



C1 BSAI Crab

October 2023

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Rheinsmith

Other Presenters: Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)

Action Required:

1. EBS Snow crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2023/24
2. Bristol Bay Red King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2023/24
3. Pribilof Island Blue King Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2023/24 and 2024/25
4. Tanner Crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2023/24
5. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the September 2023 meeting
6. Review/approve final BSAI Crab SAFE report

A. Ecosystem Status Report (SSC only)

The ecosystem status report (ESR) will present crab-relevant information for the Bering Sea that was available from 2022, data from 2023, and preliminary forecasts for 2024.

B. BSAI Crab Specifications and Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met in a hybrid format from September 12-14, 2023 in Seattle, WA to review final 2023 stock assessments for the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC), EBS Tanner Crab, and Pribilof Island Blue King Crab (PIBKC) and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks ([Crab Plan Team eAgenda](#)). The 2023 BSAI Crab SAFE Introduction and the assessment chapters for Snow crab, BBRKC, PIBKC, and Tanner crab are attached.

The Team addressed several additional issues at this meeting, including:

- Model scenarios to be reviewed by the CPT in January 2023 for the Norton Sound Red King Crab stock assessment.
- Overfishing updates for western Aleutian Island Red King Crab (WAIRKC), Pribilof Island Golden King Crab (PIGKC), Pribilof Island Red King Crab (PIRKC), Saint Matthew Blue King Crab (SMBKC) and Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (AIGKC).
- Summer trawl survey results, 2022 fishery summary, Ecosystem Status Reports, Ecosystem and Socio-economic Profiles (ESP) for Snow crab and BBRKC, RKC Stock structure template, Bering Sea Fishery Research Foundation (BSFRF) survey update, GMACS modeling planning, survey modernization, and an update on the economic status of the fishery.

The full report from the Crab Plan Team is attached.