

Antarctic krill fishery set to close this week, as precautionary management measures take effect

The 2026 Antarctic krill fishing season closes this week, when precautionary harvest limit set by CCAMLR is reached, showing the management system is working.

OSLO, OSLO, NORWAY, August 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Aker QRILL Company is concluding its 2026 Antarctic krill fishing season this week, with vessels ceasing fishing and preparing to leave the fishing grounds. The fisheries close when the precautionary harvest limit set by CCAMLR is reached, demonstrating that the management system is working as intended.



Aker QRILL Company fleet and vessels

The season has continued later than in 2025, when the Area 48 krill fishery closed on 1 August after reaching the 620,000-tonne harvest limit. In 2026, fishing activity was spread across CCAMLR Subareas 48.1 and 48.2, with vessels operating on multiple fishing grounds. Vessels operated across a geographic range of about 1,000 kilometers, roughly the distance from Oslo to Paris, spanning CCAMLR's Subareas 48.1 and 48.2.

“

This season provides another useful real-world evidence that the fishery can operate across a wide geographical area, and the closing proves that the system works.”

Webjørn Barstad, CEO of Aker QRILL Company

Nearly 90 percent of catches in the Antarctic Peninsula were taken after 1 April, outside the penguin breeding season. Since 2019, Aker and the broader krill industry have voluntarily closed around 74,000 square kilometers of buffer zones around penguin colonies for fishing between 1 October and 15 March.

"Where fishing takes place is an important part of how the krill fishery should be managed," said

Webjørn Barstad, CEO of Aker QRILL Company. "This season provides another useful real-world evidence that the fishery can operate across a wide geographical area, and the closing proves that the system works. We will use that experience as CCAMLR develops the next generation of krill management."

□ □□□□ □□ □□□□-□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□ □ □□□□ □□□□□□□□

The closure comes weeks after the FAO, the UN's food and agriculture body, named the Antarctic fishing areas a "global benchmark for precautionary, ecosystem-based fisheries management" in its 2026 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report. All 15 stocks assessed in the region, including krill, were rated 100 percent biologically sustainable, the highest share of any fishing area covered by the report.

The Antarctic krill fishery remains one of the most tightly regulated fisheries in the world. Around 11 krill vessels operated during the 2026 season across CCAMLR's Area 48, a management area covering approximately 3.5 million square kilometers. The current 620,000-tonne trigger level represents around 11 % of CCAMLR's precautionary catch limit of 5.61 million tonnes for Area 48 and less than one percent of the approximately 63 million tonnes of krill biomass estimated by the 2019 CCAMLR synoptic survey.

Aker QRILL Company believes in developing the Antarctic krill as a responsibly managed marine resource, particularly at a time when global supplies of traditional marine ingredients are increasingly constrained. Global aquaculture production has grown substantially, while the underlying supply of fishmeal and fish oil has remained largely flat. In 2026, production from key fisheries supplying certified marine ingredients is running particularly low. Further development needs to go hand in hand with stronger conservation.

□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□

Aker QRILL Company supports the establishment of the proposed Domain 1 Marine Protected Area of approximately 455,000 km² around the Antarctic Peninsula. The company also supports a modernized Krill Fishery Management Approach that distributes catches across smaller management units and adapts fishing activity over space and time.

Experience from the last two seasons shows why both elements matter and that the fisheries do not always return to the same places. In 2025, fishing activity increased in Subarea 48.1. In 2026, the fishery expanded its use of areas north, central, and south of Bransfield Strait, as well as north and central Gerlache Strait.

"The responsible solution moving forward should now be to build that distribution into the management system rather than relying on annual variations in krill abundance and fleet behavior. " Barstad said. "That means protecting large and important areas while establishing a science-based management system for the areas where fishing can be further developed. These elements need to be considered together if the 27 members of CCAMLR are going to reach consensus."

□□□□ □□□□:

- 2026 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report: 2026 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report
- MSC about krill fisheries: <https://www.msc.org/species/antarctic-krill>
- CCAMLR - Krill fisheries and sustainability : <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/fisheries/krill-fisheries-and-sustainability>

Tormod Sandstø

Aker QRILL Company

+47 909 43 215

tormod.sandsto@qrill.com

Visit us on social media:

[LinkedIn](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/933684891>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.