



## Agenda Topics

Council Meeting, June 5-11, 2023

In-person in Sitka, Alaska, with remote participation opportunities

### **A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Council Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting and Council members will approve the agenda.

### **B. REPORTS – David Witherell**

In this section of the meeting, each agency represented on the Council provides a written and/or verbal management report. After all the reports, the public has a chance to provide comment, and the Council will discuss action they need to take, either at this point or at the end of the meeting.

#### **C1 BSAI Crab harvest specifications – Sarah Rheinsmith**

A team of technical experts (the Crab Plan Team) met in May to review scientific information and discuss the status and appropriate harvest level for 3 stocks: Western Aleutian Islands Red King Crab, Pribilof Islands Golden King Crab, and Aleutian Islands Golden King crab. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council will review the report and recommendations of the Plan Team and will set harvest limits based on that information.

#### **C2 Observer reports – Sara Cleaver**

The Council will hear a report reviewing the last year of the Observer Program along with recommendations for 2024. They will also review an analysis that discusses costs in the program, and hear reports and recommendations from committees that work with fisheries monitoring.

#### **C3 Crab C Share Recent Participation Requirement – Sarah Murrinan**

This action reviews possible changes for the holders of crab 'C shares' or crew shares, which currently must participate as active captains and crew onboard crab vessels. The C share holders have requested additional flexibility for these active participation requirements due to the reduction in available crew jobs.

#### **C4 BBRKC closure areas – Sam Cunningham**

The Council will review a paper that analyzes potential closure of certain Bering Sea areas that are important to the Bristol Bay Red King Crab stock. Two different alternatives look at closing different areas to trawl or all groundfish vessels, or to pot vessels fishing for Pacific cod. The Council will determine if additional information is needed in the analysis before scheduling final action at a future meeting.

#### **D1 Small sablefish release staff update – Sara Cleaver**

Staff is providing an update on a proposal to allow sablefish fishermen who want to be able to release small sablefish rather than retain them. The Council will provide feedback on how staff should prioritize work on this analysis and any changes to its scope, given the workload required and potential impacts to the fishery and conservation of the stock.

**D2 Programmatic EIS – Sara Cleaver and Nicole Watson**

In February 2023, the Council began considering an analysis of program-level impacts of Federal groundfish fisheries on the environment and potential policy changes, given both ecosystem and management changes that have occurred over the last 20 years. The Council will consider the Ecosystem Committee’s recommendations on a purpose and need statement and alternatives at this meeting.

**D3 Crew data collection (SSC Only) – Mike Fey**

In February, the Council reviewed ideas for implementation of a program to collect crew license data, crew compensation, crew positions, and quota lease costs across all Alaska fisheries. The Council asked the SSC to review the paper at this meeting, which evaluates the scale of data to be collected, the collection mechanism, cost/burden, and analytical value. The Council may decide whether to initiate an analysis at under the staff tasking agenda item.

**E Staff Tasking – Diana Evans, David Witherell**

The Council will listen to public testimony about existing and new management measures that the public may be interested in and will provide feedback to staff and the Council Chair about how to prioritize staff work on existing and new projects.

The Council will also review its committee membership and identify agendas for any upcoming committee meetings. The Council will also discuss whether to drop a meeting or make one virtual, beginning in 2025.