


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: March 27, 2006

SUBJECT: PNCIAC report

ESTIMATED TIME
4 HOURS
ALL B ITEMS

ACTION REQUIRED

Receive PNCIAC Report, Review and Approve Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) met in Seattle on February 23, 2006 to discuss pertinent issues in the BSAI crab fisheries. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Item B-8 (a). Minutes and the related attachments from the meeting are included as Item B-8(b). The PNCIAC had previously revised their committee's Terms of Reference in September, 2003 and seeks Council review and approval of these at this meeting. The revised PNCIAC Terms of Reference are attached as Item B-8(c).

Steve Minor, the chair of the PNCIAC, will be available to give the PNCIAC report and summarize changes to their terms of reference.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)**

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January 23, 2005

PNCIAC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The PNCIAC will convene a meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at Leif Erikson Hall in Seattle, from 9:00 AM to 2 PM. The meeting is open to the public.

Staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the NPFMC are invited to participate in the discussions with industry representatives.

AGENDA:

1. Discussion of Bristol Bay king crab harvest strategy and 2005 season management concerns.
2. Discussion of Bering Sea opilio crab harvest strategy and management concerns as outlined in the ADFG correspondence of October 18, 2005 (Wayne Donaldson).
3. Discussion and recommendation on the ACC proposal before the Board of Fisheries to review and consider adjusting or eliminating the minimum TAC for reopening the Eastern District (Bristol Bay) bairdi fishery, in light of the implementation of the rationalization program, the development of cooperatives and the reduced fleet size.

It is the intention of the chair, Steve Minor, to establish a working group(s) to coordinate with harvesters and processors, and the ADFG Westward Region staff to resolve fisheries management concerns regarding the harvest strategies for these important fisheries. The PNCIAC will be reconvened at a later date, following appropriate public notice, to hear a report from the working group and to make recommendations on the harvest strategies to ADFG. We are aware that three PNCIAC harvester representatives will be involved in the snow crab fishery and unavailable for the meeting. If you would like to participate in a working group, please call or send us an email to that effect.

Current PNCIAC members are: Steve Minor, Keith Colbern, Lance Farr, Phil Hanson, Kevin Kaldestad, Garry M. Loncon, Gary Painter, Rob Rogers, Vic Scheibert, Clyde Sterling, Gary Stewart, Tom Suryan, and Arni Thomson, Secretary.

For additional information contact:

Steve Minor, Chair, PNCIAC at 360 440 4737 and email at steve@wafro.com or Arni Thomson, Secretary, PNCIAC, at 206 547 7560 and email at: accrabak@earthlink.net

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Minutes of the PNCIAC Meeting of February 23, 2006

Region and Fisheries: Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands king and tanner crab fisheries

Committee members present: Steve Minor, Chair; Lance Farr, Phil Hanson; Kevin Kaldestad; Gary Painter; Gary Stewart; Rob Rogers; Vic Scheibert; Tom Suryan; Clyde Sterling; Arni Thomson, Secretary; absent, Keith Colbern and Garry M. Loncon.
(See attached contact list of PNCIAC members.)

Agency representatives present: ADFG, Doug Woodby; Doug Pengilly; Forrest Bowers, via teleconference; Bill Tweit, Washington State Representative to the NPFMC.

Industry present: (Attendance list attached.)

The Chair, Steve Minor opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

1. Approval of agenda, with additions of two presentations: Gunnar Knapp, University of Alaska, ISER, overview of the crab rationalization impacts to City of Kodiak and the Aleutians East Borough; and a presentation by John Sackton, CEO, Seafood.com on markets for king and snow crab.

2. Gunnar Knapp presentation:

- Phase 1, Kodiak overview, to be completed by March 27, 2006; Phase II, to be completed by August 2006; for the Aleutians East Borough, to be completed August 2006.
- Overview of studies: For Kodiak, fishing employment, fishing compensation, sales of Kodiak businesses; for King Cove, Akutan and False Pass, all types of economic and social impacts.
- The studies will not:
 1. Argue for or against crab rationalization
 2. Argue for or against management changes
 3. Claim to be a comprehensive analysis of crab rationalization
 4. Claim to be an analysis of long-term effects of rationalization

5. Analyze effects of crab rationalization on markets or prices
6. Analyze effects of crab rationalization on safety
7. Analyze effects of processor shares (except on study of communities)

- The studies will:

1. Make preliminary estimates of selected impacts of crab rationalization on four Alaska communities
2. The Kodiak study focuses on three specific economic impacts of crab rationalization on Kodiak in the 2005-2006 season:
 - A. Employment of Kodiak residents as captains and crew
 - B. Income of Kodiak residents working as captains and crew
 - C. Sales of Kodiak businesses

- Gunnar Knapp welcomes contacts from crab vessel owners, about questions, concerns and suggestions about these studies. His phone number is 907 786 7717. His email address is: Gunnar.Knapp@uaa.alaska.edu

- Mr. Knapp is particularly interested in economic data on payment to captains and crew prior to rationalization, and vessel operating costs and subsequently, the same cost breakdowns during the first season of rationalized king crab fisheries.

2. Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal #395.

PNCIAC reviewed the ACC proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Proposal 395), to reduce or eliminate the minimum TAC for reopening the Eastern District bairdi fishery.

Doug Pengilly clarified that the minimum TAC for bairdi in the Eastern district is separate from the bairdi rebuilding plan for the Eastern district stock. Therefore, it requires only a Board of Fisheries action. However, the minimum TAC requirement for reopening the St. Matthew blue king crab fishery is a component of the rebuilding plan. This means it is a Category 2 issue and requires Board of Fisheries action and concurrent Council action with development of an FMP amendment, a lengthy process. Doug was fairly confident that the same FMP process applied for the Pribilof Islands blue and red king crab fisheries.

In response to a question about reducing the minimum TAC for opilio crab, Forrest Bowers clarified that reducing this minimum TAC would result in very little if any additional harvest, because at the present minimum TAC level the stock is likely at the minimum mature biomass threshold for opening the fishery.

MOTION TO SUPPORT BOF PROPOSAL #395 PASSED UNANIMOUS.

Rationale: The rationale for the proposal is that the minimum TAC was originally implemented as a management control measure with open access fisheries and a fleet of 280 vessels. The bairdi harvest strategy and the rebuilding plan provides for a key conservation measure for the reopening of the fishery, of a minimum mature stock

biomass of 21 million pounds and a conservative harvest rate of 5 percent of the exploitable legal males. With the implementation of the crab rationalization program and the reduced fleet size with the development of cooperatives, previous inseason management control measures are not needed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUS, St. Matthew Island, and Pribilof Islands king crab fisheries: PNCIAC then adopted a motion to request that ADFG clarify the process required to change the minimum TAC for reopening the St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery and the Pribilof Islands blue and red king crab fisheries by the May 2006 Crab Plan Team meeting in Seattle.

3. John Sackton presentation: (See the attached Urner-Barry's Comtell Price Reports, best estimate of Alaska king crab--note the 12-14 count; and Alaska snow crab wholesale price market tables 2002-2006)

- John Sackton began with saying that unlike the surimi market, the crab market does not have well defined grading standards, indicating that the industry could benefit from the development of standards.
- The presentation dealt almost exclusively with marketing concepts, with very little mention of market prices.
- He began by saying that king crab and opilio crab markets are two different animals. Almost all king crab is sold in the shell, there is no meat market as once existed. However, snow crab is sold both in the shell and meat blocks.
- There is no established market for No. 2 king crab. Marketing No. 2 king crab will require market analysis and market development. It is not an overnight process, and the more #2 crab that enters the market, the more it is likely to impact the #1 price.
- Alaska does not control the opilio market, Russia and Eastern Canada do.
- Japan prefers Alaskan opilio because of the large size and perfect shell condition as compared to the smaller Canadian crab. However, Alaska snow crab represents only the smallest sector of the Japanese market.
- Russian imports into Japan, live and frozen, seem to control the market place.
- The Canadian crab is marketed differently in the U.S than is the Alaskan crab. The "all you can eat" buffet-style restaurants do not like small sections because the consumers take too much, because it looks small and the restaurant has a lot of throw-aways, or wastage. Canadian crab is more easily moved in supermarkets and two-pound retail packs.
- The Chinese meat extraction arena seems to prefer the smaller Canadian crab for the sushi market. If Alaska is going to enter this business in a larger way by reducing the size and or grading standards, this may require a dramatic change in the market place.
- Sackton also noted that the snow crab price formula in Eastern Canada is a negotiated formula that allows for up to 20 percent small crab, but above that fishermen are penalized on the price. As a result, no one goes above the 20 percent level. Sackton also noted that up to the 20 percent level, fishermen have been receiving the same price for small crab as for large crab.

4. Bristol Bay king crab harvest strategy, and efforts to improve retention.

Steve Minor opened this section by pointing out that:

- The industry is using longer soak times and “bottom sorting” since the implementation of crab rationalization, which should be reducing the incidental catch of sub-legal crabs.
- We now have a safer fishery because the race for fish is over, as witnessed during the early February ice coverage of the snow crab grounds, resulting in almost a complete voluntary shutdown of the fishery. What we need now are better and more efficient quota transfer mechanisms, stronger markets and some equilibrium in lease rates.
- We also need to improve retention of #2 crab, which is what this agenda item will begin to address.

The discussion was then opened:

In response to questions about the market potential for No. 2, dark shell king crab, Sackton noted that in the past the meat market for king crab has been very successful, meaning profitable. However, there are alternative lower value meat products on the market today that present competition for developing a king crab meat market. Sackton noted examples such as pasteurized swimming blue crab that is sold in one pound tins.

A few PNCIAC members suggested 100% retention of legal king crab, along with 100 percent observer coverage, as one solution suggested for consideration to minimize discarding and high-grading, and to optimize value from the fishery.

PNCIAC members raised questions with ADFG regarding their concerns about the king crab discard issue and whether they had any preliminary information about the extent of discarding in the Bristol Bay king crab fishery. ADFG consistently responded that they do not have any preliminary estimates, only anecdotal information from observers, port samplers and fishermen. Pengilly noted that they did not think the observer analysis report on the Bristol Bay king crab fishery would be completed until the May 16-18th Crab Plan Team meeting in Seattle.

Pengilly, in response to questions explained that the effects of discarding and high-grading of large males is part of the larger issue of “fishery selectivity impacts” and the increased by-catch mortality associated with increased fishery selectivity on the overall biomass. If fishery selectivity and by-catch mortality has significantly increased, ADFG will take that into consideration in the TAC setting process.

Pengilly further clarified that the current Bristol Bay king crab harvest strategy provides the flexibility for ADFG to utilize new information (observer and port sampler data) to make the necessary adjustments in mortality estimates, to reflect the changes in

selectivity. This can result in adjustments to the TAC next season. (ADFG does not have to seek the Crab Plan Team's recommendations nor does this require action by the Board of Fisheries.)

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUS: PNCIAC to schedule a follow-up meeting, after the Crab Plan Team meeting, to begin addressing improved retention strategies. In addition, PNCIAC members to act as an industry "committee of the whole" to begin scoping fleet alternatives for improved (or 100%) retention in the Bristol Bay king crab fishery.

Following the motion, PNCIAC also noted that correspondence will be sent to the Commissioner of ADFG, with a copy of the minutes to inform him of the committee's priority interest in resolving the discard and high-grading issue prior to next season. PNCIAC also noted that they will be communicating with crab cooperative managers to invite their input and assistance.

3. Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal 396.

MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY: PNCIAC endorsed the BBEDC CDQ proposal, that will allow up to three percent overage for CDQ fisheries, to be consistent with the non-CDQ fisheries overage provision—endorsement based on the rationale this proposal is to correct an unforeseen consequence of the interpretation of the regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Steve Minor, Chair,
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

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2005-2006**

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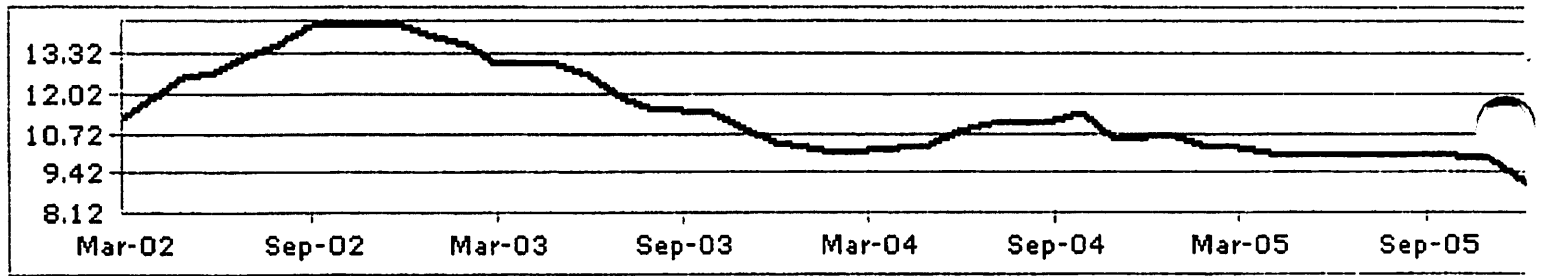
NAME	VESSEL/COMPANY
Jake Jacobsen	BSAO
PHIL HANSON	UNI SEA
DALE SCHWARZMILLER	PETER PAN SEAFOODS
JOHN SACKTON	SEAFOOD. COM
Kevin Kaldestad	PNEIAC
Emilie Sprunger	U Washington / AFSC
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Gary Stewart	Alan Radey
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DAVE HANSEN	TURBENT.
Bill Weisfeld	WARDS COVE / A/YESKA
Gary Painter	F/V Trailblazer
Devin A. Hollett III	F/V Being Star
Big Tugit	NPFCO
Paul Juppy	PRO SURVIVOR
Jan Pafemin	PRO SURVIVOR
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Linda Kozak	Kozak & ASSOC.
Malcolm McLellan	AKCrab processor AO
Edward Poulsen	F/V Arctic Sea
GLENN REED	PSA
Lynn Langford, Walton	Ocean Ballad
David Harris	Arctic Mariner
PYANN PROVENZANO	PUGET SOUND ACCTS

NAME	VESSEL / COMPANY
_____	_____
Ray Toste	WA. Dungeness Crab Fishers Assn
Jim Michaels	Viking Bank
LANCE A Mylander	Dungeness Gear Works INC
DWG WELLS	BARACK
Jim Stone	FN Ocean Hunter
Jan Mattsen	FN New Venture
Tim Kennedy	FW Mystery Bay
Margaret Hall	FIU Provider
Bob Alverson	FWA / scattered
Tom Sanyari	Bristol Manner / SEA

Urner Barry's Comtell Price Reports: Crab, Snow, Alaskan Cluster, C. Opilio, Ocean Run 5 Ounce & Up (Wholesale Prices)

2006 ▾	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>5-Yr Avg</u>	<u>SF 3Yr</u>	<u>SF 5Yr</u>
<u>January</u>	3.000	4.850		4.270	4.050	4.043	112%	104%
<u>February</u>	3.007	4.488	5.250	4.750	3.908	4.281	105%	103%
<u>March</u>		4.330	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.570	105%	103%
<u>April</u>		4.194	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.536	103%	102%
<u>May</u>		4.150	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.525	103%	101%
<u>June</u>		4.150	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.525	103%	101%
<u>July</u>		3.981	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.483	101%	100%
<u>August</u>		3.789	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.435	98%	99%
<u>September</u>		3.750	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.425	98%	99%
<u>October</u>		3.575	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.381	95%	98%
<u>November</u>		3.383	5.250	4.750	3.950	4.333	93%	97%
<u>December</u>		3.150	5.250		3.950	4.117	90%	93%

UB Crab, Red King, Leg & Claw, 12-14 Count



2006	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	5-Yr Avg	SF 3Yr	S
<u>January</u>	8.806	10.563	10.250	13.872	10.830	10.864	101%	1
<u>February</u>	8.681	10.263	10.031	13.600	11.000	10.715	99%	
<u>March</u>	8.200	10.200	10.111	13.000	11.188	10.540	97%	
<u>April</u>		10.063	10.250	13.000	11.956	11.317	99%	
<u>May</u>		10.000	10.313	13.000	12.500	11.453	99%	1
<u>June</u>		10.000	10.750	12.594	12.675	11.505	101%	1
<u>July</u>		10.000	11.000	11.900	13.278	11.545	102%	1
<u>August</u>		10.000	11.000	11.500	13.611	11.528	102%	1
<u>September</u>		10.000	11.083	11.500	14.175	11.690	102%	1
<u>October</u>		10.000	11.406	11.383	14.235	11.756	104%	1
<u>November</u>		9.878	10.538	10.825	14.300	11.385	99%	1
<u>December</u>		9.094	10.600	10.440	14.239	11.093	95%	
Yearly: Avg	8.717	9.999	10.616	12.194	12.834	11.306		

**PNCIAC Comments on Crab Rationalization for the
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Steve Minor, Chair, PNCIAC
March 18, 2006**

In addition to providing a summary of the PNCIAC minutes of their meeting of February 23, 2006 in Seattle, Washington, I have been asked by the Board of Fisheries to present a brief overview of the crab industry, after six months of operating under the crab rationalization program.

There is a lot that is going right with the program, and a few things that need revision. I am reminded of the first two to three years of transition and stress when the American Fisheries Act was authorized to rationalize the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock fishery—an Act that is now considered one of the most successful rationalization program's in Alaska's fisheries, and perhaps in the nation. We are now witnessing the same transitional events and noise in the crab fisheries.

Unfortunately, we live at a time when our culture gives equal weight to anecdote and fact, so it is difficult for those who are not engaged in the crab fisheries on a daily basis to separate the two.

Here are a few facts that we do know:

1. No one has died this year, and no vessels have been lost. This is particularly noteworthy because February in the opilio crab fishery was one of the worst months for ice buildup we have seen in the winter fishery since the late 1990s.

Under the old open access rules, vessels would have stayed on the grounds, increasing both the risk to deckmen and vessels, and crab handling mortality while deck sorting during bitter cold weather.

Instead, under the new IFQ program, vessels were able to leave the grounds and tie up, or pursue other fishing activities until the ice receded. Many of the vessels that tied up are just returning to the fishing grounds this week. Almost forty vessels chose to fish cod during the ice event, and they too are just starting to return to crab harvesting. Because we now have IFQ's, everyone will still be able to harvest their share of the crab fishery at their pace. This is a huge improvement in fishing behavior. Let us hope it is many seasons before we lose anymore men or vessels.

2. Our handling and management of the crab resource is already improving, however, there is a lot more we can do. As I already mentioned, when the ice moves down over the fishing grounds and the weather turns bitterly cold, vessels can now pull off the grounds, without fear of losing their share of the catch, which results in reducing handling mortality on deck.

There is also a lot less gear being deployed on the grounds. In the Bristol Bay king crab fishery the number of pots used in the fall of 2005 was 15,700, down from 49,000 pots in the fall of 2004. This is a full 2/3 reduction in the number of pots on the ground. In addition to less gear being used, vessels are using longer soak times, which results in sorting of undersize crabs on the bottom of the ocean, instead of sorting and handling millions of crabs on deck.

3. For the first time most of the harvesters are now operating under revenue sharing agreements with their markets, giving them a share of the first wholesale price. And though controversial, harvesters can now operate more "efficiently" as cooperative members deploy only as many vessels as necessary to harvest their IFQ shares.

The rapid consolidation of fishing effort has been one of the most unanticipated and now controversial aspects of the program. A year ago, few if any thought that individual crabbers would consolidate to the extent they have. However, most of us know that the harvesting sector has been grossly overcapitalized in the past and under increasing economic stress since the opilio stock collapse in 1999. Consolidation was going to happen through a program like this, or through widespread bankruptcy. I will leave it to other to decide if the consolidation has taken place in a fair and equitable manner.

4. While the changes I have described so far are significant and almost entirely positive, there is a concern about the potential increase in bygrading of crabs, made worse by the financial squeeze that the entire industry is feeling—trapped between high fuel costs, higher than expected program costs, and falling wholesale crab prices.

We do not yet know the extent of the problem of bygrading, however, ADFG analysis of observer data will help us understand that later this spring. PNCIAC and the industry in general does recognize that there is a need to start working towards improved retention management measures. The good news is that the IFQ and cooperatives give us the tools to move towards improved retention.

A few weeks ago we called a meeting of the PNCIAC, specifically to discuss improved retention in the Bristol Bay Red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries. ADFG staff, Dr. Gunnar Knapp and market expert John Sackton, CEO for Seafood.com also participated.

At the meeting on February 23rd, PNCIAC appointed a sub-committee of the whole that is tasked with working directly with ADFG staff, market experts and industry cooperatives and processors to develop new proposals for new management measures that lead to improved retention of crab. We hope to report back to you, as well as the NPMFC, this year.

I would describe the sub-committee's challenge in this manner: ADFG standards for new shell and old shell crabs are not the same as general industry standards; standards vary between companies and brokers; and there are a variety of market grading, product issues and revenue sharing agreements that will impact prices paid at the dock. These

are issues that we don't fully understand yet. The program is still new, so the supporting processes are not fully in place. However, PNCIAC has rolled up its sleeves and it is going to work on the bygrading and improved retention issue. The framework of the new crab rationalization program makes this effort possible.

5. Of the unanticipated problems that have accompanied the implementation of the new program, the most significant is the aggregate cost of the program.

- \$1 million to set up the binding arbitration process
- 3% of the ex-vessel value of the fisheries for administrative fees for management of the program
- Buyback loan cost fees of 1.9 to 5 percent per fishery

The burden of these costs is amplified by other unanticipated events:

- Steep decline of the world market of king and snow crab prices
- Rising fuel costs
- IFQ lease fees, which in the Bristol Bay king crab and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries is too high, but will hopefully reach a more reasonable equilibrium next fall
- The ice event in February

I would anticipate that an equilibrium for the crab rationalization program is two years away... just like we saw during the implementation of the American Fisheries Act.

Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **Establishment.** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) shall establish a Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) for the king and Tanner crab fisheries of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) area pursuant to the provisions of the BSAI King and Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan. The role of the PNCIAC is to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries advice on preseason and in-season management measures for BSAI King and Tanner crab fisheries. The PNCIAC may also provide the Council with advice in the areas of management related to BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries.
2. **Overarching Guidelines established in the Crab FMP.** "A special means of access to the BS/AI king and Tanner crab regulatory process for nonresidents of Alaska will be provided through an advisory committee. This Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) shall be sanctioned by and operate under the auspices of the Council. This is necessary because State law does not provide for the formation of a Board advisory committee located outside the State. This PNCIAC shall be recognized by the State as occupying the same consultative role on preseason and in-season management measures as all other existing State of Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committees, no more and no less. The Council shall establish general guidelines and membership qualifications for the advisory group, which shall be substantially similar to those guidelines established by the State pertaining to existing advisory committees. Within this framework the advisory committee shall establish its own by-laws and rules of procedure.

The PNCIAC shall be industry funded, and members will pay their own expenses to attend meetings. The PNCIAC may request staff support from the Council, NMFS, and ADF&G as needed. The PNCIAC shall meet at appropriate times and places throughout the year to review and advise the State and the Council on crab management issues, stock status information, and biological and economic analyses relating to the BS/AI king and Tanner crab fisheries. In addition, the PNCIAC shall report to the Council on any relevant crab management issue by filing reports as appropriate. The Council will also review reports as appropriate from other crab advisory committees that normally report to the Board. The PNCIAC shall review and advise the State on proposed preseason management measures. During the fishing season, the PNCIAC, on the same basis as any other Board advisory committee, shall monitor ADF&G reports and data, may recommend to ADF&G the need for in-season adjustments, and may advise on decisions relating to in-season adjustments and "emergency-type" actions. The PNCIAC may request review of any relevant matter to the Crab Interim Action Committee and may bring petitions and appeals in its own name pursuant to Chapters 9 and 10 of this FMP, as may any other Board advisory committee."

Functions. The PNCIAC's function is to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with advice and recommendations regarding appropriate measures for the conservation and management of the BS/AI king and Tanner crab fisheries. The PNCIAC committee's primary role is to do the following:

1. Develop regulatory and plan amendment proposals for submission to the Board and Council, as appropriate;
2. Evaluate regulatory proposals submitted to them and make recommendations to the Board and Council;

3. Provide a local forum for BSAI crab conservation and use, including any matter related to crab habitat;
 4. Make other recommendations to the Board and Council relative to the conservation and management of BSAI king and Tanner crab resources and fisheries.
3. **Membership.** The PNCIAC will consist of 10 to 15 members (currently there are 11 voting members and 1 non-voting member who serves as secretary), appointed by the Council. PNCIAC members must have knowledge and experience relating to the crab fisheries of the BS/AI. The PNCIAC will consist of persons having experience as vessel owners, captains, and/or crab processing. Appointments should reflect the PNCIACs' responsibility to evaluate and make recommendations on management of the fisheries. Appointments for PNCIAC members are for 2 years, with all members up for reappointment at the same time. No alternates are allowed for members that are unable to attend a committee meeting.
4. **Organization.** The PNCIAC will be directed by a chairperson.
- (a) **Rules of order.** In general, rules of order will be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. A quorum of a majority of the voting membership (for the current committee, this would equate to at least 6 of 10 voting members) must be present to conduct business. A quorum may be reached by the use of proxies. PNCIAC decisions will be reached by vote, and the opinion of the majority will prevail. Motions and votes will be recorded in the minutes. A proxy may be used on a meeting-by-meeting basis, after which, it (the proxy) will expire. No proxy may be used when the chairperson polls the committee on a specific item, when such polling is outside of a meeting. No email or telex votes will be allowed during a general meeting, or a special meeting.
- (b) **Meetings.** An annual PNCIAC meeting will be held to discuss guideline harvest levels, status and management of the BSAI crab stocks. The PNCIAC chairperson may call other meetings as necessary. **If the chairperson determines that a vote by the membership is necessary on a specific item, and there is not sufficient time to call a general meeting, the chair shall poll the membership. No proxies will be allowed in this situation, but all forms of voting, including email and telex are acceptable. During any meeting, by approval of a motion, the committee may direct the chairperson to poll the membership on a specific item(s). The motion may also specify the timeframe for response. The chairperson shall conduct the poll as if he/she had determined that a vote by the membership was necessary.** Meetings may be called on the request of a majority of the voting membership with a minimum of two weeks notice. A draft agenda will be prepared in advance of each meeting by the chairperson in consultation with the secretary and staff, and may be revised by the PNCIAC during the meeting. Notice of meetings, including the draft agenda, will be given at least two weeks in advance of each meeting, insofar as possible. The secretary will prepare minutes of each meeting and distribute them to the PNCIAC members for revision as necessary. (If the secretary is unavailable, the chairperson is responsible for the minutes.) The minutes shall be considered approved, unless one or more of the PNCIAC members has an unsatisfied concern regarding the text. In this situation, the formal approval of minutes not agreed to by all PNCIAC members shall be dealt with at the next PNCIAC meeting. The Chairperson (or a committee member designated by the chair) will report the committee's findings to the Board or Council, as appropriate. Telephonic attendance of a meeting is acceptable.

(c) **Selection of officers.** Officers (PNCIAC chairperson, vice-chair, secretary, and others as appropriate) will be selected, by majority vote of the committee, at the first PNCIAC meeting following appointment, or as vacancies arise, during the first available meeting after the vacancy. If the current chairperson is reappointed by the Council, he/she shall continue as chairperson until the first meeting following appointments, at which time, elections shall be held. The officers selected will serve until their appointments expire. There will be no limit on the number of consecutive terms that officers may serve. The committee may replace an officer if 1) the officer resigns, or 2) a quorum of the committee meets at an advertised committee meeting, and a majority of the full committee membership votes to remove the committee member from office. Officers shall be elected only by a majority of the total voting membership. In the event that the vote for chairperson results in less than such majority, the committee members present shall elect an acting chairperson, and conduct business. The acting chairperson, within one week, shall poll the membership regarding the two highest vote-receivers for chairperson who did not receive a majority. After the polling, the person who is elected by a majority of the entire membership shall immediately assume the position of chairperson.