



After the Fact | [Bonus Episode: Event Rebroadcast: The Southern Ocean—Where Sport, Diplomacy, and Marine Protected Areas Meet](#)

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TRANSCRIPT

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Dan LeDuc, host: Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, and most pristine place on Earth. While many of us may never travel to that far-off continent, millions of whales, seals, and penguins live there in the Ross Sea. In fact, here's a data point for you: more than 9,000 species that can't be found anywhere else in the world call it home. I'm Dan LeDuc and this is "After the Fact," from The Pew Charitable Trusts. In this episode you're going to learn a lot more about this distant, harsh—but also entrancing—place.

Just over a year ago, 24 countries and the European Union made history by creating the world's largest marine protected area in the Ross Sea, through the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. That's also known as CCAMLR. This decision safeguarded more than one and a half million square kilometers. That's a half million square miles—an area bigger than Alaska.

But that was just the beginning. The Southern Ocean, the southernmost waters on the planet, is even bigger. It's also one of the fastest-warming places on Earth, and increasingly vulnerable to commercial fishing and pollution. To guard against these threats requires international cooperation. So Pew recently brought together leaders and advocates who played a vital role in bringing about the Ross Sea's protections to discuss what's next for this important region of the globe.

In this special rebroadcast of that event, you'll hear from the former president of Costa Rica and other leading advocates for ocean conservation. Andrea Kavanagh, who leads Pew's work in Antarctica and on our Southern Ocean, tells you who they are.

Andrea Kavanagh, director, The Pew Charitable Trusts: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for coming. I really appreciate to see you all here today. My name is Andrea Kavanagh, and I direct Antarctic and Southern Ocean's conservation work here at The Pew Charitable Trusts. And I am thrilled to have this esteemed panel here with us today



to talk about celebrating the Ross Sea marine protected area, and to talk about Antarctic MPAs in general. And more importantly, how to get more of them.

I want to get right into it but first, I do want to extend a warm and special welcome to, in particular, two guests from the embassies of Norway and New Zealand, and to Evan Bloom from the U.S. State Department in particular. Evan, you, along with others from the U.S. and the New Zealand government, were instrumental in shepherding this proposal through many years to get it designated. So without you, we would have nothing to celebrate. So thank you so much, Evan.

And really there are so many people here, in the room and who are watching us either on Facebook Live or through the webcast, who worked long and hard to make the Ross Sea MPA a reality. And it's not surprising, because Antarctica inspires a passion. I've certainly caught that bug, and I think everyone up here has as well. It's a place of extremes. It's the coldest and the windiest place on the earth. It's a desert, and there are more than 90 active volcanoes, many of them miles deep underneath the ice sheets.

And the Southern Ocean that surrounds the continent is home to species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Some that are still being discovered. It also is a place that inspires extreme feats of daring adventure and endurance—looking at you here, Lewis, for that. It fosters a spirit of cooperation, and that's reflected in many ways. Particularly, in scientific discoveries, and in the recognition that this place warrants special protection. After all, at the height of the Cold War, the world came together to safeguard Antarctica for all of humanity as a place of peace and science. But the waters that surround it were left unprotected.

So maintaining the pristine state of the Southern Ocean is vital for marine life like whales and penguins, and the very tiny but mighty krill. Which is why the 25-member governments of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources decided that they needed to form a network of marine protected areas in the great Southern Ocean. And in 2009, CCAMLR designated the very first high seas marine protected area, and the area around the South Orkney Islands.

And in 2016—the reason we're all here to celebrate—after years of negotiation, they established the world's largest protected area on the planet in the Ross Sea. However, large areas of the Southern Ocean are still unprotected, leaving the region vulnerable to human activities like fishing and pollution. Climate change, of course, in the region is just making things worse.

So to guard against these threats, the international community must work together to ensure that the East Antarctic MPA is designated this year at CCAMLR, and that the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula follow in 2020. So that is why I'm so excited that



today these ocean legends have come here together to announce their intention to form a group of Antarctic champions to help make sure that the network of Antarctic MPAs is a reality by 2020.

So first of all, I would like to welcome and introduce José María Figueres. He's co-founder of Ocean Unite and co-chair of the Global Ocean Commission. Mr. Figueres was the president of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998, under a one-term constitutional mandate. And since leaving government, Mr. Figueres has served on numerous other boards, and was appointed managing director of the World Economic Forum. José María, thank you so much for being here.

José María Figueres, former president of Costa Rica: Thank you, Andrea. Good afternoon.

Andrea Kavanagh: Good afternoon, yes. So you've quickly become a leading figure in ocean conservation. You helped launch the Global Ocean Commission, which recommended how to solve some key problems facing the high seas, and you were also instrumental in winning the designation of the Ross Sea. So I was hoping you could start us off a little bit by telling us about lessons you've learned from your years as a world leader and an ocean advocate, particularly your work on the Ross Sea, and how we should apply those lessons to achieving a network of Antarctic marine protected areas.

José María Figueres: Thank you, Andrea. Let me begin by saying that I've worked many years in my life on issues of climate change, and it is only in the last five or six that I have become a convert to ocean issues. And some people say that there's nothing more dangerous than a convert. So be it. But I want to begin by recognizing the tremendous amount of acumen, and work, and research that has been done on ocean issues by all of you here this afternoon, and probably many following us on the webcast.

Andrea, if we could do it all over, we should have actually called our planet Ocean instead of Earth. It is the most important ecosystem in our lives. And the day that humanity realizes that the quality of life above the surface of the ocean depends on the quality of life beneath the surface, we will begin to become much more serious on how we protect our oceans.

The Ross Sea experience, if I may call it that, in terms of helping the efforts of many people for that to be declared an MPA, took several ingredients. One, of course, is broadening understanding with respect to the issue at hand. Because the ocean belongs to all of us, it belongs to none of us. And we do not take adequate responsibility for our actions. So broadening understanding on this was a very important component.



Secondly, grounding the necessity for this to be declared an MPA on science, on scientific research, is absolutely fundamental. Not only in this case, but in the declaration of MPAs going into the future. And thirdly, being able to get the message to the decision-makers—in which Slava, here with us this afternoon, was absolutely instrumental—I find goes a long way in terms of getting, finally, the job done and MPAs declared.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thank you very much José María, that's excellent. I think we'll come back to several of those themes throughout the rest of the panel. Next, I'm very pleased to welcome and introduce Mr. Lewis Pugh, who began his career in international ocean advocacy working as a maritime lawyer. And for nearly three decades, Lewis has been drawing public attention to ocean issues by swimming in some of the most vulnerable marine ecosystems. His unique brand of ocean advocacy, deemed "Speedo diplomacy," has reached the millions worldwide. And in December of 2015, Pugh swam in Antarctica's famed Ross Sea to draw attention to the need for protections of these biologically rich waters. After the swim, he undertook considerable outreach efforts with key decision-makers and Russia on behalf of the need for a large-scale network of MPAs in the Southern Ocean. Hi, Lewis. Thanks again for being here.

Lewis Pugh, U.N. Environment Programme Patron of the Ocean and cold-water swimmer: Thank you.

Andrea Kavanagh: So of all of our panelists here today, I think in fact more than anyone in the entire realm of ocean conservation, you truly lay your life on the line for the ocean. Your work and commitment to the Ross Sea were invaluable in getting designation for it. I remember when you did your five swims in the Ross Sea. You said it was one of your most dangerous swims ever. And it looked terrifying just to watch it on video. Can you tell us a bit about your Ross Sea swims, how they helped you make the right connections in Russia?

Lewis Pugh: Yeah, thank you so much. And just to explain how to get to the Ross Sea, it took 11 days on a fast icebreaker from the bottom of New Zealand. So you sail from 40 degrees south to 50 to 60 to 70, and eventually, on the horizon you see—it's just one of the most incredible sights on this planet—the mountains of Victoria Land. And if you carry on sailing along the coast, eventually you come to this ice shelf, and it's literally like sailing up to the White Cliffs of Dover. Enormous great ice shelf. And from a swimmer's point of view, there is nothing more terrifying. I mean it really—it is one of the coldest places on this planet.

And this was the first time I'd ever taken my wife on an expedition. I was always frightened about what might happen, never wanted her, perhaps, to see something happen. But on this expedition, I took my wife. It would take a month to get down there



and then get out again. And when we arrived there, the captain of the ship said to me, he said, “Lewis, it is so cold down here that I think that this sea might actually freeze unless you get the—and we’re talking about the top layer of the sea—you could actually see it becoming what is known as “grease ice.” So you look across, it looks as if somebody has put some oil over it. And it’s just about to freeze. He said, “Please, just get this swim done, and get out of here.”

So I said to my wife, I said—one of the big fears you have as a swimmer is the animals in the water. I mean it’d be fair to say that there is no leopard seal in the Ross Sea, or killer whale in the Ross Sea that’s ever seen somebody swimming past.

[Laughter]

Lewis Pugh: So you just don’t know how these animals are going to react. And so I said to my wife, I said, “Please Antoinette, I need you to go in a small Zodiac. I need you to go along the edge of the ice, and just make sure that there are no leopard seals in the water.””

So I watched as she was lowered into the water in a small Zodiac. She went along the edge of the ice shelf. And as the boat was lowered into the water, a wave hits up against the side of the boat. And it was so cold that some water splashed up, and turned mid-air into slush and then hit her as ice.

You could imagine what I’m thinking. I’m thinking, “OK. The water is minus 1.7 degrees Centigrade, 29 degrees Fahrenheit. The air temperature is minus 35 degrees Centigrade. I’m going to be taking my hand, and I’m going to take my body, and put it into 29 degrees Fahrenheit minus 1.7 degrees Centigrade. And then I’m going to be pulling my hand out, and putting it into minus 35. And my wife came back, and she looked at me and she said, “OK Lewis, we’re ready now.”

And you know, it’s the moments which really challenge us the most which define us. I—for those of you, and I’m sure that many of you here have been to the Ross Sea, it is the most special place on this planet. It really is. And if I was not prepared to get in there and fight for this place, then was I worthy of standing up and being a voice for this place? I just said to myself, I said, “Lewis just get in here and just do it.”

And so we went to the start of the swim and my coach just gave me the commands. I whipped off my clothes. As soon as your clothes are off—I mean, it’s very, very difficult to breathe. It is so cold. I dived in. There’s a very, very fine line between fear and panic.

[Laughter]



Lewis Pugh: Fear is healthy, it sharpens you up. Panic is absolutely deadly. For the first one minute it was complete panic. I didn't even realize, in the diving, I lost my goggles. Didn't even realize. I just swam as hard as I could for the first minute. At the end of the second minute, my hand was completely white. The same color as this table. Completely white. At the end of the third minute, my arms were slapping the water. By the end of the fourth minute, my legs were scissoring. By the end of the fifth minute, I realized, if I spend another minute in here I will never ever see Moscow.

[Laughter]

Lewis Pugh: And I got out, and there's this photograph, which was just taken of me in the boat being taken back, and that picture then was sent to Russia. And it was a picture of somebody absolutely freezing, on the edge of life and death. And I remember saying to Slava, sometime afterwards, "I mean, the idea that somebody would go into a swim in the Ross Sea as a private citizen, and then go to Russia and try and influence Russian policy, as a Briton, at the height of the conflict—it sounds improbable."

And you know what Slava said to me? He said, "Lewis," he said, "all of us in Russia, young boys, young girls, all of us, our parents would take us to a frozen lake, or to a river or to the sea, they cut a hole in the ice, and these young kids, we would always swim. And we had some idea of what you went through and your passion by that symbolic act." And because we both loved sport so much—Slava as one of the greatest ice hockey players in the world, and myself as you know loving swimming—immediately when I met you, Slava, I realized that there was a bond. But for Slava's engagement, we would never ever have been able to carry this message to the highest powers in Russia, and eventually get it across the line.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thank you, Lewis. That was fascinating and leads us perfectly into the introduction of Slava. It's my absolute honor and pleasure to welcome and introduce Slava Fetisov here today. He's a retired ice hockey defenseman and coach, who has earned three Stanley Cups during his time as a player and coach with the NHL. He also earned two Olympic gold medals—one silver and one bronze—with his hockey career, as both a player for the Soviet national team, and the manager for the Russian national team.

Slava is currently an acting member of the State Duma of Russia, one of the two bodies that make up the Russian Federal Assembly. And Fetisov has become passionate about polar conservation and become a formidable advocate on behalf of the Ross Sea within Russia, with a commitment to work for long-term protections. So Slava, thank you so much for being here. Again, it's my honor.



You're one of the most famous hockey players in the world. You've won multiple Stanley Cups and Olympic medals. But truly, I think one of your most impressive feats was your perseverance in gaining permission for Soviet players to compete in the NHL. Because of you, a number of the top Soviet players joined the NHL, and some of the top players in Europe followed. And it was your dedication that broke that barrier.

And similarly, you were instrumental for Russia endorsing the marine protected area. So the Ross Sea MPA was a huge win for ocean conservation. What was the winning play that got Russia to support the Ross Sea? And what will it take for us to do it again and again?

Slava Fetisov, acting member of the State Duma of Russia, Olympic gold medalist, and Stanley Cup champion hockey player: First of all, it's a big honor for me to be here. It's probably better to talk about the game. By the way, my last time I've been here and on stage, it was 1998. And we beat the Capitals in four straight in the Finals of the Stanley Cup, and I got my second cup. And after this, I retired. For me, Washington D.C., was the city when I played my last official game. I got lots of good memories. I think it's one of the reasons I'm here. But I think it's Lewis. The way he talks about this place, Antarctica. You cannot fall in love with him, and you cannot respect him as a human being to try to think a little bit ahead of the time and everything else. And of course we become good friends right away.

You can picture right away what's Antarctica, and how we need to be together to protect the planet. And I see the penguins in Moscow Zoo when I was a kid. And then we play against the Penguins in the International Hockey League. That's all I've known about these animals. But the way he talks, you know, how the population of the penguin is going down dramatically, and I can tell it's lots of changes in the climate. And of course I think it's to design, the first time, MPA. To start the huge project to protect Antarctica, it's not an easy step, but without Lewis, I think it's impossible. Of course, he came to Moscow, to get the support.

And of course lots of people were involved. He met the minister of foreign affairs, that's minister of defense, who's responsible for environment in Russia. And I would talk about how we can get Russia to be part of it. And of course finally they did talk to him, and the way he presents what we need to do together is probably make our country to be a part of it. And I think in the future we can do lots of things together. Believe in this. Like my first year in the National Hockey League. I was Soviet major, I played for Red Army Team. And of course when you fight against communist system for yourself, it opened a new world. I'd come to the National Hockey League in '89. I was 31 years old, and didn't expect lots of success. But those years in the NHL started to become international league. And the Soviet players was the first who come. And then it started to form the teams. Alex Ovechkin is probably one of the most likable players now, in



Washington. But in my time, it wasn't easy. Because the Cold War still existed, and even hockey players didn't like me because I came from another part of the world. But slowly and surely, we become teammates, and we fight for the same goal. We fight against another team to get this same arrangement of the players from different parts of the world. You chew their blood sometimes, but after the game you go and drink the beer, talk about the common things, families, and game, and stuff like that.

I think I can transfer to what's happening in Antarctica right now. I think together we can do a lot. And, of course, it's this attention, which we see here in the United States. In Russia we say, if you got the one choice, that means you've got no choice. You have to get all together just to protect the whole Antarctica and other, what, seven zones? Six? It's a good challenge for everybody. I think ecology and sports can unite us.

Andrea Kavanagh: Absolutely.

Slava Fetisov: In my heart right now, and in my soul, it was a big honor enjoying what— those two gentlemen will know more about the environmental problems— to be part of the whole team presented here. Thank you.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thank you so much, Slava. Finally, I'm pleased to welcome and introduce Karen Sack. Thank you, Karen, for being with us today, and helping convene this panel of Antarctic champions. Karen's the managing director of Ocean Unite, and she brings more than 20 years of experience working for international nongovernmental organizations on environmental issues, including here at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she helped initiate the Global Ocean Commission.

Karen's also worked for Greenpeace, and is a member of the World Economic Forum's expert network. Karen has been passionate about Antarctica for as long as I have known her. She even focused her law degree on studying the Antarctic Treaty System. In fact, I remember when I met you, Karen—what, it's like 14 years ago now? You were working—both of us were working—on stopping illegal fishing for toothfish, which is known as Chilean sea bass here in the U.S. And the illegal fishing for that was rampant at the time. And you played a key role in helping to identify some of the illegal operators that were ultimately shut down.

I'm curious how you think you've seen ocean conservation work change over the last 20 years, particularly in the CCAMLR convention area, and what you think we need to do to get us to the network of MPAs by 2020.

Karen Sack, managing director, Ocean Unite: Thank you, Andrea. It's such a pleasure to be with all of you today. And I think what Andrea hasn't mentioned is, when we met, I think she was called the toothfish lady here in the U.S., I was the toothfish lady in South Africa. And after you've been called that collectively, you've got a bond. So I think, just



looking back, there is no question that the ocean, which for so many years was what we would call an “orphan” environmental issue. It was very much out of sight and out of mind of most people. Anyone working on environmental issues was focused on forests or climate change. And we loved whales, and wanted to protect them. And that actually takes us straight into the Antarctic, and what was going on there. But for ages there really wasn’t very much attention being placed on the ocean.

Until about six years ago, I think that really did begin to change. It was a result of the work of thousands of people around the world who’ve dedicated their lives—scientists, activists, advocates, and, more and more, politicians—who have begun to recognize the importance of the ocean. And also began to draw together the links between what is happening beneath the waves and the challenges that ocean life is facing. And the links to climate change, overfishing, and inequity, which is why we all got involved with illegal fishing and overfishing issues in the first place.

So there’s been this real sea change in how people are looking at the ocean. And I think that—the idea to convene a Global Ocean Commission was brewed actually in this building, here at Pew. And thanks to the support of a lot of the people who are here, as well as people internationally, led to the engagement of the most amazing group of leaders, of which José María was one of the co-chairs, and really started to set the bar as they began to understand what was going on in the ocean space and what needed to be done. And since then we’ve been joined by Slava, and Lewis, and many others.

I remember having lunch with Lewis in London, before he had decided to swim in the Ross Sea, and mentioning that this area needed protection. And he looked at me across the table and he said, “I’m going to go and swim there.” And I thought, OK. People say this, they don’t do it. And next thing we knew, there he was. So I think, in looking back and looking forward, the ocean is definitely an issue that’s higher up on the agenda.

And with regards to the Antarctic, what we have absolutely seen time and again, is how the policy space in the Antarctic, and moves by the countries that are members of the Antarctic Treaty, have led the way in international ocean governance. Whether it was in tackling illegal fishing in the past—and actually coming up with the concept of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing—to looking at implementing prior environmental impact assessments, and establishing the first protected areas in the high seas. And that has spurred action really all the way up into the Arctic, and at the U.N. as well, which we are hoping to drive forward. And now, we need to take the work in the Antarctic to the next level, which is hopefully what we can all do together.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thanks, Karen. José María, I was wondering if you wouldn’t mind telling us a little bit more about this ocean champion’s group and what you envision you all can do together to get us to Antarctica 2020?



José María Figueres: With pleasure. And I hope that Lewis, who is the chief instigator and head rabble rouser, besides being the conceptualizer of this idea, will also jump in here. But essentially what we have here is an opportunity to move the needle, with respect to the conservation of ocean space around Antarctica, in a way that we have never done so before. And to be able to build on the success of having the Ross Sea MPA—which came into effect now in December of 2017, setting aside between the sea under the ice cap and the ocean, the Ross Sea, two million square kilometers, and upping the ante from 2 million to 7 million square kilometers of ocean around Antarctica.

So what Lewis has put forward, and which Slava, myself, and others are committing to helping with, is this holistic vision to declare six more MPAs—for a total of seven with the Ross Sea—by 2020, around Antarctica covering 7 million square kilometers. That is a worthwhile objective. That motivates us to move in the right direction. And the reason why it's so important is because Antarctica is not only this pristine place on the planet, which Lewis has so adequately described, but it's also important for what we know is the role of Antarctica in the global climate system.

The ocean currents that develop in Antarctica are not only responsible for heat transfer around the world, but are also responsible for a lot of the biodiversity, and the beginning of the food chain, that eventually sustains all life on Earth. In the face of climate change, which is the big challenge that for the first time ever, as humanity, we face—how do we move from 200 years of Industrial Revolution into a new era of a low-carbon economy based on science, technology, offering new business models, opportunities for entrepreneurship, creating jobs, which is what we need to do around the world, and setting us on a completely different path from what we have traversed so far? In all of that, this idea of seven MPAs around Antarctica by 2020 is absolutely centerfold to what we can do in terms of combating and mitigating the effects of climate change.

So I again want to thank our swimmer, here. Not only for his swims, but for this wonderful initiative which he's inviting the world to follow him on and make a reality.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thank you José. Lewis, would you like to say a bit more?

Lewis Pugh: Thank you. Thank you so much. Can I perhaps just explain where the seven are, just so that the people understand that? So we've got, obviously, the one down in the Ross Sea. And then there are the three areas, which are part of the East Antarctica marine proposal.



So these three areas are proposed by Australia, France, and the European Union. We then have the one in the Weddell Sea, which has been proposed by the Germans and the European Union. We then have the one here in the Bellingshausen Sea, which is being proposed by Chile and Argentina. And there is a marine protected area, which I've been fighting for together with—

Andrea Kavanagh: Why don't we cut out right there?

Lewis Pugh:—With Simon Reddy, up here.

Andrea Kavanagh: Nope, down lower. Right there, there you go. Right there, yep.

Lewis Pugh: It's up here, isn't it?

José María Figueres: In order of magnitude you're in the right direction. Don't go worry about it.

[Laughter]

Andrea Kavanagh: Right there.

Lewis Pugh: Which is in the South Sandwich Islands. OK. So together that's how we're counting our seven. So I know people say, "OK, that's one." But I like the idea of seven, it's a good number. It's a seventh continent, and we've got one already. And then if by March or April, we've got the next one in the South Sandwich Islands, we've got two. And then if we can get the world to start talking, we've suddenly got five. And I always believe in momentum. There's a lot of power in momentum. And so then we can get the other ones squared away by 2020.

And the reason why 2020 is such an important date is because this is the year—it's a 200-year anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica. So Antarctica was discovered by Admiral Bellingshausen in 1820. And I can't think of a more important occasion to celebrate, and an opportunity to, not just reflect on what's happened over the last 200 years, but where we want this place over the next 200 years.

Andrea Kavanagh: Perfect. Thank you so much, Lewis. I guess I'd want to turn to you, Slava, for one more question. And I'm curious what you think it would take, for countries working together with Russia—how do we do that more collaboratively, as countries, as NGOs? And what's the recipe for success there to get these seven MPAs by 2020?



Slava Fetisov: First of all, 200 years ago, it's Admiral Bellingshausen so it's Russian. Cannot blame Russia, to open in the Arctic, are you?

Lewis Pugh: No.

Slava Fetisov: I think you've got good example of the Ross Sea, how they work together. And I think it's, the more you're going to talk about, the more you're going to see the big picture. We all have to say thank you to Lewis to do what only one man in the planet is doing. Once he invited me to go with him, I said, "Listen it's two weeks of this. They are on a boat. It's too much time for me to just get off my job." And I've got to find a good excuse not to go see him down there. Probably try to... But again, you should see the big picture. How we're going to affect that everything is going to be going that direction right now. Also I have to see the future for the kids and the grandchildren, for many, many decades ahead. And I don't know if I can say the answer. And your question tonight, I invite them please to be in the hockey team to play in the North Pole. And at 2019, they try to bring the hockey game together. And maybe Alex Ovechkin find the time to play. I might say it's not only hockey game. It's probably, the more famous people we are going to be bringing on the project, the more we can talk about the future problems. Because sometimes, it's not affecting you, you don't care. But I was born in Moscow. When I was kid I skate outside. Like example, you skate outside from October until April. Now it's only they can skate maybe one month. It gets so warm. It's going to take what's going on around. You can see how fast things are going to be changing. Can the famous Lewis, his example when he swim last year, right? The same place? Can you tell that people?

Lewis Pugh: Yeah, I was just saying—

Slava Fetisov: Probably was the best example, though. What do you need, map?

Lewis Pugh: Yeah.

Slava Fetisov: This one?

Lewis Pugh: I was explaining some of the changes. Slava's suddenly become, with respect, bipolar. He's suddenly talking about the Arctic. I was explaining that this is obviously the North Pole, here. And in 2005, I did a swim on the island of Spitsbergen, in 2005. And the water temperature there, in July 2005, was 3 degrees Centigrade. I went back there again last year, so that's 12 years later, the water is no longer 3 degrees Centigrade, it's now 10 degrees Centigrade in that part of the Arctic.



So the enormous changes, which we're now seeing in both parts of the world, are astonishing. And our response has to be so much quicker than it currently is. That's the bottom line.

Slava Fetisov: How are we going to affect the rest of the planet?

Lewis Pugh: This will have an enormous impact on the rest of the planet. So you'll be able to detect from my accent that I'm—like Karen—spent part of my life down in South Africa. We've got an occasion happening now, which is called Day Zero. And if you're all aware of what Day Zero is, we're the first major city in the world which is about to run out of fresh water, out of drinking water. And so the governments, local government, has set the day in March, end of March, where they will turn off the taps. And then you will be allowed 50 liters. And there are a number of well points around the city where you can go with your cans to be able to collect water.

I just think this is an example of what we can expect in future years unless we all work together, and we all start protecting our natural resources. Whether it be in Africa, in the Arctic, and the Antarctic. It's a very, very good warning, I think, of what we can expect in the future.

Andrea Kavanagh: Thank you, Lewis. And thank you, Slava. And thank you all again for being here. This has been an extraordinary panel, to hear all your different voices, with your different backgrounds, talking about the Southern Ocean. I've learned a lot, and I'm looking forward to working with each of you on this Antarctica 2020 campaign. OK. Thank you very much.

[Music]

Dan LeDuc: In two years we'll mark the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica. That's a pretty short period of time in world history. But as these champions of Antarctica's future were saying, the time for international cooperation to help protect the global ocean is now.

Thanks for listening today, and we hope you'll subscribe if you haven't already. We also love to hear what you think about the podcast, so leave us a review at Apple Podcasts or wherever you listen.

[Music]

Dan LeDuc: For The Pew Charitable Trusts, I'm Dan LeDuc and this is "After the Fact."

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