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## BioMar Group supports research in the Antarctic

BioMar Group presents the Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund (AWR) with a donation for research on the Antarctic ecosystem and wildlife at the opening of the AquaNor exhibition in Trondheim 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

BioMar Group's support of AWR is based upon a commitment to protect the Antarctic ecosystem, at the core of which requires a healthy and abundant krill population. Jan Sverre Røsstad, Vice President of BioMar North Sea, will present a cheque of 15,000 USD to the Norwegian minister of fisheries Elisabeth Aspaker, and to AWR's Board and Scientific Advisor.

"AWR's efforts to obtain further knowledge about the Antarctic ecosystem contributes to a sustainably managed krill fishery, and has our full support," says Røsstad.

Following its launch in February 2015, AWR announced a call for research proposals. AWR received almost a dozen applications for funding from leading scientists around the world, who wish to carry out research to aid understanding of the impact of krill fishing operations on the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

AWR believes that only through better understanding of the role of Antarctic krill in the Southern Ocean will it be possible to comprehensively protect the animals that depend on it for survival and ensure a mandate for the precautionary management of the fishery.

The AWR's founding partners include the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), WWF-Norway and Aker BioMarine.

- Krill is the lifeblood of the Southern Ocean and supports important Antarctic wildlife such as whales, seals and penguins. It is crucial therefore that krill fishing be carried out in a responsible and sustainable way. The establishment of the Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund is an opportunity to continue monitoring the impacts of krill fishing and to conduct further ecological research on krill and dependent species," says Karoline Andaur, member of the AWR board and Conservation Director Policy at WWF-Norway.

## **Background:**

AWR works with both commercial supporters and individuals to raise donations for funding research on Antarctic ecosystem and wildlife. Presently, financial supporters of the Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund include the BioMar Group, Blackmores, Dr.Mercola, Ridley and Swisse.

BioMar Group develops, produces, markets and distributes feed to Norwegian Aquaculture. The BioMar Group is one of the leading suppliers of high performance fish feed to the aquaculture industry.

The AquaNor trade show, held biennially in Trondheim, attracts up to 20,000 visitors from more than 50 nations. More than 400 exhibitors from more than 600 manufacturers and suppliers represent the international aquaculture industry at the exhibition.

## **The Board of the AWR:**

- Mark Epstein, Chair.  
Executive Director of ASOC – The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition
- Karoline Andaur, Acting Conservation Director Policy, WWF-Norway
- Sigve Nordrum, Executive Vice President, Animal Health and Nutrition at Aker BioMarine
- Matts Johansen, CEO of Aker BioMarine

Dr. Rodolfo Werner, Advisor to Pew Charitable Trusts and ASOC, is the scientific advisor to the AWR and serves as a liaison between the AWR Board and the Science Advisory Group.

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Read more about The Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund (AWR): [www.antarcticfund.org](http://www.antarcticfund.org)