

Draft SSC Report February 2024



C1 BSAI Crab

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Norton Sound Red King Crab

- Generally increasing trends in abundance over the last five years to average levels over the last 40 years.
- The SSC **recommends** Model 21.0 for harvest specifications, in agreement with the author and CPT, placing stock in Tier 4a
- Results from this model indicate that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

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- The SSC **supports** OFL and 30% buffer for ABC, in agreement with the author and CPT and consistent with last year.
- The SSC **recommends** the following:
 - Transition to GMACS is the top priority, clearly bridging between models.
 - Completion and consideration of maturity studies to inform future assessments.
 - Consider the use of time blocks for survey selectivity.
 - Exploration of spatiotemporal models to address imbalance in sampling among the different surveys.

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Aleutian Island Golden King Crab model runs

- The SSC **agrees** with the CPT recommended models 23.0a, 23.1, and 23.1b proposed to be brought forward for annual assessment of AIGKC.
- SSC **recommends** 23.2 be brought forward in the future, but not reviewed in May.
- The SSC appreciates the careful documentation of historical data
- The SSC **recommends** using the current CPUE standardization methods for final model runs in May/June
- The SSC **supports** recommendations by the CPT to explore on methods for addressing zero-inflated data, revisions to CPUE standardization, data weighting associated with tagging data and size composition data and continued improvements to GMACS.

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Balance of CPT Report

- The SSC **commends** the significant progress made on the GMACS and simpler modeling workshops
- The SSC **supports** the moving AIGKC model run review to September/October and NSRKC specifications to a virtual CPT meeting in November with SSC review in December
 - Highlight importance of NBS data for NSRKC and note that this change compressed annual timeline for survey data to be included in crab assessment
 - Accommodation for time in SSC October and December agenda
- The SSC also **supports** moving PIBKC from a 2-yr to a 4-yr assessment schedule (after October 2025)

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Balance of CPT Report

- At October 2023 meeting, the SSC had general comments related to:
 - consistency of survey time series across stocks, exploring the use of VAST across assessments, tracking previous SSC requests, development of risk tables and having authors available for questions during SSC review.
- The SSC ***thanks*** the CPT for their responsiveness and:
 - Supports the topic of VAST for the 2025 CPT modeling workshop and suggests consideration of VAST for CPUE standardization, fishery-dependent data, size-composition data
 - Looks forward to draft risk tables for October stocks and suggests the structure and placement of crab risk tables follow that of groundfish