

**Joint Meeting
Alaska Board of Fisheries
and
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
February 4, 1997**

TAB 6: 1997 BOARD OF FISHERIES PROPOSALS

- a. Adak pot limit**
- b. Bristol Bay red king crab size reduction**
- c. Other Bristol Bay red king crab management options**



REPORT TO THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
AND THE
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
ON
1997 CATEGORY 2 MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

By
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January 4, 1997

**Alaska Board of Fisheries
Category 2 Management Proposals
for consideration
March 1997**

The Board of Fisheries (board) considered proposed changes to the king and Tanner crab regulations at their March 1996 meeting. At this meeting, the board considered public proposals to implement pot limits and reduce red king crab size limits, both Category 2 management measures under the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island King and Tanner Crab FMP (FMP). Action on both proposals was deferred until the March 1997 meeting to allow economic analysis for the proposals to be met, as required by the FMP.

Pot limits: For the new Aleutian Registration Area (Dutch Harbor and Adak Registration Areas combined), the public proposes establishing a 100 pot limit for vessels over 125 feet and 80 pots for vessels under 125 feet for red king crab. For the brown king crab fishery, the proposal suggests a 600 pot limit for vessels over 125 feet and 450 pots for vessels under 125 feet.

Size Limit Reduction: The public proposes reducing the Bristol Bay red king crab size limit from 6.5 to 6 inches.

In December 1996, the board accepted a department petition to consider 4 options to improve the manageability of the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery. In addition the above

proposals, the options in the petition will also be considered at the March 1997 meeting.

The 4 options outlined in the petition are:

1) Establish a tiered pot limit on the guideline harvest level (GHL) to reduce the catch rates. (Preferred option)

2) Establish a multi-tiered pot limit in which pot limits are established for more than two ranges of GHL's, rather than the two-tiered approach suggested above.

3) Establish a minimum GHL threshold for a fishery opening based on manageability, conservation concerns, or economic considerations. Such a threshold would be in addition to the threshold based on mature female abundance and effective spawning biomass that currently exists in regulation.

4) Establish concurrent opening of other Bering Sea king crab fisheries to reduce participation and effort in the Bristol Bay fishery.

Non-BSAI Crab FMP Proposals:

In an effort to further protect the Bristol Bay and Bering Sea king and Tanner crab stocks, the board will consider staff proposals to close, on a year round bases, the waters

encompassed by the Pribilof Island Trawl Closure and the waters east of 163° West long' to scalloping fishing, and all state waters of the Bering Sea to non-pelagic trawling.