



B8 Industry Reports on 2023 Crab Avoidance

December 2023

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham
Other Presenters: Groundfish or crab fishing industry participants
Action Required: Review input, and action as necessary

BACKGROUND

In October 2022 the Council passed a motion acknowledging the low stock status of several key BSAI crab species and the impact of that status on harvesters, processors, and communities that depend on commercial crab fisheries. The Council noted that ecosystem and temperature changes are likely the primary driver of poor recruitment and low abundance of Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern Bering Sea snow crab, but also highlighted the need for conservation efforts within commercial groundfish and crab fisheries.

As part of the October 2022 motion, the Council encouraged participants from both the groundfish and crab sectors to provide a status report on the efficacy of measures taken in 2023 to avoid crab and reduce crab mortality (groundfish fisheries) and reduce discard mortality (crab fisheries). The Council is accepting voluntary written reports – submitted as comments by the Council written comment deadline (noon on December 1st) – and oral reports under the B8 agenda item at the December 2023 meeting. **Please contact Sam Cunningham or Council administrative staff (npfmc.admin@noaa.gov), by the mid-morning break on Thursday, December 7, if you would like to provide an oral report.**