Additions are in red. Words indicated with a strikethrough (e.g. strikethrough) should be deleted from the FMP.

8.1.2 Permit Requirements

Currently, no Federal fishing permits are required for harvesting vessels, except as required by the License Limitation Program as described in Section 8.1.4. and regulated by 50 CFR 679. Vessel moratorium permits are required through December 31, 1998, unless the moratorium is extended by the Council. Upon expiration of the vessel moratorium, an approved License Limitation Program, as described in Section 8.1.4. and regulated by 50 CFR 679, would require a Federal Crab License for vessels. As noted in Section 8.1.4, a Federal Crab License will be required on vessels participating in the BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. This FMP assumes that all crab fishermen are licensed and vessels are licensed and registered under the laws of the State, and as such, while fishing in the EEZ are subject to all State regulations that are consistent with the FMP, Magnuson Act, and other applicable Federal law. This assumption is based on the requirement of lending institutions and insurance companies that the crab vessels be registered with the State of Alaska and be able to enter State waters. If, in the future, vessels participate in the fishery without registering with the State, it is likely that a plan amendment will be required. State registered vessels are subject to enforcement sanctions issued pursuant to State procedures.

NMFS requires that vessel operators in the BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries maintain a Federal logbook and delegates all other reporting requirements to the State. Vessel operators are required to record information on at sea discards of groundfish, Pacific herring, Pacific halibut, Pacific salmon, king crab, and Tanner crab in catcher vessel Federal Daily Fishing Logbooks (FDFLs) or catcher processor Daily Cumulative Production Logbooks (DCPLs).

8.3.1 Reporting Requirements

Other than the Federal logbook requirements referenced in Section 8.1.2, assuming that all vessels participating in the fishery are licensed and registered with the State, only State reporting requirements are required by this FMP. Therefore, all other reporting requirements shall be deferred to the State.

Reporting of crab catches by individual vessel operators was required as early as 1941. Current State requirements (5 AAC 39.130) include: reporting the company or individual that purchased the catch; the full name and signature of the permit holder; the vessel that landed it with its license plate number; the type of gear used; the amount of gear (number of pots, pot lifts); the weight and number of crab landed including deadloss; the dates of landing and capture; and the location of capture. Processing companies are required to report this information for each landing purchased, and vessel operators are required to provide information to the processor at the time of sale. All reports (fish tickets) are confidential. Reporting requirements ensure adequate information and efficient management and enforcement. The State of Alaska obtains timely information through
its current reporting requirements for all vessels participating in the fishery. Additional information is currently available from the State of Alaska shellfish observer program. The price paid for crab is also important information for managing the fisheries and is included on fish tickets but is currently not required information by the State because it is not always available at the time the fish tickets are prepared.

As the commercial Alaskan king and Tanner crab fisheries have grown over recent years, so has our knowledge of these species. Information gained through scientific surveys, research, and fishermen's observations have all led to a better understanding of the biology, environmental requirements, and behavior of the crab stocks. Since fishery managers monitor harvest rates in-season to determine areas of greatest fishing effort, thereby preventing overharvest of individual crab stocks, the current State catch and processing report requirements are an important component in achieving the biological conservation, economic and social, and research and management objectives of this FMP.

Information collected through the State Crab Observer Program (Section 8.3.7) and from industry reports constitutes the standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the crab directed fisheries. The standardized reporting methodology means established, consistent procedures used to collect, record, and report catch and bycatch in the fisheries. Industry members report catch and bycatch through eLandings reports and logbooks. From the information collected through observer and industry reports, management action can be informed pre or post-season in order to mitigate adverse impacts to the extent practicable. The Council will recommend changes to regulations when necessary on the basis of such information.

8.3.7 State Observer Requirements

The FMP defers the State Observer requirements to the State. The State may place observers aboard crab fishing and/or processing vessels when the State finds that observers provide the only practical mechanism to obtain essential biological and management data or when observers provide the only effective means to enforce regulations. Observers provide data on the amount and type of bycatch occurring in each observed fishery and estimates of bycatch by species, sex, size, and shell-age/shell-hardness for each observed fishery are currently provided in annual reports by ADF&G.

Data collected by onboard observers in crab fisheries include effort data and data on the species sex, size, and age/shell-hardness composition of the catch. The State currently requires onboard observers on all catcher/processor or floating-processor vessels processing king or Tanner crab and on all vessels participating in the Aleutian Islands red or brown (golden) king crab fisheries. The State currently may require observers on selected catcher vessels taking red or blue king crab in the Norton Sound section, if ADF&G provides funding for the observer presence. The State may also require onboard observers in other crab fisheries (e.g., the Pribilof Islands Korean hair crab *Erimacrus isenbeckii* fishery) to, in part, monitor bycatch of king or Tanner crab. Observers provide data on the amount and type of bycatch occurring in each observed fishery and estimates of bycatch by species, sex, size, and shell-age/shell-hardness for each observed fishery are currently provided in annual reports by ADF&G.