

Dennis Scates
Deckhand
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RE: C1 BSAI Crab specifications – review SAFE report; adopt ABC/OFLs for BBRKC, Tanner crab, snow crab, PIRKC, SMBKC; Crab Plan Team report; (SSC only) Ecosystem Status Report preview; (SSC only) snow crab rebuilding projections

My name is Dennis Scates, I have been a commercial crab fisherman in Alaska since the late 1990s. I have been investing in the crab industry through C shares since rationalization in 2005. The closure of Red King Crab and the drastic reduction of Opilio last year had a devastating financial impact on myself, my family, the communities and all others that support the crab industry. If these trends of closing and/or reducing seasons, based off poor science and data collection process continues myself and many others will be forced to find other work, thus leaving the industry. If the fisheries return to normal levels, there will have been an irripacible loss of experience on deck and vessels that have been forced to forego vital maintenances, which in turn will lead to more injuries and deaths. Even minimal Red King Crab and Opilio seasons would help the boats, crews and communities that depend on its income and revenue, weather these hard times. This would also allow opportunity for real biomass data collection to occur in season and give a more accurate picture if the health and size of the stocks. Thank you Dennis Scates