



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

B6 St. Paul Crab Hatchery Permit App Letter, JUNE 2026

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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June 1, 2026

Ms. Angel Drobnica, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 499
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Drobnica:

I am requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Plan Team (CPT) review and comment on a hatchery permit application in support of Bristol Bay red king crab fishery enhancement.

We are in the initial stages of the review process for a red king crab hatchery application, according to AS 16.12 and 5 AAC 40.005–40.990. Part of the review process requires the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to complete a Management Feasibility Analysis (MFA) that estimates the hatchery's potential contribution to the common property fishery. State regulations at 5 AAC 40.190(b)(5) also require consultation with federal and state agencies and technical experts in the relevant area and seek comments. The Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) has requested an MFA for taking 30–50 female red king crab as brood from Bristol Bay, incubation of juveniles at a hatchery in Saint Paul, and release of juveniles back in Bristol Bay.

The Council's CPT is comprised of federal, state, and other technical experts on the Bristol Bay red king crab stock which makes them an ideal panel to review the hatchery permit application and MFA. ADF&G fishery enhancement staff are available this fall to provide a brief review of the hatchery application process, the MFA, and the hatchery application. We anticipate the presentation, questions, and review will take an hour or less of the CPT's time.

The CPT's review and advice will help inform my decision on hatchery permit approval. I appreciate the Council's consideration of this request and its contribution to the development of king crab fisheries enhancement and restoration in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Lang".

Doug Vincent Lang
Commissioner

Cc: Rachel Baker, Deputy Commissioner ADF&G
Diana Evans, Executive Director NPFMC