

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
KRILL HARVEST BAN PROPOSAL

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the list of options developed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for controlling the harvest of krill. Given the lack of baseline scientific information on abundance and population dynamics of this species off the U.S. Pacific coast, the CPSMT feels that federal management measures to prevent development of directed krill fisheries would be prudent at this time. The CPSMT was informed that NMFS (Southwest Region, Long Beach) preferred the option to incorporate krill into the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (CPS FMP). Although the CPSMT agrees that incorporation of krill into the CPS FMP would provide a means to regulate potential krill fisheries, such an action could be problematic and warrant further discussion before formal action is undertaken.

For example, the CPSMT expects to be occupied with development of the sardine allocation FMP amendment until June of 2005. Second, the CPSMT is uncertain about the mechanics of how krill would be included (i.e., categorized) in the CPS FMP, especially if overfishing and other National Standard 1 criteria would be required. Third, the CPSMT is unclear on how non-CPS fishing gears would be managed under the CPS FMP. For example, while the CPS FMP does not specify a legal gear for CPS fisheries (other than gear used to harvest anchovy for reduction), the FMP generally applies to purse seine and lampara gear, typically used to harvest mackerel, sardine, and squid. Information provided to the CPSMT suggests krill fisheries typically use small-mesh trawl gear. Thus, the CPSMT requests more information on how krill would be categorized and how non-purse seine fishing gears would be managed under the CPS FMP. Finally, the three West Coast states do not allow krill to be landed at ports within their jurisdiction. To be effective, federal management policies would need to be developed in accord with state management goals.

In summary, before revisions are made to the CPS FMP, the CPSMT strongly recommends additional information and discussion concerning these issues and uncertainties.

PFMC  
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