

Council Motion
C6 Crab FMP Housekeeping Amendments
December 10, 2023

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative.

Purpose and Need:

The BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP was developed in 1989 and has been amended 53 times. Since the last major update to the FMP in 1998, there have been many changes in the crab fisheries, crab stocks, and crab fishery management in the BSAI that are not reflected in the current FMP. Given these changes since the last major FMP update, the contents of the FMP are outdated, and the organizational structure of the FMP is inconsistent with the other FMPs for fisheries off Alaska. Housekeeping of the BSAI Crab FMP is required to incorporate updated information consistent with MSA guidelines for an FMP. Additionally, the revised organizational structure of the FMP will improve clarity in the document.

Alternative 2: Replace the BSAI Crab FMP with a revised version to include: updated information on the status of stocks and fishing communities, a Fishery Impact Statement and research needs as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and improved organizational structure consistent with other North Pacific FMPs.