



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:BYC 14-001**

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**Agenda Date**2/3/2014

**Agenda Number:**C-6

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**Eric Olson, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
BSAI Crab Bycatch Limits - Expanded Discussion Paper

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
2 Hours

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Review of discussion paper; action as necessary

### BACKGROUND

The Council requested that staff prepare a discussion paper on crab PSC in groundfish fisheries and existing closure areas and management measures for 4 specific stocks: Bristol Bay red king crab (BBRKC), Bering Sea snow crab, Bering Sea Tanner crab and Saint Matthew blue king crab(SMBKC). Specifically, the Council requested information on recent stock distribution and the distribution and amount of PSC in the trawl and fixed gear groundfish fisheries. Specific elements to include were the proportion of PSC by trawl and fixed gear fisheries inside of existing closure area boundaries and a detailed history of the closures to help identify the fraction of historical fisheries that occurred in these areas as well as their crab PSC. This paper briefly described the stock distribution for the 4 stocks, existing closures and their rationale historically as well as current trends by gear type in PSC in groundfish fisheries. This information is intended to assist the Council in deciding what, if any, action to take to initiate modifications to the existing management measures for these 4 stocks. The motion from February 2013 is attached as well as the discussion paper.