

C1 BSAI Crab

Norton Sound Red King Crab Specifications

- ADF&G (2018) survey – lowest estimate of legal males, highest estimates of females and small (<76 mm CL) pre-recruits
- SSC **supports** new assessment model 18.2b
 - Uses all available data, including winter fishery data
- Tier 3 calculated but not recommended for this cycle
 - Uncertainties in male maturity
- Continue to use Tier 4, consistent with past assessments
 - **Retained catch OFL (2019) = 110 t**
 - **ABC (2019) = 90 t (20% buffer)**
 - Uncertainty in maturity, mortality, etc.

SSC Recommendations (Norton Sound)

SSC recommendations include:

- Explore methods to better analyze survey data
 - Handling of zero-catch stations; spatial analyses
- Improve retrospective analysis
 - Indications of bias; analyze >3 years
- Improve estimates of maturity
- Alternative approaches to natural mortality
 - Fixed M, all size groups; dome-shaped selectivity, etc.
- Fishery CPUE standardization should include recent market demand for larger crab

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

- Preliminary assessment: 3 alternatives including base model, change in CPUE standardization, and a pot bycatch rate
- CPT recommended dropping pot bycatch rate alternative as it was justified at the population level. The CPT suggested a new alternative involving new area definitions for CPUE standardization
- **The SSC concurred with the CPT**, which results in 3 alternatives for May/June: 18.0 Base model, 18.1 Revised CPUE standardization using fewer gear codes, 18.2 New area definitions for the CPUE standardization
- The SSC **suggested** exploration of geostatistical models, a leaving-one-out approach to identify the source of the large recruitment 3 years ago, explore the use of the industry survey for purposes other than stock assessment modeling, and **supports** CPT recommendations

St. Mathew Blue King Crab Rebuilding

- Two-year timeline required for development and implementation of a rebuilding plan, which began in October 2018
- The SSC **encourages** consistency between the methods used for assessment/status determination and those for projecting future recruitment and therefore rebuilding reference points and trajectories
- The SSC **supports** using biological and life history information to weight methods for projecting future recruitment
- The SSC identified the choice of 1- or 2-year determination of 'rebuilt' status as a policy decision
- The SSC **requested** the CPT to report the role of bycatch and bycatch rates, by fishery, in the rebuilding analysis to the extent practicable
- The SSC looks forward to reviewing this analysis in June

Other Crab Plan Team Items

- The SSC ***supports*** the continued development and transition to the GMACs framework for crab stock assessments
- The SSC ***requests*** a presentation on the ongoing Tanner crab MSE analysis, possibly in April 2020, to facilitate coordination between stock assessment and state harvest policy development
- The SSC strongly ***supports*** the outreach efforts made by the CPT during its January meeting in Nome, highlighting the value of such exchange to both scientists and stakeholders
- The January CPT meeting had to postpone several other key agenda items due to the government shutdown