



C1 BSAI Crab Specifications

June 2019

Action Memo

Staff: Jim Armstrong (specifications/Crab PT), Diana Stram (SMBKC rebuilding)

Other Presenters: Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair),
Martin Dorn (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)

Action Required: 1. Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab – Specify OFL/ABC
2. Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab – Specify OFL/ABC
2. BSAI Crab Plan Team Report – review
3. St Matthew Blue King Crab rebuilding plan – progress report, consider alternatives

BACKGROUND

Specifications and Crab Plan Team report

The Crab Plan Team met April 29 – May 3, 2019 to review the stock assessments for Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) and Pribilof Islands blue king crab (PIBKC) and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks ([CPT Meeting Agenda](#)). The SAFE report introductions for AIGKC & PIBKC as well as the assessment themselves are attached.

The Team also reviewed several additional issues at this meeting, including

- Saint Matthew blue king crab rebuilding (see below)
- Model discussions and scenarios for final assessments in September for:
 - Bristol Bay red king crab
 - Pribilof Islands red king crab
 - Eastern Bering Sea Snow crab
 - Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab
 - St Matthew blue king crab
- Catch sampling and estimation, CIE reviews, BSFRF research, crab partial offloads, ecosystem status reports, GMACS, crab shell condition issues, timeframe selection for B_{MSY} inputs, fieldwork and qualitative modeling for PIBKC, VAST modeling, and Tanner crab genetics

The full report from the Crab Plan Team is attached.

St Matthew Blue King Crab Rebuilding Progress

The Council was officially notified that Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC) was overfished on October 22, 2018. This begins the 2-year period for development and implementation of the rebuilding plan for this stock. The plan must specify a time to rebuild, which should not exceed 10 years, unless this cannot be accomplished in the absence of all fishing mortality. ADFG, NMFS and Council staff have been working to develop this rebuilding plan and specifically to identify the mandatory T_{MIN} (minimum time to rebuild to B_{MSY} in the absence of all fishing mortality). Additional provisions that may be

considered in a rebuilding plan include groundfish and crab bycatch minimization measures, habitat protection measures and potentially other management considerations. A presentation of progress to date to determine T_{MIN} , T_{MAX} , rebuilding benchmarks, harvest strategy considerations and what additional factors should be considered in a rebuilding plan will be provided based upon work presented to the CPT in May. A number of recommendations are summarized in the CPT report. At this meeting the Council will begin to draft a purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis. Initial review is scheduled for October 2019.