

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS FOR KRILL MANAGEMENT

The Council has initiated development of regulatory protection for krill and is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to develop management measures to regulate directed fisheries for krill within Council-managed waters. At the November 2004 meeting, the Council passed a motion that krill protection would be considered under the auspices of the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

This proposed action is in recognition of the importance of krill as a fundamental food source for much of the marine life along the West Coast. Moreover, state laws prohibit krill landings by state-licensed fishing vessels into California, Oregon, and Washington, respectively. Thus, the action could provide for consistent federal and state management. There are currently no directed krill fisheries in Council-managed waters.

The NMFS Southwest Region, has taken the lead on this proposed krill amendment and has drafted an alternatives analysis which explores various management alternatives for regulating krill fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the West Coast. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) have met and reviewed the alternatives analysis and have provided statements. After hearing reports from NMFS, the advisory bodies, and the public, the Council is scheduled to adopt a range of management measures for public review. The Council may elect to adopt a preliminary preferred management alternative at this time. It is anticipated that NMFS Southwest Region will prepare an environmental assessment analyzing the Council's recommendations in time for final Council action on a preferred alternative for the management of krill fishing at the March 2006 Council meeting.

Council Action:

Adopt Public Review Draft of the Range of Management Alternatives and Preferred Management Strategy.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: Alternatives Analysis for the Management of Krill Fishing Off the U.S. West Coast.
2. Agenda Item D.2.c, CPSAS Report.
3. Agenda Item D.2.c, CPSMT Report.
4. Agenda Item D.2.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Public Review Draft of the Range of Management Alternatives and Preferred Management Strategy

Mike Burner
Mark Helvey