



ALASKA
Bering Sea Crabbers

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Crabbers Announce Updated Seafood Watch Recommendations for King and Snow Crab in Alaska

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch® program has just released new and updated assessments on King and Snow crab from Alaska. Bristol Bay Red King (*Paralithoides camtschaticus*) crab from the Eastern Bering Sea has been elevated to a “Best Choice” by Seafood Watch. With this updated recommendation, all of the major crab fisheries in the Eastern Bering Sea, including two species of Snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio* and *C. bairdi*) and Blue King crab from St. Matthews Island (*P. platypus*) meet Seafood Watch’s “Best Choice” standard.

The updated Seafood Watch recommendations maintain the “Avoid” status for all crab fisheries in the Russian portion of the Bering Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk, and the Northern Sea of Japan. These “Avoid” listings reflect the fact that stocks are at critically low levels as a result of rampant illegal fishing and highly ineffective management.

“With these updated recommendations the Seafood Watch program is just confirming what we have known for years. King and Snow crab from Alaska is clearly the ‘Best Choice’ if you care about the health of the oceans and wish to support sustainable fisheries. We hope that consumers, retailers, and those in the food service industry will use these recommendations to make informed purchasing decisions and demand King and Snow crab from Alaska,” said Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers Science & Policy Analyst Ruth Christiansen.

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers is a non-profit seafood industry trade association representing the overwhelming majority of crab harvesters in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. The organization is proud to be good stewards of the crab resource and the environment; to help provide economic stability for Alaska’s coastal communities; to be strong advocates for safety at sea; and to provide premier products for our domestic and international customers.

