

Red Crab Amendment 3 Decision Document

NEFMC
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Portsmouth, NH



NEFMC 9/30/10

1

Goals of Amendment 3

1. Bring the Red Crab FMP in compliance with new requirements of the re-authorized MSA – new ACL and AM requirements
2. Consider measures to improve red crab management
3. Establish specifications for fishing years 2011-2013

NEFMC 9/30/10

2



Management Unit Terms

- Target stock: **Deep sea red crab**
- Non-target species: **None**
- Ecosystem Component Species: **None.**
- State/federal ACL issues: **None**



4.1 Effort and Catch Control Alternatives (p. 28)

- 4.1.1. Preferred - Hard TAL without DAS (*recommended by Committee and Advisory panel*)
- 4.1.2. No Action – Target TAC with DAS

4.2 Trip Limit Alternatives (p. 29)

- 4.2.1. Preferred – Eliminate Trip Limits *(recommended by Committee and Advisory panel)*

- 4.2.2. No Action – Retain 75,000-pound trip limit

NEFMC 9/30/10

5

4.3 Trap Limit Alternatives (p.30-31)

- 4.3.1. Preferred – Modify trap limit regulatory language *(recommended by Committee and Advisory panel)*
 - 1) No limited access red crab vessel may harvest red crab from any fishing gear other than red crab traps/pots.
 - 2) Vessels may not deploy more than 600 traps/pots in deeper than 400 meters or shallower than 400 meters.
 - 3) No limited access red crab vessel may deploy parlor traps/pots deeper than 400 meters.
- 4.3.2. No Action –
No vessel may haul or harvest red crab from any fishing gear other than red crab traps/pots, marked as specified by paragraph (a)(5) of this section, when on a red crab DAS

NEFMC 9/30/10

6




4.4 AM Alternatives (p. 31)

- 4.4.1 Preferred - PROACTIVE
 - In-season closure NMFS would have authority to close fishery when TAL is projected to be reached (*recommended by Committee and Advisory panel*)

NEFMC 9/30/10

7



4.4 AM Alternatives - *continued* (p. 31-32)

- 4.4.2.1 Preferred – REACTIVE -
Next Year, In-Season: TAL would be reduced by the amount of the overage. (recommended by Committee and Advisory panel)
- 4.4.2.2 Non-preferred – REACTIVE
Second year following overage: TAL would be reduced by the amount of the overage.


NEFMC 9/30/10

8



4.4 AM Alternatives - *continued* (p.32)

- 4.4.3 Preferred Combination of both Proactive & Reaction AMs (*recommended by Committee and Advisory panel*)_b
- 4.4.4 No Action – no AMs - would not comply with MSA requirements



4.5 Specification Setting Process (p. 32)

- 4.5.1 Preferred Modify the specification-setting process to include the SSC (Preferred) (*recommended by Committee and Advisory panel*)_b
- 4.5.2 No Action – does not mention the SSC



4.5 Specification Setting Process (p. 32-33)

- 4.5.3 Preferred - Modify the specification components to include ABC, ACL, or TAL (*recommended by Committee and Advisory panel*)
- 4.5.4 No Action – Specifies target TAC and DAS, no ABC, ACL, or TAL



4.6 Alternatives to Control the Landing of Female Crabs (p. 33)

- 4.6.1 Eliminate prohibition on landing female crab, conditional on a scientific recommendation & the Council's adoption of an ABC/ACL that includes females (*option added by the Committee & supported by Advisory Panel*)
- 4.6.2 No Action – No landing of female crabs in excess of one tote

5.0 Specifications for 2011-2013 (p. 35-36)

	5.1 <u>Preferred</u>	5.2 No Action
MSY (mt)	Undetermined	2,830
OFL (mt)	Undetermined	Undetermined
OY (mt)	Undetermined	2,688
ABC (mt)	1,775	1,775
ACL (mt)	1,775	n/a
Target TAC (mt)	n/a	1,775
Fleet DAS	n/a	665
TAL (mt)	1,775	n/a

NEFMC 9/30/10

13



NEFMC 9/30/10

14