



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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C1 BSAI Crab

October 2022

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 2022/23
 2. Bristol Bay Red King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 3. St. Matthew Blue King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 4. Pribilof Island Red King Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 5. Tanner Crab- Specify OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 6. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the September 2022 meeting
 7. Review/Approve final SAFE report
 8. Review snow crab rebuilding projections (SSC only)

A. Ecosystem Status Report

The ecosystem status report (ESR) will present crab-relevant information for the Bering Sea that was available from 2021, data from 2022, and preliminary forecasts for 2023.

B. BSAI Crab Specifications and Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met in a hybrid format from September 12-15, 2022 in Seattle, WA to review final 2022 stock assessment for the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) Snow Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC), EBS Tanner Crab, Saint Matthew Blue King Crab (SMBKC), and Pribilof Island Red King Crab (PIRKC) and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks ([Crab Plan Team eAgenda](#)). The 2022 BSAI Crab SAFE Introduction and the assessment chapters for Snow crab, BBRKC, SMBKC, PIRKC, and Tanner crab as well as proposed models for Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC) are attached.

The Team addressed several additional issues at this meeting, including

- Model scenarios to be reviewed by the CPT in January 2022 for the NSRKC stock assessment.
- Overfishing updates for western Aleutian Island Reg King Crab (WAIRKC), Pribilof Island Golden King Crab (PIGKC), Pribilof Island Red King Crab (PIRKC), Pribilof Island Blue King Crab (PIBKC), and Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (AIGKC)
- Summer trawl survey results, 2020 fishery summary, Ecosystem Status Reports, Ecosystem and Socio-economic Profiles (ESP) for Snow crab, BBRKC, and SMBKC, Snow crab rebuilding model projections, EFH FE model results, Bering Sea Fishery Research Foundation (BSFRF) survey update, GMACS modeling planning, and continued conversation surrounding modifying the timing of crab assessments.

The full report from the Crab Plan Team is attached.

C. Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan projections (SSC only)

The Council was officially notified that Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab was overfished on October 19, 2021. This began the 2-year period for the development and implementation of the rebuilding plan for this stock. The plan must specify a time to rebuild, which should not exceed 10 years, unless this cannot be accomplished in the absence of all fishing mortality. ADFG, NMFS, and Council staff have been working to develop this rebuilding plan and specifically to identify the parameters to establish mandatory T_{MIN} (minimum time to rebuild to B_{MSY} in the absence of all fishing mortality). A number of recommendations for the current snow crab rebuilding analysis are summarized in the CPT report. The SSC at this meeting will review EBS snow crab rebuilding projections from the September 2022 Crab Plan Team meeting to provide recommendations and guidance to the analysts. Staff will present an analysis of the impacts of the rebuilding alternative for a scheduled initial review during the December 2022 Council meeting. Rebuilding projections are included in Appendix D of the snow crab SAFE report chapter.