



D1 NSRKC Participation Recency

December 2025

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anna Henry
Other Presenters: Karla Bush (ADFG)
Action Required: Review discussion paper and recommend future action if desired

BACKGROUND

In October 2025, the Council requested a discussion paper outlining historical and current participation in the Norton Sound red king crab, *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, (NSRKC) summer commercial fishery to facilitate consideration of a recency action for license limitation. This request was in response to a series of recent proposals and public testimony received by the Council from February 2024 to October 2025. Testimony regarding this fishery has ranged from requests to consider a rationalization program to other management approaches to address changes in recent participation and provide stability to long-term participants, including a reduction in the number of Federal License Limitation Permit (LLP) licenses for the fishery, eliminating the provision that exempts small vessels from the LLP license requirement, and establishing a harvest set aside for smaller vessels without LLP licenses. This discussion paper provides a summary of NSRKC stock and fishery harvest, and participation information to inform potential management actions.

Once the Council has reviewed the discussion paper, the next steps could be no further action; a request for further information from staff in the form of another discussion paper; or initiation of an analysis, which requires the Council to identify a purpose and need statement and alternatives.