


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver   
Executive Director  
DATE: May 26, 2009  
SUBJECT: BSAI Crab Stock Status

ESTIMATED TIME 12 HOURS (All C-3 Items)
---

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Receive Crab Plan Team Report, draft BSAI Crab SAFE report, rebuilding plan alternatives

**BACKGROUND**

The Crab Plan Team met in Seattle from May 11-15, 2009, to review draft BSAI crab stock assessments and provide recommendations for the model parameterizations and tier establishments for BSAI crab stocks. The team also participated in a crab stock assessment/data weighting workshop. This is the second year of the new process for annual determination of crab OFLs, and the Crab Plan Team is part of the newly established review process. There are ten crab stocks in the BSAI Crab FMP and all ten must have annually established OFLs. Six of the ten stocks will have OFLs established following the summer survey information availability. Two of the ten stocks (Norton Sound red king crab and AI golden king crab) have OFL recommendations at this time, in order to have approved OFLs prior to the summer fisheries for these stocks. The Council can approve these two OFLs at this June meeting. The remaining two stocks (Adak red king crab and Pribilof Islands golden king crab) have OFLs recommended based on Tier 5 formulation (average catch) and OFLs will be recommended in conjunction with the final SAFE report in the fall. Much of the Crab Plan Team's stock assessment and OFL recommendations are contained within the Crab SAFE Introduction while some additional recommendations and discussions are included in the Crab Plan Team Report. The Crab Plan Team report is attached as Item C-3(d)(1) while the Crab SAFE Report Introduction was mailed to you previously and is attached as Item C-3(d)(2).

In conjunction with this agenda item, the Council will be briefed on progress towards rebuilding for the three crab stocks currently under rebuilding plans: EBS snow crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab, and Pribilof Island blue king crab. Of the three stocks, Pribilof Island blue king crab shows no sign of recovery. Given new estimates of stock recovery and the potential that additional measures could be taken to protect this stock, the rebuilding plan for this stock needs to be revised. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to discuss recommended alternatives and consider initiating an analysis for a revised rebuilding plan.