Krill Encyclopedia Article

Krill

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Contents

Krill Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Krill.....3

Krill



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Marine crustaceans in the order Euphausiacea. Krill are **zooplankton**, and most feed on microalgae by filtering them from the water. In high latitudes, krill may account for a large proportion of the total zooplankton. Krill often occur in large swarms and in a few **species** these swarms may reach several hundred square meters in size with densities over 60,000 individuals per square meter. This swarming behavior makes them valuable food sources for many species of **whales** and seabirds. Humans have also begun to harvest krill for use as a dietary protein supplement.