

# **Draft SSC Report April 2023**



**Balance of SSC Report**

# SSC General Comments

- The SSC recognizes and thanks Jon McCracken for his many years as an analyst and staff lead and wishes him the best in his retirement

## B1 Plan Team Nomination

- The SSC reviewed the nomination of Mr. Tyler Jackson to the BSAI Crab Plan Team
- The SSC finds the nominee to be well-qualified and recommends the Council approve his nomination

## C3 Scallop Harvest Specifications (1 of 2)

- The SSC received a report on the Executive Summary only
  - There is no assessment model currently
  - State sets GHs based on dredge survey and CPUE trends
- Surveys (Shelikof, northeast Kodiak, Kamishak districts) suggest increased abundances and biomass over previous surveys
- The SSC **supports** SPT recommendation to set OFL and ABC at their maximum values (OFL = 1.284 million lbs or 582 t; ABC = 90% of OFL: 1.156 million lbs or 524 t).
- Overfishing did not occur in 2021/22 or 2022/23 (catch < 30%).
- Overfished status cannot be determined in the absence of stock-size estimates

## C3 Scallop Harvest Specifications (2 of 2)

- The SSC ***appreciates*** updates on the dredge survey and 'retained-not-landed' (RNL) meat considerations
- The SSC ***concurrs*** with all author and SPT recommendations and ***recommends*** that work on estimating RNL meat be a priority
- The SSC ***supports*** efforts to revise the FMP to eliminate the requirement for annual specifications

## D2 LKTKS Protocol and Onramps (1 of 2)

- The SSC received an update on the “Protocol for Identifying, Analyzing, and Incorporating Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence (LKTKS) Information in the NPFMC’s Decision-making Process” and the onramps for LKTKS information
- The SSC ***commends*** the thoughtful and inclusive process used to develop these products and appreciates the work that has gone into creating the protocol and the onramp recommendations

## D2 LKTKS Protocol and Onramps (2 of 2)

- The SSC **appreciates** the development of “Ideas for Moving Forward” sections under each protocol guideline.
- The SSC **supports** the development of the onramps document as a useful starting point for Council implementation of how to incorporate LKTKS information into Council decision making processes.
- The SSC **notes** that staff capacity will need to be increased to implement and sustain a robust LKTKS effort.
- The SSC provided a list of additional recommendations and suggestions for protocol implementation.

## D3 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce (1 of 2)

- The SSC received a summary of the CCTF March meeting
  - Responses to SSC comments on Climate Readiness Synthesis
  - Plans for 'Climate Change Scenarios and Advice' workshop
- The SSC **supports** the CCTF workplan, including goals, objectives, scope, general organization, and timeline of the proposed workshop.
  - The SSC supports considering 'outside-the-box' thinking
- The SSC **supports** use of case studies and scenarios in the workshop to facilitate discussion and inform outcomes.
- The SSC **suggests** using past events as case studies in addition to future projections of climate change.



## D3 BS FEP Climate Change Taskforce (2 of 2)

- The SSC **suggests** CCTF consider examples of effective climate readiness in fisheries from other regions in addition to Alaska.
- The SSC **suggest** CCTF consider the tool/process developed in the recent SNAPP project to assist with workshop planning to help identify attributes that support or inhibit climate resilient fisheries.
- The SSC **recommends** that with respect to the CRS, the CCTF continue working with stock assessment authors to develop a formal process for gathering species-specific feedback on climate readiness and adaptation needs.

## D4 Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFEs (1 of 3)

- The SSC received 2022 updates of the Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFEs
- The SSC *appreciates* the high quality of the ongoing work that is being done to provide data summaries needed to address economic aspects of the SAFE documents, in support of NS 2.

## D4 Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFEs (2 of 3)

- The SSC ***supports*** NOAA-AFSC plans to convene a workshop or other process to develop guidance on what social and economic information should appear in which data products.
  - Content, timing and archiving need to be coordinated among Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO), Ecosystem Status Reports (ESRs), Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles (ESPs), and new products developed under the Climate and Fisheries Initiative
  - The SSC had expected a significant update at this meeting

## D4 Groundfish and Crab Economic SAFEs (3 of 3)

- The SSC finds the Groundfish SAFE is a mature document and **recommends** future reviews focus on the content of the updated data rather than the format of the document
  - Consistent format will aid in automation of updates
- The SSC **appreciates** significant revisions to the Crab SAFE reflecting past SSC comments
  - The addition of report card indices is very useful
  - The analysis of quota share holdings provides new insight into who benefits from the fishery

## D5 ACEPO Review (1 of 4)

- The SSC received an update on the Annual Community Engagement and Participation Overview (ACEPO) for 2023.
- The SSC *appreciates* the inclusion of newer measures of community wellbeing, including tax revenue data and school enrollment, in addition to the community level analysis of participation in groundfish and crab fisheries.
  - New measures help understand how vulnerabilities within a community may be tied to fishery participation and vice versa.

## D5 ACEPO Review (2 of 4)

- The SSC **acknowledges** the many improvements in ACEPO and responses to previous comments.
- The SSC **supports** further efforts to include information that better captures the involvement of smaller communities or communities with low or fluctuating engagement within these fisheries.
- The SSC **suggests** that disaggregating data that already exist (e.g., in the Economic SAFE) to the community level may be one avenue for capturing the smaller communities and would also allow for more species level analysis.

## D5 ACEPO Review (3 of 4)

- The SSC **supports** the use of the Human Dimensions Dashboard as a means to reach the public and provide the data to those interested.
- The SSC **suggests** that outputs be tailored to better complement already existing reports (EconSAFE, ESPs) and to provide a more consistent overall approach to providing important decision-making information.
- The SSC **suggests** further consideration of how to associate processing activity aboard stationary floating processors within municipal boundaries with their community of operation.

## D5 ACEPO Review (4 of 4)

- The SSC **suggests** that the benefits of CDQs to a community be considered as well as a listing of all tribal entities within the community.
- The SSC **suggests** that including tables that compare across communities on several different measures would enhance the current document.
- The SSC **suggests** including thresholds for social indicators (e.g., school enrollment relative to minimum required) would help understand where vulnerabilities exist



# D5 Norton Sound Red King Crab Research (1 of 2)

- The SSC received an update on the study “Adapting to change in the Norton Sound Red King Crab Fisheries”
- The study has a specific focus on understanding the potential for local knowledge, traditional knowledge, and subsistence (LTKKS) information, systematically applied in culturally appropriate ways, to contribute to the management of the fishery
- The study is responsive to one of the Council’s 2022-24 top ten research priorities regarding NS king crab

## D5 Norton Sound Red King Crab Research (2 of 2)

- The SSC ***appreciates*** the quality of work and the promising range of findings that were developed
- The SSC ***supports*** using the current study as a pilot effort for a more comprehensive, multi-method study of the type originally intended and described in previous SSC reports.

# D6 Plan Team Workgroup Discussion

## (1 of 4)

- The SSC revisited prioritization of workgroups following discussions in October, December and February.
- The SSC notes that both small technical meetings ('working groups') and broader public meetings ('workshops') can be helpful to address priority issues.
- The SSC recognizes that due to limited resources, prioritization should occur across both crab and groundfish topics when possible.

## D6 Plan Team Workgroup Discussion (2 of 4)

- Following the February workshop on rapid environmental change, the SSC ***recommends*** that the Council consider forming a sub-group of Council, and SSC members (and possibly PT members) [as noted in SSC workshop report]
- The SSC ***recommends*** that a working group be formed as soon as possible (high priority) to develop a framework for how to estimate the magnitude of unobserved mortality for use in crab stock assessments.

## D6 Plan Team Workgroup Discussion (3 of 4)

- The SSC ***recommends*** a workshop to address Tier-system related topics (e.g., use of Tier 1 vs Tier 3 calculations & ABC buffers). Given current resources, the SSC considers this to be a lower priority with no specific timeline.
- The SSC considered issues relevant for harvest control rules and TAC considerations, including maximum economic yield, catch stability, future value, and other considerations. The SSC ***recommends*** that no working group/workshop be formed at this time, pending the results of analyses on sablefish (per the December 2022 Council motion).

## D6 Plan Team Workgroup Discussion (4 of 4)

- The SSC ***recommends*** that evaluating the effects of truncated age structures on the performance of harvest control rules also proceed first via a sablefish-specific analysis and that a workshop or broader-themed working group be reconsidered following evaluation of those results.