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# ADVISORY PANEL C1 MOTION

JUNE 2023



# C1 BSAI CRAB

## **Motion 1**

The Advisory Panel reviewed the CPT report and recommends the Council adopt the updated AIGKC, PIGKC, WAIRKC SAFE report, as well as approve the 2023-24 AIGKC, 2023/2026 OFLs and ABCs as recommended by the SSC.

*Motion passed 16/0*



# C1 BSAI CRAB

## **Motion 2**

The AP recommends the formation of an Unobserved Mortality Workshop in addition to the SSC/Council recommended Working Group to address unobserved mortality with the following objectives:

1. Incorporate unobserved mortality estimates into BSAI crab stock assessments as recommended by the SSC and Council and
2. Assess unobserved mortality estimates based on interaction with all gear types, including ghost fishing pots, to be utilized to inform management decisions.

*Motion passed 19/0*



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# ADVISORY PANEL C2 MOTION

JUNE 2023



# C2 OBSERVER REPORTS

## **Motion**

The Advisory Panel acknowledges the receipt of the Observer Report and appreciates the work of the agency, Council Staff, and the FMAC. The AP makes the following motion:

1. The AP supports the FMAC and NMFS recommendations for the 2024 ADP (see pages 68-69 of the 2022 Observer Annual Report), with the following modifications and discussion points:

- a.** Continue work on the cost efficiency integrated analysis, including evaluation of the 3 stratification options and 4 allocation methods. Apply example coverage rates to the 12 monitoring designs to be analyzed under low, medium, and high funding scenarios.
- b.** Include the proposed evaluation metrics listed in the presentation (i.e., number of trips sampled or monitored, variance in expenses, burden share, timeliness, prohibited species catch, etc.)
- c.** Continue evaluation of zero coverage where all vessels over 40 feet continue to register in ODDS, temporarily move the highest cost, low producing vessels into zero coverage on a rotating basis for both EM and Non-EM vessels.
  - Look at fixed-gear EM vessels that have not fished for groundfish in multiple years.
- d.** Continue to evaluate two solutions to high cancellation rates in HAL stratum:
  - Having the next trip inherit the observer-selected trip or
  - Increase the programmed rates in ODDS in order to actually achieve the target rate.



## C2 OBSERVER REPORTS

2. The AP also requests that the Council direct staff to develop a discussion paper, as directed by the FMAC, that includes a comparison of current and future deployment needs with availability of trained observers for both partial and full coverage sectors.

- a. Consider how many observers of each training endorsement level are needed simultaneously across fishing seasons, more similarly to how an observer provider needs to deploy observers.
- b. Compare the total number of distinct, qualified observers and newly qualified observers (ex: Table 4-1 in RIR) that has traditionally been used with the above number of observers needed seasonally at each experience level.
- c. Describe the challenges observer providers have encountered in providing observer coverage.
- d. Consider how recent Council actions and their forthcoming regulatory changes (ex: Pollock Trawl EM, PCTC Cod, BSAI POT CP) will affect the availability of entry level observer positions for different gear types in the full coverage and partial coverage sectors.



## C2 OBSERVER REPORTS

3. The AP also requests that the Council direct the Agency to make a summary presentation on observer data quality issues by each observed fishery and sector, with trends of those issues over an appropriate time period including:

- a. number and percentage of observer trip level species composition data deletions.
- b. potential impacts of these data deletions for fishery management, conservation, and assessment of needed training change.

*Main Motion as amended passed 19/0*



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# ADVISORY PANEL C3 MOTION

JUNE 2023





# C3 CRAB C SHARES

The AP recommends the analysis move forward for Final action with the addition of two alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No action

Alternative 2 – Modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recency requirements

Option 1: Restart the recent participation requirement beginning in 2023/24 fishing year. Do not count 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, toward the recent participation requirement.

Option 2: Give the Regional Administrator the authority to suspend the CVC QS and CPC QS recent participation requirement

Option 3: To maintain C share quota holdings, an individual could demonstrate participation by at least 30 days as crew in a commercial fishery off Alaska (federal or state of Alaska) in the previous 3 years



# C3 CRAB C SHARES

## Alternative 3

Remove recent participation requirements for issuance of C share IFQ and maintaining c- shares QS. No changes to the 365 day requirement for acquisition and transfer of c-shares.

## Alternative 4 (not mutually exclusive with Alt 2 and 3)

Make this regulation retroactive from before this June 15, 2023, application period, and reissue any c-share that may be revoked.

*Main motion as amended passed 19/0*



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# ADVISORY PANEL C4 MOTION

JUNE 2023



# C4 BBRKC CLOSURE AREAS

## **Motion 1**

The AP recommends the removal of Section 4 Discussion: Trawl Gear Performance Standard and Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition from the analysis. As requested in the Council's December 2022 motion, an expanded discussion on the trawl gear performance standard and pelagic gear definition was included in the initial review analysis, however, it does not meet the Purpose and Need and should be removed.

*Motion passed 12/6*



# C4 BBRKC CLOSURE AREAS

## **Motion 2**

The AP recommends that the Council initiate a second Initial Review Analysis of the BBRKC Closure Areas. Additional considerations should include but not be limited to the following:

- Evaluate and provide evidence that the RKCSA/SS, as currently defined, is important and beneficial to the BBRKC stock, specifically is the RKCSA/SS the correct area?
- Elaborate on the relative importance of the NMFS Area 512 to the BBRKC stock.
- Enhance the use of best available science on BBRKC stock distribution and habitat.
  - Historical scientific literature
  - Council EFH reviews
  - Annual NMFS EBS bottom trawl surveys
  - Data from 2023 BSFRF winter survey and potential for additional winter surveys in the future



## C4 BBRKC CLOSURE AREAS

- Enhance the analysis and narrative of tradeoffs to bycatch and fishing operations to the groundfish fisheries that would be affected by the potential actions.
  - Improve the information in appendix 2 and include said information as a primary analytical element of the EA/RIR.
  - Expand PSC data beyond the last 3 years.
  - Include analysis of tradeoffs for halibut bycatch that includes A 80 fisheries historic use of RKCSSA based on years prior to 2020 when cap was reduced to two lower rungs of ladder (99K and 32 K).
  - Include engagement with groundfish fishery participants to gain local knowledge.



## C4 BBRKC CLOSURE AREAS

- Remove section 4 Discussion: Trawl Gear Performance Standard and Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition.
- Include information from potentially ongoing projects that address gear-seafloor interactions for all gear types and BBRKC distribution.
- Expand on the Council's recommendation to evaluate the potential tradeoffs and challenges of establishing dynamic closure areas to promote the BBRKC stocks.
- Describe rationale for 50K area-swept trigger for access to RKC SA and RKC SSA, likelihood RKC stock will be above that threshold under prevalent ecosystem conditions in recent years
- Discuss tradeoffs and merits of 50K area swept trigger compared to current trigger for fisheries currently affected by RKC PSC caps (whether there is a directed RKC fishery)
- Consider the impact of bottom contact by all gear types in the BBRKC savings area on the BBRKC stocks and ecosystem.

*Main motion as amended passed 12/4 (one abstaining)*



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# ADVISORY PANEL D1 MOTION

JUNE 2023





# D1 SMALL SABLEFISH UPDATE

## Motion

### PURPOSE AND NEED

Large year classes of sablefish result in significant catches of small sablefish in the IFQ fixed gear fisheries. Small sablefish have low commercial value and current regulations require IFQ holders to retain all sablefish. Available data suggest that survival rates for carefully released sablefish are high. Limited operational flexibility to carefully release sablefish may increase the value of the commercial harvest and allow small fish to contribute to the overall biomass.

### ALTERNATIVES

#### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action alternative, all regulations and FMP language related to a prohibition on discarding sablefish would remain intact. Those regulations include 50 CFR 679.7(d)(4)(ii) and 50 CFR 679.7(f)(11). Additionally, discarding is prohibited in both the BSAI and GOA Groundfish FMPs in the fourth provision under General Provisions section 3.7.1.7, prohibiting discarding of sablefish.



# D1 SMALL SABLEFISH UPDATE

## **Alternative 2, Allow Release of Sablefish in the IFQ Fishery**

This alternative would eliminate the regulatory restrictions that prohibit release of sablefish caught by sablefish IFQ vessels as well as the FMP provision prohibiting discarding.

**Option 1:** eliminate the regulatory restrictions that prohibit release of sablefish caught by sablefish IFQ vessels as well as the FMP provision prohibiting discarding.

**Option 2:** Allow release of sablefish under 22 inches (still require retention of sablefish 22 inches or longer)

### **Element 1: DMRs**

Apply a DMR to released sablefish of:

- 1.5%
- 2.12%
- 3.16%
- 4.20%



**Sub-option:** Select different DMRs for pot gear and hook and line gear

# D1 SMALL SABLEFISH UPDATE

## **Element 2: Catch Accounting**

**Option 1:** Released sablefish mortality will be estimated using observer and EM data with a DMR applied annually as part of the specifications process.

**Option 2:** Released Sablefish mortality will be estimated pre-season based on AFSC longline survey encounter rates of sub-three pound (round weight) sablefish with the DMR applied annually as part of the specifications process.

## **Element 3: Release Mortality Accounting**

Sablefish release mortality associated with the IFQ fishery will be accounted for in the stock assessment. The analysis should describe the potential implications of voluntary discards on the sablefish stock assessment and specifications process in the context of other uncertainties.

## **Element 4: Monitoring and Enforcement**

The analysis should describe potential monitoring and enforcement provisions that could improve estimates of voluntary and regulatory discards

## **Element 5: Review Process**

This amendment will be reviewed following implementation

3 years

5 years

*Motion as amended passed 17/1*



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# ADVISORY PANEL E1 MOTIONS

JUNE 2023



# E1 STAFF TASKING

## **Motion 1**

The AP recommends the Council consider a new management program for pot vessels over 60 feet long in the Bering Sea Pacific cod fishery. Options to consider could include rationalization of the fishery based on catch histories or other approaches, opportunities for cooperative fishing strategies, improvements in monitoring and fishery data collection, and establishing incentives to reduce crab bycatch.

*Motion passed 15/2*



# E1 STAFF TASKING

## **Motion 2 Kodiak Tanner Crab**

The AP recommends the Council initiate a discussion paper on measures to address ongoing concerns about GOA Tanner crab bycatch around Kodiak Island.

The discussion paper should include the following:

- The process for development of 100% Electronic Monitoring protocols and/or 100% observer coverage for trawl vessels to accurately assess Tanner crab interaction, with a emphasis in statistical areas 525702 and 525630 AS WELL AS:
  - The amount of groundfish landed by target and gear type (PTR, NPT, POT) in statistical areas 525702 and 525630 from 2019-2023.
  - The percentage of observer coverage by target and gear type (PTR, NPT, POT) on groundfish landed in statistical areas 525702 and 525630 from 2019-2023.
  - The current tanner crab distribution around Kodiak Island as a whole and specifically in statistical areas 525702 and 525630 as well as the following closure areas as defined in Figure 5 to Part 679 of the CFR:
    - o The Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area
    - o The Type I Closure Areas: Marmot Flats Area; Alitak Flats and Towers Areas,
    - o The Type II Closure Areas: Barnabas; Chirikof Island Area



# E1 STAFF TASKING

- Update and review of the Council's previous action regarding Tanner crab protections;
- Analyze catch records and develop an economic model regarding the value of the groundfish bottom trawl fisheries and the Tanner pot fishery in the identified statistical areas;
- Review of ADF&G trawl survey data and Tanner crab abundance in identified statistical areas;
- Review of trawl gear and observer coverage currently used in these area;
- Consider time on bottom of pelagic trawls operating in areas closed to bottom trawling, in particular bays associated with high Tanner crab abundance;
- Consider time and area closures and other appropriate measures to protect crab, particularly during vulnerable life stages;
- Assess the following biological information on Tanner crab:
  - Accurate estimates of total fishery mortality in the NPT, PTR, Pot Cod groundfish sectors
  - Improved understanding of preferred habitat at various life stages
  - Improved understanding of critical crab habitat
  - Improved understanding of seasonal movement and habitat use relative to groundfish seasons



# E1 STAFF TASKING

## **Motion 3**

Approve the minutes from the April 2023 meeting.

*Motion passed unanimously*

