

Council Updates

BSAI CRAB PLAN TEAM

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

ANITA KROSKA



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 - reminders

- 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

Plan Team Handbook

Very tight turnaround

Draft minutes – COB Sept 15th

Final SAFEs – Sept 16th

Final report – Sept 17th



General SSC recommendations

General comments

General BSAI Crab Comments

The SSC continues to recommend that the CPT consider whether there is value in defining full and update assessments.

The SSC notes that a historical retrospective is different from a within model retrospective and requests that crab assessments include a plot comparing the model-estimated time series of mature male biomass from the current assessment with the time series from the ten previous assessments (i.e., historical retrospective).

The SSC recommended that the CPT provide GMACS version updates in each CPT report with information on changes between versions and that authors clearly identify which GMACS versions were used and a brief summary of the effects of version changes on the assessment.

The SSC recommends that each crab SAFE chapter include a clear description of the buffers used in harvest specification over the most recent five years, as a basis for comparing the current year's buffer recommendations.

Excerpted from snow crab section:

was impossible to isolate why these changes had occurred. **The SSC recommends that any time a model change results in substantive differences in model estimates or harvest recommendations, a clear description of what changes in model structure, data, or likelihood definitions produced the change is necessary.** However, in this case, the SSC does not request a more detailed description of the reason for



Jittering guidelines – reminders

CPT Recommendations starting in Sept. 2025:

- Report the jittering level, the parameters included in jittering, and the number of model runs made;
- Report the number of runs that successfully converged to the putative MLE (e.g., runs with objective function values within 0.01 of the lowest value) and the inclusion criteria used;
- Plot the distribution of final objective function values, but only include runs within a small interval above the lowest value, the putative MLE (e.g., one or two likelihood units), as a bar chart or as a point plot with the max gradient or an informative quantity (e.g., estimated mean recruitment) as the y-axis;
- Use likelihood profiles over +/- one or two likelihood units from the MLE for key parameters (e.g., log initial R, M) to illustrate how the contribution of different data sources to the likelihood, key scaling parameter values, and key management quantities change with the profiled parameter.



Timing changes

- AIGKC – proposed model runs moving from Sept. to Nov. meeting; Final SAFE still in June
- NSRKC – Final SAFE will stay in Nov. (no change to timing based on NBS survey data availability as previously suggested)
- Both AIGKC and NSRKC will be presented at the Nov. mtg



Council Topics

- Ecosystem Committee reconstituted, will likely announce membership at Oct mtg, draft TOR
- SSC HCR Workshop motion (June 2025) – providing updates at Nov. CPT meeting
- B1 BSFRF-ADFG-NMFS Crab Research Update (PPT; June 2025)
- PTR Innovation motion (June 2025) – pollock fishery-BBRKC crab avoidance plan; scheduled crab research updates; public-facing research summary document
- GOA Tanner crab protections Initial Review scheduled for Dec. 2025 (April motion) – closure options around Kodiak Island

