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2026

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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C2 BSAI Crab Harvest Specifications

October 2026

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anita Kroska

Other Presenters: Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Chair)

Action Required:

1. EBS Snow crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2026/27
2. Bristol Bay red king crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2026/27
3. Tanner crab – Specify OFL/ABC for 2026/27
4. Saint Matthew Island blue king crab - Specify OFL/ABC for 2026/27, and 2027/28
5. Western Aleutian Islands red king crab – Specify rollover OFL/ABC for 2026/27
6. Review Crab Plan Team Report for the September 2026 meeting
7. Review/approve final BSAI Crab SAFE report

Ecosystem Status Report (SSC only)

The ecosystem status report (ESR) will present crab-relevant information for the Bering Sea that was available from 2025 and 2026 with preliminary forecasts for 2026/27.

BSAI Crab Specifications and Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met from September 14-17, 2026 to review final 2026 stock assessments for the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) Snow Crab, Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC), EBS Tanner crab, and Saint Matthew Island blue king crab (SMBKC) and recommend OFLs and ABCs for these stocks ([Crab Plan Team eAgenda](#)). The 2026 BSAI Crab SAFE Report Introduction, Crab Plan Team Report, and the assessment chapters for snow crab, BBRKC, Tanner crab, and SMBKC are attached.

The Team addressed several additional issues at this meeting, including:

- Updated catch and stock status determination for all other stocks (AIGKC, PIBKC, PIRKC, WAIRKC). Rollover harvest specifications were also recommended for WAIRKC for 2026/27.
- Summer trawl survey results, 2025/26 fishery summary, EBS Ecosystem Status Report, SAFE document guidelines, Ecosystem and Socio-economic Profiles (ESPs) for BBRKC and snow crab, the St. Paul BBRKC Hatchery application review; and Bering Sea Fishery Research Foundation (BSFRF) research updates.
- Topics for review at the November 2026 CPT meeting: AIGKC proposed model runs, NSRKC final SAFE, and SAFE document guidelines for multi-year assessments and proposed model development.
- Topics for review at the January 2027 modeling workshop, including: GMACS updates (general and Tanner crab specific), Tanner crab items (exploring issues with retrospective analysis, BSFRF/NMFS selectivity analysis), Snow crab items (convergence with a male only model and simplification process, and other analyses if there is a stable tier 3 model), model-based size

compositions, tier 4 model practices, and differences between snow and Tanner crab use of maturity ogives.

- Tentative topics for the April 2027 CPT meeting, including: AIGKC and WAIRKC final SAFEs, proposed models for NSRKC, snow, Tanner, and BBRKC, GMACS updates, January Modeling Workshop Report, research updates, skipper survey updates, ESP updates, risk table debrief, crab Economic SAFE and socioeconomic reporting update, and hybrid crab research.