



Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Fishery Management Plan

Presentation to the Board of Fisheries,

March 17, 2014

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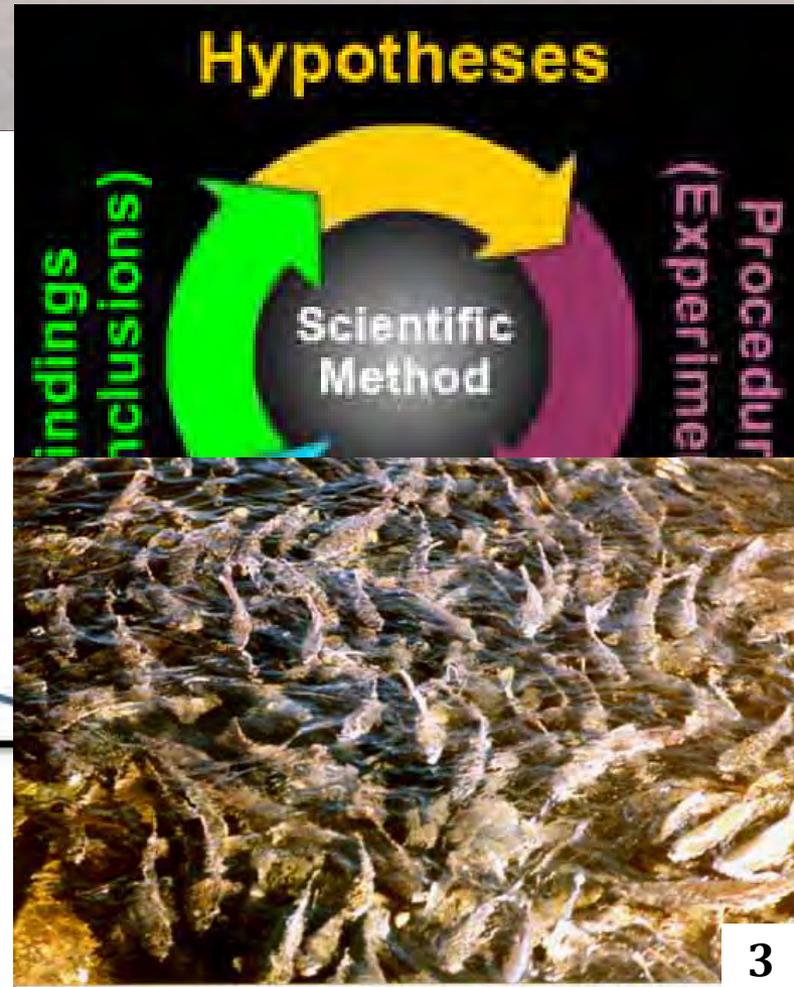
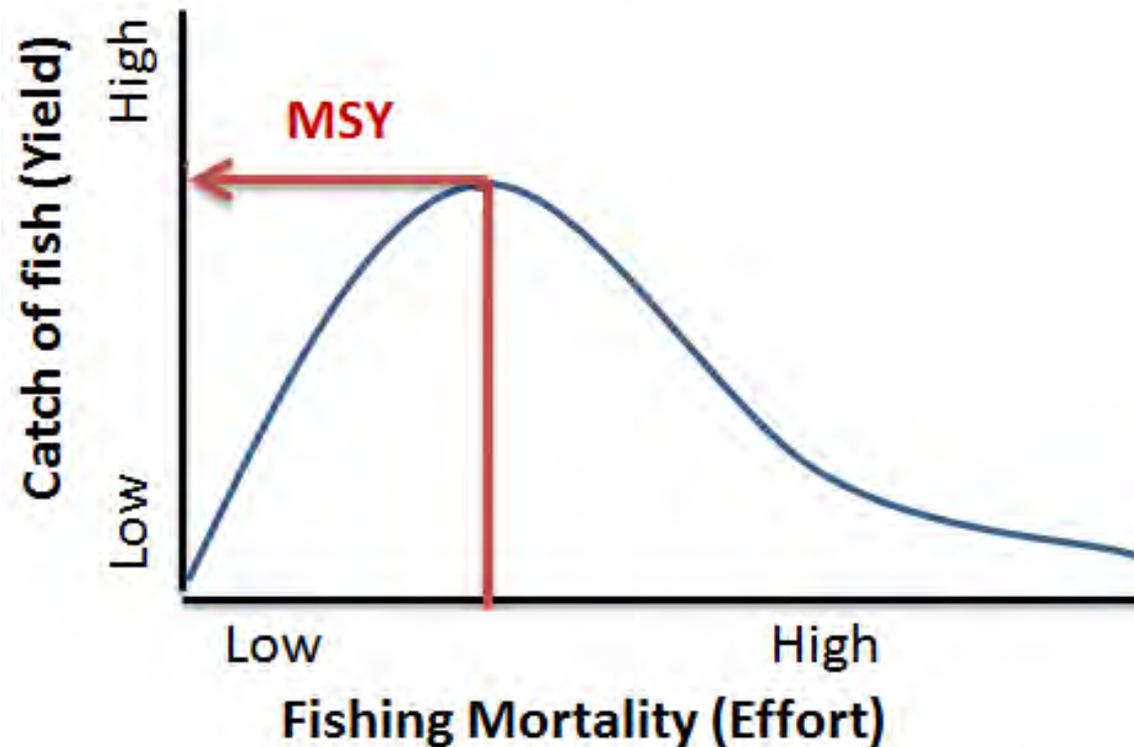
Presentation Outline

- National Standards
Appendix B in Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
- FMP overview
- Goals/objectives
- Crab stocks
- Management measures / Criteria



Magnusson-Stevens Act National Standards (MSA)

1. Achieve optimum yield and prevent overfishing
2. Use the best available scientific information
3. Manage stocks as a unit



MSA National Standards

4. Discrimination between residents of different states is not allowed. Allocations shall be fair and equitable, promote conservation, and prevent excessive shares
5. Efficiency in utilization
6. Allow for variations and contingencies
7. Minimize costs, avoid duplication

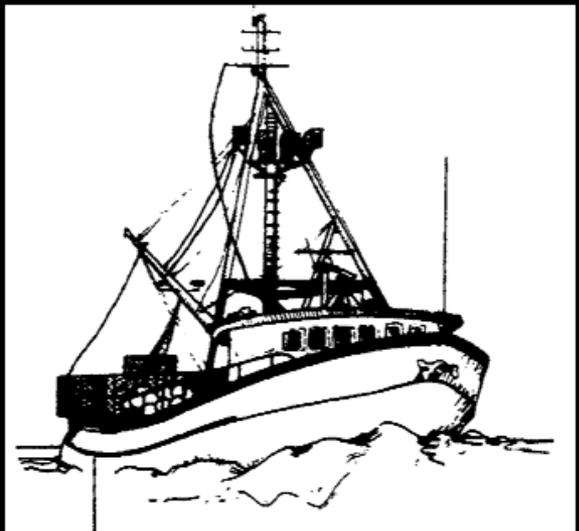


MSA National Standards

8. Consider fishing communities in order to provide for their sustained participation and to minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities
9. Minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality
10. Promote safety of human life at sea



Fishery Management Plan for BSAI King and Tanner Crab: “Crab FMP”



- Establishes State/Federal cooperative management
- When adopting regulations, board must consider and discuss on record:
 - FMP Management Goals and Objectives
 - Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) National Standards
- Regulations adopted by the board are subject to the Administrative Appeal Process for review by the Secretary of Commerce.

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/fmp/CrabFMPOct11.pdf>

FMP Management Goal

To maximize the overall long-term benefit to the nation of BSAI king and Tanner crab stocks by coordinated federal and state management, consistent with responsible stewardship for conservation of the crab resources and their habitats.

FMP Management Objectives

- Biological conservation
- Economic and social
- Gear conflict
- Habitat
- Vessel safety
- Due process
- Research and management



FMP Crab Stocks



Red king crab –

- **Norton Sound,**
- **Pribilof Islands,**
- **Bristol Bay,**
- **Aleutian Islands west of 171° W. long.**

Blue king crab –

- **Saint Matthew &**
- **Pribilof Islands**

Golden king crab –

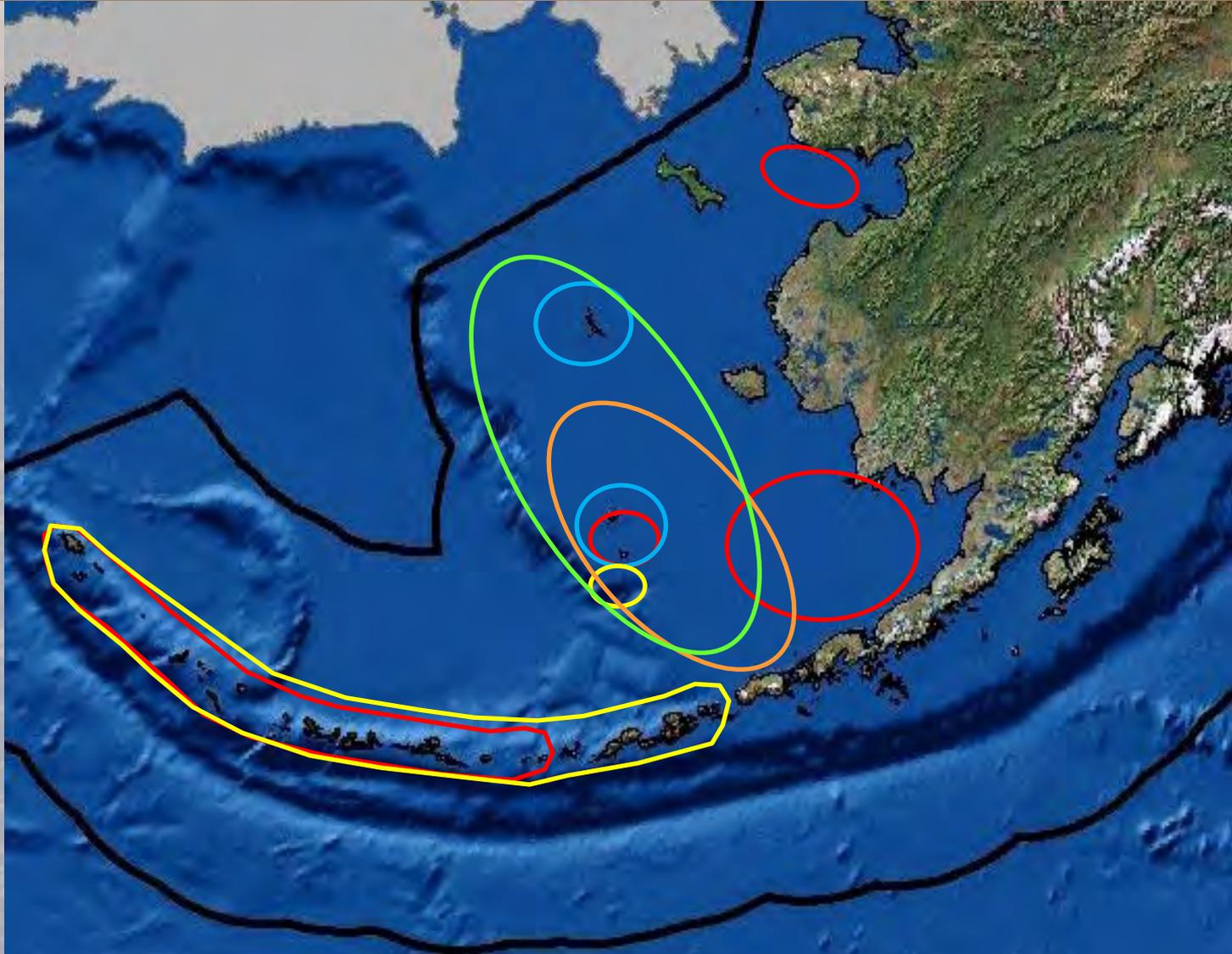
- **Pribilof Islands &**
- **Aleutian Islands**

Tanner (*bairdi*) crab

- **Bering Sea**

Snow (*opilio*) crab –

- **Bering Sea**



Management Categories

Category 1: Fixed in the FMP and require an FMP amendment to change (through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council);

Category 2: Framework-type measures that the state can change following criteria set out in the FMP; and

Category 3: Measures that are neither rigidly specified nor frameworked in the FMP; at the discretion of the State.



Management Measures

Category 1 (Fixed in FMP)	Category 2 (Frameworked in FMP)	Category 3 (Discretion of State)
Legal Gear	Minimum Size Limits	Reporting Requirements
Permit Requirements	Guideline Harvest Levels	Gear Placement / Removal
Federal Observers	Inseason Adjustments	Gear Storage
Limited Access	Districts, Subdistricts, and Sections	Gear Modifications
Norton Sound Superexclusive Registration	Fishing Seasons	Vessel Tank Inspections
	Sex Restrictions	State Observers
Essential Fish Habitat	Closed Waters	Bycatch Limits
Habitat Areas of Particular Concern	Pot Limits	Other
	Registration Areas	

Proposals # 346, 348, & 358: TAC and GHL considerations

- Stock status relative to the overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch limits (ABC)
- Estimates of exploitable biomass
- Estimates of recruitment
- Estimates of thresholds
- Market and other economic considerations
- Additional uncertainty
- Additional factors relative to the health and status of the stock.



Proposals # 350 & 357: District, subdistrict, and section boundary considerations

- Area contains a reasonably distinct stock of crab that requires a separate GHL estimate to avoid possible overharvest.
- A different size limit from other stocks in the registration area is required.
- Different molting/mating timing requiring different season.
- Preseason registration is required to assess effort and prevent overharvest.
- Creation of a new area encourages exploration and utilization.



Proposals # 349 & 354: Fishing season considerations

Within biological constraints, the open fishing season has been set:

- To minimize the amount of deadloss.
- To produce the best possible product quality.
- To minimize fishing during severe weather conditions.
- To minimize the cost of industry operations.
- To coordinate the king and Tanner crab fisheries with other fisheries that are making demands on the same harvesting, processing, and transportation systems.
- To reduce the cost of enforcement and management before, during, and after an open season, as affected by the timing and area of different king and Tanner crab seasons, and as affected by seasons for other resources.

Proposal # 352: Closed Waters considerations

- The need to protect subsistence fisheries.
- The need to protect critical habitat for target or non-target species.
- The prevention of conflict between harvesting of species.
- The creation of navigational hazards.



Proposal # 360: Pot limit considerations

- Total vessel effort relative to GHL.
- Probable concentrations of pots by area.
- Potential for conflict with other fisheries.
- Potential for handling mortality of target or nontarget species.
- Adverse effects on vessel safety including hazards to navigation.
- Enforceability of pot limits.
- Analysis of effects on industry.





Questions?