
C6 BSAI KTC Housekeeping FMP Amendment

Sarah Rheinsmith, December 2023



History of Action

- BSAI KTC Housekeeping has been in the “batter box” of 3 meeting outlook for 10+ years
- Council requested a housekeeping update similar to that done to the Groundfish FMPs in 2004.
- No official motion initiating the analysis: staff drafted strawman purpose and need and alternatives. The Council may wish to amend or confirm the drafted purpose and need (next slide)



Strawman purpose and need and alternatives

Purpose and Need

“The BSAI king and tanner crab FMP was developed in 1989 and has since been amended 53 times. Since the FMPs implementation, crab fisheries in the BSAI have undergone substantial changes, including the establishment of a voluntary cooperative. Given the changes in the stocks since the implementation of the FMP, the contents of the FMP are outdated, and the organizational structure of the FMP is inconsistent with the other FMPs for fisheries off of Alaska. Housekeeping of the BSAI king and tanner crab FMP is required to incorporate updated information consistent with MSA guidelines for a FMP. Additionally, the revised FMP should improve the organizational structure of the FMP for improved clarity in the document”.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action; status quo

Alternative 2: Replace the BSAI KTC FMP with a revised version to include: updated contents on the status of stocks and fishing communities and allow for formatting consistent with other North Pacific FMPs.



Documents

1. BSAI KTC initial/final review draft
 - Preliminarily CE, no need to perform an EA
 - Table 2.1 provides an overview of considerable changes made that the Council may wish to weigh in on
2. Appendix A to the BSAI KTC FMP detailing a comprehensive list of changes and restructuring of the document
3. Revised BSAI KTC FMP- incorporating all changes shown in Appendix A
4. Revised BSAI KTC FMP- including track changes edits incorporated after initial posting of the document from 12/4/23



Bering Sea and Aleutian Island King and Tanner Crab FMP

- BSAI KTC FMP initiated in 1989
- Last update of stock status, community engagement, etc. in 1998
- Current version can be found at npfmc.org



TABLE 2.1

Considerable Changes	Summary of Changes
Entire FMP	Restructuring of the document into 6 main chapters consistent with other North Pacific FMPs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Goals and Objectives 3. Conservation and Fishery Management Measures 4. Description of Stocks and Fishery 5. Relationship to Applicable Law and other fisheries 6. References
Section 3.4	Crab Rationalization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational structure, • Content Summarization and rewording to be consistent throughout. • Updating outdated information that was not included in an FMP amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program review timing changed to 7 years per April 2019 motion (PG 37).
Section 4.2	Updated BSAI KTC stock status information including ABC, TAC, MMB, vessel participation, and retained catch from 2019/20-2022/23 fishing seasons.
Section 4.3	Habitat sections re-structured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved from App. D to Section 4.3, and • Removed life history as it is included in the EFH appendix to reduce duplication of information.
Section 4.5/ App. C	Fishing communities engaged in BSAI KTC fisheries updated based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual community engagement and participation overview report (ACEPO) (Wise et al., 2022), • Fishing communities of Alaska engaged in federally managed fisheries (Fey et. al., 2016), and • Baseline Commercial Fishing Community profile updates: Akutan and Unalaska, Alaska (Downs and Henry, 2023).
Section 5.4	Addition of a Fishery Impact Statement per MSA requirements of an FMP.
Appendix F	Research needs Appendix was added based off the 2021 Council Research Priorities, per MSA requirements.



Effects of the Alternatives

- **Alternative 1** would maintain the current BSAI KTC FMP as it is currently published.
- **Alternative 2** would incorporate the best available science into the BSAI KTC FMP as it pertains to status of the stocks, fishing community engagement, and allow for an improved organization of the BSAI KTC FMP to be consistent with other FMPs for fisheries off Alaska.
 - Alternative 2 would not make any substantive changes that would affect the status of the stocks, fishing operations or fishing communities.
 - Maintain compliance with MSA and provide an updated snapshot of the BSAI KTC fisheries off Alaska, given the last updates to the status of the stocks and community profiles was provided in 1998. It may be beneficial to the Council to update the current contents of the FMP based on the fluctuations in stock status in recent years to appropriately portray stock status, EFH information, and community involvement.



Effects of the Alternatives cont.

- A few components of the FMP that are outside of the scope of Housekeeping the Council may wish to amend in the future include:
 - Crab Rationalization (Section 3.4)
 - A more in-depth review of language used in the FMP to describe program elements and operations are consistent with current regulations and maintain the programs intent
 - Tier System (Section 3.2.1): Typo in Section 3.1 of Analysis: "...addressing the Tier system in which there is no way to adequately determine overfished~~ing~~ status for Tier 5 stocks given there exists no means to estimate stock biomass which may violate MSA at 303(a)(10), which requires the Council to determine **if the stock is** overfished~~ing is occurring~~."
 - May violate MSA 303(1)(10), which determines the Council to determine if stock status: overfished vs not
 - Currently estimate of overfishing determination based on best available science and total catch data from other fisheries
 - No current overfished determination due to lack of reliable estimate of stock biomass
- Regardless of the ancillary elements of the FMP that may require future attention and further analysis, staff feel that implementing the revised BSAI KTC FMP represents the best available science and exhibits substantial improvements to the organization of the document and accessibility of the information to the public.



Timeline for implementation

- Several proposed BSAI KTC FMPs occurring simultaneous to this proposed action (December 2023).
 - Crab C Shares
 - Crab Facility use caps
 - EFH 5-year review omnibus amendments

Should the Council choose to move forward with those action to amend the BSAI KTC FMP, in addition to the housekeeping amendment, staff will closely track the implementation of the various amendments and their sequencing, to ensure that regardless of which is implemented first, both the substantive and the housekeeping amendments adhere to the Council's intent.



Thank you

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