



## NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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# D2 Crab Rationalization Program Review Workplan

October 2023 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan  
Other Presenters: Darrell Brannan (Brannan & Associates; lead)  
Action Required: 1. Review workplan  
2. Provide any feedback to the proposed scope or content

## BACKGROUND

The Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) is a Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) which was implemented on March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10174). The CR Program was developed through the Council as a “voluntary three-pie cooperative” program intending to benefit harvesters, processors, and coastal communities through the allocation of nine BSAI crab fisheries. Program components include harvester and processor quota share allocations, IFQ and IPQ issuance, quota transfers, use caps, crab harvesting cooperatives, protections for Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, an arbitration system, monitoring, economic data collection, and Federal cost recovery fee collection.

Section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires formal and detailed review of LAPPs 5 years after the program’s implementation and then no less frequently than once every 7 years thereafter. Reviews are intended to objectively measure the success of the program by addressing issues raised in the LAPP’s problem statement and the standards set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the impact of this action on harvesting and processing sectors, and fishery dependent communities. Several program reviews have previously been conducted for the CR Program and the Council is scheduled to begin another review of the CR Program in 2023.

At this stage, a program review workplan has been prepared (see process illustrated on the next page). **The purpose of a program review workplan is to detail the legal requirements and guidance for the review, outline the proposed scope and content, and perhaps most importantly, provide an opportunity for the SSC, AP, Council, and public to weigh in on this proposed scope and content.** This feedback will inform the development of the review. The completed review will be considered at a Council meeting in early 2024. At that point, the SSC, AP, Council, and public may provide feedback on the review’s evaluation of the program objective and impacts as well as any changes recommended before the document is finalized. A program review is not an “action document”; any changes to the program that may be warranted which are highlighted during the review will be considered for action separately from the review. This could occur through the initiation of a discussion paper or an analysis.

Based on the approach detailed in the Program and Allocation Review Workplan<sup>1</sup> and approved by the Council in April 2023, this CR Program review will also satisfy the requirements for reviewing BSAI crab allocations that are required by NOAA allocation policy directive 01-119.

<sup>1</sup> <https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=56436ad5-c8d8-4383-b42d-7646f3811912.pdf&fileName=E%20Program%20and%20Allocation%20Review.pdf>

# NPFMC Program Reviews

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act requires program reviews initially after the first 5 years and then every 7 years for all Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs).

