North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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C5 BSAI Crab Specifications – Norton Sound Red King Crab

February 2021

Action Memo

Staff: Jim Armstrong

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

Action Required: 1. Norton Sound Red King Crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2021

2. Crab Plan Team Report for the January 2021 meeting - review

BACKGROUND

The BSAI Crab Plan Team held an online meeting January 11-14, 2021 (Meeting Agenda) to review the stock assessment for Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC) and recommend OFL and ABC for 2021 for SSC and Council approval. The Final 2021 NSRKC SAFE chapter and Intro section are attached. The SSC will also provide a response to draft model scenarios for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab assessment, which will be finalized at the May Crab Plan Team meeting, for SSC and Council review in June.

At the January meeting, the Team also reviewed the following issues:

- Crab survey planning for 2021
- Crab survey data collection length-weight relationships
- Risk matrix considerations for crab
- ABSC fishery questionnaire, improving stakeholder input to CPT
- VAST model updates with diagnostics
- Crab Economic SAFE
- IBM snow crab model
- Bering Sea Fishery Research Fund update on projects
- Tagging studies update by NMFS, ADF&G
- Climate change and crab management considerations
- Crab PSC in groundfish fisheries
- Research priorities
- Terms of Reference for crab stock assessments- discussion
- Stock assessment prioritization and frequency- discussion
- Modeling workshop (<u>agenda</u>)

The full report from the Crab Plan Team is attached. Please note also that the economic fishery evaluation that is part of Crab SAFE report will be reviewed at this meeting under Council Agenda Item D4.