

C1 BSAI Crab Management

The AP recommends the Council adopt the OFLs and ABCs for Pribilof Islands Golden King Crab, Western Aleutian Islands Red King Crab, and Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab as recommended by the CPT and SSC. Motion carried 21/0.

The AP recommends the Council initiate a discussion paper on removing Red King Crab in the Adak District of Area O east of 179 West from the BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP. Motion carried 11/10.

Rationale:

- Responsive to request from public testimony and ACDC comment letter.
- Removing this area could allow the State of Alaska to take full management responsibility for RKC management.
- A discussion paper could help guide data necessary to establish a fishery in this region.

Minority Report: A minority of the AP felt that initiation of a discussion paper to remove Adak District red king crab from the Federal BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP was premature at this time and had the following rationale:

- There is no biological information to support a stock split at this time. Specifically, there is currently no way to determine overfished status because estimates for MMB and MSST do not exist. Additionally, there are concerns with a lack of data on abundance, genetics, larval drift, and the appropriate definition of a stock.
- In recent years, because of the extreme uncertainty associated with this stock, there was a 75% buffer between the OFL and ABC. Currently, the single OFL is the only management measure available and in place for protection of this stock. Even under a single OFL, separate spatial management is still available, such as through the use of separate ABCs.
- An industry supported reconnaissance survey will provide much needed initial information to guide potential future action this issue; therefore, initiation of any action should at least wait until this data is available.
- Action taken by the BOF in March 2014 established management measures for a state water Adak District RKC fishery as long as a biomass threshold for opening the fishery was met; therefore, a fishery is possible without action to remove this district from the FMP.

Signed by: Ruth Christiansen, Jerry Downing, John Gruver, Craig Lowenberg, Andy Mezirow, Paddy O'Donnell, Joel Peterson, Matt Upton, Anne Vanderhoeven, Sinclair Wilt.