

Recommend that the following information be provided / presented to the crab and/or science, technology and innovation sub-committees for both the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

- 1) What are the sources of and estimates for crab bycatch in groundfish fisheries (fixed and trawl gear), and the directed crab fisheries?

*Recommended Presenter:* Mary Furuness (NOAA) and Karla Bush or other ADF&G designee

- 2) What are the tools available to minimizing bycatch? (area closures, PSC limits, rationalization, gear innovations / modifications, other fishery management measures). What are the tradeoffs of each?

*Recommended Presenter:* Glenn Merrill (NOAA)

- 3) What are the current regulations that impact bycatch in groundfish and directed crab fisheries (time/area closures, PSC limits (which sectors), gear requirements, size limitations on directed crab catch, etc.? As a follow on to this question, describe how these management measures are applied across all fisheries. For example, are there differences in levels of observer coverage, do fisheries with higher bycatch have PSC limits and/or time/area closures, other gear restrictions, etc.

*Recommended Presenter:* Glenn Merrill (NOAA)

- 4) Where are the impacts of modified trawl sweep on crab bycatch and what is known about unobserved mortality from that gear?

*Recommended Presenter:* Dr. Craig Rose, Fishnext Research.

What are the impacts of bycatch on crab stocks? How do stock assessment authors take into account the uncertainty created by the gaps identified in the previous question?

*Recommended Presenter (BS): Crab Plan Team and NOAA Stock Assessment Authors and Karla Bush or other ADF&G designee*