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I am writing about the Bairdi crab stocks in the Bering Sea. I own the F/V Determined, and am Captain of the Destination. I fished bairdi tanner in 2015, and 2016. I have operated crab vessels in these waters since 1985. We fished right up to the closure this year on March 31. In the areas we fished, I have never seen better fishing, over an extended area. We were seeing all sizes of crab, both male and female bairdi.

During King Crab in October 2016, we were fishing between 162 degrees w. longitude to 164 w. longitude and were consistantly seeing female bairdi in our pots.

With the large sanctuaries that are closed to pot fishing for bairdi, all waters east of 163, and the Blue Crab savings area in the Pribilof Islands, the risk of overfishing these stocks is greatly reduced.

I'm urging the Board to open Baidi in 2017, and perhaps re-write the regulations that would close the season for two more years.

The F/V Determined, home ported in Sand Point, Alaska, will be tied up if there is not a fishery in 2017.

Sincerly, Jeff Hathaway