

Crab Disaster Funds, Request for Proposals

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Proposal Deadline:
January 21, 4pm AKST

Start date: ~June 1, 2025
End date: Oct 31, 2028





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Hot Topics & Issues of Interest

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Federal Fishery Disasters

- Chinook Salmon

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Federal Fishery Disasters

The Secretary of Commerce has approved several requests from the State of Alaska for federal fishery disaster determinations in recent years. If Congress appropriates funds for disaster assistance, NOAA Fisheries determines how much funding is allocated to each approved fishery disaster. The State supports an open and transparent process for distributing disaster relief funds and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) works with affected stakeholders and NOAA Fisheries to identify funding priorities and develop spend plans for each fishery disaster.

Guiding principles for fishery disaster spend plans:

Fishery disaster funds are intended to assist fishery participants harmed by the fishery disaster, to improve fishery information used to assess and forecast future fishery performance, and to develop management approaches that mitigate the impacts of future fishery disasters that cannot be prevented.

More information about the fishery disaster process can be found in the "Helpful Links" section at the bottom of this page. For more information about recent Alaska fishery disasters, including spend plan development, see the specific fishery disaster by species and area below. For questions, comments, or to be added to our contact list for a specific fishery disaster, please e-mail: dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov or call Darion Jones: (907) 267-2593

[Bering Sea Crab Disaster Funds: Request for Research Proposals Application Period OPEN \(PDF 255 kB\)](#)

(Submission Deadline: 1/21/2025 4pm AKST)



Crab Disaster Funds, Request for Proposals



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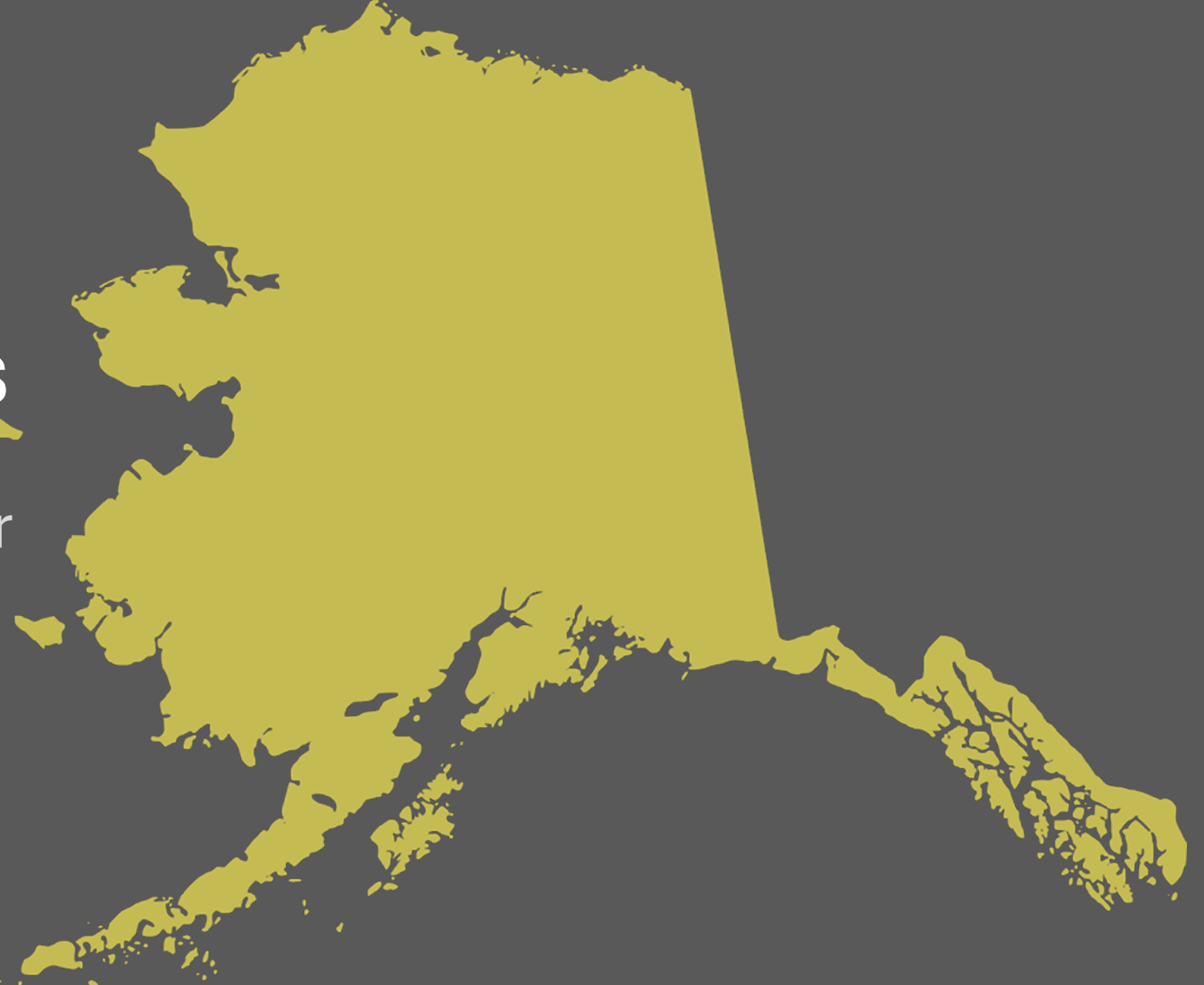
Search: “ADFG Federal Fisheries Disasters”

Crab Disaster Funds, Request for Proposals

NPRB contracted to administer
proposal review

95% like Core NPRB Proposal
Submission

- a. Familiarity
- b. respected process



Crab Disaster Funds, Request for Proposals



\$6 million (\$1.5M max budget)

~\$10M in vessel time (if needed)

Grad students + post-docs highly
encouraged

Some budget/admin details TBD.

Topics of interest include:

Oceanography and larval ecology:

- Improved understanding of crab larval behavior and distributions, especially as a function of stratification and tidal stream transport
- Improved understanding of seasonal establishment and maintenance of water column stratification and their impacts on crab larvae
- Mechanisms and predictability of Bering Sea shelf heat content and implications for crab stocks of associated warm and cold stanzas
- Direct and indirect effects of climate change and ocean acidification on crab stocks

Biology and Ecology:

- Estimation of life history parameters that impact stock assessments (e.g., age, growth, maturity, fecundity, natural mortality, environmental drivers, recruitment)
- Spatial and temporal variation in stock structure and distribution patterns
- Characterization of habitat essential for spawning, nursery and feeding areas
- Characterization of cross-species interactions (e.g., to support ecosystem-based management)
- Evaluation of genetic stock structure for Bristol Bay red king crab

Human Dimensions (Bycatch, Management, Socio-economics, Restoration):

- Bycatch and incidental catch (e.g., spatiotemporal distribution, ecological effects, discard mortality, and implications of management measures) including fishing gear modifications
- Improved understanding of unobserved mortality from all fishing gear types
- Evaluation of alternative Federal and State harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)
- Evaluation of diversification strategies (both fishing and non-fishing) and their role in risk mitigation
- Vulnerability assessment of fishing communities that depend on crab fisheries for their local economies, including assessment of resilience and adaptive capacity
- Improved understanding of the role of public (non-fisheries) policies for building climate resilient coastal communities
- Evaluation of crab closure areas for conservation and stock recovery
- Improved understanding of feasibility, methodology, and approaches for crab restoration through hatchery rearing

Vessel time requests

General “plan”:

3 annual “surveys” for snow crab

(3 vessels, 25 days each)

3 annual “surveys” for BB RKC

(3 vessels, 25 days each)

2 snow crab focused cruises

(2 vessels, 22 days each)

2 BB RKC focused cruises

(2 vessels, 22 days each)

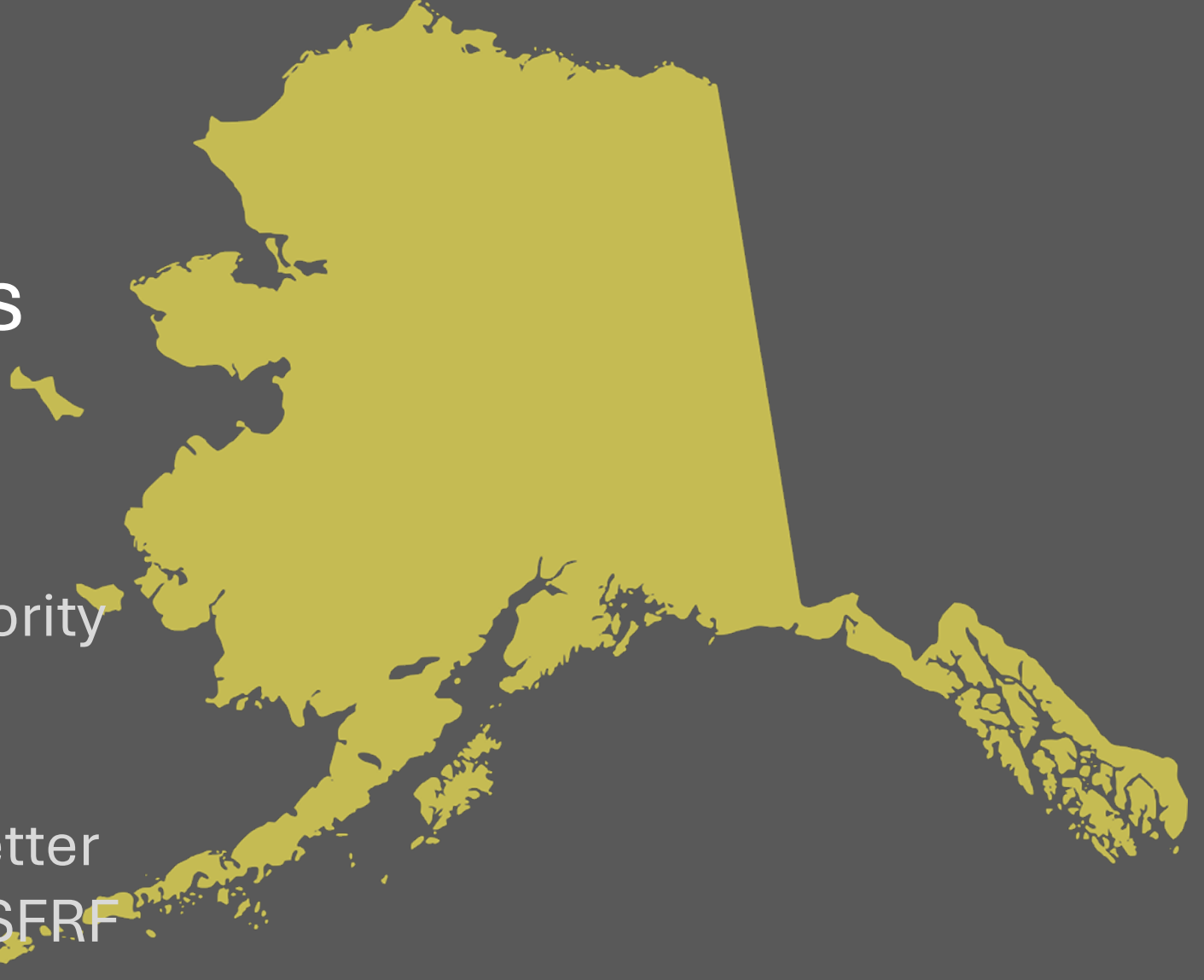


Vessel time requests

BSFRF coordinating vessels\

Crab fishing vessels have priority
(but not required)

Proposals required to have letter
of acknowledgement from BSFRF



2024 curated Top 10-12 List (unranked)

Description	Citations	Related RIDs
Further research to reduce western Alaska salmon bycatch in Bering Sea groundfish fisheries (808).	Public, SSCsub, GPT, SSPT (Supp)	N024 (155, 156, 157, 182), N029, N031, N034, N035c, 235, SSCSub001
Quantify the magnitude of fishing gear impacts on crab and their associated benthic habitat and develop fishing gear innovations where needed (809).	Public, BSFEP, CPT, SSCsub, Council, GPT (Supp)	N025, N028, N030, N033, N039d, CPT 004, SSCSub002, Council001, BSFEP006, 235
Evaluate direct marine mammal-fishery interactions (including feeding on discards and spatio-temporal trends in bycatch) and potential mitigation measures for marine mammal conservation (810).	Public, SSCsub (Supp), GPT (Supp)	N037b, N039f, SSCsub007, SSCsub008, GPT011
* Examine the economic, social, and cultural effects of fisheries and fishery management policy on communities over time (including impacts from fishery policy changes and Tribal citizen and Tribal Nation reliance on, participation in, and impacts of federally managed fisheries) (811).	Public, SSPT (x3), BSFEP, CPT (Supp)	230, BSFEP009, SSPT003, 226, 731, N020
* Develop actionable ecosystem indicators relevant to single-species stock assessments and ecosystem assessments that address climate change impacts to managed stocks (812).	Public, BSFEP, GPT	N035a, 189, BSFEP10, GPT015
* Continue to acquire basic life history information with an emphasis on improved estimates of size/age at maturity to advance understanding of the mechanisms for how maturity changes over space and through time (813).	Public, ScPT, CPT, GPT	N008, 171, 592, CPT002, CPT003
* Increased understanding of the spatial distribution, habitat requirements, and movement of crabs relative to life history events and fishing (814).	Public, CPT, BSFEP	N003, N011, N035b, N039a, 148, BSFEP006
Develop predictive tools and models that evaluate the impact of multiple projected climate scenarios on managed resources to inform management options related to ecosystem production and resilience and adaptation of fishing communities (815).	BSFEP, GPT, CPT	223, 225, 733, BSFEP008, GPT016, CPT006
Retrospective and meta- analysis regarding whether, how, when and why objectives and goals of fishery management plans are or are not achieved over time (e.g., Bmsy proxy evaluation) (816).	Public, SSCsub, GPT (Supp), SSPT (Supp)	N027, N032, GPT014, 365
* Norton Sound Red King Crab case study (731).	SSPT, CPT (Supp)	731
Improve surveys in untrawlable habitat, particularly for rockfish, Atka mackerel, sculpins, and snow crab (817).	Public, GPT	N003,N017, N022, 146
Improve discard mortality rate estimates for scallops, crab, and groundfish stocks by gear types (818).	Public, ScPT	203, N035f

Unobserved Fishing Mortality Working Group (UFMWG)

Table 1. Draft summary information of Unobserved Fishing Mortality (UFM) at the Individual Event and Population Levels as a function of gear type. Information types include an estimated Score/Category, whether data are currently available, the general type of research that is needed, a proposed priority for that research, and an estimated timeline to undertake the needed research. Information needed to estimate UFM at the Individual Event level includes Bottom Contact, Time on Bottom, and "Lethality" of the fishing gear. Additionally, at the regional level, estimates of the total number of fishing events and the overlap between fishing and crab distributions ("Crab Dist.") are needed to estimate the overall impact of UFM. The number of different gear configurations for each gear type reflects the current number of gear types in the Fishing Effects Model gear tables, and indicates our recognition that important variability may exist within the gear type categories used in this table. Order of magnitude values for the Bottom contact area and Total number of events are derived from 2019 Fishing Effects Model outputs for the Bering Sea. Highlighted cells show where the WG suggests research be focused due to either the amount of time required to obtain data and/or where improved estimates would be helpful.

Gear Type (# of configs)	Information Type	Individual Event (e.g., pot/rawl) Level			Population Level	
		Bottom Contact Area	Time on Bottom	"Lethality" of gear	Total # of Events (pot lifts/trawls)	Overlap with Crab
Pots (2)	Magnitude	10 ¹ m ²	Hours to Days	High	10 ⁵	High
	Data Available	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Research Needed	Data mining	Data mining	Field exp'ts	Data mining	Data mining
	Priority	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Timeline (years)	0.5-1	0.5-1	3-5	0.5-1	0.5-1
Lost Pots (2)	Magnitude	10 ¹ m ²	Months to Years	Medium	Unknown	High
	Data Available	Yes	Some	Some	Some	Some
	Research Needed	Data mining	Field exp'ts	Field exp'ts	Data mining/Field exp'ts	Data mining
	Priority	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
	Timeline (years)	1-2	3-5+	1-3	3-5	0.5-1
Hook-and-Line (3)	Magnitude	10 ⁴ m ²	Hours to Days	Low	10 ⁴	Medium
	Data Available	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some
	Research Needed	Data mining	Data mining	Field exp'ts	Data mining	Crab Dist.
	Priority	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Timeline (years)	0.5-1	0.5-1	3-5	0.5-1	0.5-1
Non-Pelagic Trawl (13)	Magnitude	10 ⁶ m ²	Minutes	High	10 ⁴	Medium
	Data Available	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some
	Research Needed	Data mining	Data mining	Field Exp'ts	Data mining	Crab Dist.
	Priority	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
	Timeline (years)	0.5-1	0.5-1	3-5	0.5-1	1-5
Pelagic Trawl (30)	Magnitude	10 ⁵ m ²	Minutes	High	10 ⁴	Medium
	Data Available	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some
	Research Needed	Data mining	Data mining	Field Exp'ts	Data mining	Crab Dist.
	Priority	Medium	Medium	High	Low	Medium
	Timeline (years)	0.5-1	0.5-1	3-5	0.5-1	1-5