

Joint statement regarding proposed MSC certification of Aker QRILL

11th March 2026

We are deeply concerned that the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) appears poised to certify the operations of Aker QRILL, the world's most dominant krill fishing company, as sustainable. We are very aware that in the last two years their fishing has become far more concentrated on krill hotspots, meaning that their enormous industrial fishing vessels operate right next to whales, seals, penguins and other wildlife trying to feed on the same food. The science clearly points to this practice not being sustainable, and we urge the MSC to reconsider this decision and refuse to legitimise an industry that threatens the health and resilience of the Antarctic Ocean.

We are wildlife filmmakers who have spent considerable time working in the Antarctic region. We know both how important the Antarctic Ocean is for planetary health, and how fragile it is. Antarctic krill are key to its health. As the primary food source for whales, seals, penguins, and fish, they form the foundation of the Antarctic food web. They also play a vital role in carbon sequestration by feeding on algae and exporting carbon to the deep ocean.

These enormous ships are extracting krill on a huge scale, taking the ocean's food source away and visibly risking injuring whales and other wildlife. The krill is turned into health supplements, fish feed and pet food, for which there are alternatives that are far better for our planet. We strongly believe that granting this industry a green stamp of approval risks misleading the public.

Toby Nowlan — Director and Producer, *Ocean with David Attenborough & Our Planet II*.

Bertie Gregory — Cinematographer: *Planet Earth II & III, Our Planet II, Frozen Planet II, Seven Worlds, One Planet*. Presenter: *Epic Adventures & Animals Up Close with Bertie Gregory*. National Geographic explorer.

Fredi Devas — Director and Producer, *Planet Earth II & III, Seven Worlds, One Planet, Antarctica 3D*.

John Aitchison — Cinematographer: *Frozen Planet, Planet Earth II & III, Our Planet II, Seven Worlds, One Planet*. Director and Producer: *Hebrides: Islands on the Edge*; Author.

Justin Lewis — Cinematographer: *Frozen Planet II, Our Oceans, Our Living World, Trade Secret*.