

NOAA
FISHERIES

Observer Coverage in BSAI Groundfish Fisheries and Incidental Crab Catch

September 2017

Observer Coverage

- Vessels are in one of two categories:
 - Full Coverage
 - One or more observers during all fishing
 - Pay as you go
 - Partial Coverage
 - Selected vessels carry observers during an entire fishing trip
 - Paid for through ex-vessel landing fees

Vessels in Full Coverage vs Partial Coverage

- Full coverage vessels (1 or 2 observers 100% of the time)
 - CPs (limited exceptions)
 - Motherships
 - AFA Pollock vessels
 - Non-Pollock BSAI trawl vessels can opt for 100% coverage during all fishing.
- Partial Coverage
 - CVs fishing groundfish
 - CVs fishing IFQ/CDQ halibut/sablefish
- No observer coverage
 - 40 feet and under
 - Jig CVs
 - Vessels using EM
 - No FFP (can only fish inside three miles)
 - State GHL fishery

Partial Coverage Observer Determination

- Vessels in partial coverage use the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS) to log trips.
- ODDS informs the vessel operator which trips they are required to carry an observer.
 - Observer coverage rates are pre-determined through the Annual Deployment Plan.



Timing of Observer Reports

- Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)
 - Outlines goals for observer coverage in upcoming year
 - Draft in September
 - Final in December (after review during Council process)
- Observer Annual Report
 - Statistical and program review to see if goals outlined in ADP were met
 - Presented to Council
 - Finalized in June of the next year
- ADP and Annual reports can be found here:
 - <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/observer-program-reports>

Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

Year	Full observer coverage category	Partial observer coverage category								
	Full selection pool Observer coverage required on all trips	Trip selection pool Observer coverage required on all randomly selected trips		Vessel selection pool Randomly selected vessels required to carry an observer for all trips in a time period	No selection pool Observer coverage not required					
2017	Regulatory full ≥ 100%	Trawl: 18%	Trawl Tender: 14%	H & L: 11%	H & L Tender: 25%	Pot: 4%	Pot Tender: 4%	N/A	Voluntary EM Pre-implementation ~90 vessels	
2016	Regulatory full Opt-in Full	Trawl: 28% (28.0)		H & L: 15% (15.0)		Pot: 15% (14.7)			Vessels <40' LOA and Jig gear	Voluntary EM Pre-implementation 60 vessels
2015		Large Vessel: 24% (23.4)		Small Vessel: 12% (11.2)						Voluntary EM Pre-implementation 12 vessels
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trawl CVs • Small CPs • H&L/Pot CVs ≥ 57.5' 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H&L/Pot CVs >40' and <57.5' 						
2014		All Trawl CVs and H&L/Pot vessels ≥ 57.5': 16% (15.1)		H&L/Pot CVs >40' and <57.5': 12% (15.6)						Voluntary EM
2013	All Trawl CVs and H&L/Pot vessels ≥ 57.5': 14.5% (14.8)		H&L/Pot CVs >40' and <57.5': 11% (10.6)					Vessels <40' LOA and Jig gear		
Observer Program Restructure										
1990 - 2012 ⁷	Regulatory Full ≥ 100%	Vessels self-selected coverage (i.e., choose when to take an observer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of fishing days by gear/quarter and at least one trip per fishery. • CVs ≥ 60' and < 125' LOA targeting groundfish • Other CPs and processing plants when not required 100%. 								



Extrapolation of Incidental Catch Based on Observer Data

- Observed vessels receive rates based on their observer
- Unobserved vessels receive rates based on observed vessels with similar attributes including:
 - Gear
 - Processing sector
 - Area fished
 - Time of year
 - Target species

Actual Coverage Rates in BSAI for 2016

Table 4-1. -- Number of vessels (V), total trips (N), observed trips (n), and percent of trips observed (% with human observer or EM coverage) in 2016 in each FMP area (BSAI and GOA) by strata, gear type (hook-and-line (HAL), pot, non-pelagic trawl (NPT), pelagic trawl (PTR), and jig), and vessel length category (based on length overall, in feet) for the partial coverage category. Vessels and trips may be counted more than once in a vessel length category if a vessel is in more than one strata, fishes in more than one FMP area, or utilizes more than one gear type. A count of total unique vessels and unique trips by vessel length category are also included as "BSAI Subtotal", "GOA Subtotal", and "Total Unique." These unique counts may be less than the sum of the vessels or trips within each column.

	Strata	Gear	Vessel length category															
			<40'				40-57.4'				≥57.5'							
			V	N	n	%	V	N	n	%	V	N	n	%				
BSAI	Full ¹	HAL												31	1,058	1,058	100.0	
	Full	NPT												48	926	926	100.0	
	Full	POT												4	67	67	100.0	
	Full	PTR												99	2,336	2,336	100.0	
	EM Voluntary ²	HAL					2	2	0	0.0	1	2	0	0.0				
		HAL					23	158	15	9.5	38	108	19	17.6				
		POT					3	38	2	5.3	45	489	76	15.5				
		TRW													24	278	72	25.9
		ZERO Coverage ³	HAL	66	586	0	0.0											
		ZERO Coverage	JIG					2	13	0	0.0							
BSAI Subtotal			66	586	0	0.0	28	211	17	8.1	237	5,257	4,547	86.5				

Observed Catch

Table 4-10. -- Observed catch (metric tons), total catch, and percent observed (%) of groundfish and halibut retained and discarded in the groundfish and halibut fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands from 2013-2016.

	BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS RETAINED CATCH								
	CATCHER/PROCESSOR			MOTHERSHIP			CATCHER VESSEL		
	Observed	Total	%	Observed	Total	%	Observed	Total	%
HOOK AND LINE									
2013	131,540	133,671	98%				290	3,904	7%
2014	133,899	135,458	99%				365	4,489	8%
2015	141,782	142,409	100%				405	2,851	14%
2016	138,489	138,998	100%				325	2,245	14%
JIG									
2013							0	40	0%
2014							0	3	0%
2015							0	24	0%
2016							0	47	0%
NON-PELAGIC TRAWL									
2013	374,998	375,027	100%	23,599	23,599	100%	29,285	38,016	77%
2014	374,177	374,229	100%	19,630	19,630	100%	26,145	35,486	74%
2015	336,931	336,931	100%	23,313	23,313	100%	16,449	27,402	60%
2016	344,354	344,354	100%	29,260	29,260	100%	18,289	35,138	52%
POT									
2013	6,793	6,793	100%				764	23,848	3%
2014	7,627	7,627	100%				3,829	27,681	14%
2015	7,989	7,991	100%				5,106	21,670	24%
2016	7,629	7,629	100%				3,478	23,430	15%
PELAGIC TRAWL									
2013	579,526	579,633	100%	111,181	111,230	100%	543,883	553,028	98%
2014	580,677	580,818	100%	111,734	111,734	100%	551,484	560,423	98%
2015	597,752	597,752	100%	115,258	115,258	100%	577,884	577,957	100%
2016	609,617	609,626	100%	118,408	118,408	100%	588,071	588,071	100%

Observer Coverage by Area for Partial Coverage Vessels

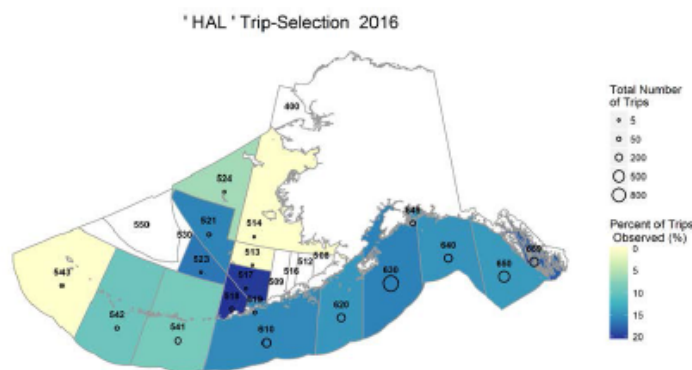


Figure 3-7. -- Percent of trips observed by NMFS Reporting Area in the HAL stratum. For reference, the programmed rate in the HAL stratum was 15.41%.

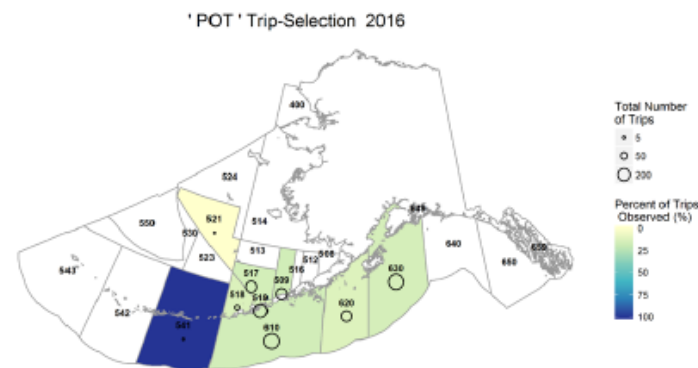


Figure 3-9. -- Percent of trips observed by NMFS Reporting Area in the POT stratum. For reference, the programmed rate in the POT stratum was 15.24%.

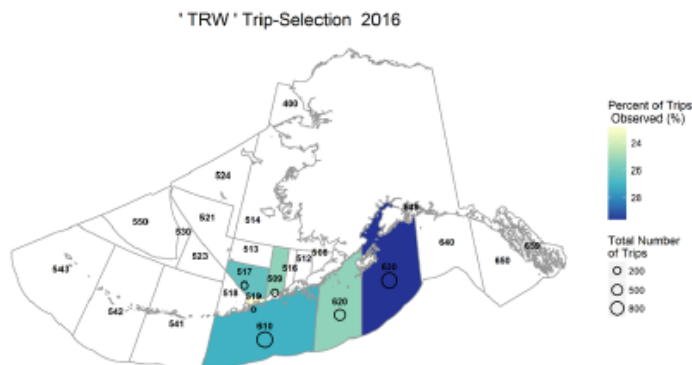


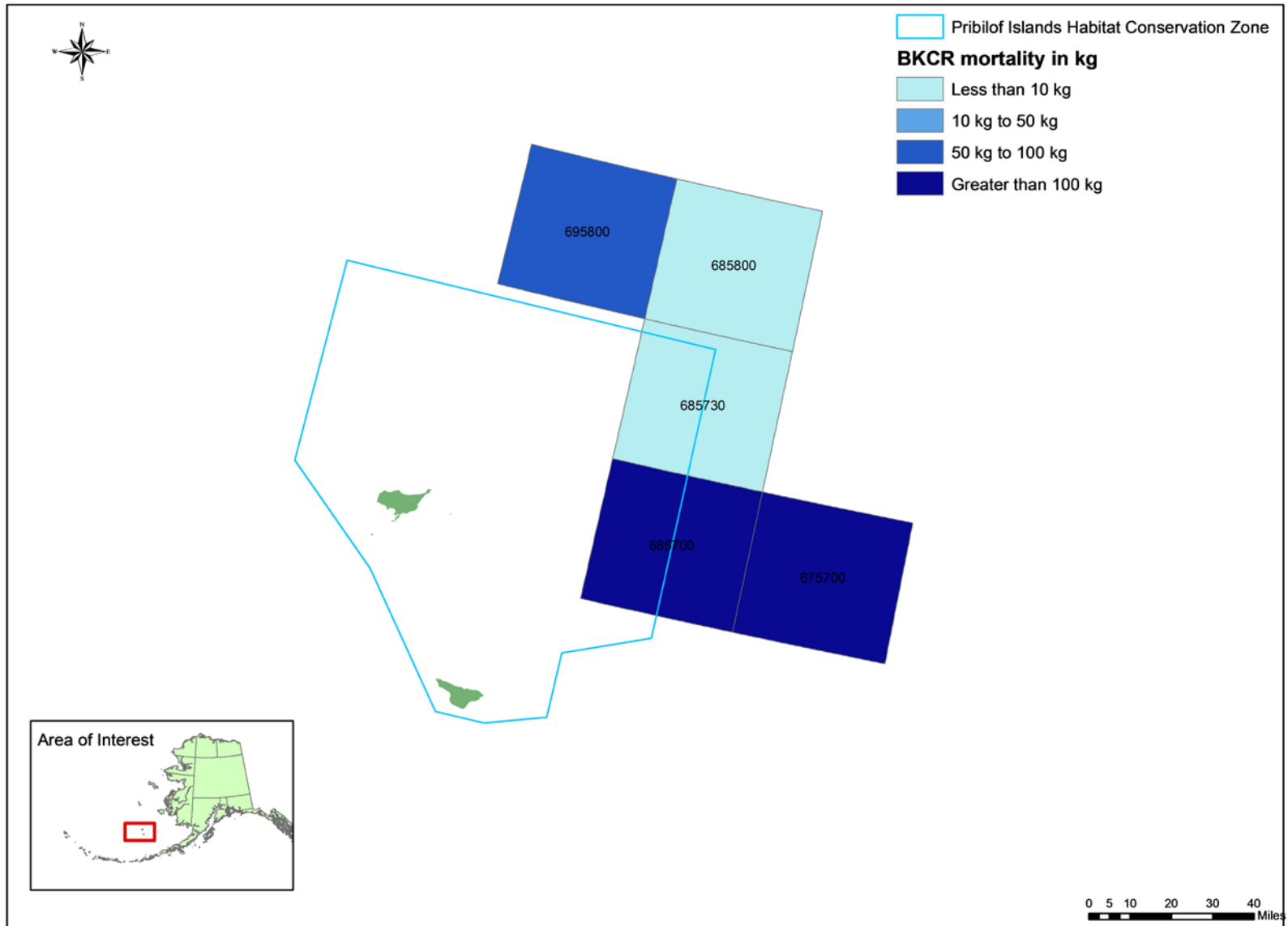
Figure 3-11. -- Percent of trips observed by NMFS Reporting Area in the TRW stratum. For reference, the programmed rate in the TRW stratum was 28.31%.

2016/17 Blue King Crab Mortality in Fixed Gear for Groundfish Fisheries




Map Generated: September 13, 2017
By: Krista Milani

2016/17 Blue King Crab Mortality in Trawl Gear for Groundfish Fisheries



Map Generated: September 13, 2017
By: Krista Milani

Weekly bycatch report for Pribilof Island blue king crab posted on our website

Pribilof Island Blue King Crab Mortality (Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery Bycatch)		National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Catch Accounting	
Crab year: 2017-2018			
			
GEAR	Mortality	ABC	Current Week Catch
Hook-and-Line	0		0
Nonpelagic Trawl	0.159		0
Pelagic Trawl	0		0
All	0.159	0.87	0

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Report run on: August 24, 2017 5:00 AM

https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/reports/car333_crab_bycatch_estimate2017.pdf



QUESTIONS?

ADP and Annual reports can be found here:
<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/observer-program-reports>

Photo courtesy of Sam Zmolek