



# Skipper's Survey Summary Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

---



CPT Presentation - September, 2021

By  
Cory Lescher

[Cory@alaskacrabbers.org](mailto:Cory@alaskacrabbers.org)



ALASKABERINGSEACRABBERS.ORG



@ALASKACRABBERS



# Background

- Fishermen spend time on the grounds year after year
- Unique vantage point independent from NMFS survey with offset timing
- Local and traditional knowledge: how fishermen's voices can be heard.
- Citizen scientist opportunities to help efforts like BSFRF tagging projects



Photo by Chris Miller







# Motivation

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2021	PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021
<b>National Strategy 1.4: Modernize fishery information collection, management, and dissemination systems, and enhance cooperative data collection and sharing</b>	
Optimize NOAA independent (fleet/charter), fishery-dependent (industry), and community (citizen science) data collection to fill priority data gaps.	Develop a data sharing tool in collaboration with Gulf of Mexico Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) partners as part of a long-term strategy to incorporate red tide data into Harmful Algal Bloom warning systems. [OST]  Support 100% vessel trip reporting in the lobster fishery and continue development of lobster vessel monitoring technology in collaboration with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. [OST]  Identify opportunities for fishermen to collect scientific data during normal fishing operations. [OST]  Implement cooperative research projects in all regions. [OST]

- Collect local knowledge from skippers' first hand observations on the fishing grounds – fishery dependent data collection
- Establish database / time series of observations
- Build trust through communication, education and collaboration
- ABSC pilot surveys: 2020 BBRKC and 2021 snow crab skipper's survey





# Pilot Poll

- 2020/21 BBRKC and Snow Crab seasons
- Primary goals to capture skipper's observations of:
  1. Perceived crab abundance
  2. Areas fished
  3. Fishery interactions
- The surveys remain anonymous, and the responses were collated
- Multiple questions in 2 parts:
  - Skippers' observations
  - ABSC wants to know
    - With comments
- ~20 skippers participated in each pilot
  - \*This is not a representation of the entire fleet\*
- Compliments ADF&G Weekly Report



Photo by Corey Arnold

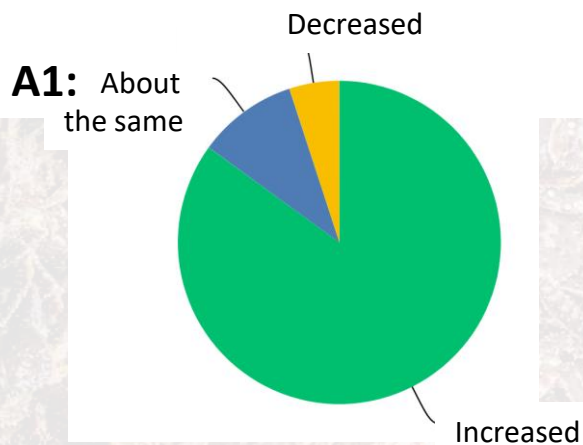




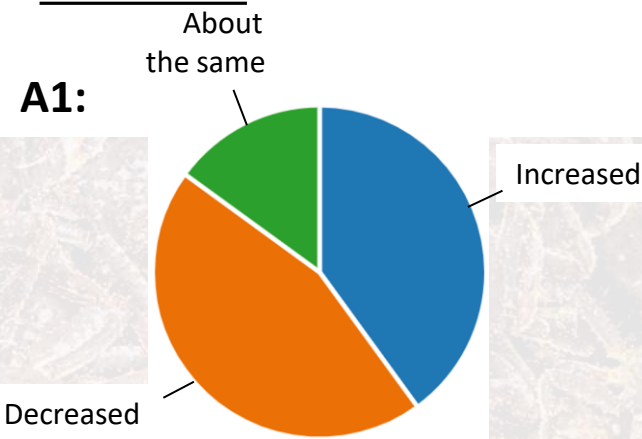
# Skippers' Observations

**Q1:** Based on your observations this year, did the amount of crab encountered during the fishery suggest a change in the overall abundance of the stock compared to the last three years?

## Red King Crab



## Snow Crab





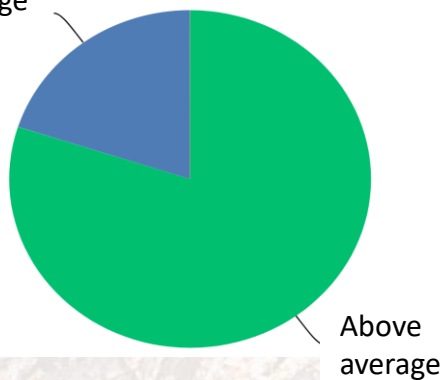


# Skippers' Observations

**Q2:** The abundance of young males/pre-recruits compared to the last three years was:

## Red King Crab

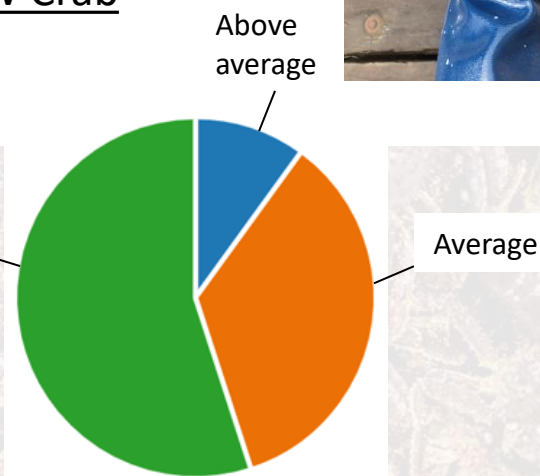
**A2:** Average



## Snow Crab

**A2:**

Below average



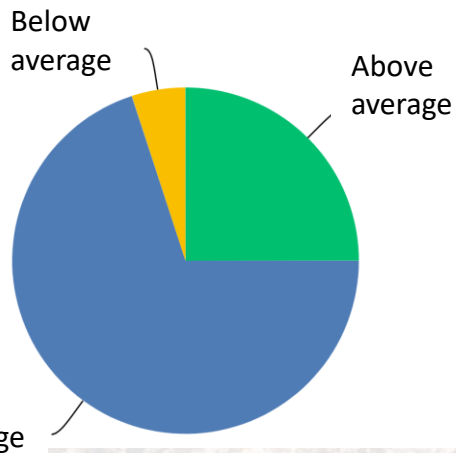


# Skippers' Observations

**Q3:** The abundance of females compared to the last three years was:

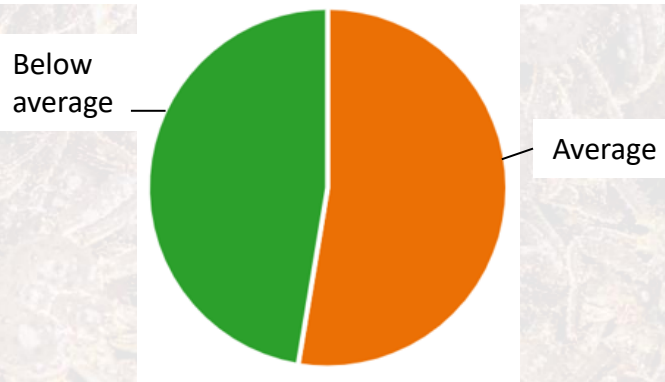
## Red King Crab

**A3:**



## Snow Crab

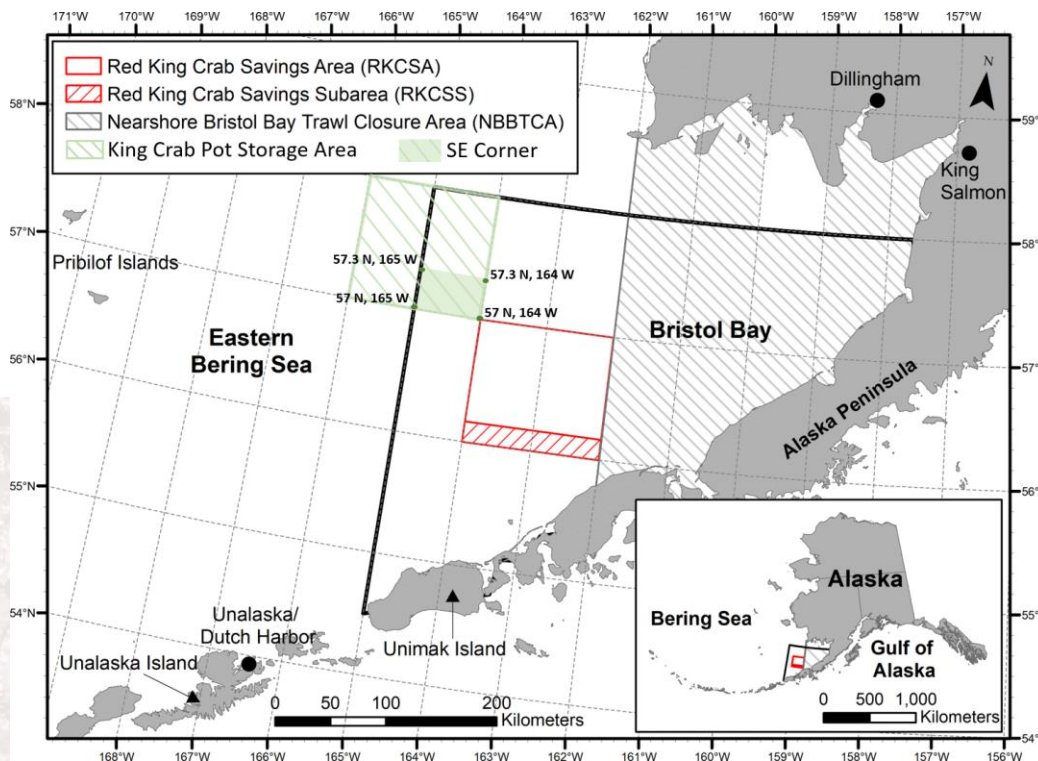
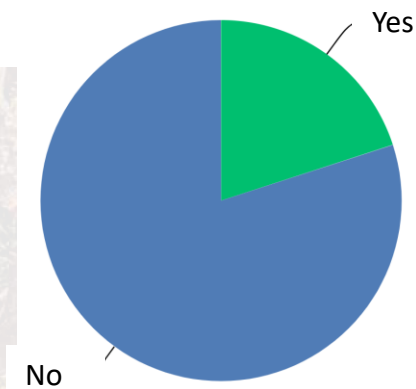
**A3:**





# ABSC Wants to Know

- **Q:** Has your vessel used the designated at-sea king crab pot gear storage area box, defined in the Alaska state code at 5 AAC 34.827, in the last 5 years?



**Q:** During crab fishing, did you observe other types of fishing vessels actively fishing in the vicinity? If so, what type of vessel?







# ABSC Wants to Know

- **Q:** Implimenting best handling and discarding practices (i.e., sorting/handling, discard chute, etc.), do you feel there is room to further reduce handling/discard mortality in this fishery?



Photo by Corey Arnold



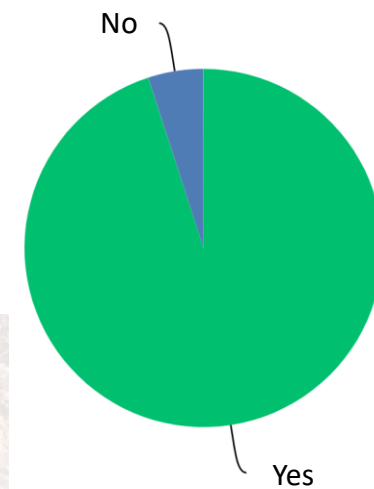


# ABSC Wants to Know



Photo by Gabriel Prout

- **Q:** Did you encounter any tagged crab during this fishing season?



- What type of tag did you encounter?
  - 46 Spaghetti
  - 7 Acoustic
  - 3 Harness





# Compliments ADF&G Weekly Crab Report

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Crab Fisheries Update								
5/24/2021								
<b>Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	TAC	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
CDQ - Community Development Quota	3	9	365,000	365,000	100%	-	-	Fishery concluded. Closed by regulation on 4/30/21.
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota	3	38	3,285,255	3,285,000	100%	-	-	
Total	3	47	3,650,255	3,650,000	100%	30	4.23	
<b>Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	TAC	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
ACA - Adak Community Allocation	1	3	CF	296,000	CF	-	-	Closed by Emergency Order on 5/13/21.
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota	3	35	CF	2,664,000	CF	-	-	
Total	3	38	2,792,835	2,960,000	94%	15	4.09	
<b>Bristol Bay Red king crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	TAC	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
CDQ - Community Development Quota	7	10	264,138	264,800	100%	-	-	Fishery concluded. Closed by regulation on 1/15/21.
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota	47	85	2,382,736	2,383,200	100%	-	-	
Total	47	95	2,646,874	2,648,000	100%	21	6.11	
<b>Western Bering Sea Tanner crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	TAC	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
CDQ - Community Development Quota	4	6	140,961	234,800	60%	-	-	Fishery concluded. Due to the potential for bycatch, final numbers will be available after the closure of Bering Sea snow crab. Closed by regulation on 3/31/21.
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota	40	77	1,283,145	2,113,200	61%	-	-	
Total	40	83	1,424,106	2,348,000	61%	21	1.66	
<b>Bering Sea Snow crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	TAC	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
CDQ - Community Development Quota	14	36	4,499,086	4,500,000	100%	-	-	Currently registered vessels: 5. Closes by regulation on 5/15/21 East of 173°W, 5/31/21 West of 173°W.
IFQ - Individual Fishing Quota	61	359	39,505,145	40,500,000	98%	-	-	
Total	60	395	44,004,231	45,000,000	98%	213	1.20	
<b>Pribilof Islands golden king crab</b>								
	Vessels	Landings	Harvest	GHL	Percent Harvested	CPUE	Avg Weight	Notes
Open Access	1	3	CF	130,000	CF	CF	CF	Currently registered vessels: 0. Closes when GHL is achieved or by regulation on 12/31/21.

\*Harvest, TAC, GHL, and Avg Weight are in pounds.







# Conclusion

- Great feedback from NOAA, ADFG, CPT, BSFRF and skippers prior to RKC pilot poll
- Successful pilot
- We hope to see more participation in the future
- Database of observations for the future of our crab stocks



Photo by Corey Arnold



- Thank You -  
Open for Discussion

[Cory@alaskacrabbers.org](mailto:Cory@alaskacrabbers.org)

Photo by Cory Lescher



ALASKABERINGSEACRABBERS.ORG



@ALASKACRABBERS



Slide 13 of 13