



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

File Number:Crab 16-002

Agenda Date2/1/2016

Agenda Number:D1

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
BSAI Snow Crab Bycatch Data Evaluation - Discussion Paper

STAFF CONTACT: Diana Stram

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review discussion paper on Snow crab PSC data evaluation, action as necessary

BACKGROUND:
The Council reviewed several discussion papers to describe crab PSC in groundfish fisheries and existing closure areas and management measures for all ten BSAI crab stocks. The initial exploration of this was in response to changes in Crab Management due to ACL requirements. As noted in the paper, this investigation began in response to concerns between the lack of connectivity (and thus ability for in-season management measures) between the BSAI Groundfish FMP (where crab PSC in groundfish fisheries are managed) and the BSAI Crab FMP which provides for management of crab stocks and directed crab fisheries in conjunction with the State of Alaska.

Information provided in the attached paper reviews some of the background on crab PSC issues raised since 2010. These include follow-up from implementation of Crab ACLs, related estimation of bycatch mortality of crab stocks, consideration of PSC limits for all 10 BSAI crab stocks, and the more recent focus upon a subset of those stocks. Finally, in order to establish a baseline of information needed to evaluate the efficacy of closure areas and management measures in groundfish fisheries of Crab PSC, this paper provides data and information specific to snow crab and management of PSC in response to the Council's 2014 motion to that effect.