

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 8, 2019
Final Council Motion on D1 Crab Partial Deliveries

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and draft alternatives for BSAI crab partial deliveries and moves the action to initial review.

Draft Purpose and Need

The purpose of this action is to allow vessels participating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization (CR) Program to make partial deliveries of crab and then continue fishing before fully offloading all harvested crab. This action would be to remove Federal regulations that prohibit the continuation of a fishing trip subsequent to a partial offload of crab in the CR program. The need for this action is to provide operational flexibility to vessels to conduct their business in the safest and economically efficient manner and when emergencies or special circumstances arise, while also ensuring proper catch accounting.

Draft Alternatives

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.)