



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 crab and Pacific cod.

Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab. During the 2017/18 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Western Bering Sea tanner crab, and Eastern Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. The fishery for Bristol Bay red king crab has concluded.

Bering Sea snow crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2017 and will remain open through May 15, 2018 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2018 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2017/18 snow crab TAC is 18.96 Mlbs. Forty-three vessels are currently active and have harvested a total of 4.58 mlbs (24% of TAC). Catch rates are highly variable between vessels; the average CPUE is 137 (ranging between 125 to 250) crabs per pot.

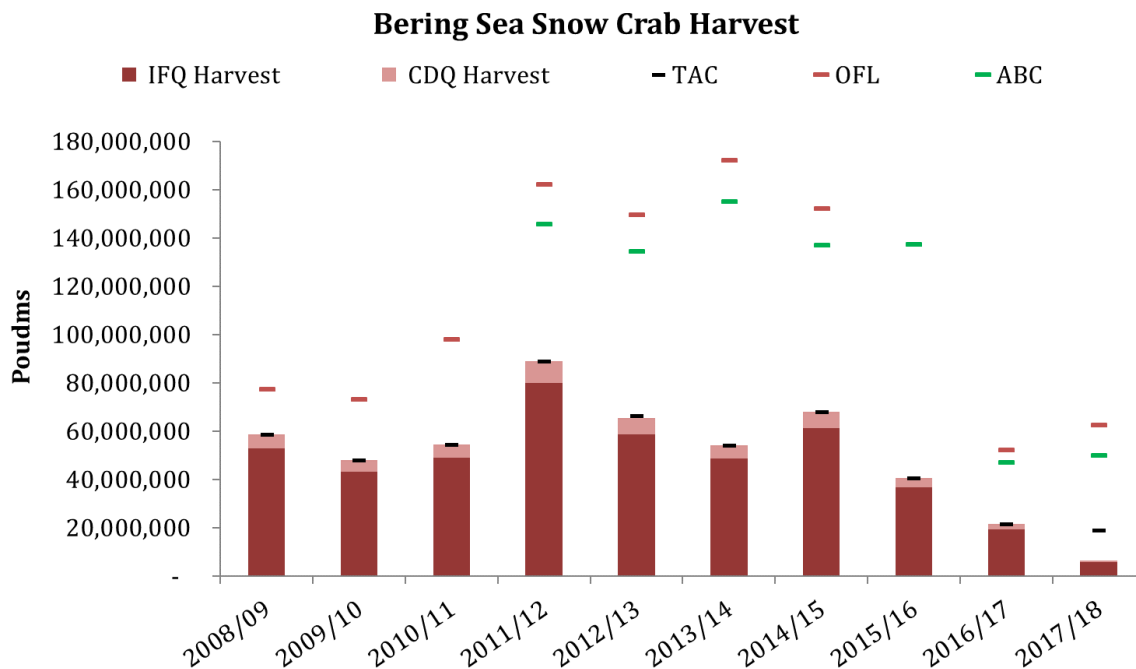


Figure 1. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2007/08 – 2017/18 seasons.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2017/18 Area O (Aleutian Islands) golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2017. The total TAC is set at 5.545 Mlb by regulation 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 Mlbs. Fishing in both the eastern and western areas is

ongoing. In the east area, three vessels have harvested 3.25 Mlbs, or about 98% of the TAC. In the west area, three vessels have harvested 2.06 million pounds, or about 92% of the TAC. Catch rates were higher in the east area, at 31 crabs per pot compared to 17 crabs per pot in the west area.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

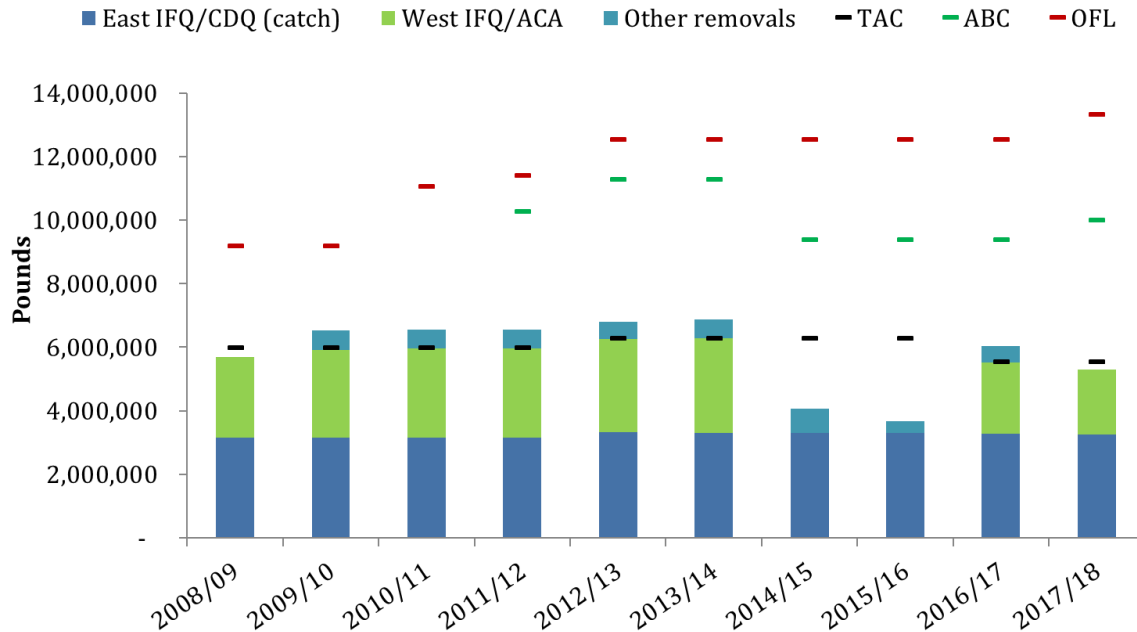


Figure 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2007/08 – 2017/18 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea tanner crab

The 2017/18 Western Bering Sea tanner crab fishery opened October 15, 2017 and closes by regulation on March 31, 2018. A total of 24 vessels have harvested 1.93 mlbs of the 2.5 mlbs TAC. The average CPUE is 69 crabs per pot. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab

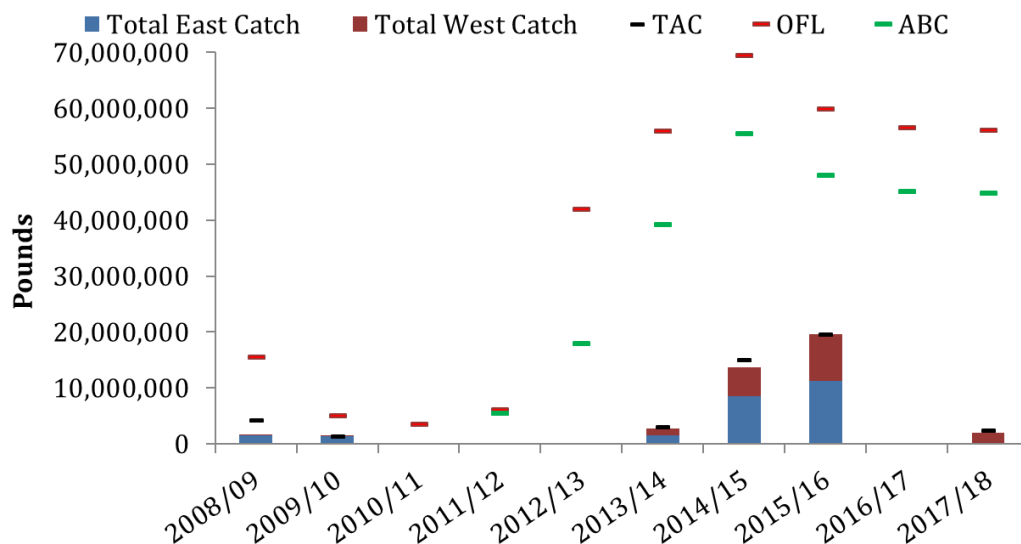


Figure 3. Eastern Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

Pacific Cod. State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs as follows:

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC		2018 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%		450
Chignik	CGOA	25%	8.75%	710
Kodiak			12.5%	1,015
Cook Inlet			3.75%	304
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%		2,425
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	6.4%		12,864
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	AI	27%		5,805

Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod

The 2018 Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season initially opened January 1, 2018 in the Adak Section (between 175° W long. and 178° W long.) to vessels 60 feet overall length (OAL) or less using pot, jig, and non-pelagic trawl gear and vessels 58 feet OAL or less using longline gear. Five vessels have participated in the fishery and harvest remains confidential given the number of processors. The 2018 Aleutian Islands District GHL is 12.79 mlbs.

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict opened on January 30, 2018, seven days after the initial federal Pacific cod season for the BSAI <60' hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel sector fishery closed. The fishery is only open to vessels ≤58' using pot gear (60 pot limit). A total of 28 vessels have registered for the fishery. The first harvest update will occur on February 5th. The guideline harvest level for this fishery is 28.36 mlbs (33.72 mlbs in 2017).

Alaska Board of Fisheries

STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH

March 6-9, 2018, Anchorage, Egan Center

Public Comment Deadline – February 23, 2018