



C6 BSAI Crab Harvest Specifications

December 2025

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anita Kroska
Other Presenters: Katie Palof (ADF&G, Crab Plan Team Co-Chair)
Action Required: 1. Specify OFL/ABC for Norton Sound red king crab for 2026
2. Review the Crab Plan Team Report from the November 2025 meeting

BSAI Crab Specifications and Plan Team Report

The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met virtually on November 6, 2025 to review the final 2026 stock assessment for Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC) and recommend an Overfishing level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for this stock ([Crab Plan Team eAgenda](#)). The NSRKC Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Introduction, final SAFE Report, and the Crab Plan Team Report are attached. Further discussion on certain topics were limited due to several furloughed CPT members missing from the meeting. A previously scheduled agenda item – maturity data flow – was rescheduled for May due to the government shutdown.

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

- Model scenarios for the final 2026 Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) stock assessment to be reviewed by the CPT in May 2026.
- Harvest Control Rule (HCR) updates & scheduling a half day January CPT HCR Workshop for further discussion on how these efforts might specifically apply to crab.
- Tentative topics for review at the January 2026 Modeling Workshop, including: GMACS short report on version history; GMACS to-do list items (catch projections at levels of the OFL, jitter guideline for plotting, projection model for Tier 4 stocks (NSRKC), retrospective analysis to accommodate time blocks (AIGKC) selectivity random walk (AIGKC), AIGKC combined model); Tanner crab items (GMACS PIN file, head-to-head comparison with TCSAM02 model, working next gen RTMB GMACS prototype, BSFRF/NMFS selectivity analysis, feedback for upcoming CIE review), Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC) MCMC outputs & diagnostics, model-based indices updates for NSRKC, and snow crab jittering with truncated data.
- Tentative topics for the May 2026 CPT meeting, including: emerging issues around unprecedented hybrid abundance, risk table development, GMACS short report, Jan. Modeling Workshop Report, research updates (BSFRF, others), skipper survey methods discussion, ESP updates, AIGKC final SAFE, CPT self-evaluation, and proposed models for: Tanner crab, snow crab, BBRKC, SMBKC, and NSRKC.