

# Industry Priorities and Recommendations

## Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force

Crab Subcommittee

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# Directed fishery actions

- Skipper survey
- Best handling practices
- Longer soak times
- Increased mesh size (Chionoecetes)
- Retention size (Chionoecetes)
- Mixed landings
- Hot spot reporting
- Eastern bairdi closure
- ABSC Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program proposal
- And more



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# Bycatch management recommendations

- **Protect crab high density areas and centers of abundance**
- **Protect female broodstock**
- **Protect molting/mating crab**
- **Estimate unobserved mortality**
- **Protect important habitat areas for different life stages, particularly recruitment**
- **Improve PSC limit management (current PSC limit management ineffective for pelagic trawl and non-existent for fixed gear) - include unobserved mortality estimates, remove PSC limit floors, update limits based on current status of the stocks, manage PSC across a stocks range**
- **Require pelagic trawl gear to limit bottom contact to no more than 10% of the time – revise gear definition/requirements**
- **Encourage voluntary measures by all sectors to minimize bycatch of crab**
- **Keep all sectors fishing, including directed crab fisheries!**



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# Areas for further research

- Crab movement tagging efforts
- Seasonal distribution (trawl/pot & summer/winter surveys)
- Habitat & recruitment research
- Unobserved mortality
- Gear designs to reduce bycatch
- Handling and discard mortality
- Observers collect shell condition to better understand times and areas for molting/mating



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