

D.3.3 Description of Essential Fish Habitat for BSAI King and Tanner Crab

D.3.3.1 EFH Information Levels for BSAI Crab

BSAI Crab Species	Egg	Larvae	Early Juvenile	Late Juvenile	Adult
Red king crab	inferred	x	x	1	1
Blue king crab	inferred	x	x	1	1
Golden king crab	inferred	x	x	1	1
Tanner crab	inferred	x	x	1	1
Snow crab	inferred	x	x	1	1

x - No information available.

D.3.3.2 EFH Text Descriptions for BSAI Crab

EFH Description for BSAI Red King Crab

Eggs

Essential fish habitat of the red king crab eggs is inferred from the general distribution of egg-bearing female crab (see also Adults).

Larvae—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Early Juveniles—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Late Juveniles

EFH for late juvenile red king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting of rock, cobble, and gravel and biogenic structures such as boltenia, bryozoans, ascidians, and shell hash, as depicted in Figure D-150.

Adults

EFH for adult red king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the nearshore (spawning aggregations) and the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting of sand, mud, cobble, and gravel, as depicted in Figure D-150.

EFH Description for BSAI Blue King Crab

Eggs

Essential fish habitat of the blue king crab eggs is inferred from the general distribution of egg-bearing female crab (see also Adults).

Larvae—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Early Juveniles—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Late Juveniles

EFH for late juvenile blue king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the nearshore where there are rocky areas with shell hash and the inner (0 to 50), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting of rock, cobble, and gravel, as depicted in Figure D-151.

Adults

EFH for adult blue king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting of sand and mud adjacent to rockier areas and areas of shell hash, as depicted in Figure D-151.

EFH Description for BSAI Golden King Crab**Eggs**

Essential fish habitat of golden king crab eggs is inferred from the general distribution of egg-bearing female crab (see also Adults).

Larvae—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Early Juveniles—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Late Juveniles

EFH for late juvenile golden king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the along the upper slope (200 to 500 m), intermediate slope (500 to 1,000 m), lower slope (1,000 to 3,000 m), and basins (more than 3,000 m) of the BSAI where there are high-relief living habitats, such as coral, and vertical substrates, such as boulders, vertical walls, ledges, and deep water pinnacles, as depicted in Figure D-152.

Adults

EFH for adult golden king crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the along the outer shelf (100 to 200 m), upper slope (200 to 500 m), intermediate slope (500 to 1,000 m), lower slope (1,000 to 3,000 m), and basins (more than 3,000 m) of the BSAI where there are high relief living habitats, such as coral, and vertical substrates such as boulders, vertical walls, ledges, and deep water pinnacles, as depicted in Figure D-152.

EFH Description for BSAI Tanner Crab**Eggs**

Essential fish habitat of Tanner crab eggs is inferred form the general distribution of egg-bearing female crab (see also Adults).

Larvae—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Early Juveniles—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Late Juveniles

EFH for late juvenile Tanner crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting mainly of mud, as depicted in Figure D-153.

Adults

EFH for adult Tanner crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting mainly of mud, as depicted in Figure D-153.

EFH Description for BSAI Snow Crab**Eggs**

Essential fish habitat of snow crab eggs is inferred from the general distribution of egg-bearing female crab (see also Adults).

Larvae—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Early Juveniles—No EFH Description Determined

Insufficient information is available.

Late Juveniles

EFH for late juvenile snow crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting mainly of mud, as depicted in Figure D-154.

Adults

EFH for adult snow crab is the general distribution area for this life stage, located in bottom habitats along the inner (0 to 50 m), middle (50 to 100 m), and outer shelf (100 to 200 m) throughout the BSAI wherever there are substrates consisting mainly of mud, as depicted in Figure D-154.

D.3.3.3 EFH Map Descriptions for BSAI Crab

Figures D-150 through D-154 show EFH distribution under Alternative 3 for the BSAI crab species as described in Section D.3.4.2.