

# D1 Pelagic Trawl Gear Research Updates



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2026

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June 2026 NPFMC meeting  
Vancouver, WA



## Action Under Consideration

- Council is considering potential management measures to further minimize the impacts of pelagic trawl gear in areas closed to nonpelagic trawl gear and address potential unobserved crab mortality ([June 2025 Motion](#))
  - Previously stated its intent is to revise the performance standard for pelagic trawl gear operations (see 50 CFR 679.7(a)(14))
  - Not limited to this approach – Council may consider other management measures to achieve objectives



## Presentations Under D1 (*Order Subject to Change*)

- The Council's interest in pelagic trawl gear research updates is to encourage modifications that can be expected to minimize bycatch, impacts to sensitive seafloor habitat, and unobserved mortality
- Requested presentations/ updates on:
  - APU-Gear Innovation Initiative (Dr. Brad Harris)
  - An EFP testing a modified footrope design for pelagic trawl gear (Dr. Noëlle Yochum and Mr. Shannon Carroll)
  - Crab industry research (Mr. Scott Goodman and Dr. Sean Hardison)
  - Dynamic spatial closure areas for Bristol Bay red king crab from representatives of the Bering Sea pollock industry's IPAs (Ms. Susie Zagorski and Mr. Austin Estabrooks)



## Next Steps

- After receiving the scheduled presentations and updates, as well as public comment, the Council could:
  - Take no further action
  - Request further information from staff in the form of another discussion paper
  - Initiate an analysis – must identify a purpose and need statement and alternatives

