

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT – KRILL MANAGEMENT

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports Alternative 2 for krill essential fish habitat (EFH), including the descriptions outlined in 3.3.6.1. and 3.3.6.2*, providing that state waters are also included in EFH for krill. State waters should also be mapped in Figures 16 and 17. In addition, the HC recommends that NOAA staff add a description of the characteristics of EFH for krill (for example, zones of high upwelling and nutrient concentration). Some of this information is already contained in the document, but should be summarized in the EFH descriptions.

The rationale for each habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) designation option should be tied to the criteria laid out on page 33 of the draft amendment (sensitive or vulnerable to environmental stress, rare, or particularly important ecologically).

The HC supports HAPC Option 3 because we believe it includes more important ecological areas than the simple list of marine sanctuaries provided in Option 2. However, there are probably other important krill-producing areas that are not named in Option 3 that should be considered. When these HAPCs are reconsidered in the future, we would hope to focus more on specific geographic areas that, along with ocean currents, produce high amounts of krill.

PFMC
03/7/06

* these references were incorrectly identified in the document