

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY KRILL HARVEST BAN
PROPOSAL

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation by Mr. Huff McGonigal of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary regarding a proposed ban on the harvest of krill. The Sanctuary is asking the Council to ban the harvest of krill in federal waters, either within the entire exclusive economic zone or within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

The GAP appreciates the Sanctuary's efforts to present this proposal to the Council rather than arbitrarily taking action without consultation. The GAP has previously expressed concerns about unilateral Sanctuary actions affecting fisheries management, which only weaken fishing community support for the Sanctuaries.

The GAP notes that all three West Coast states have banned krill harvest in state waters, and a federal ban would merely parallel state action. At the same time, the GAP is not swayed by a sense of urgency, as there is no evidence that massive offshore krill harvesting is being contemplated.

Since krill are not included as a species under the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, the GAP is not forwarding any collective opinion on this proposal and would defer to the Scientific and Statistical Committee as to the need for taking such action.

PFMC
06/17/04