



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

C3 BSAI Crab

June 2022

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Sarah Rheinsmith and Jon McCracken
- Other Presenters: Katie Palof, (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair), Dr. Mike Litzow (NMFS, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)
- Action Required:
1. Specify Aleutian Islands golden king crab OFL/ABC for 2022/23
 2. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the May 2022 meeting
 3. Select alternatives for Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan Analysis

Background

A. AIGKC ABC/OFL, AIGKC SAFE report, Crab Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met in a hybrid format from May 16-19, 2022 in Anchorage, AK to review final 2022 stock assessment for Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) and to recommend OFL and ABC for this stock ([CPT Meeting Agenda](#)). The 2022 BSAI Crab SAFE report assessment chapter for AIGKC (Ch 8) and sections of the SAFE report Introduction pertaining to the stock are attached.

The Team addressed several additional issues at this meeting, including

- Model scenarios to be reviewed by the CPT in September for final 2022 stock assessments:
 - Eastern Bering Sea snow crab
 - Bristol Bay red king crab
 - Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab
 - Pribilof Island Red King Crab (triennial cycle)
 - Saint Matthew Island Blue King Crab (biennial cycle)
- Council actions in February and April 2022, Snow crab rebuilding plan, climate change, and individual based model (IBM) model updates, the recent Council BBRKC discussion paper, history of handling mortality rates and $F_{35\%}$, Crab unobserved mortality, GMACS modeling, Crab ABC risk table, EFH 5-year review, potential modifications to the timing of crab assessments, and terms of reference for crab SAFE report chapters.

The full report from the Crab Plan Team is attached.

B. Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan Analysis

The Council was officially notified that Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab was overfished on October 19, 2021. Upon notification that a stock or stock complex is overfished, the Council must prepare and implement an FMP amendment or proposed regulations within two years of notification. To facilitate the development of the EBS snow crab rebuilding plan, the Council at this meeting will select alternatives for the rebuilding analysis. The alternatives must include the no action alternative, and a rebuilding plan alternative that is consistent with the Magnuson Stevens Act and National Standard 1 Guidelines. 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.

ADF&G, NMFS, and Council staff have been working to identify the parameters to establish mandatory minimum time to rebuild to B_{MSY} at a probability of $\geq 50\%$ in the absence of all fishing mortality (T_{min}). A presentation of progress to date to determine T_{MIN} , T_{MAX} , rebuilding benchmarks, harvest strategy considerations, and what additional factors should be considered in a rebuilding plan will be provided based upon work presented to the CPT in May. A number of recommendations for the current snow crab rebuilding analysis are summarized in the CPT report. The SSC will review EBS snow crab rebuilding projections from the May 2022 CPT meeting to provide recommendations and guidance to the Council.

At this meeting, the Council will select EBS snow crab rebuilding alternatives for analysis. The staff paper provides draft alternatives for the Council to consider, including a required no action alternative, and a rebuilding plan alternative that meets MSA criteria. The Council may choose to include options that do or do not allow for some amount of snow crab mortality during rebuilding, as long as the stock is projected to rebuild within the maximum allowed time period (T_{MAX}). Upon Council selection of EBS snow crab rebuilding alternatives and options for analysis at this meeting, staff will prepare an analysis of the impacts of the rebuilding alternative for a scheduled initial review during the October 2022 Council meeting.