

KRILL HARVEST BAN

At the November 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.

At the September meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) presented several options for developing and implementing measures to regulate directed fisheries for krill in Council-managed waters (Agenda Item H.4.b, NMFS Report). NMFS stated their preference would be to incorporate krill into the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP). The Council requested staff work with 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.

The Council requested the options paper developed by NMFS be provided to Council advisory bodies for review and comment. At the November meeting, NMFS will report on discussions about the feasibility of a CPS FMP mechanism and the Council will receive reports from advisory bodies. Based on this advice, and public comment, the Council is expected to determine a course of action for regulating or restricting directed krill fisheries in Council-managed waters.

Council Action:

Consider the Next Steps to Protect Krill.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.4.b, NMFS Report: Options for Controlling Fishing for Krill.
2. Agenda Item H.4.c, CPSMT Report.
3. Agenda Item H.4.c, CPSAS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider the Next Steps to Protect Krill

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PFMC
10/15/04