

Council Motion

June 2012

C-3 (b) Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan

Adopt Alternative 2b (Preferred Alternative) for final action. Change the problem statement to read as follows.

The Pribilof Islands blue king crab stock remains overfished and the current rebuilding plan has not achieved adequate progress to rebuild the stock by 2014. In order to comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management (MSA) an amended rebuilding plan must be implemented prior to the start of the 2011/2012 fishing season.

The directed blue king crab fishery has been closed since 1999 and action has been taken to limit bycatch mortality in other crab fisheries occurring near the Pribilof Islands. Action to limit bycatch in groundfish fisheries may also be necessary. Recent trends in crab bycatch suggest that groundfish fisheries occurring near the Pribilof Islands have the potential to exceed the annual overfishing level and acceptable biological catch for this stock.

This action is necessary to facilitate compliance with requirements of the MSA to end and prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks and achieve optimum yield.