

ANTARCTIC KRILL AND ITS FISHERY: CURRENT STATUS AND CHALLENGES

Antarctic Krill (*Euphausia superba*) is a critical species in the Southern Ocean ecosystem. Krill is also the target species of the largest Southern Ocean fishery in tonnage caught.

379 Million

estimated tonnes of circumpolar krill in biomass, perhaps the greatest biomass of any wild animal species

70%

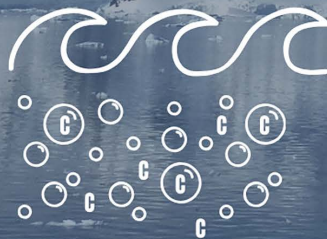
located in the Southern Ocean's Atlantic Sector (0° to 90° W longitude)

IMPORTANCE OF KRILL

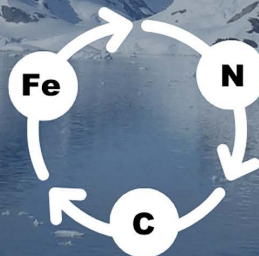
FUNDAMENTAL TO MARINE FOOD CHAIN



NATURAL CARBON PUMP



NUTRIENT CYCLER



CHALLENGES



KRILL ABUNDANCE DECLINE
(between 1990s-2010s) at northern edge of krill habitat, possibly due to:

CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM CHANGES



sea-ice decline



ocean circulation variability, warming, acidification



fluctuating phytoplankton productivity



KNOWLEDGE GAPS in krill population dynamics challenges measurement and management of abundance.

MANAGING THE KRILL FISHERY



A **stronger understanding of krill population**, gained through technological advancements and cooperation between scientists and the fishing industry, **may inform conservation efforts and sustainable fishing.**