

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Task Force to Implement Bering Sea/Aleutian Island
King and Tanner Crab Rationalization
2003 - 223A FB

Background:

For the past several years, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council had been working towards a plan to "rationalize" many of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. In June of 2002, the council selected their preferred alternative that would, among other things, assign quotas, or shares, for both the harvesting and processing sectors.

While the council is still working on trailing amendments to the plan, it cannot be implemented until the U.S. Congress lifts the moratorium on new IFQ-type fisheries, or specifically passes legislation to allow this rationalization plan to go forward.

Under the council's fishery management plan for BS/AI crab, much of the fishery management is delegated to the State of Alaska. If the council finalizes its actions and Congress provides authorization, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will need to adopt new regulations to allow the fishery to be prosecuted as outlined by the council.

Charge:

At its March 2003 meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Fisheries will select stakeholders to examine possible actions the board will need to take concerning state regulatory structure for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands king and Tanner crab fisheries once the council finalizes its actions, and make recommendations on new regulations. It is anticipated that this task force will work very closely with staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Alaska Department of Law.

The task force is to work within the intent and scope of the council's plan, and any additional Congressional direction, to provide the Board of Fisheries with proposals to assist the implementation of the final rationalization plan.

The task force will begin its work when the rationalization plan is finalized and Congressional authorization is provided. At that time, the board will provide an timeline for the task force to complete its work.

The task force is composed of the following stakeholders:

Steve Minor	Arni Thompson	John Garner
Brent Paine	Jeff Steele	Leonard Herzog
Frank Kelty	Linda Kozak	

The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee is an ad hoc member of the task force. Task force members are responsible for their own expenses to attend meetings.

The task force will maintain contact with the Board of Fisheries by reports to board member Art Nelson. An update will be provided to the board by member Art Nelson at the October 2003 work session.

Adopted: March 25, 2003
Anchorage, Alaska



Ed Dersham, Chair

Vote: 7 - 0