



C5 BSAI Crab Partial Offloads

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Action Memo

Council Staff: Sam Cunningham
Other Staff: Doug Duncan, Megan Mackey (NMFS; presenters)
Action Required:

1. Review revised analysis
2. Final action - identify a preferred alternative

BACKGROUND

The Council will consider final action on an analysis to remove a regulation prohibiting vessels fishing for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization (CR) Program crab from conducting a partial offload of crab and then continuing to fish prior to the offload of any remaining crab onboard the vessel. Under current regulations, a catcher vessel may offload a portion of CR crab at multiple processors, but the vessel may not fish for CR crab between offloads. Partial offloads are not expected to become a standard practice in the fishery due to the increased possibility of deadloss. However, the measure could provide benefits in emergent cases related to safety-at-sea (the need to retrieve gear in the event of dangerous weather) or when a partial offload to a particular market presents a unique economic opportunity. The analysis describes expected benefits to harvesters, potential impacts on processors and communities, and expected implications for management, enforcement, and catch accounting. The Council reviewed an initial draft Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) in June 2019.