


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director
DATE: November 30, 2010
SUBJECT: BSAI Crab Management

ESTIMATED TIME 14 HOURS (ALL C-2 ITEMS)

ACTION REQUIRED

- (d) Initial review of Pribilof Island blue king crab rebuilding plan.
- (e) NOAA-BSFRF survey snow crab selectivity analysis (SSC only).

BACKGROUND

- (d) Initial review of Pribilof Island blue king crab rebuilding plan.

At this meeting the Council will take initial review of the draft environmental assessment for the Pribilof Blue King Crab Rebuilding Plan EA/RIR/IRFA. The executive summary of the EA is attached as C-2(d)(1). The Council took preliminary review of this analysis in October 2010. The Council's motion is attached as C-2(d)(2). The analysis has been revised per Council modifications and suggested changes. The SSC last reviewed the analysis in April 2010. The full EA and RIR/IRFA were mailed to you on November 19th. This analysis evaluates five proposed alternative rebuilding measures for the Pribilof Islands blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*) stock. The Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and the current rebuilding plan has not achieved adequate progress towards rebuilding the stock by 2014. This revised rebuilding plan considers five alternatives. Four of the alternatives are different non-triggered closure configurations to restrict groundfish fisheries in the areas of the stock distribution. The fifth alternative considers trigger caps and associated area closures in all groundfish fisheries. The impacts of these alternatives on rebuilding the Pribilof Island blue king crab stock as well as the environmental and social/economic impacts of these measures are considered in this analysis. Analysis of the impacts of these closure configurations on the rebuilding potential for the PIBKC stock shows limited effect on rebuilding between the ranges of alternative closures.

- (e) NOAA-BSFRF survey snow crab selectivity analysis (SSC only)

This summer NOAA and BSFRF did a joint study to trawl with the NMFS survey net and the Nephrops trawl. This repeat study was designed to better cover the depth ranges, sediment types and regions of different components of the snow crab population. The purpose is to develop a selectivity curve for the NOAA survey net that can be used in the snow crab stock assessment. The joint study this summer had some logistical issues that will be reported on and analysts will report on progress and issues with estimating a selectivity curve. Dave Somerton (NMFS) and Steve Hughes (BSFRF) will be available to present a progress report on the analysis to the SSC.