

Council Updates

CRAB PLAN TEAM

MAY 12, 2025

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Guidance for responses to CPT & SSC comments

Oct 2024:

The SSC reiterates their request from previous reports, including the October 2023 SSC Report, that the CPT develop a process for ensuring that authors have provided a response to all previous (including at least, the last assessment) SSC recommendations, even those for which no work has been completed, so these requests can be more easily tracked over time.

- Consider SSC prioritization language, when the comment was made, and if its recurring
- Consider overall crab comments, as well as stock-specific
- Responses should include the following:
 - How comment was addressed
 - If comment was not addressed, explain why and the plan
 - Per SSC request: if comment was not addressed, include an estimated timeline for addressing it



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 lead 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

Plan Team Handbook

Very tight turnaround

Draft minutes - May 19th

Final SAFE – May 20th

Final report - May 21st



General SSC recommendations

- Jittering and MCMC guidelines will be discussed at this meeting for Sept. assessments

General Crab Comments

The SSC suggests the following guidance for constructing and interpreting jitter analyses.

- 1) In a good jitter analysis, many models should fail to converge to the maximum likelihood estimates (MLE), which is indicative of exploring a broad region of the parameter space; conversely, if all models return to the MLE, the analysis was not a strong test. All those that do converge have to be at the MLE being used as the base, as there would never be a better solution than at the MLE. This is a one-sided test that doesn't indicate the model converged, only that a better solution was not found than the one reported.
- 2) The results of models that fail to return to the best solution (the MLE) are not useful for statistical inference; restarting those models from the local minima in which they stopped with a perfect solving algorithm would always return to the MLE, and so the results are an artifact of imperfect diagnostic tools.
- 3) Uncertainty in management quantities (e.g. small changes in the likelihood can correspond to large changes in biomass) is best expressed with likelihood profiles on key model scaling quantities, not unconverged model results.

The SSC would like to see additional residual diagnostics other than raw residuals for length composition data from GMACS models. The SSC encourages crab authors to collaborate with groundfish assessment authors regarding the use of One-Step-Ahead and Pearson residuals.

The SSC requests that the CPT consider whether distinguishing between full and update assessments, as in the protocol recently adopted for groundfish assessments, would be useful for crab assessments. Flagging an assessment as an update when the model from the previous assessment is carried forward with no or minor modification would reduce the effort required of the author, and potentially lead to efficiencies in CPT and SSC review.

The SSC suggests the CPT live link assessments and other documents in their report to facilitate review.

The SSC reiterates their request from previous reports, including the October 2023 SSC Report, that the CPT develop a process for ensuring that authors have provided a response to all previous (including at least, the last assessment) SSC recommendations, even those for which no work has been completed, so these requests can be more easily tracked over time.

Survey resources/assessment prioritization and modernization discussion at SSC April 2025

Spreadsheet

- April Council meeting, D4:
<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3081>
- SSC supports combined Catch/TAC and Catch/ABC percentages be presented by species in this combined format at the beginning of each SAFE Introduction, including as many years as is practicable

Stock Assessment	Tier	primary survey	secondary survey	tertiary survey	additional survey/ info considered	risk table elevated 2023 or 2024*	TAC/ABC 2023	TAC/ABC 2024
EBS Pcod	3	EBS +NBS				TRUE	0.88	0.88
BSAI Yellowfin Sole	1	EBS +NBS				TRUE	0.61	0.73
AI cod	3	AI				TRUE	0.61	0.65
AI Pollock	3	AI				FALSE	0.44	0.45
Bogoslof Pollock	5	NMFS AT				FALSE	0.003	0.003
BSAI Greenland turbot	3	EBS	AFSC LL			TRUE	1	1
BSAI Arrowtooth flounder	3	EBS	AI			FALSE	0.18	0.16
BSAI Kamchatka flounder	3	EBS	AI			TRUE	1	1
BSAI Northern rock sole	1	EBS				FALSE	0.54	0.54
BSAI Flathead sole	3	EBS	AI			FALSE	0.54	0.53
BSAI Alaska Plaice	3	EBS				FALSE	0.52	0.61
BSAI Other flatfish	5	EBS	AI			FALSE	0.26	0.26
BSAI POP	3	AI	EBS			TRUE	0.9	0.92
BSAI Northern rockfish	3	AI	EBS			TRUE	0.59	0.87
BSAI Blackspotted rougheye	3	AI	EBS	slope		TRUE	1	1
BSAI Shortraker	5	AI	EBS	AFSC LL	slope	TRUE	1	1
BSAI Other rockfish	4,5,6	EBS	AFSC LL			TRUE	1	1
BSAI Atka mackerel	3	AI				FALSE	0.7	0.77
BSAI Skates	3,5	EBS	AI	slope		FALSE	0.71	0.81
BSAI Sharks	5,6	EBS			IPHC LL	FALSE	0.56	0.89
AK (BSAI) Sablefish	3	AFSC LL	GOA			TRUE	0.95	0.67
BSAI Octopus	6					FALSE	0.11	0.09
AK Grenadiers	ECO	EBS	AI	GOA	slope	FALSE		
<i>Crab assessments:</i>								
EBS snow crab	3	EBS	NBS				0	0
Bristol Bay red king crab	3	EBS	BSFRF		BSFRF		0	0.28
Tanner crab	3	EBS	BSFRF		BSFRF		0.035	0.032
Pribilof Islands red king crab	4	EBS					closed	closed
Pribilof Islands blue king crab	4	EBS					closed	closed
St. Matthew Island blue king crab	4	EBS	ADF&G		ADF&G		0	0
Norton Sound RKC	4	NBS	ADF&G-summer/		ADF&G preseason		0.85	0.81
Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab	3	ADF&G coop survey					0.81	0.8
Pribilof Islands Golden King Crab	5	NA			slope		conf	conf
Western Aleutian Islands RKC	5	NA					0	0



Council Priorities

- Council 3-meeting outlook (April 2025)
- New state waters AIGKC fishery (B5 report; April 2025)
- Survey modernization & prioritization (April 2025; updates this meeting)
- Climate Resilience Work Plan motion (Dec 2024; updates this meeting)
- Ecosystem Committee reconstituting in 2025, draft TOR
- SSC HCR Workshop (June 2025)
- BBRKC Feb 2024 motion – regular research updates
 - B1 Report (sched. June 2025) – Crab fishery research updates
 - Any research you would like highlighted for the Council?

