



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska crab committee Monday April 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Virtual (Zoom) meeting at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89702370188?pwd=U1pLWnE1ZW5FMnJlYW0STNPanhGQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 0237 0188

Passcode: 913932

Committee members: Linda Kozak (Chair), Erik Velsko, Stephanie Madsen, Kevin Delaney

The crab committee intends to first focus on Gulf of Alaska Tanner crab bycatch and later move to Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea Tanner and snow crab bycatch.

1. Call to order
Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska crab committee meeting called to order at 9 AM by Chair Linda Kozak
2. Roll call: introduction of committee and ABRT members
Committee members present: Linda Kozak (Chair), Erik Velsko, Stephanie Madsen, Kevin Delaney (Joined at 10am)
ABRT members present: Brian Gabriel, John Jensen
3. Approve agenda: April 4, 2022
4. New business:
 - a.) Presentation from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff on the directed Tanner crab fishery in the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula Areas.
 - i. Q&A with committee members
 - ii. Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>
5. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments
 - i. Chris Woodley, Executive Director of Ground fish Forum: Provided a document requesting information to be provided to the committee with recommended presenters and the information to be presented to the committee.
 - ii. Rebecca Skinner, Alaska whitefish Trawlers association, Kodiak based: Added to Chris Woodley's suggestion that ABRT and committee have more reference maps of trawl fishery closures will provide links. Noted that there are mitigation measures in place for the trawl fleet specific to Tanner crab. Wants committee to take closer look at area specific Tanner crab stocks vs trawl closures to determine if the trawl fisheries reducing natural crab predator also led to an increase in crab.

- iii. Paddy O'Donnell: Asked Nat if there were any changes to the closures and wonders if the stocks are benefiting the stock. To send the questions via email to Linda for ADF&G staff.
 - iv. Theresa Peterson Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Kodiak CF: Provided a document to the committee highlighting overviews of the fishery from the community perspective.
 - v. Alexis Kwachka representing Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative: adding to Theresa's requests and information. Wants more information on non-pelagic trawl bycatch, requesting studies to provide more data on the trawl fisheries bycatch of Tanner crab.
 - vi. Julie Bonney trawl and processors in Kodiak: Points out 100% observer coverage is not necessary and wants all groups to work together and manage fisheries in a way that benefits all gear types and species. Suggest sciences committee to look into observer program more closely in relation to the Tanner crab fisheries and other Kodiak fisheries.
6. Discussion on direction of the subcommittee and information requests
- i. Linda: Appreciates the recommendations for information to be pulled by the committee so as to better inform members when having discussions and making decisions. Refer the observer program request to the science subcommittee.
 - ii. Stephanie: Wants more information on the regulatory structure of Tanner crab and the groundfish fleet. Requests federal information to be requested to supplement ADF&G data. More information on EFH actions taken in the Gulf of Alaska both past and present.
 - iii. Erik: Requested history going back to when management changed in the 90's
 - iv. Kevin: Request a refresher on economic value of the directed Tanner crab fishery, and in descending order the highest amount of bycatch fisheries of Tanner crab.
7. Crab committee comments: Stephanie noted scheduled committee meeting for Western Alaska Salmon for April 14 also possibly April 28th
8. Next Meeting Date: April 26, 2022, 9am start time
9. Adjournment by 11:35 AM.