

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C-6 BSAI Crab PSC limits
Motion 2-7-14

The Council requests a revised discussion paper to outline the steps and information needed to consider the appropriateness of revising or implementing crab PSC limits or other management measures to minimize crab PSC in directed groundfish fisheries. This paper should include:

1. A discussion of implementing future PSC limits in weights rather than numbers.
2. A template that could be used for any crab stock that outlines the necessary information. The paper should use the snow crab stock and (COBLZ) management area as an example to develop the template.

Information needed to evaluate current management measures could include:

- Figures depicting sample size, sex ratio and size frequency of crab bycatch in groundfish fisheries by gear.
- Graphs of size data including a reference to average size of crabs taken in directed crab fisheries.
- Maps that overlay existing closure area(s) with crab stock distribution at the time of survey (by sex and size category), the directed crab fishery(s), and groundfish bycatch by trawl, pot, and hook-and-line gear from 2008 – 2013.
- Tables showing PSC reported by groundfish fishing year; actual PSC limits for trawl gear by area/zone; total PSC and total PSC within the closure area(s) by gear type.

Information needed to develop future management measures could include:

- A description of the methodology that could be applied to set or revise abundance based PSC limits.
- A discussion of the application of mortality rates to the crab PSC that accrues to trigger limits, by gear type.