



# Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska crab committee Tuesday April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- **Join Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81300468261?pwd=NzEvdDJPc3k5S085ODAzbHF3OVNhQT09>

**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), Stephanie Madsen, Kevin Delaney. ADF&G personnel included Kari Winkel, Mark Stichert and Nat Nichols.
3. Approve agenda: April 26, 2022, Approved
4. Minutes April 4, 2022, Approved
5. Old business: Discussion and status of information requests
  - i. Three additional requests for information were made at the first meeting. These were a request for Tanner crab bycatch in groundfish fisheries and what mitigation measures are in place. Karla indicated this presentation would be available at the May meeting. Two additional requests were made and committee is waiting to hear about the status of those. They are catch by non-pelagic trawl gear by species off Kodiak and to get information on the economic value of the directed fishery, as well as that for groundfish fisheries which have Tanner crab bycatch. Chair looked at ASMI info and it was not broken down so committee still seeking this information. Member Delaney clarified what economic information he is looking for to inform decisions specifically that he wants the information from all fisheries harvesting Tanner Crab as bycatch and wants to look at the top 2-4 fisheries harvesting as bycatch.
6. New business:
  - a.) Presentation by Dr. Craig Rose on impacts of modified non-pelagic trawl sweep gear on crabbycatch and bycatch mortality, as well as information on pelagic trawl estimates for seafloor contact.
    - i. Q&A with committee members and the public
    - ii. Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here:  
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments
  - I. Paddy O' Donnel: Provided insight into modified sweeps in the gulf it is a requirement for flat fish but in the Gulf of Alaska they use it for all nonpelagic trawl as it takes a long time to rig (double) so it goes on at the start of the year and stays on the whole year. Requirements for spacing and height off the sea floor is listed online where anyone can see it and it is all standard.
8. Discussion on Scheduling
  - i. Chair Kozak discussed having the public provide recommendations on two issues for Tanner crab at the next meeting. The first was research ideas/suggestions to better inform and the second issue was for the public to recommend additional mitigation measures. It was noted that committee consideration of recommendations to the Task Force would not be made until after completing the BSAI discussions and presentations.
  - ii. Request was made for committee members to get in informational needs well ahead of the first meeting for Bering Sea and Aleutians crab, likely to be held in June. Suggestions for possible presentations for BSAI crab are:
    - Bycatch of crab in all fisheries/gear
    - Overview of crab mitigation measures in the BSAI
    - State of Alaska review of the directed fisheries and shellfish observer program
    - BSAI research priorities from federal/state managers
    - Update on current NPFMC work on BSAI crab fisheries bycatch management
9. Crab committee comments:

Requests were made by member Delaney to ADF&G for more information and those requests will be made outside of a meeting.
10. Next Meeting Date: May 31, 2022 beginning at 9 AM
11. Adjournment by 10:30 AM