

March 17, 2021

**Remarks of James Barnes
Fred Packard Award**

It's an honor to receive this award from IUCN, which I accept on behalf of colleagues in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC). Antarctic conservation outcomes the past forty years are a result of many individuals and organizations working together.

My conservation trajectory began in 1977 when I was a public interest lawyer in Washington advocating for "unrepresented interests". Antarctica met that definition perfectly.

That year I was invited to join the Public Advisory Committee on Antarctica. Meeting experts from US agencies and Antarctic scientists opened my eyes about plans to exploit oil and gas resources, and out-of-control fishing. There was little public knowledge of what went on behind the closed doors of Antarctic Treaty meetings:

They were secret discussions, without public input or reports, often focused more on economic benefits than the environment.

No nations were involved outside the twelve Treaty members.

NGOs and international organizations were excluded.

Sharing what I learned with NGOs around the world, we created ASOC in 1978 to advocate full protection of the region as a "World Park", using the phrase from the 1972 World Parks Congress. To ASOC, that meant dedicating Antarctica to peace, science and environmental protection, with minerals activities banned, and fishing only allowed based on taking ecosystem impacts fully into account.

That year the US invited an NGO to serve as an advisor on its Antarctic delegation for the first time, and in 1980 Australia and the UK did too. Knowing what was on the table and who was responsible for decisions allowed NGOs to report to their members, journalists, the U.N. and the public at large. Providing accurate facts and analysis is a key facet of ASOC advocacy and media outreach. Since NGOs were not allowed

inside, ASOC demonstrated outside ATS venues and published ECO, an independent newspaper for delegates and journalists.

ASOC forged a partnership with IUCN in 1978, becoming a member in 1980. Antarctic Resolutions have been agreed at each General Assembly since then.

IUCN and ASOC experts played a big role in negotiation of the first 'ecosystem-as-a-whole' fishing treaty (1978-1980). The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was signed in May 1980, laying the foundation for scientifically based fishing regulation and MPAs, a model for the world.

Blocking the proposed Minerals Convention took a global effort. ASOC and its members, led by Greenpeace, carried out demonstrations and petition drives around the world. My mentor Sir Peter Scott assisted with high-level advocacy. We raised the "Question of Antarctica" at the UN General Assembly, opening the ATS to international scrutiny. We worked closely with Jacques Cousteau, who convinced France to reject the Convention in 1989, while Australian NGOs did the same. Because of the consensus decision-making rule in the ATS, the Convention was dead.

Negotiation of the Environmental Protocol began in 1990 and by October 1991 the "Madrid" Protocol was agreed, including a minerals ban. While it can be reviewed in 2048, undoing it would be difficult and thus is likely to be indefinite.

In 2002 ASOC and IUCN launched the MPA discussion at CCAMLR. In 2004 ASOC endorsed the Biological Diversity Convention goal of a global network of marine reserves. Our first priority was the Ross Sea, perhaps the most intact and representative ocean on the planet. After years of campaigning, in 2016 CCAMLR governments agreed to create the largest MPA on earth there. While progress has been stalled since then, work to secure large MPAs in the Weddell Sea, East Antarctica and around the Peninsula continues.

Working in this field for forty years teaches me that governments can be motivated to do important things they otherwise wouldn't do. The keys to positive outcomes are having strong partnerships, focusing on science and values, and never giving up.

This Packard Award will help raise Antarctica's importance for the global public. I hope it will influence governments to complete the MPA network in the Southern Ocean and create new protected areas on the continent. Those goals are enshrined in IUCN and WPCA 2021-24 programs, which will help induce member governments to act. Experience with the Environmental Protocol and Southern Ocean MPAs provide important lessons for ongoing high-seas negotiations. Thank you again.