



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, weathervane scallop, and crab.

Salmon Troll Fishery

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2018. This fishery targets the majority of annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in one of 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 86,275 fish and 83,503 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

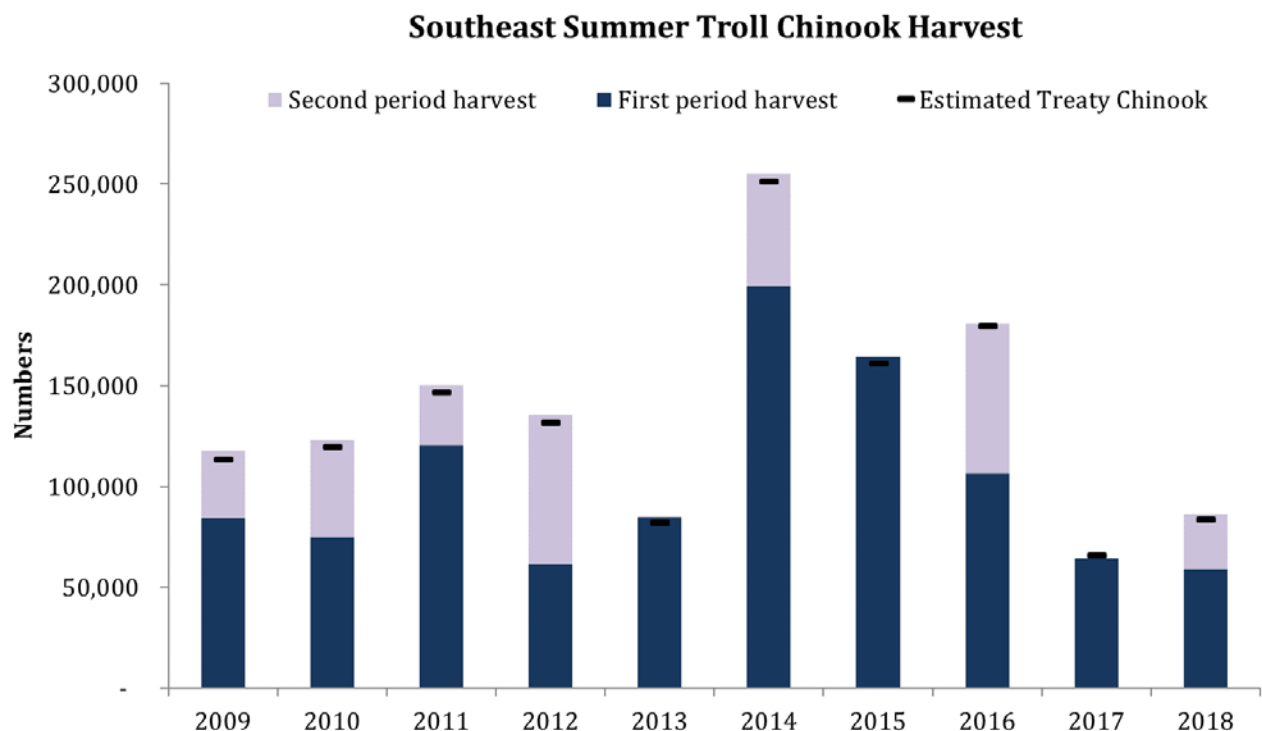


Figure 1. Chinook salmon harvest in the Southeast Alaska summer troll fishery, 2009 – 2018.

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, 2018. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2018/19 season is 271,300 pounds of shucked meats, a 35,000 pound decrease from the 2017/18 cumulative GHL.

2018/19 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest and Crab Bycatch Levels				
			Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
Registration Area	District/Management Unit	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat		145,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2018/19 season</i>		
	West Kayak Subsection	6,300	1,600	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2018/19 season</i>		
Kodiak	Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Shelikof District	25,000	12,500	25
	Southwest District	30,000	18,000	25
	Southeast District	15,000	7,500	25
	Semidi Islands District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight ¹	15,000	7,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	<i>Closed for the 2018/19 season</i>		
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 2018/19.

Total harvest to date is approximately 186,693 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in the Prince William Sound subsection, Shelikof District of the Kodiak Area, and the Unimak Bight District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

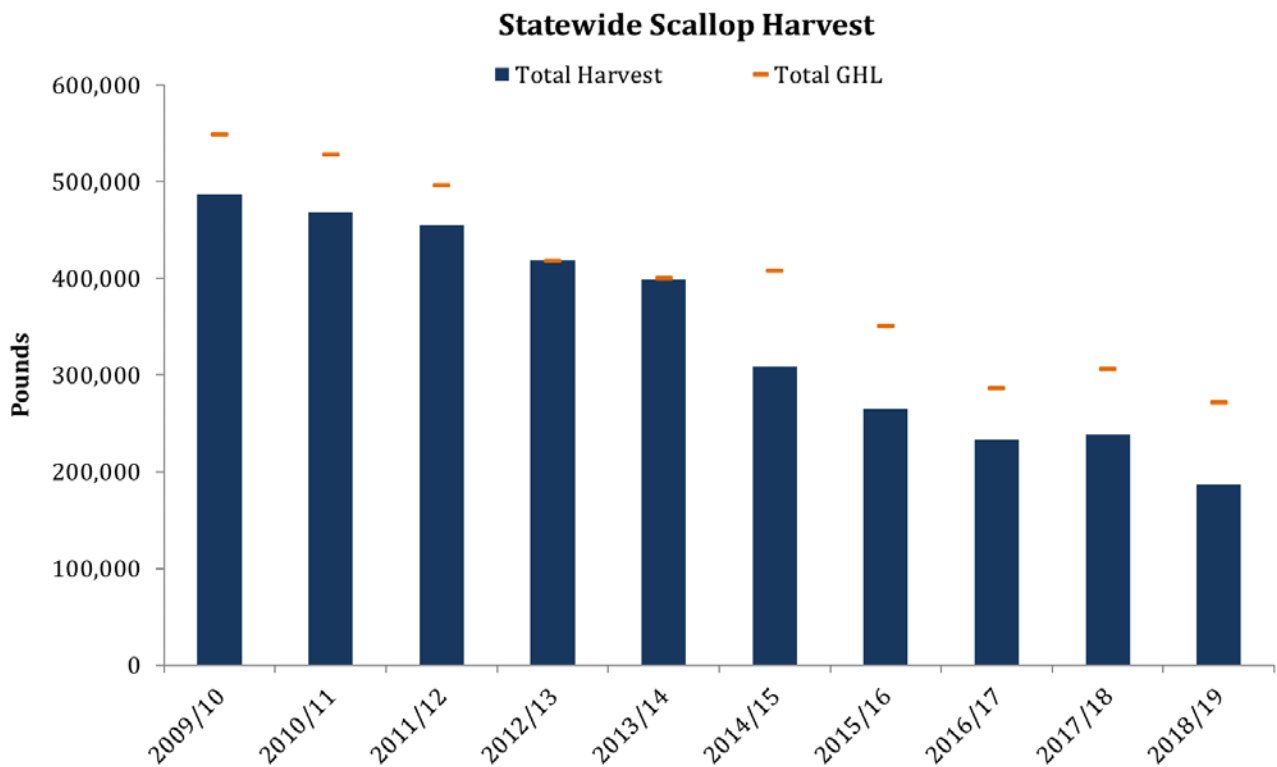


Figure 2. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2009/10 – 2018/19.

Norton Sound red king crab

The 2018 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access fishery opened on June 24, 2018 with a total GHL of 290,292 pounds, which included the unharvested portion of the winter open-access quota. CPUE was 10 crab per pot, the lowest since 2013. The fishery closed July 28, resulting in the sixth shortest season since 1993. Thirty-six permit holders harvested 103% (298,396 pounds) of the summer 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 \$1.86 million.

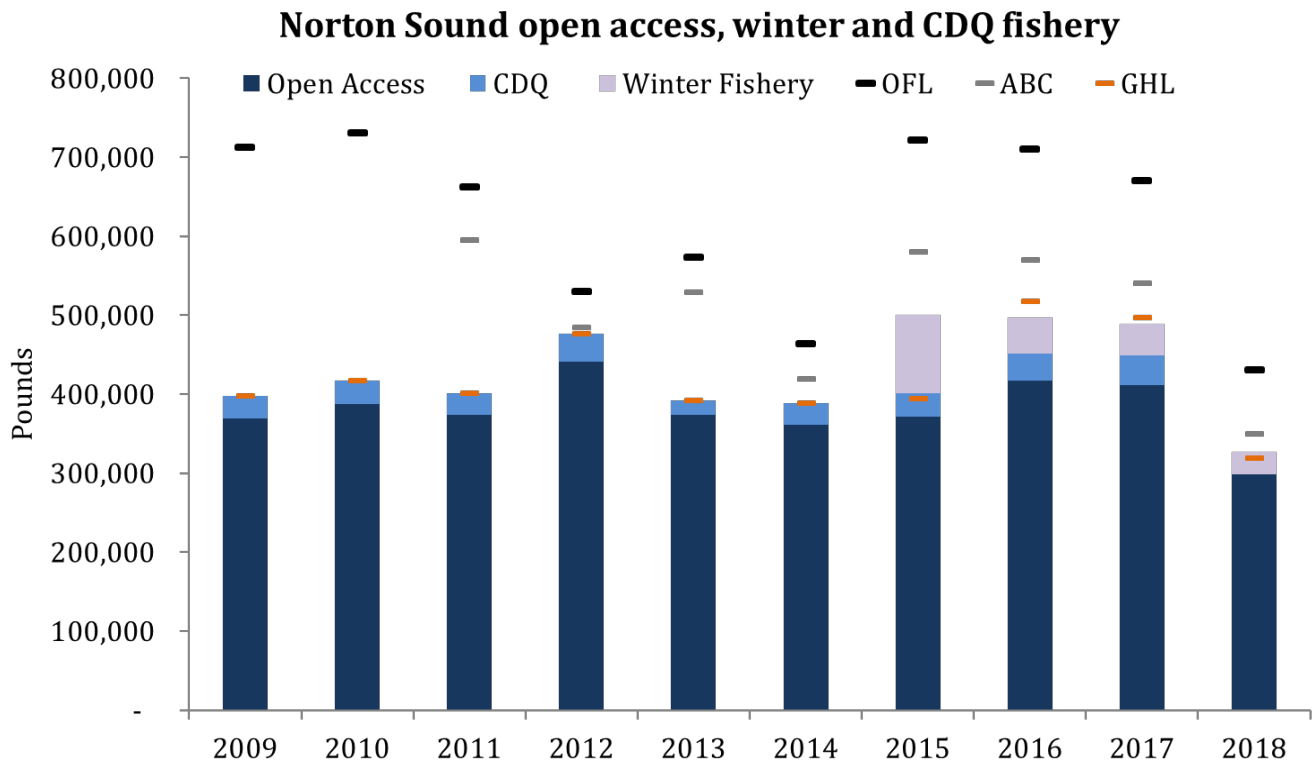


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2009 – 2018.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2018/19 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2018. The total allowable catch (TAC) was set at 6.356 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.856 million pounds (17% increase from 2017/18) and the western TAC is 2.5 million pounds (12% increase from 2017/18). 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 0.73 million pounds. Two vessels are fishing in the eastern area and harvest remains confidential.

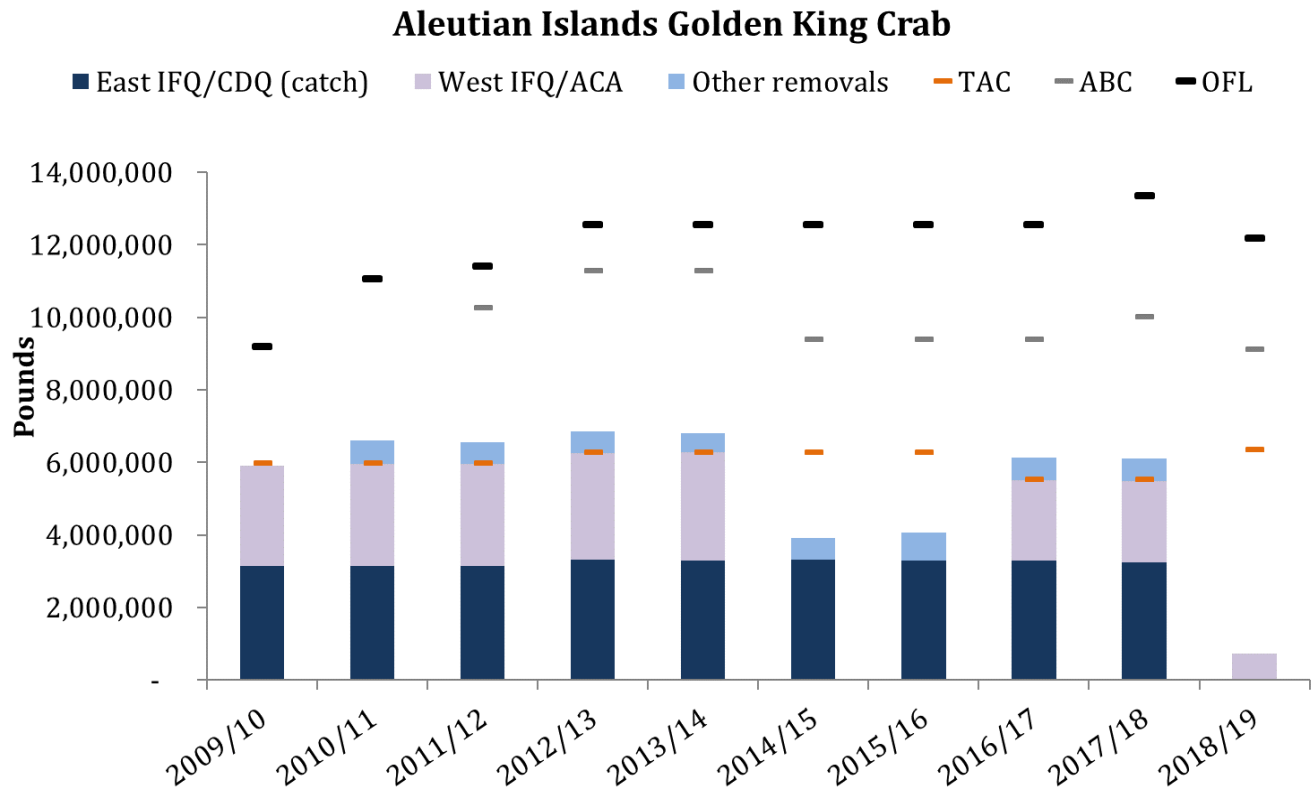


Figure 4. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2009/10 – 2018/19.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Board work session is October 15-16, the Joint Protocol Committee meeting will follow on October 17, and the Pacific cod meeting will be October 18-19 in Anchorage. The public comment deadline is October 3, 2018.

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 at the Work Session. 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 adopt a new harvest strategy for Aleutian Islands golden king crab that relies on annual stock assessment model outputs to set total allowable catch and stock status determination criteria (5 AAC 34.612).

Board Proposals to be Considered at the Pacific Cod Meeting:

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State waters Pacific cod fishery

- Increase the guideline harvest level to 8%, 10% or, 20% of the Bering Sea Pacific cod acceptable biological catch.

- Close waters in Area O to bottom trawling during the Pacific cod pot fishery.
- Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (two proposals).
- Limit the amount of Pacific cod onboard a vessel and require daily reports.
- Establish a quota for jig gear with a revised subarea.

Aleutian Islands State Waters Pacific cod fishery

- Limit fishing for Pacific cod in the Adak section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict to vessels 60 feet or less OAL.
- If harvest of cod by CV trawl participants in the Unrestricted Fishery in 2019 prior to March 15th diminishes the ability of CV trawl participants in the AI CV Harvest Set-Aside to access the full amount of the Set-Aside, increase the AI state waters GHL in the following year on a pound for pound basis.
- Modify the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod guideline harvest level from year to year.
- Amend the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan to reduce the GHL based on processor availability.
- Limit the number of groundfish pots per vessel in the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod fishery.
- Repeal and replace the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan with the management measures found in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.
- Allow longer vessels that have to fish close to a processor due to holding capacity to fish in the Adak Section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict.
- Eliminate the 15 million pound cap in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan and allow the GHL to increase to the maximum potential of 39% of the ABC.

Other Pacific cod proposals

- Resolve conflict in season opening dates between Chignik Area state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries.
- Remove the weather delay provision for jig gear vessels during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.