



Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL BANS KRILL FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST

At its meeting in Seattle last week, the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a complete ban on commercial fishing for all species of krill in West Coast federal waters. They also specified essential fish habitat for krill, an action that makes it easier to work with other federal agencies to protect krill.

Krill (euphausiids) are small shrimp-like crustaceans that serve as the basis of the marine food chain. They are eaten by many species of fish managed by the Council, as well as by whales and seabirds. Although there was no fishery for krill in Council waters, krill are fished in Antarctica, Japan, and off the west coast of Canada. They are used in aquaculture and livestock feed and for fish bait and pet foods. A very small portion of the commercial catch is used for human consumption, mainly in Japan. Because of the importance of krill to the marine food chain, the Council took action to ban krill harvest immediately, and made no provisions for future or experimental fisheries. Commercial krill fishing is already prohibited in the state waters of Washington, Oregon and California (from 0-3 miles offshore).

The prohibition on krill fishing will take form as Amendment 12 to the Council's coastal pelagic species fishery management plan.

For more information, please see:

- Krill management materials in the Council's March 2006 Briefing Book:
http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2006/0306/ag_h2.pdf
- Krill information from Wikipedia
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krill>