

Council motion on combined agenda items:

C-1(b) Discussion paper on Bristol Bay red king crab

C-2(a) Crab bycatch limits in BSAI groundfish fisheries

February 7, 2013

The Council requests an expanded discussion paper to evaluate the existing fixed and triggered closure areas for Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea Tanner, Bering Sea snow crab, and St. Matthew blue king crab, including information on recent stock distribution and the distribution and amount of PSC in the trawl and fixed gear groundfish fisheries.

Elements to include:

- Proportion of PSC by trawl and fixed gear fisheries inside and outside of the closure areas.
- A more detailed history of the closures to help identify the fraction of historical fisheries that occurred in these areas as well as their crab PSC.

With regard to ACLs and TAC setting, the Council recognizes that while the State of Alaska is primarily responsible for management of the crab fisheries, they do not manage the groundfish fisheries in the EEZ and have limited ability to project crab bycatch mortality in those fisheries. The Council recommends that the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team and the State work together, such that the BSAI Groundfish Plan Team would provide estimates of crab bycatch mortality in the groundfish fisheries, to help reduce the uncertainty in the estimates used by the State during TAC setting.