

OVERVIEW OF THE CRUISE INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

\$15,000 annual commitment

The Wilson Center's Polar Institute is establishing a cruise industry working group to support research and programming on cutting-edge efforts to protect and understand the polar regions. The working group will convene quarterly to shape the Polar Institute's scope of work and discuss key developments. Members will also receive exclusive opportunities to attend Wilson Center events in-person and participate in closed-door sessions.

The polar regions provide some of the last, great pristine environments on Earth. The international community increasingly understands that both the Arctic and Antarctica are focal points for environmental protection, ranging from protecting wildlife, supporting climate science, and ensuring that regional economic activities are undertaken sustainably. People are drawn to the polar regions, to see and experience not only exotic locations but to come to terms with nature globally. These regions face numerous environmental challenges, and governments, international organizations, civil society and academic institutions are undertaking concerted efforts to study and protect the polar environment. The policy community in the United States as well as the general public have an increasing interest in learning about cutting-edge efforts to protect and understand the polar regions through the lens of leading experts convened by one America's foremost policy think tanks.

The Wilson Center will convene a series of programs and publications from key figures involved in polar environmental protection, including officials and scientists, to explore issues such as:

Efforts to conserve marine resources, including ensuring sustainable fisheries

Promoting marine protected areas

Climate change and implications of melting ice for sea-level rise

The dangers posed by spread of invasive species

The potential impact of avian flu

Polar bear and penguin conservation

Efforts to conserve whales

Impacts of black carbon in the Arctic

Plastic pollution impacts in the polar regions

Status of the prohibition on mining in Antarctica

DELIVERABLES

Regular contact with Program Director and Senior Staff

Invitation to Working Group meetings

Events and roundtables on a wide range of issues as outlined above

WILSON CENTER BACKGROUND

The Wilson Center provides non-partisan counsel and insights on global affairs to policymakers through deep research, impartial analysis, and independent scholarship. Chartered by Congress in 1968, it has become a recognized resource in Washington, DC and around the globe for leading analysis of US foreign policy. The Polar Institute is the Wilson Center's program focused on Arctic and Antarctic policy. The Polar Institute studies the central policy issues facing these two regions and is unique in its two-pole focus as well as its ability to partner across the Wilson Center.