

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
KRILL HARVEST BAN

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the proposals for regulating the harvest of krill that were presented in agenda item H.4.b - NMFS Report.

While the GAP is not unanimous in agreeing that harvest of krill should be banned by the Council, if the Council wishes to move forward with such action, the GAP strongly recommends the Council adopt Option 1 in the NMFS Report, which would utilize a combination of existing state laws and changes in the List of Fisheries. This is the quickest, most efficient, and most cost effective way to accomplish the goal of controlling krill fishing.

All of the other options would require fishery management plan (FMP) amendments (including one to an FMP that has not yet been written) and the accompanying cost of analysis, monitoring, and regulation. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel has opposed Option 2, which affects their fishery. Option 3 would require a whole suite of FMP amendments. Option 4 would require figuring out how a habitat-based FMP would incorporate species-based management. Given the current financial situation of the Council and NMFS, and the fact there is absolutely no evidence a potential krill fishery is on the horizon, the GAP sees no reason why the Council should expend the amount of time, effort, and funds that would be necessary to follow the FMP amendment approach. Option 1 is the most logical approach to take.

PFMC
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