

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
October 4-7, 2022 - Anchorage, AK

C1 BSAI Crab Specs

The AP recommends the Council adopt the 2021 Crab SAFE Report, as well as, the 2022-23 OFL and ABC as recommended by the CPT and SSC for EBS Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab, EBS Tanner Crab, St. Matthew Blue Crab, and Pribilof Islands Red King Crab.

The AP asks the Council to consider scenarios to urge and give ADF&G the flexibility to open all three EBS crab fisheries, be it small.

Motion passed 16-0

Rationale:

- *The AP appreciates the continued diligence of the Crab Plan Team and SSC in developing models and assessing the status and dynamics of the BSAI crab stocks.*
- *While it is unclear what options the Council may have to guide the opening of a crab fishery, it is important for the Council to encourage ADF&G to consider the economic needs of the fishery participants during these unprecedented times. Public testimony, both written and oral, spoke to the importance of keeping crab boats fishing for the benefit of both crab fishermen and dependent communities. In considering the opening of a fishery, consideration should also be given to additional observer coverage on participating vessels to get the best information from the fishery.*
- *To ensure successful crab management to the greatest extent possible, there appears to be a need to align interagency relationships better.*
- *Recognizing the needs of crab fishermen and dependent communities, it must be acknowledged that in times of tremendous increasing uncertainty, fisheries managers generally take a precautionary approach to ensure the sustainability of the stock by restricting fishing mortality. While there may be flexibility to open a small directed crab fishery this year, the same flexibility may not exist in years to come.*