



D2 Gulf of Alaska Tanner Crab Protections

February 2024 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Nicole Watson
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper provided by staff.
2. Recommend action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, the Council tasked staff to prepare a discussion paper to inform potential Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* protections. The discussion paper examines catch and Tanner crab bycatch by target groundfish fisheries and gear types during 2019-2023 in statistical areas 525630 and 525702, Tanner and king crab distributions, and options for observer monitoring in areas around Kodiak Island.

After reviewing the discussion paper and listening to public testimony, the Council may choose to take no further action, to request more information from staff, or to initiate an analysis. If the Council chooses to move forward with an analysis, the Council should articulate a purpose and need for this action, and a set of alternatives to analyze. Considerations for a future analysis could include a detailed evaluation of the potential effects of any protection measures such as additional closures, gear restrictions, or required observer coverage on the fisheries and bycatch, the effectiveness of such changes, and impacts on fishing behavior (namely, if fishing were to occur in other regions, what impacts may occur).