

Table 1 Ten BSAI crab stocks: Schedule for review by the CPT and SSC and Assessment frequency

| <i>Stock</i> | <i>CPT review and recommendations to SSC</i> | <i>SSC review and recommendations to Council</i> | <i>Assessment frequency</i> | <i>Year of next Assessment</i> |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC)</i> | January | February | Annual | 2018 |
| <i>Aleutian Is. golden king crab (AIGKC)</i> | May | June | Annual | 2018 |
| <i>Pribilof Is. golden king crab (PIGKC)</i> | May | June | Triennial | 2020 |
| <i>Western Aleutian Is. red king crab (WAIRKC)</i> | May | June | Triennial | 2020 |
| <i>EBS snow crab</i> | September | October | Annual | 2018 |
| <i>Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC)</i> | September | October | Annual | 2018 |
| <i>EBS Tanner crab</i> | September | October | Annual | 2018 |
| <i>Pribilof Is. red king crab (PIRKC)</i> | September | October | Biennial | 2019 |
| <i>Pribilof Is. blue king crab (PIBKC)</i> | September | October | Triennial | 2020 |
| <i>Saint Matthew blue king crab (SMBKC)</i> | September | October | Annual | 2018 |

Based upon the assessment frequency described in Table 1, the CPT provides recommendations on OFL, acceptable biological catch (ABC) and stock status specifications for review by the NPFMC Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) in February (NSRKC) and June (WAIRKC, PIGKC) and October (BBRKC, EBS Snow crab, EBS Tanner crab, SMBKC, PIRKC, PIBKC, AIGKC). The rationale for this staggered review process is the following: The stocks with summer fisheries as well as those established on catch data only have specifications set in June. The stocks which employ data from the EBS NMFS trawl survey thus cannot be assessed until survey data are available in early September. Summer catch data for NSRKC however are not available in time for fall specifications, nor is assessing this stock with the June timing feasible as the CDQ fishery can open as early as May thus this stock is assessed in the winter. Additional information on the OFL and ABC determination process is contained in this report.

The CPT met from September 18-21, 2017 in Seattle, WA to review the final stock assessments as well as additional related issues, in order to provide the recommendations and status determinations contained in this SAFE report. This final 2017 Crab SAFE report contains all recommendations for all 10 stocks including those whose OFL and ABC were previously determined in February and June 2017. This SAFE report will be presented to the NPFMC in October for their annual review of the status of BSAI Crab stocks. Members of the team who participated in this review include the following: Bob Foy (Chair), Karla Bush (Vice-Chair), Katie Pavlof, Miranda Westphal, Brian Garber-Yonts, Ginny Eckert, Krista Milani, André Punt, Buck Stockhausen, Ben Daly, Martin Dorn, Shareef Siddeek, Jack Turnock and Diana Stram.

