

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS FOR KRILL MANAGEMENT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met October 6, 2005 in La Jolla, California and heard a review of the alternatives analysis for controlling krill fishing by Mr. Svein Fougner.

The CPSAS agrees that krill is critically important to the ecosystem as forage fish for many species. In order to protect krill from the possibility of overharvest as well as to prevent potential detrimental side effects to other fish stocks, the CPSAS agrees that the Council should explore management measures for regulating development of krill fisheries within the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone.

However, a complete ban on krill fishing is not appropriate; more information is needed to assess the possibility of fisheries being allowed.

The CPSAS is concerned about diverting funding and resources to krill management at the present time when considerable work and research on other coastal pelagic species (CPS) matters has been repeatedly requested and is currently underfunded and not completed.

The CPSAS believes there could be some benefit to including krill within the CPS fishery management plan, especially with regard to research opportunities on the complex of species including sardine. However, the CPSAS would recommend that krill be managed under a third category of management rather than as an "active" or "monitored" species. This third category would need to be created. The CPSAS understands that NMFS is investigating fishery management plans around the country for examples of alternate management categories or strategies that may have utility for krill management on the West Coast.

PFMC
10/17/05