



C2 BSAI Crab C Shares – Final Action

December 2025

Action Memo

Council Staff: Taylor Holman

Action Required: 1. Review analysis, provide any input and recommendations
2. Identify preferred alternative; adopt a final recommendation; or request additional analysis

BACKGROUND

The Council is considering taking final action to modify eligibility requirements and use caps for crew quota shares (C shares) in the BSAI Crab Rationalization (CR) Program. At this meeting, the Council will review a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) document that analyzes several proposed management measures that would revise C share regulations. The purpose of this action is to increase opportunity for active crab fishermen in the CR Program by increasing flexibility around C-share requirements, as well as to encourage new entrants. It is also intended to provide greater consistency between the participation requirements to retain and transfer C-shares, and to loosen restrictions on use caps.

The Council last reviewed this item in October 2025, when they received a draft analytical document for initial review and subsequently released the document for final action. No changes were made to the purpose and need statement or suite of alternatives, and no preliminary preferred alternative was identified at that time. The action alternatives selected by the Council for analysis are as follows:

- 1) **Revise eligibility requirements for receiving c-shares through transfer (either as a new entrant or a current c-shares holder buying more):** 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.
- 2) **Increase c-share use caps for Bering Sea crab stocks:** Consider increasing CVC/CPC use caps up to 5-10% individually for each Bering Sea crab stock (Bristol Bay red king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, Saint Matthew Island blue king crab, and Pribilof Islands blue and red king crab).

The action alternatives are not mutually exclusive. Both action alternatives under consideration were selected as potential mechanisms to incentivize the transfer market for C shares given the low crab catch limits, and increase the marketability of C shares in general.

Upon reviewing the RIR, the Council may provide input and recommendations, request additional analysis, identify a preferred alternative, and/or adopt a final recommendation.