

C-4 Addendum with Updated Information on 2022 Crab PSC Limits

Table 1 provides the estimated 2022 crab prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) trawl limited access sector (TLAS) Pacific cod fishery, derived from crab biomass recommendations from the September 2021 BSAI Crab Plan Team. Estimates are based on the 2021 fishery apportionment percentages that divided the crab species between the different TLAS fisheries. Fishery apportionments of PSC limits are determined during the December harvest specification processes. Looking specifically at red king crab (Zone 1), in 2021, 2,954 animals were apportioned to the Pacific cod fishery, which is 11.15 percent¹ of the TLAS PSC limit. That same percentage was then applied to the 2022 proposed TLAS PSC limit of 8,739 red king crab (Zone 1) animals which results in 975 animals apportioned to the Pacific cod fishery. Recognize, of course, this fishery apportionment amount could change during the annual harvest specification process in December.

Table 1 also provides the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC) Program projected AFA catcher processor (CP) and trawl catcher vessel (CV) sector apportionment for each of the crab PSC limits apportioned to the Pacific cod fishery. Based on the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA), the AFA CP sector would be allocated 9.43 percent of the crab PSC limits, while the trawl CV sector would be allocated the remaining 90.57 percent of the crab PSC limits for use in the Pacific cod fishery. For red king crab (Zone 1), the AFA CP sector PSC limit would be 92 red king crab (Zone 1) animals, while the trawl CV sector PSC limit would be 883 red king crab (Zone 1) animals.

Applying the PPA to the 2022 proposed 883 red king crab (Zone 1) PSC limit for the trawl CV sector would result in 44 animals (5 percent of the annual trawl CV sector apportionment before any PSC reductions) apportioned to the C season trawl CV limited access fishery and 545 animals for A and B season cooperative fishing after factoring in the proposed 35 percent crab PSC limit reduction for cooperative allocations included in the PPA. Based on the historical PSC usage of red king crab (Zone 1), the trawl CV sector would have exceeded this PSC limit three times during 2004 through 2021 which would have required cooperative vessels to fish outside of Zone 1 to harvest their remaining BSAI Pacific cod CQ.

The remaining 2022 preliminary crab PSC limits for the AFA CP and trawl CV Pacific cod fishery, assuming fishery apportionment percentages for the two sectors will be similar to those established for 2021, would likely not constrain either the AFA CP or the trawl CV sectors under Alternative 3 (PPA).

Table 1 – Proposed 2022 PSC limits¹ for the BSAI Pacific cod TLAS fishery, trawl CV and AFA CP apportionment under the PPA, and PSC limits allocated to cooperatives for A and B season fishing and C season trawl limited access fishery

Crab PSC and zone	BSAI TLAS Pacific cod ¹	AFA CP apportionment	Trawl CV apportionment	C season trawl CV limited access apportionment (PPA - 5%)	Trawl CV allocation for cooperatives after PSC reduction (PPA -35%)
Red king crab (animals) Zone 1	975	92	883	44	545
<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ	50,281	4,726	45,555	2,278	28,130
<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	Zone 1	4,777	46,039	2,302	28,429
	Zone 2	3,988	38,436	1,922	23,734

¹ Based on crab biomass recommendations from September 2021 BSAI Crab Plan Team meeting.

¹ The percentages in this paper are reported at a maximum of two decimal places which may result in slight rounding differences when compared to the reported numbers.