

# Hybrid data – SSC requests

BSAI CRAB PLAN TEAM Modelling Workshop

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# General SSC recommendations

## Trawl Survey updates section:

The increased hybrid *Chionoecetes* abundance raises biological, assessment, and management issues, as highlighted in written and oral public testimony. These issues could not be addressed this year within the framework of the compressed crab assessment cycle. The SSC thanks the CPT for clarifying how the different data streams treat hybrids. Currently, hybrids are combined with snow crab in landing data but are separated from both snow crab and Tanner crab in survey data. Recognizing the tight turnaround time between receiving survey results and the September CPT meeting, the SSC supports the CPT proposal to include an agenda item during its May 2026 meeting and looks forward to further discussion on how and whether hybrid data are incorporated in assessments. **The SSC looks forward to the results of their discussion and agrees that the current approach needs to be re-evaluated.** At minimum, there needs to be consistency within the assessment process. The SSC highlights the disconnect between catch, which combines hybrids and snow crab, and survey biomass in the snow crab assessment model. The SSC also provided comments in the Tanner and snow crab assessments, soliciting input from assessment authors on the inclusion of hybrids in their respective assessments. **The SSC notes that having a potential response in place, even if the prevalence of hybrid crab in survey observations does not continue in the future, is critical to respond appropriately given the timeline for assessment and management for BSAI crab.**



# General SSC recommendations

## Snow crab section

- As with a similar SSC recommendation for Tanner crab, **the SSC recommends consideration of different inclusions/exclusions of hybrids into the snow crab assessment (i.e., in survey and catch data) to evaluate sensitivity to these options and ensure an internally consistent approach.**

## Tanner crab section

- **An analysis of different inclusions/exclusions of hybrid data into the Tanner crab assessment (i.e., in survey and catch data) to evaluate sensitivity to these options and ensure an internally consistent approach.** This is a lower priority for Tanner crab (see snow crab recommendations), but it may be helpful for the Tanner and snow crab assessment authors to work collaboratively on this topic.
- Addition of a section in the ESP on hybrids with a focus on their interaction with Tanner crab. This will hopefully provide a consistent place to track hybrids over time.

## Skipper survey section

The SSC appreciates the inclusion of skipper survey data and notes the high participation rates. The CPT found the skipper survey results valuable for contextual interpretation of fishery-dependent data. The SSC looks forward to continued inclusion of the skipper survey data and supports the CPT move to add future skipper survey questions relating to **hybrids**, retention size in the snow and Tanner crab fisheries, and perception of TAC size in the BSAI crab fisheries. The SSC also notes that the incorporation of the skipper survey represents an important milestone of progress toward the Council's stated goal of augmenting information utilized in the management process with local knowledge where appropriate.