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**Who wants the krill “schnitzel”? Researching and using krill**

**in Soviet Union and Japan**

Krill is the central object of interest during the negotiations of marine living resources of Antarctica at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs). Despite Soviet Union and Japan being two countries with biggest active industrial interest in krill fisheries, English-language literature speaks very little about how krill was used in these countries, what was the state of scientific research on krill and what were the internal discussions within the countries around the time of Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) negotiations.

The Soviet Union was not vocal at the ATCM meetings: they present only a few documents, despite strong interest in krill fisheries. According to Bykova et al. (2001), the first exploratory expedition to Antarctica for studying krill and whaling departed on a whaling factory ship Slava in 1947. Boczek (1984) dates the beginning of research efforts to 1946. Study of krill as a protein for human consumption was part of the Soviet IGY research program (Bykova et al. 2001), but a bigger official program started in 1962 when krill research went under the control of the Ministry of Fisheries. In 1966, first experimental technologies for human consumption of krill were put in practice and as a result, the use of krill for food was rather common in Soviet Union, promoted by special development plan from 1980s onwards. In addition to popular preserves such as “Zavtrak turista”, krill meal was also fed to cows.

After holding a low profile at the ATCMs on the decades immediately after the WWII, Japan became suddenly active in the marine living resources negotiations. Research programs on krill’s nutritional uses saw it as almost inexhaustible resource, the only challenge being how to process it without losing its nutritional value and mould it into products acceptable for the Japanese. While the Japanese are ardent consumers of fish products, krill has apparently a smell that is not appealing to them and efforts were put into processing krill so that it remains unrecognisable in food, for example in soy sauces or sausages. Research programs emphasised that with growing world population, the lack of food resources is imminent and therefore it is crucial to exploit lesser-used resources such as krill. By the time of CCAMLR negotiations, however, no high end-value products had emerged despite substantial subsidies for research and production. Instead, much of the harvested krill did not go for food, but was used as fishing bait or fodder in aquiculture.

The purpose of the present paper is to introduce our ongoing research into the Soviet and Japanese take on krill, their national interests and actual scientific knowledge that informed the two countries’ positions during the CCAMLR negotiations.