
ADVISORY PANEL MOTIONS

OCTOBER 2022



C1 BSAI CRAB SPECS

The AP recommends the Council adopt the 2021 Crab SAFE Report, as well as, the 2022-23 OFL and ABC as recommended by the CPT and SSC for EBS Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, EBS Tanner Crab, St. Matthew Blue Crab, and Pribilof Islands Red King Crab.

The AP asks the Council to consider scenarios to urge and give ADF&G the flexibility to open all three EBS crab fisheries, be it small.

- *Motion passed 16-0*



C2 BSAI PCOD SMALL BOATS

The AP recommends the Council take final action and adopt their preliminary preferred alternative:

- Alternative 1: Status quo
- **Alternative 2: Redefine the current BSAI Pacific cod jig sector to include H&L/pot CVs less than or equal to:**
 - Option 1: 55' LOA**
 - Option 2: 56' LOA
 - **Suboption: B-season fishery would remain jig gear only fishery.**
- *Motion passed 12- 3.*



C3 TRAWL EM

The AP recommends the Council select Alternative 2 (electronic monitoring implemented on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the BS and GOA) as its preferred alternative for final action. The AP also supports the following elements as final policy decisions for the program:

- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for EM costs for those vessels that only participate in the GOA pollock fishery;
- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage pollock deliveries from GOA vessels using EM;
- Implementation of industry-managed incentive plans that provide a framework to meet the goal of avoiding exceedance of maximum retainable amounts (MRA) and GOA pollock trip limits; and
- Adoption of the revised (hybrid) annual opt-in approach, as presented by analysts, that allows for maximum flexibility for GOA vessels participating in the EM program.
- **~~1Independent speciation and enumeration of crab at the plant for any EM deliveries~~**

Amendment 1 - failed 7 -8

Main Motion passed 15-0



C4 GREENLAND TURBOT (1/2)

The AP recommends moving the Initial Review analysis forward for Final Action with the following revisions to the Purpose and Need Statement and to Alternative 2. Revisions are presented in ***bolded italics*** from the Council's February 2022 motion.

Purpose and Need

Whale depredation is precluding directed fishing for Greenland turbot by commercial hook-and-line (HAL) gear vessels in the Bering Sea. Participation in this fishery has been a significant source of income for a number of HAL CP vessels that primarily target Pacific cod. The importance of turbot fishing increased for these vessels as Pacific cod TACs in the Bering Sea saw major declines between 2012 and 2021. Although single pot gear is currently authorized for Greenland turbot, single pots have not been deployed because of their inefficiency in the depth and location where the fishery occurs. A regulatory amendment that would allow vessels to use longline pots when fishing for Greenland turbot would likely resolve the depredation problem and allow this fishery to resume. Other benefits of reduced whale depredation on Greenland turbot could include improved catch accounting for managers, and data quality for the Greenland turbot stock assessment. ***The use of longline pots could disrupt historic and current participants in the HAL CP and the Amendment 80 sectors. This could result in fishery closures and undermine the intent of this action to allow harvest by active participants. Limiting the use of longline pots in the Bering Sea to only the HAL CP sector when directed fishing for Greenland turbot would allow active participants to continue to participate in the fishery, without increasing the potential for new fishery conflicts.***



C4 GREENLAND TURBOT (2/2)

Alternatives

- Alternative 1. No action (longline pot gear is not authorized for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea).
- Alternative 2. Authorize the use of longline pot gear ***only for vessels in the HAL CP sector*** when directed fishing for Greenland turbot in the Bering Sea subarea.
 - Option 1. Exemption from the 9-inch maximum tunnel opening restriction. (The 9-inch maximum tunnel opening requirement does not apply to longline pots used to directed fish for Greenland turbot in the BS subarea.

Motion passed 14-0



C5 GROUND FISH SPECS

Motion 1:

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2023 and 2024 BSAI groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and set TACs, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of 2023 final specifications from 2022/2023 harvest specifications. The TACs for both BS and AI Pacific cod have been adjusted to account for the State water GHL fisheries. The TAC for sablefish has been reduced in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands by 5% to accommodate the GHL fishery.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed flatfish ABC reserves, 2023 and 2024 annual and seasonal PSC limits and apportionments in the BSAI as provided in Tables 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Finally, the AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2023 and 2024 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the BSAI as shown in Table 12. Tables 7 - 12 are found in the meeting agenda under C-5.

Motion passed 16-0



C5 GROUND FISH SPECS

Motion 2:

The AP recommends the Council adopt the proposed 2023 and 2024 Gulf of Alaska groundfish specifications for OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC and set TACs as shown in the handout, with all proposed specifications consisting of rollovers of final specifications from 2022. The TACs for both Gulf of Alaska cod and Pollock have been adjusted to account for the State water GHF fisheries. The Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod adjustments are shown in Table 2.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the proposed 2023 and 2024 annual and seasonal Pacific halibut PSC limits and apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska as provided in Tables 9, 10, and 11 and the proposed 2023 and 2024 halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) for the Gulf of Alaska in Table 12.

All tables are shown in the GOA 2023 and 2024 plan team proposed tables document as provided by Council staff.

Motion passed 16-0



C5 GROUND FISH SPECS

Motion 3:

The AP recommends the Council wait to break out DSR Rockfish and create a Gulf-wide complex until the full Other Rockfish assessment occurs in the 2023 Plan Team cycle. Additional information should be brought back regarding impacts to the remaining Other Rockfish.

Motion passed 16-0



D2 BBRKC DISCUSSION PAPER (1/5)

The AP recommends the Council provide direction to agencies, managers, and industry to prioritize BSAI crab as a species of conservation concern. The AP reiterates our April 2022 short-term, narrow recommendation to help BBRKC rebuild from a level of serious conservation concern. The AP also recommends a more comprehensive longer-term action to improve BSAI crab stock management to help those stocks rebuild.

DIRECTION

The AP recommends the Council provide policy direction to agencies, managers, and industry to increase BSAI crab as a priority species for monitoring and bycatch avoidance. Crab should be a higher priority given its level of conservation concern and stock status. Crab should at least be ranked above halibut and herring, which are not at a level of conservation concern.

SHORT-TERM

For the short-term to provide more immediate benefits to the BBRKC stock, the AP recommends initiating a review of a proposed action to close the RKCSA/RKCSS to additional gears to reduce bycatch and fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat. A proposed purpose and need statement and alternatives are provided below.

D2 SHORT TERM (2/5)

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to apply additional gear-based closure measures to the RKSCA/RKCSS, an area that continues to be important to BBRKC, to reduce bycatch and fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this proposed action is to reduce fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat in an area known to be important to BBRKC. This action is needed because the BBRKC stock has declined to a level of serious conservation concern, and the number of female BBRKC has been declining for over a decade to the point where abundance levels forced the closure of the directed fishery. The intent is to restore and sustain the BBRKC stock by reducing impacts on molting and mating crab needed to improve reproduction, by providing protections to improve recruitment, by protecting habitat, and by building in resilience to changing environmental conditions, predation, and fishing pressure. In considering this action, potential fishing impacts to the stock and habitat will be examined to understand the effects of these impacts and to assess proposed closure measures.



D2 SHORT TERM (3/5)

Alternatives

Alternative 1 – Status Quo/No Action

Alternative 2 – Close the RKCSA/RKCSS to additional gears to reduce bycatch and fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat.

- ~~(2)Option A – Prohibit all gear, except pot gear during directed crab fisheries, from the RKCSA.~~
- ~~(2)Option B – Prohibit pelagic trawl gear from the RKCSA at any time. In years when the directed fishery is closed, prohibit pelagic trawl gear from the RKCSS. This option is consistent with existing requirements for non-pelagic trawl gear.~~
- ~~(2)Option C – In years when the directed crab fishery is closed, prohibit all gears except longline gear from the RKCSA/RKCSS.~~
- **(2)Option A – Prohibit all groundfish pot gear.**
- **(2)Option B Prohibit all gear, except crab pot gear during directed crab fisheries, from the RKCSA .**
- **(2)Option C - Prohibit pelagic trawl gear from the RKCSA at any time. In years when the directed fishery is closed, prohibit pelagic trawl gear from the RKCSS. This option is consistent with existing requirements for non-pelagic trawl gear.**
- **(2)Option D – In years when the directed crab fishery is closed, prohibit all gears except HAL gear from the RKCSA/RKCSS.**

(3) Alternative 3 - Based on new survey information, analyze whether the boundaries of the red king crab savings area are appropriate or should be revised.



D2 LONG TERM (4/5)

LONGER-TERM

For the longer term, the AP recommends the Council initiate action on comprehensive management measures for all BSAI crab, with a focus on rebuilding BBRKC (1) and snow crab.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to help rebuild BSAI crab stocks through fishery management measures such as spatial-temporal closures (static and dynamic), alignment of stock management boundaries, and improved bycatch management to reduce bycatch and fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this proposed action is to reduce fishing impacts on crab and crab habitat. This action is needed because BSAI crab stocks are at historic lows, closed, or overfished and fishing impacts may be inhibiting rebuilding and harming important crab habitat. (1) Eastern Bering Sea snow crab was declared overfished in October 2021. The rebuilding plan to be implemented by October 2023 will determine the rebuilding timelines (T_{min} , T_{max} , T_{target}) but does not include new management measures to rebuild the stock as fast as possible while balancing the needs of fishing communities. The BBRKC stock, while not overfished under the federal definition, has declined to a level of serious conservation concern that closes the directed fishery due to a low abundance of female BBRKC. The number of female BBRKC has been declining for over a decade. The Bairdi stock while not overfished remains at low abundance levels. The intent of this action is to restore and sustain the BSAI crab stocks by reducing impacts on molting and mating crab, by providing protections to improve recruitment, by protecting habitat, and by building in resilience to changing environmental conditions, predation, and fishing pressure. In considering this action, potential fishing impacts to the stock and habitat will be examined to understand the effects of these impacts and to assess proposed measures.



D2 LONG TERM (5/5)

Alternatives

Alternative 1 – Status Quo/No Action

Alternative 2 – Closed Areas (static or dynamic)

Close areas to protect crab habitat, broodstock, high density areas of female or male crab, molting and mating crab, or other key life stages at times of low abundance. Closures could be static or dynamic, such as seasonal or annual shifting closed areas, as appropriate.

Alternative 3 – Align Stock Management Boundaries

Create consistency in stock management for the crab fishery, stock assessment, and bycatch measures by aligning the crab PSC limit boundaries with the crab stock management area and stock assessment boundary.

Alternative 4 - Improve Bycatch Management

Revise bycatch management to create stronger incentives to avoid crab. At a minimum, improve prohibited species catch (PSC) limit management by removing PSC limit floors, updating limits based on current status of the stocks, and managing PSC across a stocks range. For the directed crab fishery, add a 10% carryover provision to the Crab Rationalization Program to reduce directed fishery discards and increase flexibility.

This proposed action should include an economic analysis of impacts to the directed crab fishery and fishing communities when considering the tradeoffs of moving other sectors off crab to balance net benefits to the nation.

Main Motion as amended passed 11-5



E STAFF TASKING

Motion 1

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council designate two Alaska Native Tribal seats on the Advisory Panel to ensure an equitable opportunity to share Alaska Native Tribal perspectives as well as to benefit the Advisory Panel's suite of expertise.

Motion passed 9-7

Motion 2

The AP recommends that the Council initiate a discussion paper on a regulatory proposal to decrease the Steller Sea Lion closure around the haulout around **(1) ~~the Central Gulf of Alaska~~** Sutwik Island from 20 miles-to 3 miles.

Amendment 1 failed 8-8 (to add Central Gulf of Alaska and strikeout Sutwik Island from 20 miles)

Motion passed 16-0



E STAFF TASKING

Motion 3

The AP recommends that the Council requests NMFS suspend the recent policy change to establish a minimum age of 18 years old for the issuance of a Transfer Eligibility Certificate (TEC) until more information can be brought forward.

Motion passed 16-0

Motion 4

Move to approve the AP minutes from the June 2022 meeting.

Motion passed 16-0

