and the Last Ocean Trust in New Zealand. Together we are campaigning for full protection of the Ross Sea. To accompany our policy paper, Dr. Ainley presented the case for a Ross Sea MPA to a standing-room only audience at the Baltimore ATCM. An important success occurred in early November when the CCAMLR Parties agreed to fully protect a large area around the South Orkney Islands - the first large high-seas MPA to be created in the Southern Ocean. ASOC's goal is for the first 11 elements of the representative protected area system to be in place by 2012. That goal was endorsed by both the ATCM and CCAMLR in 2009, an important milestone.

(4) Ending illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean: ASOC is pressing governments to close down the continuing illegal, underreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Southern Ocean. Our goal is to halt the huge "pirate" fishing for toothfish in the region, which is seriously harming populations of this large, long-lived predator, while killing hundreds of thousands of albatrosses and petrels in long lines in recent years. The best tools to achieve this are for governments to share sophisticated satellite data and use other enforcement assets to track down pirates and arrest their vessels, coupled with enhanced port-state enforcement. ASOC introduced a major paper on stopping IUU fishing at the CCAMLR meeting in October, which was widely endorsed by the governments.

(5) Strengthening the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary: The Sanctuary was created in the early 1990s, but has never had a proper Management Plan or agreed research programme. Meanwhile, Japan has continued its 'scientific' whaling inside the Sanctuary. Our goal is to induce Japan to stop harvesting whales in the Sanctuary and for the IWC to create a Management Plan for it. ASOC sent expert biologist Dr. Sidney Holt to the IWC's annual meeting, where he made a statement to the delegates on behalf of all the NGO observers

present. ASOC's paper making the case for a Management Plan was circulated to all IWC member governments.

## **B. Other Critical Issues**

(1) Climate change: ASOC once again took the lead in raising climate issues at the ATCM and CCAMLR, introducing major papers at both meetings and promoting Resolutions by the governments in favor of action at Copenhagen. As a result of our advocacy, Norway agreed to host the first-ever special Antarctic Treaty meeting on climate issues in April 2010. ASOC presented a paper on using Antarctic scientific research results as a basis for taking action on climate change at the UNFCCC climate change negotiations in Copenhagen in December, and worked with SCAR to enable them to introduce their important new book on Climate Change and Antarctica there.

(2) Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) krill and Ross Sea toothfish certifications: ASOC is opposed to these proposed certifications, and lodged formal objections to stop them. These appeals have been accepted by the MSC's Independent Adjudicator and will be decided in 2010. Another Antarctic certification process for toothfish around Kerguelen and Crozet Island, which ASOC is also opposing, begins in February. We further challenged MSC for ignoring climate change in its principles and scoring - that dialogue will be continued in 2010.

(3) Biological prospecting: This evolving and rapidly expanding industry is completely unregulated and very little information is being made available to the Antarctic Treaty System, undermining the open science regime of the Antarctic Treaty. ASOC is calling for more stringent regulations on commercial biological prospecting in the Antarctic. At the 2008 ATCM the Treaty Parties agreed to hold an intersessional meeting in early 2009 to make additional progress, and ASOC campaigner Ricardo Roura attended this meeting on behalf of ASOC. An international expert group continues to discuss the issues in preparation for the 2010 ATCM, in which ASOC is participating.

(4) Protecting Lake Vostok: ASOC opposes the Russian plan to drill into the pristine ancient sub-glacial lake using a contaminated borehole and outdated technology, and has suggested the alternative of an international joint drilling program into a smaller lake using the latest technology and following the international guidelines developed two years ago. ASOC petitioned the Duma in 2008 about this, and as yet the lake has not been penetrated.

(5) Acoustic pollution: ASOC promotes setting ecologically-based standards to regulate marine acoustic impacts on whales and other species in the Southern Ocean. ASOC's proposed steps, put forward at ATCM and CCAMLR meetings over the past few years, have been supported by many governments and SCAR is working on how to limit harm, but progress on tougher standards is very slow.

(6) Liability for environmental damage: Annex VI to the Environmental Protocol needs to be ratified and brought into force, and a broader liability regime negotiated to fill the gaps in the first instrument. ASOC is pressing for the Liability Annex to the Environmental Protocol to be ratified expeditiously by all Consultative Parties, which is needed for it to enter into force legally. We are pleased that the U.S. Senate and New Zealand Parliament have taken important steps towards ratification, which we believe will be completed in

2010. Most governments spoke positively about their ratification efforts during the ATCM in Baltimore, an encouraging sign.

(7) *Protocol implementation*: Twelve years after its entry into force, the Environmental Protocol is far from being fully honored by all governments, and ASOC regularly prepares detailed papers with analysis and recommendations to rectify this. The Protocol is the modern basis for environmental regulation in the Antarctic, and it is crucial that all parties fulfill their legal obligations properly.

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One of the highlights of the year for me personally was being present for the award event at Scripps Institution of Oceanography for Prince Albert II of Monaco in October, who received the Roger Revelle Prize. ASOC board member Michele Perrault and I met Prince Albert, and discussed the impressive film he made while visiting many research stations around Antarctica in early 2009. I was also very proud of the Antarctic Resolution agreed at the 9th World Wilderness Congress in Mexico in November.

ASOC launched a Strategic Planning process in 2009, led by Board Chair Gerry Leape and Vice-Chair Denise Boyd. We will complete an updated strategic plan during the first half of 2010.

We are looking forward to another year of successful international advocacy using our “green seats” at the Antarctic Treaty System's meetings, our observer seats at ACAP and the IWC, and our partnership with Friends of the Earth, IFAW, WWF and Greenpeace International at the IMO, to continue representing the international public interest in protecting Antarctica forever.

If you are a *supporter*, thank you. Your concern and support for Antarctic protection help make a difference. If you are not yet a supporter, we ask that you *make a donation for our campaigns to protect the earth's last pristine wilderness*. We need you - *ASOC is supported entirely by the public* through individual donations, foundation grants and bequests. You can contribute online at <http://www.asoc.org> with a credit card from any country in the world, or send your check or international postal money order to the ASOC Secretariat.

Sincerely,

Jim Barnes  
Executive Director

## *ASOC ATCM and CCAMLR 2009 Teams*



ASOC's team during the first week of the 2009 ATCM. From left to right: Tina Tin, Rob Nicoll, Rodolfo Werner, Ricardo Roura, Jessica O'Reilly, Michele Perrault, Jim Barnes, Claire Christian, Karli Thomas, Lyn Goldsworthy, Richard Page, David Ainley. *Not pictured:* Veronica Cirelli and Simon Walmsley.



ASOC's team during the second week of the ATCM. From left to right: Ricardo Roura, Richard Page, Karli Thomas, Jim Barnes, Claire Christian, Jessica O'Reilly, Michele Perrault, Veronica Cirelli, Rob Nicoll, Sian Prior. *Not pictured:* Simon Walmsley.



ASOC's team at the 2009 CCAMLR meeting. From left to right: Indrani Lutchman, Nina Jensen, Alistair Graham, Estelle van der Merwe, Barry Weeber, Rob Nicoll, Gerry Leape, Mark Stevens, Rodolfo Werner, Rebecca Bird, Veronica Cirelli, Richard Page. *Not pictured:* Adriana Fabra, Gennadi Milinevsky, Jie-Hyun Park, Ayako Sekine

## *Financial Information*

ASOC's accounts are audited every year by an independent auditor, Millard T. Charlton Associates, based on a fiscal year July 1-June 30. ASOC's accounting is managed by Stokes and Company, a certified public accounting firm in Washington, DC. Following the audit, the US federal tax return Form 990 is filed, which is a public record.

During the fiscal year from July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009 ASOC member dues, individual donations and poster sales totaled \$174,730. Grants totaled \$470,154, and interest was \$1894. We ended FY 2009 with an operating reserve of \$200,895 to carry forward our advocacy for protecting Antarctica.

ASOC thanks to the following foundations and organizations for their support during 2009: Acoustic Ecology Institute, Anonymous, Australian Conservation Foundation, Bear Gulch Foundation, Centro de Conservación Cetacea-Chile, Centro Ecoceanos-Chile, Cetacean Society International, ECO-New Zealand, Friends of the Earth-Australia, Friends of the Earth-Brazil, Friends of the Earth-International, Friends of the Earth-Japan, Friends of the Earth-South Korea, Friends of the Earth-Norway, Greenpeace International, Greenpeace Netherlands, Humane Society of the US, Humane Society International, In the Running, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Marisla Foundation, Oceana-Chile, Oceana-Europe, Oceana-USA, Peter Scott Trust, Pew Charitable Trusts, Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature, Prince Charles Charities Foundation, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society-Australia, Vida Silvestre-Argentina, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Weeden Foundation, WWF-Antarctic Southern Ocean Initiative and WWF-Russia.