

Council Motion
D3 BSAI Crab C-shares
December 9, 2024

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis.

PURPOSE & NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of this action is to increase opportunity for active crab fishermen in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization (CR) Program by increasing flexibility around C-share requirements (also known as crew shares or CVC and CPC), as well as to encourage new entrants. The Council recently broadened eligibility requirements to maintain C-shares and this action is proposed to similarly broaden the eligibility requirements to receive C-shares by transfer. Changes to the eligibility criteria would broaden who could purchase C-shares and changes to the use caps would encourage more new entrants to invest in the crab fishery as well as allowing current C-share holders to acquire additional C-shares. This could incentivize the transfer market for C-shares given the low crab catch limits and increase the marketability of C-shares in general. This action is intended to provide greater consistency between the participation requirements to retain and transfer C-shares, and to loosen restrictions on use caps.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 – No Action.

Alternative 2 – Revise eligibility requirements to purchase/receive c-shares by transfer.

Allow time tendering in any Federal or State commercial fishery off Alaska to count toward the 150-day eligibility and increase time to 3 years to participate in a CR fishery trip.

Alternative 3 – Increase c-share use caps for Bering Sea crab stocks

Consider increases within a range of up to 5-10% individually for each Bering Sea crab stock (BBR, BSS, EBT, WBT, SMB, PIK).

The action alternatives are not mutually exclusive.