



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

JAN - 5 2005

F/SWR2:MH

Dr. Donald O. McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

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PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac: *Don,*

Thank you for your recent inquiry requesting confirmation from the Southwest Regional Office (SWR) and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) regarding their intentions to take the lead responsibility for incorporating krill as a management unit species in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). On behalf of Dr. William Fox at the SWFSC, I am acknowledging the commitment of both the SWR and SWFSC to prepare an alternatives analysis for the management and control of fishing for krill in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the West Coast.

The analysis will address several aspects of krill management that must be considered by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). These include the status and role of krill (this would be an expansion of the report provided to the Council in June 2004), alternative approaches by which krill harvest controls can be implemented, and alternative control rules for krill harvest. The analysis would evaluate the alternatives against a common set of criteria including potential risks to krill, potential risks to other organisms, and administrative effects and effectiveness. Lastly, the alternatives analysis would identify research and data needs for future improvement in the basis for and decisions on management of krill in the EEZ.

The intent is to prepare the analysis generally in the format of an environmental assessment. This would minimize any additional work should the Council decide to proceed with an amendment to the CPS FMP.

It is our expectation that a progress report will be made to the Council at its March 2005 meeting and that a final version would be provided to the Council by mid-May for consideration at the Council meeting in June 2005.

If you have any questions about the proposed alternatives analysis or require additional details, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rod

Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. William Fox - SWFSC
Dr. Gary Sakagawa - SWFSC

