

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS FOR KRILL MANAGEMENT

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports the preferred alternative to designate krill under the Coastal Pelagic Fisheries (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and to prohibit krill fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (Alternative 2.3.1). By including krill in the CPS FMP, we can preclude directed harvest.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Council may also address nonfishing impacts to krill as essential fish habitat (EFH). Because krill is an important prey item, it is identified as EFH under the groundfish FMP and could be identified as EFH under other FMPs as well.

Whatever management measure the Council chooses, it should be mindful of the fact that three states already have prohibitions on krill fishing. The Council may wish to consider the implications of possible inconsistency with state regulations if limited krill fishing is allowed to occur. The HC commends the states for having taken action on prohibiting a krill fishery, and recommends the Council make management measures consistent with existing state regulations.

The proposed description of essential krill habitat does not include water shoreward of the three nautical mile boundary. The HC recommends that essential krill habitat also be considered within state waters.

PFMC
10/26/05