



B1 BSAI Crab Specifications

March 2019

Action Memo

Staff: Jim Armstrong

Action Required: Norton Sound Red King Crab – Final Specifications for OFL/ABC

BACKGROUND

As presented in the [Executive Director's Report](#) in February 2019, the federal government shutdown of Dec 22, 2018 – Jan 25, 2019 prevented the Council from taking final action on any issue at its February meeting, including the adoption of final specifications for OFL and ABC for Norton Sound Red King crab (NSRKC). The Council did, however, receive a [comprehensive report from staff and Crab Plan Team](#) representatives on the status of the stock, and received advice from the SSC and the Advisory Panel on NSRKC specifications. As the 2019 Norton Sound Red King Crab (NSRKC) harvest specifications require timely action in order to open the fishery, the Council has scheduled an issue-specific teleconference meeting to consider final action on setting 2019 NSRKC specifications.

At the February 2019 Council meeting, the Council made a preliminary final determination approving the SSC and CPT recommendation for NSRKC that the 2019 OFL be set at 0.24 million lb. (0.11 thousand t) and that ABC be set at 0.19 million lb. (0.09 thousand t). ABC for this stock is calculated as a 20% reduction from OFL consistent with uncertainty about stock dynamics addressed in the SAFE and CPT report. NSRKC is a tier 4 stock assessment with limited availability of life history information for use in the stock assessment.

The following attachments are provided to assist the Council in making final 2019 specifications:

- February 2019 Council motion with preliminary final determination on NSRKC specifications
- Excerpt from the Crab Plan Team Report relating to NSRKC
- SAFE report introduction for NSRKC
- NSRKC SAFE chapter
- SSC report on NSRKC specifications from February 2019
- Advisory Panel report on NSRKC specifications from February 2019