

## **D1 BBRKC Information**

Council motion

April 9, 2022

The Council requests that each Bering Sea sector with crab mortality (directed crab fishery, Pacific cod sectors, AFA pollock, and A80) present the following to the Council in October 2022 as applicable:

- voluntary measures for implementation in 2023 and beyond to avoid BBRKC and reduce crab mortality in the non-directed fisheries
- measures in the directed crab fishery to reduce discard mortality of BBRKC
- description of research that would inform development of more flexible and effective spatial management measures; gear modifications to reduce impacts on the BBRKC stock, or to evaluate unobserved mortality in the trawl sector

The Council requests an expanded discussion paper that includes:

1. Analysis of the impacts of annual or seasonal closures to pelagic trawl, groundfish pot, and longline gear in the RKCSA including impacts on target catch, fishery timing relative to crab mating/molting, crab avoidance, and other PSC and non-target species.
2. Tables for all sources of BBRKC mortality across federal fisheries:
  - for the pot, longline and trawl groundfish fisheries, total estimated PSC in Registration Area T in numbers, proportion of total PSC in Zone 1, proportion of total PSC in RKCSA, estimated PSC mortality, and estimated proportion of the PSC that are female. Information should also be provided on fishery timing in relation to BBRKC molting and mating, estimated bottom contact of the gear, observer coverage rates, and assumed discard mortality rates.
  - for the directed BBRKC fishery and the Tanner fishery in the eastern subdistrict, estimated mortality presented in a revised version of Table 3-3 from the April 2022 discussion paper that contains total retained catch, total discards, discard mortality, proportion of discards that are female, observer coverage rate, and assumed discard mortality rate.
3. A discussion of scientific information needed to create dynamic closed areas, such as seasonal or annual shifting closed areas, to protect mature female BBRKC.
4. Information needed to allow the A80 sector to create rolling hotspot closure systems to avoid and reduce BBRKC PSC as well as the potential tradeoffs of doing so on encounter rates of halibut.
5. Provide information on the impact of groundfish predation on BBRKC.
6. Analysis of the impacts of:
  - prohibiting fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear in Area 512
  - establishing a PSC hard cap for the under 60' fixed gear sector and over 60' pot sector

The council requests the expanded discussion paper go to the SSC for review and comment if that can be accomplished without delaying council review and action.