



# New England Fishery Management Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Council Approves 2017-2019 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specs

The New England Fishery Management Council today approved new specifications for the Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery that maintain catch levels at status quo for the next three fishing years given the stable biological and economic state of the fishery.

The Council considered the following information before making this decision:

- Updated fishery statistics;
- Results from the most recent peer-reviewed deep-sea red crab stock assessment, which was carried out by the Data Poor Stocks Working Group in 2009; and
- Recommendations from the New England Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

Deep Sea Red Crab Specifications	Fishing Years 2017-2019
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	Undetermined
Overfishing Limit (OFL)	Undetermined
Optimum Yield (OY)	Undetermined
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	1,775 metric tons
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	1,775 metric tons
Total Allowable Landings (TAL)	1,775 metric tons

“Recent landings, landings per unit effort, port samples, discard information, and economic data suggest there is no discernible change in the size of the red crab stock since Amendment 3 was implemented in 2011.”

– Red Crab PDT

The Council’s Red Crab Plan Development Team (PDT) conducted the analyses for this action. If approved by NOAA Fisheries, the new specifications are expected to be in place by the March 1 start of the 2017 red crab fishing year.

Although the overfishing limit (OFL) for red crab is “undetermined,” the Council accepted the PDT and SSC advice that the new catch limits are safely below the OFL and adequately account for scientific uncertainty as long as the 1,775-metric-ton Acceptable Biological Catch is not exceeded.



Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab (*Chaceon quinque-dens*)  
Credit: NOAA Fisheries

For more information, visit the Council’s red crab webpage at:  
<http://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/red-crab>.