

E Crab Crew Share Clarifications

Council Motion

APRIL 10, 2023

For the upcoming June 2023 Crab C share recent participation req.: Initial Review; the Council requests staff to analyze ways to provide an exemption for C share QS holders who were unable to fish during the covid years and due to recent closed or low TAC crab fisheries, including closed and low TAC crab fisheries in the future, while maintaining the concept of active participation.

- The Council requests staff to develop options that would allow NMFS to reissue any CVC or CPC QS that NMFS has revoked based upon a failure to meet recent participation requirements in recent years until NMFS implements a final rule resulting from this action.
- The Council recognizes the complexities identified by staff and requests staff provide further information in the analysis on different ways to achieve the purpose and need for this action, including establishing thresholds under which exemptions from active participation may be warranted (for example Alt 1, Option 1 proposed by the AP), and not allowing C share QS that are associated with a closed fisheries to be revoked. In other words, CVC or CPC QS that are held in open and closed fisheries where the only open crab fishery is limited by low TAC.

To assist in the analysis staff would analyze the effectiveness of:

- Suspending the recent participation requirement after the pandemic and beginning in 2023/24 only count fishing years where at least 15, 20, 25, or 30 BSAI crab vessels fish. Also analyze not counting 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, through 2023/2024 toward the recent participation requirement.
- Analyze giving the Regional Administrator the authority to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirement in years of low BSAI crab quota where few vessels' fish or due to other unforeseen circumstances (e.g. a pandemic)
- Expand participation requirements for non-initial issues to match the requirements of initial issues. In other words, "within the previous three years, participate in a BSAI crab trip OR participate as crew in at least 30 days of fishing in a commercial fishery off Alaska" for all CVC QS and CPC QS
- Not revoking any CVC or CPC QS associated with a closed fishery.
- Reissue any CVC QS and CPC QS that were revoked between July 2023 and the effective date of the proposed action.
- The Council requests staff identify potential criteria that the Council could select to guide future decisions by the Regional Administrator to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirement.
- The Council will review this information at the June meeting and may revise the P & N and alternatives and options at that time.