

C4- The Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Eastern Bering Sea

- The **SSC appreciates** the responsiveness of the authors in revising the EBS FEP.
- The **SSC supports the acceptance of the plan.**
- The **SSC is concerned** that the proposed FEP will require the investment of considerable resources if it is to succeed.
- Several figures should be redrawn to show that the Council is central, and that all teams operate under and report to the Council.
- The **SSC is supportive** of the emphasis on developing ways to incorporate TK and LK into the Council process.
- The SSC would like to see **some additional revisions** in the near future

C6 - BS snow crab PSC 1 of 2

- **The SSC does not approve the document for public review. Further SSC review of the analysis will be needed following revisions having been made to address the following concerns.**
- The SSC believes the analysis could be improved by clarifying the units specified for crab in various figures and tables.
- It would also be very useful to add a discussion of the different treatment of undersized crab that are included in the modeled biomass estimates versus those that show up in the survey estimates currently used to set PSC limits (as the former is likely to exceed the latter).
- The SSC notes that use of the assessment model estimate of total crab could result in unexpected interannual variations in PSC limits as model changes are accepted.
- The SSC recommends that the analysts consider using the assessment model estimate of the number or biomass of snow crab in the EBS trawl survey as this will be more stable.

C6 - BS snow crab PSC 2 of 2

- Part of the rationale for why the limit would not be reached is that vessels would be diligent in avoiding them, which implies there may be an opportunity cost of PSC avoidance. The impact of this behavioral change should be included.
- Inclusion of a spatial catch re-projection analysis and associated estimates of economic impacts from vessels fishing outside the COBLZ by choice or by regulation is needed.
- The SSC recommends adding a section on community impacts to the RIR to allow an analysis of the differential distribution of risk of foregone catch and/or increased operational costs among fishing communities that are substantially engaged in or dependent upon the fishery.

C7- GOA Pollock and Cod Allocations

1 of 2

- **The SSC supports release of this amendment package for public review, after the incorporation of revisions made in response to comments provided.**
- The authors did a good job of assessing the potential negative impacts to Steller sea lions associated with Alternative 2 and 3 and highlighted that there may be potential impacts if there are spatio-temporal changes to fishing, particularly in early winter. The extent of these impacts would be further reviewed as per the ESA.
- The SSC recommends including the most up-to-date data which, as referenced in the new Ecosystem Status Reports, is Sweeney et al. 2017.

C7- GOA Pollock and Cod Allocations

2 of 2

- The authors should also provide more quantitative time series information on community engagement in and dependency on these fisheries, as well as subsistence use if relevant. Information regarding the safety of human life at sea should also be added.
- The SSC appreciated the development and use of vessel participation information.
- The SSC appreciated that the Processor and Community Participation, the authors have utilized some of the processing worker count and wage data collected through annual Economic Data Reports.