



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File #: Crab 17-034, **Version:** 1

Dan Hull, Chairman
David Witherell, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
BSAI Crab Specifications for 6 Stocks - Final Specifications

STAFF CONTACT: Diana Stram

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review 2017 final crab SAFE report and BSAI Crab Plan Team Report; Final specifications for 6 stocks

BACKGROUND:
The Crab Plan Team (CPT) met from September 18-21, 2017 in Seattle, WA to review the final stock assessments as well as additional related issues, in order to provide the recommendations and status determinations contained in the SAFE report. This final 2017 Crab SAFE report contains all recommendations for all 10 stocks including those whose OFL and ABC were previously determined in February and June 2017. The CPT report from the meeting is also attached.

The 6 stocks for which final specifications must be determined at this meeting are:

- Bristol Bay Red King Crab
- EBS Snow Crab
- EBS Tanner Crab
- St. Matthew Blue King Crab
- Pribilof Islands Red King Crab
- Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab

The team recommends three stocks be placed in Tier 3 (EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, and EBS Tanner crab), three stocks in Tier 4 (St. Matthew blue king crab, Pribilof Islands blue king crab, Pribilof Islands red king crab, and Norton Sound red king crab). The team continues to recommend an ABC less than the maximum permissible ABC for all stocks for 2017/18. Stock status in relation to status determination criteria are evaluated in this report. EBS Tanner crab and Pribilof Island red king crab are estimated to be above B_{MSY} for 2017/18 while EBS snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Saint Matthew blue king crab and Norton Sound red king crab are estimated below B_{MSY} . Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and estimated to be well below its MSST.