

# Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force Bering Sea & Gulf of Alaska Crab Committee



*Report*  
*August 16, 2022*

# Bering Sea & Gulf of Alaska Crab Committee

## Committee Members

*Linda Kozak, Chair*

*Kevin Delaney*

*Stephanie Madsen*

*Erik Velsko*



## Meeting Information

*Six meetings between April 4<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>  
15 agency and industry presentations*

*Next meetings set for  
August 30<sup>th</sup> & September 6<sup>th</sup>*

# Gulf of Alaska Crab Presentations

- ADF&G Tanner Crab Update: *Stock Status and Management in the Kodiak, Chignik and South Peninsula Districts*
- ADF&G Bycatch Update: *Tanner Crab Bycatch and Groundfish Catch in the Central Gulf of Alaska*
- Four presentations by the trawl and fixed gear industries providing research priority and management recommendations



## Bering Sea Crab Presentations

- Researcher Dr. Craig Rose: *Impacts of Modified Non-pelagic Trawl Sweep Gear on Crab Bycatch and Bycatch Mortality* (Also provided a research paper titled, “*Cooperative Research to Reduce Effects of Bering Sea Flatfish Trawling of Seafloor Habitat and Crabs*”)
- ADF&G: *Comprehensive BSAI Crab Overview*
- Dr. Brad Harris: *Seascape-scale Modeling of Benthic Habitat Disturbance From Commercial Fishing Activities (Fishing Effects Model)*
- Dr. Diana Stram and Sam Cunningham: *North Pacific Fishery Management Council Review*
- Multiple industry presentations, including representatives of the crab directed fishery, pot cod fishery and trawl groundfish fisheries





# Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Crab Industry Groups Providing Recommendations

## ***Fixed Gear***

*Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers*  
*Alaska Marine Conservation Council*  
*Bering Sea Pot Cod Association*  
*Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation*  
*Kodiak Crab Alliance*

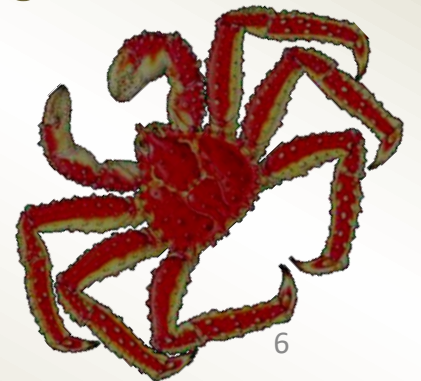
## ***Trawl Gear***

*Alaska Groundfish Data Bank*  
*Alaska Seafood Cooperative*  
*Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association*  
*Groundfish Forum*



## ***General Bycatch Research Recommendations***

- Develop state bycatch research priorities, possibly across departments, to share with funding entities that would help identify and acquire research funds.
- Implement strategies to encourage and facilitate industry/agency cooperative research to reduce bycatch and associated mortality.
- Create methods, such as an annual workshop, to collaborate with other research entities to better track bycatch research proposed or funded, along with collaboration opportunities and findings of funded research.



# Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Crab Committee

*Two Meetings Scheduled  
August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>*

- Finalize recommendations on research priorities
- Gulf of Alaska Tanner crab bycatch management proposals
- Bering Sea crab bycatch management proposals
- Recommendations on state engagement

