

Council Updates

BSAI CRAB PLAN TEAM

Sept 14th, 2026

Anita Kroska



Reminders and Deadlines

Minutes guidance

- Review docs, associated SSC/CPT requests for the last two CPT and SSC meetings
- Final assessments - draft edits to the intro chapter
- Help facilitate discussion and questions during the presentation
 - Concise summary, and if any Recommendations or requests:
 - What is requested, when it would be good to see the request, and
 - why the request is helpful/important
- If extensive PT discussion and/or recommendations, characterize discussion and bold any consensus recommendations
- Add links to applicable assessments/documents
- Draft minutes should be entered into the Google doc as soon as possible

BSAI Crab SAFE Guidelines

- [Draft Review Checklist](#)
- [Draft General Reminders](#)

Deadlines

- **Sept 21** - draft minutes, COB
- **Sept 22** - final SAFE docs
- **Sept 24** - CPT Report finalized



General SSC Recommendations

General Crab Comments

The SSC thanks outgoing CPT co-chair Dr. Litzow for his work and congratulates him on his upcoming retirement.

While acknowledging staffing capacity issues, the SSC supports filling the CPT co-chair position as quickly as possible to provide the necessary support to the current CPT co-chair. The SSC acknowledges that if a co-chair can't be found in a timely manner, it will significantly impact the CPT's capacity, as noted by the CPT in their report.

The SSC supports the CPT and the Scallop Plan Team (SPT) working together to provide quantitative review of the scallop stock assessment. The SSC would support various approaches to facilitate review as suggested in the CPT report in a structure deemed practicable by Council staff and Plan Team members (also see C3 Scallop Harvest Specifications for additional comments).

The SSC notes that the WAIRKC assessment has been postponed until 2027 due to ADF&G capacity constraints.

Hybrid Crab

link the data sources for analyses. **The SSC encourages continued communication on this subject between the partner agencies that jointly manage BSAI crab such that the respective data streams can be made more consistent and their potential future utility improved.**

Regarding its October 2025 recommendation to develop a predetermined response to large increases in hybrid survey abundance, the SSC notes the progress made with the assessment model explorations, the clarifications on the data collection protocols and management practices, and a mechanism to continue to monitor hybrid survey distribution and abundance. **However, the SSC notes that if hybrid abundance continues to be elevated, this existing approach may need to be reconsidered.**

June 2026
SSC Report



General SSC Recommendations

Risk Tables

The SSC supports the proposed guidelines for the implementation of risk tables for BSAI crab stocks. The tiered approach provides for differentiation of types of risk, increases transparency in communication of reductions below maximum ABC and has the potential to improve consistency across crab stocks in the buffer setting process. **The SSC further notes that refinements may be needed after initial implementation and considers the application of risk tables to be an iterative process that may take multiple cycles to be most informative.** The SSC clarifies that long-term considerations for the historical buffer only apply to the assessment and population dynamics categories within the risk table. The SSC highlights the importance of providing a solid rationale for this first tier of risk to justify why a base buffer has been applied and to ensure consistency in its application among stocks. Further, the SSC suggests the Tier 1 of the risk table (i.e. the long-term sources of uncertainty) should be reviewed regularly and modified as necessary, while the annual-level second risk tier should be used in the rare circumstances where an additional buffer may be needed to reflect uncertainty not captured in either the assessment or the Tier 1 buffer.

Acknowledging ongoing workload issues, the SSC recommends that all crab assessments produce a draft risk table on the typical assessment cycle for each stock. The SSC notes that assessments already contain justifications for existing buffers that would populate Tier 1 of the risk table. Authors should coordinate with both Ecosystem Status Report and ESP staff to populate the risk table. The SSC looks forward to reviewing the initial implementation of draft risk tables this fall.



CPT Membership Changes

- Ongoing need for co-chair - SSC “supports filling the CPT co-chair position as quickly as possible to provide the necessary support to the current CPT co-chair. The SSC acknowledges that if a co-chair can’t be found in a timely manner, it will significantly impact the CPT’s capacity, as noted by the CPT in their report.” ([SSC Report](#), June 2026)
- Ethan Nichols has taken a new position. ADF&G plans to fill this vacant CPT seat when they backfill his position.
- As mentioned in past meetings, there is also still a continuing need for quantitative shellfish expertise.



New Plan Team name

- The Council “approves the recommendation to merge the Scallop and Crab Plan Teams.”
- New name suggestion: “Crab and Scallop Plan Team”

The SPT and the CPT discussed the possibility of integrating scallop topics into the CPT review process given the declining SPT membership, limited technical review expertise, similarities in shellfish assessment approaches, and co-management structures. The SSC agreed with both plan teams that this proposal is a logical and practical solution. **The SSC supports a joint or nested CPT/SPT technical review process that would be responsive to the limited SPT capacity and provide additional quantitative review expertise to support a new model-based assessment.** However, while crustaceans and mollusks have some important life history overlaps, they also differ substantially. **Ensuring that people with scallop expertise are included in the review process will be an important consideration if a more formal integration of the two Plan Teams is considered.** In addition, the SSC suggested that the SPT might consider exploring the potential to draw assistance from the experience and expertise of the New England Fisheries Management Council’s SPT.



WAIRKC Stock rolled over

- WAIRKC rolled over due to prioritization of reduced staff capacity, overfishing status will be reported at this Sept CPT mtg on Thursday (9/17). Next assessment June 2027



2027 Schedule

- Jan Modeling Workshop (hybrid, Anchorage (T)): Jan. 11-14th, 2027
- April (virtual): April 19-23rd, 2027
- Sept (in-person): Sept. 13-17; propose meeting the week after Labor Day again due to holiday and survey data timing. This is very likely to overlap with GPTs schedule. In this instance, recordings will be made available for those who listen to both. Any concerns?



GMACS updates

- **Recent updates will be presented this afternoon (Mon, 9/14)**
- **GMACS Updates short report** should be referenced in SAFE documents
 - Report update frequency- Annually every May
 - If different version used in Sept, provide description of what is different



Related Upcoming Council Actions

- GOA Tanner crab protections, Second Initial Review, Feb 2027 (T) Council meeting - action to consider potential closures on the east side of Kodiak Island
- EFH 5-year Review, Feb 2027 Council meeting – progress updates

