



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report includes those for salmon, scallops, and crab.

Salmon Troll Fishery

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2017. The summer fishery targets the majority of the annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in one or more open periods during the July 1 – September 30 timeframe. During the summer season, most waters of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat area are open to commercial trolling, including outer coastal waters in the EEZ, excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150.

The total summer troll Chinook harvest was 66,949 fish and 65,642 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

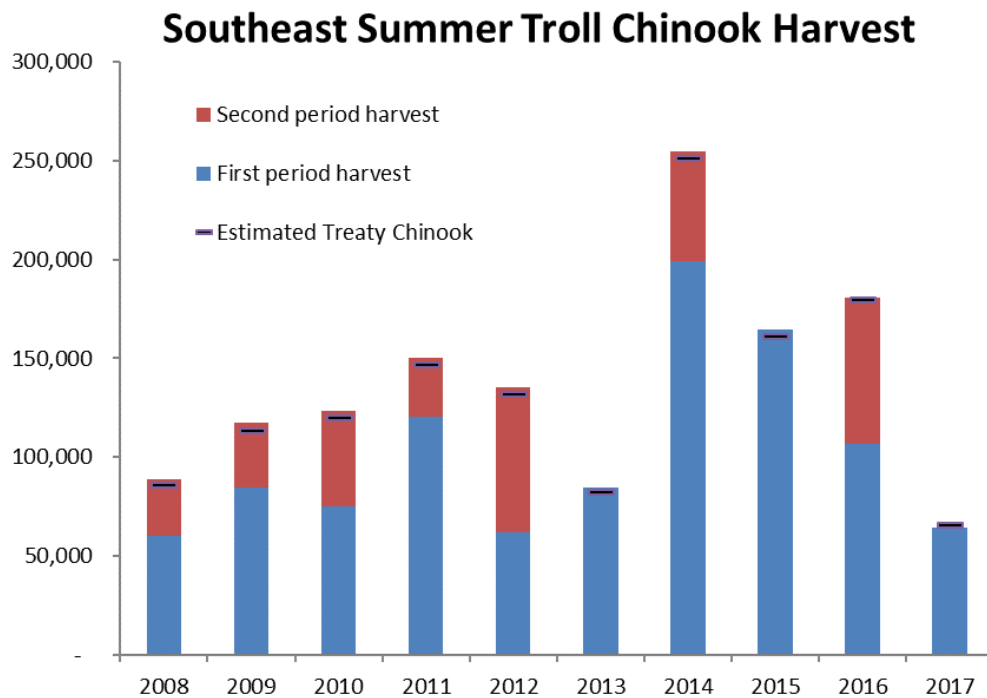


Figure 1. Chinook salmon harvest in the Southeast Alaska summer troll fishery, 2008 – 2017.

Scallops

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2017. The

cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2017/18 season is 306,300 pounds of shucked meats, a 20,000 pound increase from the 2016/17 cumulative GHL.

Registration Area	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)		
		Tanner Crab	King Crab	
YAKUTAT	Area D	140,000	N/A	N/A
	District 16	5,000	N/A	N/A
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND				
	East Kayak	<i>Closed for the 2017/18 season</i>		
	West Kayak	6,300	1,600	N/A
COOK INLET	Kamishak Bay	10,000	3,933	30
KODIAK	Northeast District	55,000	19,388	25
	Shelikof District	25,000	63,926	50
	Southwest District ¹	25,000	12,000	50
	Semidi District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
ALASKA	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	<i>monitored inseason</i>	
PENINSULA	Unimak Bight ¹	15,000	12,000	50
DUTCH HARBOR	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	5,000	5,000	10
BERING SEA		7,500	65,000	500
			<i>C.opilio & hybrids</i>	
			300,000	

¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2017/18.

Total harvest to date is approximately 215,000 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in the Yakutat and Prince William Sound areas, as well as the Shelikof District of the Kodiak Area, and the Unimak Bight District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

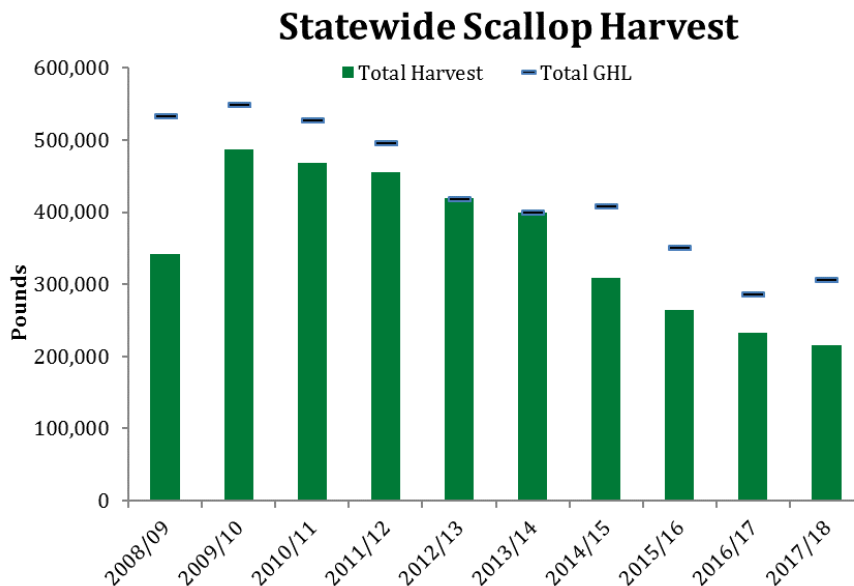


Figure 2. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2008/09 – 2017/18.

Norton Sound red king crab

The 2017 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access fishery opened on June 26, 2017 with a total GHL of 419,000 pounds. Catch rates were consistent with previous years catch per unit effort (CPUE) and averaged 18 crabs per pot in 2017. The fishery closed July 25, resulting in the third shortest season since 1993. Thirty-six permit holders harvested 98% (411,739 pounds) of the open access quota. The average price paid was \$6.25 per pound, slightly below the all-time high of \$6.50 in 2016. The exvessel value of the fishery was \$2.56 million.

Norton Sound open access, winter and CDQ fishery

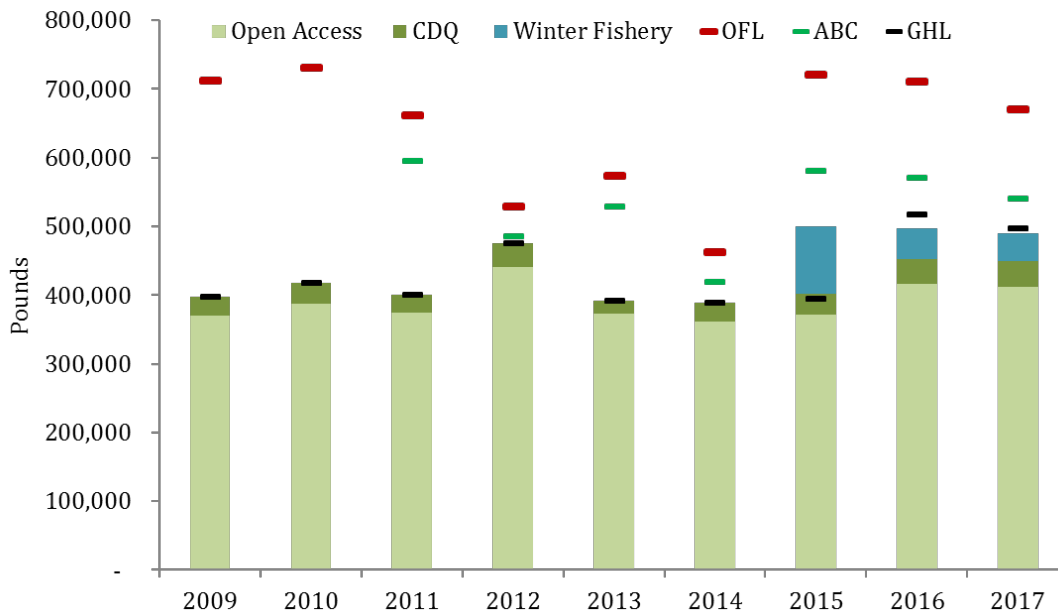


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2009 – 2017.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2017/18 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2017. The total allowable catch (TAC) was set at 5.545 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.235 million pounds. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the CDQ (eastern) and Adak Community Allocation (ACA-western) fisheries. Three vessels are currently participating in the western area and harvest to date is 0.65 million pounds. Two vessels are fishing in the eastern area and harvest remains confidential.

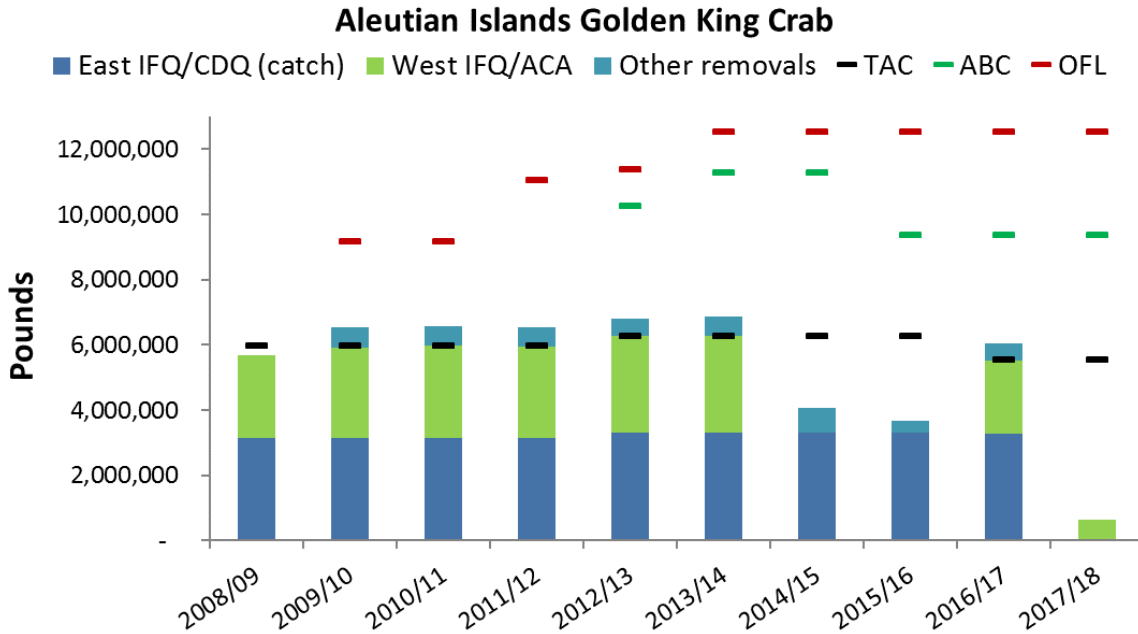


Figure 4. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2009/09 – 2017/18.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Board may consider out-of-cycle proposals through an Agenda Change Request (ACR) and state regulations (5 AAC 39.999) define the guidelines by which an ACR may be accepted. The Board considers ACRs at its first meeting in the fall (Work Session: October 18 - 20, in Kenai). The only action for the Board is to determine whether to accept an ACR and to determine which future meeting it will be deliberated. The Board received an ACR to repeal the fixed TAC for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, and adopt a harvest strategy that uses biomass estimates generated from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game stock assessment model to establish TAC (5 AAC 34.612; ACR 2).