



Krill Industry Report

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The Krill Industry Report provides reports, information and commentaries on the Antarctic krill industry.

CCAMLR Improves Krill Management

CCAMLR made changes to the management of krill at its annual meeting in Hobart last November. The changes for this fishing year include establishing sub-area catch limits, and setting a minimum level of scientific observer coverage for krill vessels fishing in the South Atlantic.

CCAMLR agreed on an interim division of the current catch limit of 620,000 tonnes across four sub-areas in area 48 (South Atlantic sector). The division allows for a catch of up to 25% of the total catch limit for 48.1 (Antarctic Peninsula), and 45% of the total catch limit for each of the subareas 48.2 (South Orkney Islands) and 48.3 (South Georgia), and 15% of the total catch limit for 48.4 (South Sandwich Islands). Although the total percentage adds up to greater than 100% of the limit, the combined sub-area catch cannot exceed the 620,000 tonnes limit. Krill fishing does not currently occur in 48.4.

These important interim measures are designed to better protect krill predators from the impacts of fishing, particularly in the Antarctic Peninsula Area (Subarea 48.1). Conservation measure 51-07 sets out these requirements. The measure is to remain in force for two-years, with the understanding that new research should provide recommendations for further dividing sub-area limits in 2011.

CCAMLR also finally adopted a conservation measure towards a systematic scientific observer scheme for krill vessels. CCAMLR scientists have for several years been calling for observers on 100% of vessels for an interim 2 years so that effects of the krill fishery can be better modelled.

Conservation measure 51-06 requires countries to implement an observer coverage rate of no less than 30% of vessels during the 2009/10 fishing season. The measure also requires coverage of 50% of vessels during the 2010/11 fishing season with an aim that all krill vessels are observed at least once every two fishing years. The measure also requires a target coverage of more than 20% of all trawls being sampled on each vessel observed. This includes having observer coverage in all areas and seasons within each CCAMLR sub-area.

Conservation Measure 51-05 provides Norway with an exploratory fishery around Bouvet Island. This is to be undertaken by the 132m long trawler *Thorshøvdi*. The measure limits the catch to 15,000 tonnes. It also includes the limitation that no more than 11,250 tonnes can be taken within 60 nautical miles of breeding colonies of land-based krill-dependent predators.

As of mid-January 2010, nine vessels have been authorized to fish for krill in the current fishing season. A total of 13 vessels were notified to CCAMLR prior to the cut-off date of 1 June 2009. Norway has authorized three vessels and China has authorized two vessels. Korea, Japan, Poland and Russia have authorized one vessel each.

Neptune and Aker in Krill Patent dispute

At the end of last year the patent dispute between Canadian-based Neptune Technologies & Bioresources and Norwegian fisher Aker Biomarine reached a new level.

The European Patent office (EPO) agreed to revoke Neptune's European Patent after opposition by Aker and Israeli krill-formulator, Enzymotec. A hearing occurred in December where a decision was made to revoke the Patent. A written decision will be released shortly by the EPO, at which point, Neptune will have up to two months to follow through on its intention to appeal.

Neptune previously filed a patent infringement suit against Aker Biomarine. In November 2009, Neptune took action against Aker at the Food Ingredients Europe trade show in Frankfurt. Neptune obtained an injunction and bailiffs seized Aker's products and materials at the conference. Aker's appeal against the injunction failed because it did not have novel food documentation from the Finnish Food and Safety Authority at that time.

Neptune has also taken action against Aker and several other companies that sell krill oil in the US alleging patent infringement.

At the same time Texas based pharmaceuticals preparation company, A C Grace, is expanding its promotion of krill oil products derived from Neptune krill oil.

Aker Gets Norwegian Research Grant

Aker BioMarine has been awarded a three-year \$US1.35 million research grant from the Research Council of Norway's Food Programme. The funds are to be used to assess Aker's Krill products. Aker BioMarine was one of five recipients out of an application pool of 37 companies. The funds are from the Government's User-driven Innovation Projects (BIP).

Aker has also signed a long-term global supply agreement with US-based Valensa International. The agreement includes joint

clinical studies of Aker's krill oil as an ingredient in Valensa's formulations.

ASOC Appeals MSC Krill Certification

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) has filed an objection to appeal the decision by Moody Marine to grant Aker Biomarine with Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for its krill fishing.

The grounds of the objection include the misapplication of MSC guidelines and, lack of information to sustain the assessment. The objection has been accepted by the MSC and referred to an independent adjudicator for a decision pursuant to the MSC appeal process.

Change of Name for Krill fisher

The Norwegian fishing company Krill Seaproducts AS has changed its name to Krillsea Group. The group is one of three Norwegian companies fishing for krill. It operates the 132 metre long *Thorshøvdi*, which has been rebuilt to fish for krill. The *Thorshovdi*, operating out of Montevideo, started fishing in the South Atlantic for the first time in late January.

CCAMLR Creates Large MPA

At its November 2009 meeting the CCAMLR Commission established its first high seas marine protected area south of the South Orkney Islands. The reserve, just under 94,000 square kilometers, is about 1% of the Southern Ocean and prohibits all commercial fishing.

Disclaimer: *The material In this newsletter is intended to assist people in understanding the nature of the krill industry. While we try to ensure that information is accurate and up to date, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition gives no warranty as to its accuracy.*

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