ADVISORY PANEL Motions and Rationale Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2025 Webinar

C4 Motion

The AP recommends Council move the BSAI Crab C-Shares initial review analysis forward for final action with both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 (10% cap on all fisheries under consideration) selected as the Preferred Preliminary Alternative.

Motion passes 20-0

Rationale in Support of Motion

- The AP thanked staff for the presentation and noted appreciation for outreach to industry in developing this analysis. This action is responsive to public testimony and increases flexibility and opportunities for new entrants, promoting more economic stability, which is one of the key objectives of the CR program. It also provides consistency across CR fisheries and will more closely mirror the new regulations for maintaining c-shares.
- A combination of challenging times observed during, and after, the pandemic, low harvest levels and closed fisheries with fewer vessels and therefore crew positions, participating in the fisheries has had a chilling effect on new entrants. The market for c-shares is weak and demand is low (little to none). Increased demand & prices could motivate and enable current C share QS holders to initiate the sale and transfer of their currently held QS, creating additional churn in the QS holder pool.
- The AP selected a 10% use cap across all fisheries being considered to address potential concerns and provide a compromise for those who are concerned about excessive consolidation. While virtually all participants believe the cap should be increased, unanimous consent was not reached on what the cap should be and the 10% use cap reflects the compromise.
- This action retains the requirement to be a participant in the CR Program fisheries to keep that tie with crab fisheries, while also providing an alternative outlet for a CR Program crewmember to achieve the 150-day threshold for commercial fishing experience. It may increase opportunities for active CR program fishermen by increasing flexibility around C share requirements and encouraging new entrants, relative to no action. Tendering experience has been a common way for CR Program fishermen to begin working on a crab vessel. It would be particularly advantageous when harvesting crewmember opportunities are reduced, or for crewmembers who have primarily had tendering employment opportunities and experience.
- It is appropriate to select both alternatives, since each alternative provides different avenues and opportunities for C share markets to stabilize, compared to the status quo. Selecting only one alternative would only provide limited relief and response to the P&N.