

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT - KRILL MANAGEMENT

Mr. Svein Fougner met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to summarize the alternatives and other information used in “Measures to prohibit fishing for krill in the Economic Exclusive Zone off the West Coast” (Agenda Item H.2.b, NMFS Report). This document is intended to serve as the basis for developing Amendment 12 to the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and also serves as a Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed amendment. Several species of krill are included in the proposed action, although detailed biological information is only available for the two most prominent species, *Euphausia pacifica* and *Thysanoessa spinifera*.

Based upon previous Council guidance, three alternatives are presented in the document for krill conservation and management. The first alternative is a no action alternative, where the Council would take no action and each state’s current prohibition on krill fisheries would remain in place. The second alternative has been identified as the preliminary preferred alternative. It creates a new “prohibited harvest” management category for all species of krill. The third alternative would add krill to the species managed under the CPS FMP and would initially prohibit fishing for krill but provide for a mechanism for possible future krill fishing.

The SSC notes that there is considerable interest in moving forward with ecosystem considerations in Council fishery management and Alternative 2 is a tangible step in that direction. Alternative 3 would likely require additional agency work on krill that may divert or dilute research resources that are important for ongoing management of other Council-managed species.

PFMC
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