

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 3-7, 2019 - Anchorage, AK

C5 Crab Partial Deliveries

AP Motion

The Advisory Panel recommends the Council adopt Alternative 2 for final action. The suite of alternatives and options are listed below with the preferred alternative indicated in **bold**.

Alternative 1 (No Action): Status quo is maintained. Vessels are prohibited from resuming fishing for CR crab on board a vessel once a landing has commenced and until all CR crab are landed, unless fishing in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.

Alternative 2: Remove the prohibition on resuming fishing for CR crab on board a vessel once a landing has commenced and until all CR crab are landed. This will allow vessels to make partial deliveries of CR crab and then continue fishing before fully offloading all harvested crab.

Option: In the event of a partial offload within a fishing trip, only entire tank crab contents may be offloaded. (Any tank started for offload must be fully offloaded.)

Motion passed 18-0

Rationale:

- *This issue was brought to the Council as an industry request through PNCIAC and has wide stakeholder support.*
- *The original prohibition on partial deliveries was initially included in the crab rationalization program to alleviate certain enforcement concerns that have since proven unwarranted. However, it is important to note that the prohibition simplifies data collection for ADF&G.*
- *The Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) supports removing this prohibition.*
- *Industry stakeholders have acknowledged ADF&G's concerns regarding spatial harvest data, have recognized that removing partial delivery prohibitions may require an adjustment of some data protocols and expressed a willingness to work with the agency on options to address these concerns. However, industry expects little to no change in the resolution of catch by statistical area given that multiple statistical areas may currently be fished on a trip.*
- *The Council's analysis provides a good explanation of the importance and benefits of this action for harvesters in increased operational flexibility and notes minimal impacts to processors or communities from potential shifts in B or C share landings. Additionally, B and C shares, the smallest portion of quota, were expressly intended to be free to move to any processor to provide harvesters some marginal flexibility to negotiate among processors.*
- *Live crab markets may develop regardless of this action. Any potential development of live crab markets is not expected to substantially increase the use of this provision, rather delivery of crab*

for live markets could become part of regular offloads designated for cooked and frozen whole or sections of crab, which are the predominant product forms.

- *It is expected that partial deliveries would be used rarely and only in special circumstances, such as when delivering to multiple processors, fishing North and South quota on the same trip, or to reduce risk in certain weather conditions. The Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery was provided an exemption starting in 2016 to allow partial deliveries. To date, it has been used once.*
- *Given that CR fisheries have full monitoring and catch accounting, Alt 2 would allow partial deliveries in all BSAI Crab Rationalization Program fisheries. This action would serve to remove an unnecessary restriction, create consistency in crab fisheries management, provide for operational flexibility, improve economic efficiency and potentially increase safety.*