



C1 BSAI Crab Harvest Specifications

October 2024

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram, Anita Kroska
- Other Presenters: Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)
- Action Required:
1. EBS Snow crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2024/25
 2. Bristol Bay Red King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2024/25
 3. Tanner Crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2024/25
 4. St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2024/25 and 2025/26
 5. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the September 2024 meeting
 6. Review/approve final BSAI Crab SAFE report

Ecosystem Status Report (SSC only)

The ecosystem status report (ESR) will present crab-relevant information for the Bering Sea that was available from 2023, data from 2024, and preliminary forecasts for 2025.

BSAI Crab Specifications and Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met in a hybrid format from September 9-12, 2024 in Seattle, WA to review final 2024 stock assessments for the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC), EBS Tanner Crab, and St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (SMBKC) and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks ([Crab Plan Team eAgenda](#)). The 2024 BSAI Crab SAFE Report Introduction, Crab Plan Team Report, and the assessment chapters for snow crab, BBRKC, Tanner crab, and SMBKC are attached.

An addendum for the 2024 EBS Snow crab SAFE report is also included for consideration by the SSC. This addendum was requested but not evaluated during the Crab Plan Team meeting. This additional analysis presents ABC and OFL values possible using the CPT recommended model 24.1b with different input bycatch data years.

The Team addressed several additional issues at this meeting, including:

- Model scenarios for the Norton Sound Red King Crab stock assessment to be reviewed by the CPT in November 2024 for the 2025 fishery.
- Model scenarios for Aleutian Island Golden King Crab stock assessment to be reviewed by the CPT at the May 2025 meeting.

- Updated catch and stock status determination for all other stocks.
- Summer trawl survey results, 2023 fishery summary, Ecosystem Status Reports, Ecosystem and Socio-economic Profiles (ESP) Report Cards for Snow crab and BBRKC, Bering Sea Fishery Research Foundation (BSFRF) survey update, research updates, GMACS modeling planning, survey modernization, disaster relief research funding, and an update on the economic status of the fishery.
- Topics for review at the January 2025 modeling workshop to include: sdmTMB and VAST modeling comparisons (NSRKC, SMBKC, & Tanner crab), GMACS updates and simulations, NSRKC OFL calculations, guidelines for jittering and MCMC diagnostics, and BSFRF SBS selectivity.

Although not scheduled to be reviewed by the Council, please note that a final version of the [2023 Crab Economic SAFE](#) from September 2024 is available.