
CPT HCR review – Jan 2026

KATIE PALOF & MIKE LITZOW (CPT COCHAIRS)

February 2026 NPFMC SSC meeting, Anchorage, AK



Jan 2026 CPT meeting

- Convened due to lack of full November meeting
- Agenda
 - HCR review
 - *Chionoecetes* maturity data flow updates (review needed for inclusion in May 2026 proposed models)



CPT discussion on HCR work

- HCR 7 as a potential starting point to transition from risk tables
- Need for realistic status quo HCR (HCR 1) to mimic current buffer / TAC process
- Climate-linked buffers and how to incorporate into climate-naïve models
- Importance of clearly defining objectives and performance criteria - may be different for crab
 - Recruitment maintenance and productivity, in addition to long-term catch and fishery stability
 - Is there value in “banking” crab, for example with a predicted climate perturbation?
- Interaction with State HCRs
 - How would this change?
 - State HCRs tend to be more risk-averse, generally not climate-informed
 - Resonating with State perspectives - developing simulations that capture crab-specific demographics (e.g., male/female dynamics, shell condition), and recognizing stock-specific differences among crab species.
- Limitations of incorporating climate signals with existing knowledge gaps
 - Lack of stock-recruit relationships, uncertainty about biological / environmental reference points
 - Simpler HCR—may be more appropriate



CPT recommendations

- CPT members work with ACLIM analysts to adapt the HCRs to be crab specific (one *Chionoecetes* and one king crab stock – snow and BBRKC)
- More realistic “status quo” HCR (HCR 1) for crab stocks to mimic the current buffer and TAC setting process
- Inclusion alongside groundfish in HCR / Council process
- Continued coordination with State efforts to avoid ‘double dipping’

