**Antarctic krill**

**Atlantic Southern Ocean**

**Fishery:** CCAMLR Area 48, Norway, Midwater trawls

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- Previous research on the stock status suggested krill biomass to be in good shape and in the range of 37–208 million tonnes, i.e. well above 75% B₀ (original biomass before the fishery has started).
- There is scientific confidence that the current catch level does not affect the total krill biomass.
- Swarm analysis has been used for krill density estimates and this approach has been considered very useful for understanding krill seasonal cycles.
- Catches have been below the global catch trigger level but present an increasing trend in the last 10 years.
- The fishery is well-managed (under the precautionary and ecosystem approaches) and there are many regulations in place to protect the ecosystem.
- Antarctic krill have been subject of several recent studies covering distinct topics of the ecosystem.

**Weaknesses**
- Total catches for the season 2017/2018 increase 29% in relation to the previous year and it was the highest level of catch since the early 1990s.
- There is no analytical assessment since 2000. There are no reference points in place to assess the real state of the stock. A multinational investigation effort is needed to develop a synoptic survey.
- TAC and trigger level management divided among the smaller-scale subareas (SSMUs), to avoid local depletion, are not yet in place. However, a spatial concentration of krill catches has been observed, namely in areas where krill-dependent species forage.
- Climate-change effects on krill populations need to be clarified since there is contradictory information on its effects on krill abundance.
- Competition between the fisheries occurring and protected species in some localized areas need to be evaluated to support special protection measures.
- The CCAMLR Convention Area is divided into nine MPA planning domains. Domain 1 MPA is not established yet due to lack of consensus between Commission Members.
- More information on possible bycatch impacts on ice krill and adult mackerel icefish is needed.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPS

**MSC**

- Aker Biomarine Antarctic Krill: MSC Recertified
- Rimfrost Antarctic krill: Suspended

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Monitor fishery and management system for any changes that could jeopardize MSC re-certification.
- Support efforts to manage this fishery at a finer spatial scale, as enabled by current catch reporting, to further reduce risks of local area depletion of krill.
- Support efforts to enable an updated multi-national krill biomass survey.