

Rising price of fishmeal may spark 'krill war' as Norway set to boost production for salmon feed

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A 'Krill' war may erupt as Norway is set to boost production through Vanuatu vessels. Norway is set to substantially increase production of krill for farming feed. According to the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ), Vanuatu made clear its intention to enter into krill fishery at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) ended in Australia on November 3. Vanuatu intends to make a formal application to CCAMLR at its next annual meeting for permission to operate five fishing vessels, including an 8,000-ton vessel, in the Convention area. Its overall catch could exceed 300,000 tons. The FAJ sees the five vessels will be 'managed in substance by Norway,' meaning that the country will more than double the catch of krill from its current quota of 200,000 tons. FAJ officials say that Vanuatu will be basically admitted to enter into this fishery if it fulfills formal procedures, such as payment of membership contribution. Vanuatu indicated its intention of entry at this meeting, and will go into detailed procedure with an eye to start operation from next season. The five vessels reportedly belong to Greek ship-owners, and will be managed by Norwegians. Just like trawlers, the vessels will be equipped with the device to absorb the krill in the net by pumps automatically. Informed sources point out the rising fish meal prices on a global scale is in the background of Norwegian move to increase production of krill. Japan's catch, as applied to CCAMLR for next year, will aggregate 30,000 tons, and that of Korea 45,000 tons.

[The CCAMLR has adopted precautionary levels for krill fishing, expecting a rapid expansion. For all areas, the target level is nearly 5 million tons. Within some subareas, limits are as low as 650,000 tons. --JS](MS) John Sackton, Editor And Publisher

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