

KRILL HARVEST BAN PROPOSAL

At the September 2004 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), will consider initiating development of a formal prohibition on directed fisheries for krill (and, potentially, other forage fish species) in Council-managed waters. This would be in recognition of the importance of krill as a fundamental food source for much of the marine life along the West Coast. Moreover, state laws prohibit krill landings by state-licensed fishing vessels into California, Oregon, and Washington, respectively. Thus, the action could provide for consistent federal and state management.

There are currently no directed krill fisheries in Council-managed waters.

The Council requested staff work with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region and NOAA-General Counsel to develop information about procedural mechanisms for prohibiting fishing for krill and other forage species within the West Coast U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

As discussed at the June 2004 meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) adopted a similar action to prohibit directed fisheries for several species of forage fish (including krill). The NPFMC took this action through a joint amendment of their *Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plan* and *Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan*. Council staff has reviewed the joint fishery management plan (FMP) amendment and has annotated key elements in the document's Executive Summary (Agendum E.3.a, Attachment 1). The final rule (63FR13009) implementing the joint FMP amendment is also provided (Agendum E.3.a, Attachment 2).

Krill is an important prey item for numerous species managed under each of the Council's four FMPs. Thus, the Council should consider whether a joint FMP amendment is the preferred course of action. It would also be useful for the Council to receive guidance from NMFS on the amount of biological and socioeconomic information that could be necessary to analyze a suite of proposed alternatives. This would facilitate Council consideration of adding this item to the Council's workload.

Council Action:

Council discussion and guidance.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum E.3.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary (annotated) from *Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review for Amendment 36 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and Amendment 39 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska*—Council Review Draft, November 1996.

2. Agendum E.3.a, Attachment 2: Final Rule implementing Amendment 36 and Amendment 39.
3. Agendum E.3.a, Attachment 3: Southwest Fisheries Science Center report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion and Guidance

Dan Waldeck

PFMC
08/24/04