



C4 BSAI Crab C Shares – Initial Review

October 2025

Action Memo

Council Staff: Taylor Holman

Action Required: 1) Review analysis, provide any input and recommendations
2) Consider next steps, including requesting additional analysis, potentially identifying a preliminary preferred alternative, and/or releasing the analysis for final action

BACKGROUND

This is an Initial Review Analysis to consider modifications to eligibility requirements and use caps for crew quota shares (C shares) in the BSAI Crab Rationalization (CR) Program. Specifically, the Council's [December 2024 motion](#) requested an analysis of the following action alternatives:

- 1) **Revise eligibility requirements for receiving c-shares through transfer (either as a new entrant or a current c-shares holder buying more):** Allow time tendering in any Federal or State commercial fishery off Alaska to count toward the 150-day eligibility and increase time to 3 years to participate in a CR fishery trip.
- 2) **Increase c-share use caps for Bering Sea crab stocks:** Consider increases within a range of up to 5-10% individually for each Bering Sea crab stock (Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, Saint Matthew Island blue king crab, and Pribilof Islands blue and red king crab).

The Council stated that the purpose of this action is to increase opportunity for active crab fishermen in the CR Program by increasing flexibility around C-share requirements, as well as to encourage new entrants. This action is intended to provide greater consistency between the participation requirements to retain and transfer C-shares, and to loosen restrictions on use caps. Both action alternatives under consideration were selected as potential mechanisms to increase flexibility in the C share program.

Upon reviewing the draft RIR, the Council may provide input and recommendations, request additional analysis, identify a preliminary preferred alternative, and/or release the analysis for final action.