



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

December 2010

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report include those for salmon, scallops, crab and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska winter troll Chinook salmon season opened October 11, 2010. It will remain open through April 30, 2011, or until 45,000 treaty Chinook salmon are harvested. The fishery is confined to the waters east of the winter boundary line (surf line) and includes the waters of Yakutat Bay. Latest catch estimates put the harvest at approximately 9,479 fish.

Scallops (FIGURE 2)

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea Registration Areas opened on July 1, 2010. The Kamishak District of Cook Inlet opened on August 15, 2010 and the East Kayak portion of Registration Area E (Prince William Sound) opened on August 16, 2010. The state has delegated authority over the management of scallops under the existing Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Most of the areas open to scallop fishing are now closed. The Southwest and Semidi Districts of the Kodiak Registration Area are open; both require a Commissioner's Permit to harvest scallops. The Pacific side of the Dutch Harbor Registration Area remains open as does the Yakutat Registration Area, although 99% of the quota in this area has been taken. Further information is available on the department's website at:

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/shellfish/scallops/scallophome.php>

| Registration Area | Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat) | Bycatch Limits (number of crab) | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | | Tanner Crab | King Crab |
| YAKUTAT | | | |
| Area D | 160,000 | N/A | N/A |
| District 16 | 25,000 | N/A | N/A |
| PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND | | | |
| (East Kayak) | 8,400 | 1,643 | N/A |
| COOK INLET | 14,000 | 2,700 | 60 |
| KODIAK | | | |
| Northeast District | 65,000 | 169,926 | 13 |
| Shelikof District | 170,000 | 26,400 | 7 |
| Southwest District ¹ | 25,000 | 12,000 | 50 |
| Semidi District | <i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i> | | |
| ALASKA PENINSULA | | | |
| <i>Closed for the 2010/11 season</i> | | | |
| DUTCH HARBOR | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10 |
| BERING SEA | 50,000 | 130,000 300,000 | <i>C. bairdi</i> <i>C. opilio and hybrids</i> |
| ¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in the SW District | | | |

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 3 - 5)

The 2010/11 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2010. The total allowable catch (TAC) is 5.985 million pounds. The TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude. The Eastern IFQ TAC is 2.835 million pounds. Through December 4, 2010, approximately 2.64 million pounds (93%) of IFQ TAC have been harvested by three vessels. The CDQ TAC is set at 315,000 pounds and to date approximately 290,000 pounds (92%) has been harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Total harvest at this point in the season is very similar to last year and two vessels are fishing so harvest data remains confidential. There has been no effort to harvest the Adak community allocation. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2011.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (FIGURE 6 & 7)

The 2010/11 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010 and will remain open through January 15, 2011. The TAC for this fishery is 14.84 million pounds, a ~7% decrease from the 2009/10 season, and is apportioned 13.36 million pounds to the IFQ fishery and 1.48 million pounds to the CDQ fishery. To date, approximately 13.21 million pounds (99 percent) of IFQ have been harvested by 65 vessels and 10 vessels harvested 100% of the CDQ TAC. Preliminary data suggests that both catch per unit effort (CPUE) and average weight are down slightly from last season.

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (FIGURE 8)

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010 with a TAC of 1.6 million pounds, a 37% increase from the 2009/10 season. 1.44 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 160,000 pounds is apportioned for the CDQ fishery. Harvest has been relatively slow

but steady with 11 vessels catching approximately 792,000 pounds (54%) of the IFQ TAC and three vessels have harvested just over 138,000 pounds (86%) of the CDQ TAC through December 4, 2010. There are more vessels fishing this season than last and more vessels started fishing when the season first opened. The season remains open through February 1, 2011.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 9)

The 2010/11 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2010 and will remain open through May 15, 2011 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2011 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2010/11 snow crab TAC is 54.28 million pounds, a 13% increase over the 2009/10 season TAC, and 48.85 million pounds is apportioned to the IFQ fishery and 5.43 million pounds is apportioned to the CDQ fishery. The snow crab fishery is closed in ADF&G statistical areas 685700, 685730, 695700, and 695730 (east and northeast of St. Paul Island) to protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock. Through December 4, 2010, a single vessel has made one IFQ delivery.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 10)

The 2011 winter directed fishery for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) will open in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and the Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. These areas will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the commercial halibut fishery unless closed by Emergency Order at an earlier date. The 2011 annual directed DSR harvest limit for each area is 25 metric tons (mt) with 17 mt allocated to the winter fishery. The remainder of the harvest objective will be available for harvest in the fall portion of the fishery.

The Department will announce the details regarding any directed DSR fishery openings in the Southeast Outside Subdistrict (SEO) after the 2011 halibut quotas are finalized. All potential bycatch of DSR is accounted for in advance of the season to determine whether there is adequate DSR quota remaining to prosecute a directed winter DSR fishery in SEO. DSR harvest in the halibut fishery is linked to the halibut quota, therefore the Department cannot estimate potential DSR bycatch in that fishery until those quotas are established. The Department will issue a news release announcing any additional 2011 fishery openings by January 31.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

2010 WORK SESSION, October 13-14, 2010

ACR 7 ACTION: Denied

DESCRIPTION: Increase the harvest limit for golden king crab in Registration Area O.

DISCUSSION: The board considered scheduling this proposal for the March 22-26, 2011 king and Tanner crab meeting, but noted that the updated harvest model would not be ready by that time. The board recommended a new proposal be submitted at a future time.

The board heard a report on the recent biological opinion relative to Steller sea lions and the federal request for the board to consider a closure for waters near Kanaga Island in the western

Aleutians. The board requested the department draft a regulatory proposal on the state GHL fishery for potential action at the January 17-19, 2011 meeting in Anchorage. It concluded the department already has management authority for action in the state parallel fishery.

LOWER COOK INLET FINFISH, November 15-18, 2010

Pacific Cod Management Plan

19 Reallocate cod in Cook Inlet as follows: Change quota split from 75% pot-25% jig to 90% pot-10% jig. (Failed)

Subsistence Halibut (FIGURE 11 - 14)

[Slide 1] The department's Division of Subsistence has been conducting a federally funded project to develop annual estimates of the number of individuals and their catch under the federally created subsistence halibut program. Results were collected through a voluntary mail-out survey of all holders of subsistence halibut registration certificates (SHARC). The project covered a seven-year period from 2003 through 2009, utilizing consistent methods throughout the project. However, due to reduced funding, less outreach and follow-up interviewing occurred for 2008 and 2009, and for 2009, only 2 rounds of mailings took place, instead of 3 as in all previous study years.

The division's Technical Paper Number 357 reports on their 2009 findings. Briefly, the response rate for 2009 was 59 percent, similar to prior years. There were approximately 5,300 fishermen with an estimated harvest of about 860,000 pounds, 20% below the previous six year average. As in prior years, the largest portion occurred in Regulatory Area 2C (Southeast), followed by Area 3A (Southcentral).

[Slide 2] Over the seven years, the greatest changes in the study findings have occurred among tribal SHARC holders in Area 2C. Among this group, the number of SHARCs was down 30% in 2009 compared to the previous 6 year average, while there was a 13% decline in SHARCs for the fishery overall; among tribal SHARC holders in Area 2C, the estimated number of subsistence fishers was down 19% and the estimated harvest declined 34%.

Of the 19,605 individuals who have obtained SHARCs since 2003, 40% have not renewed them, including 27% who had engaged in subsistence halibut fishing. Nonrenewal rates are higher among tribal SHARC holders: 50% overall have not renewed including 33% who had participated in the fishery.

Finally, through a grant from NFMS, the project will continue for another year, but continuation of harvest monitoring beyond 2010 is uncertain.

Figure 1

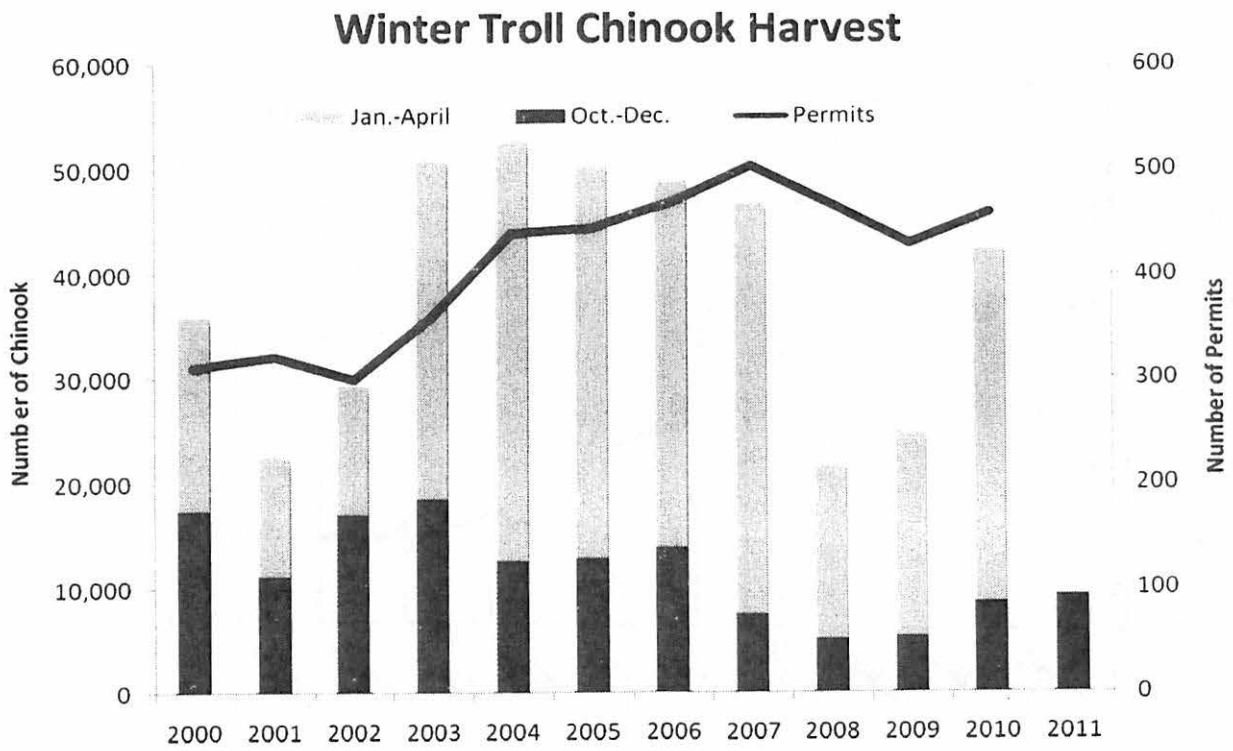


Figure 2

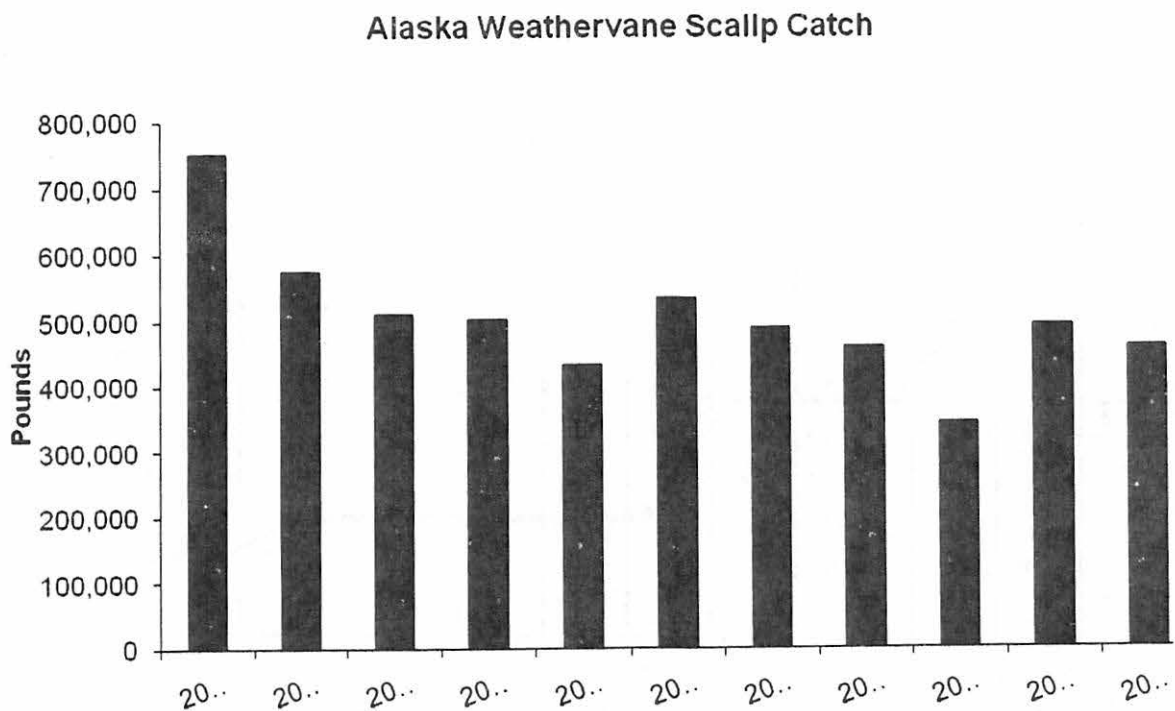


Figure 3

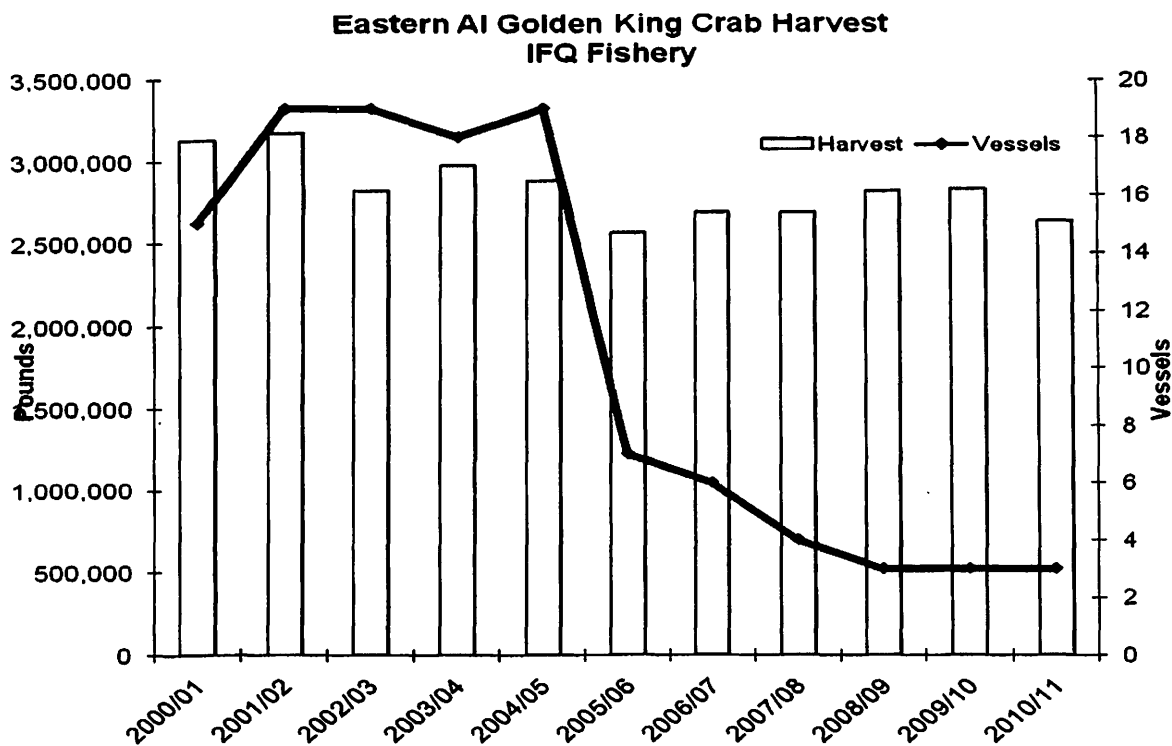


Figure 4

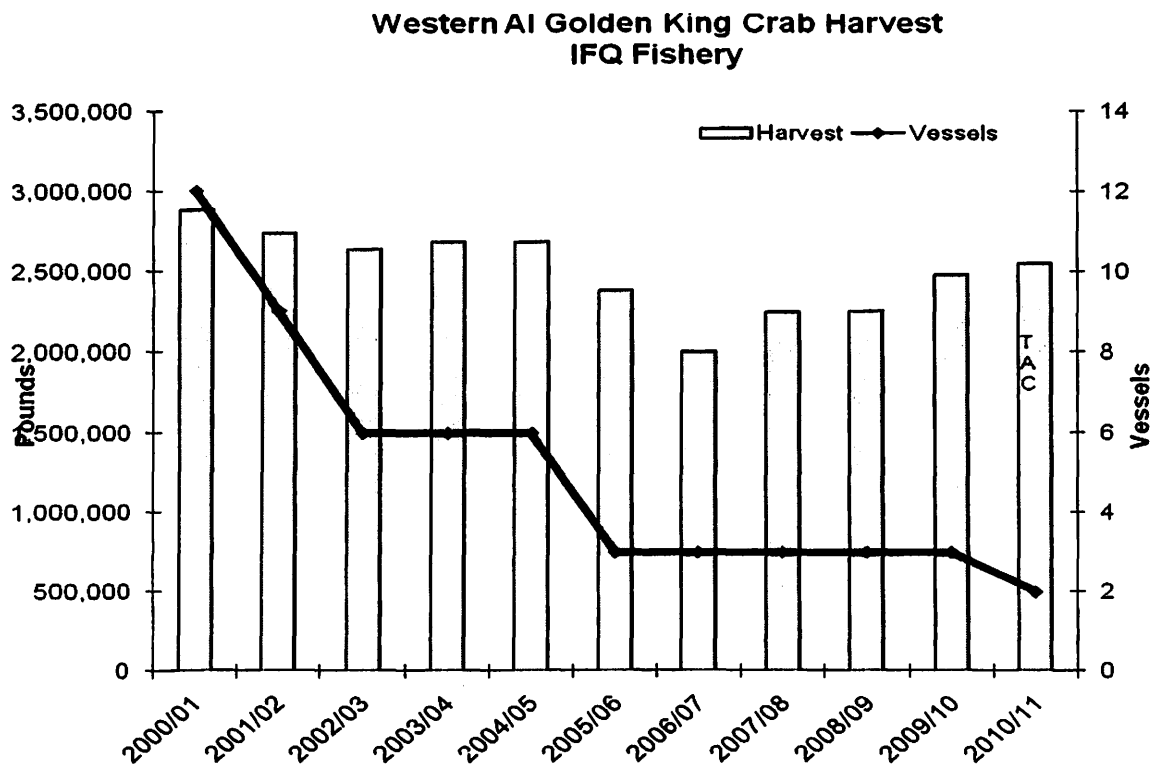


Figure 5

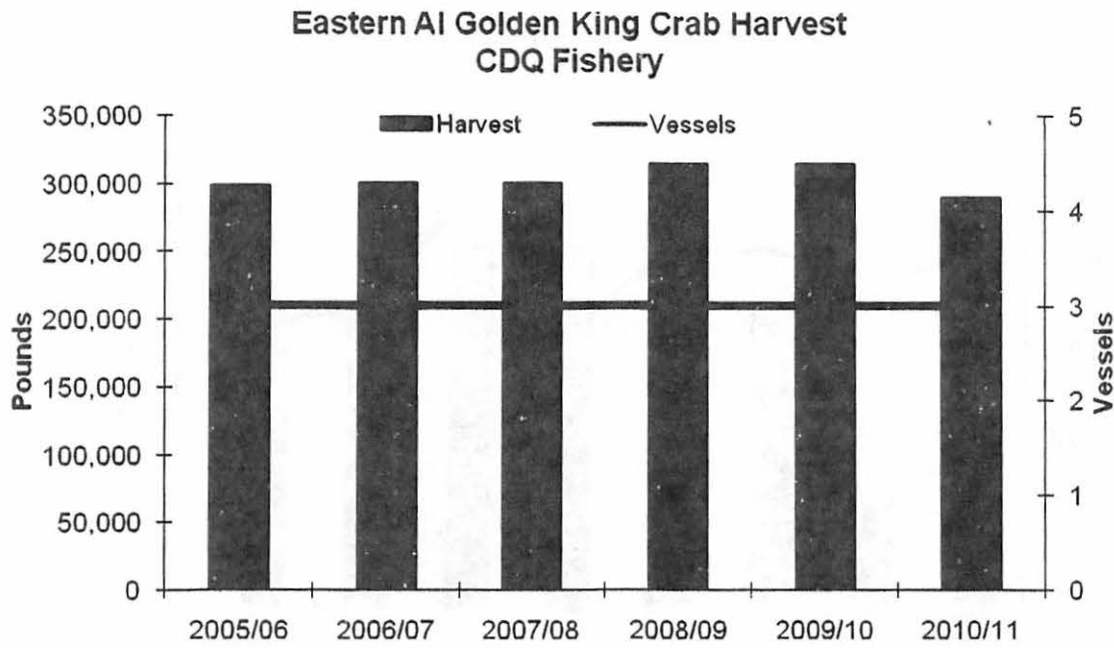


Figure 6

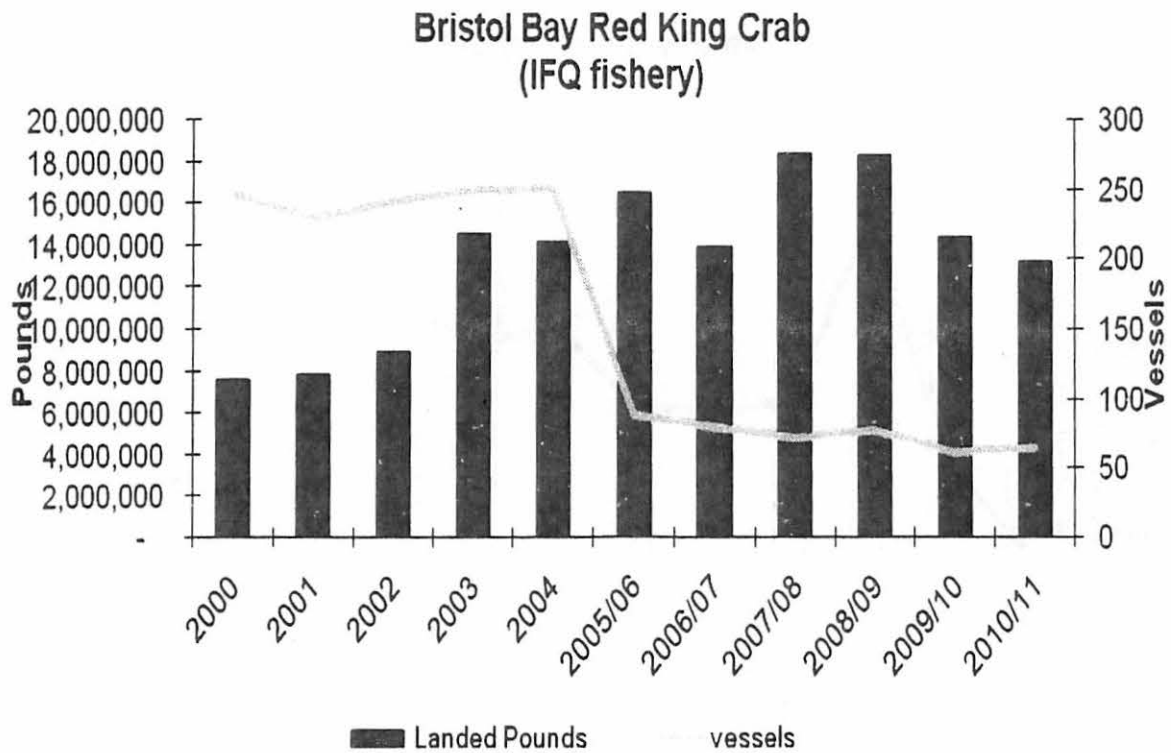


Figure 7

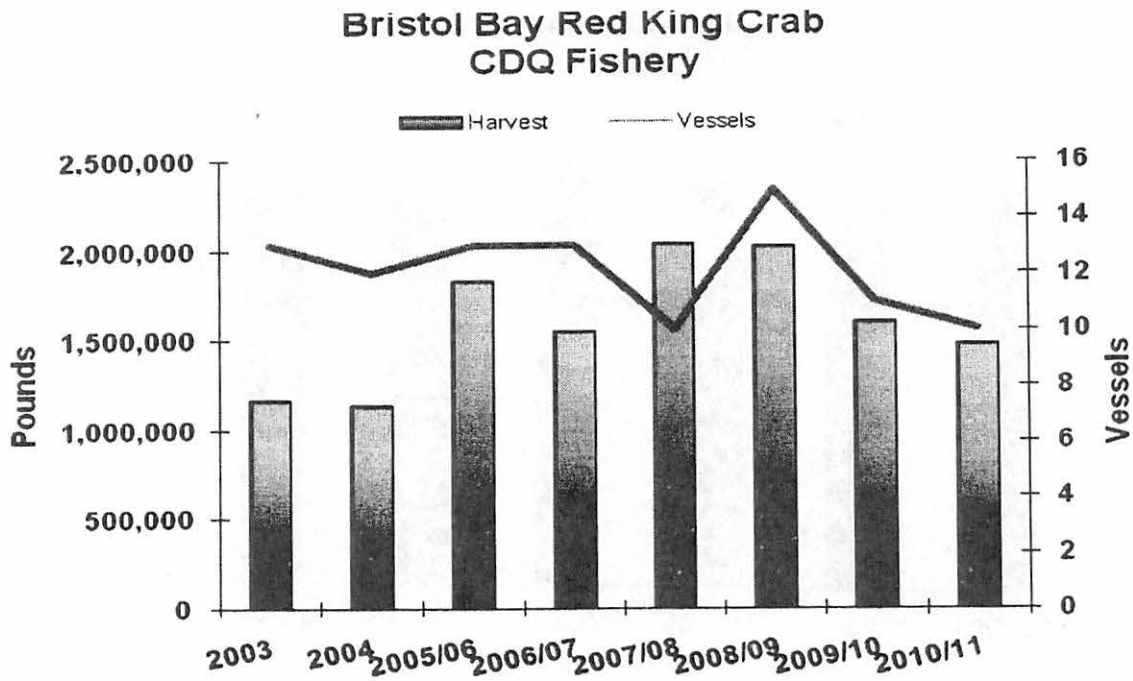


Figure 8

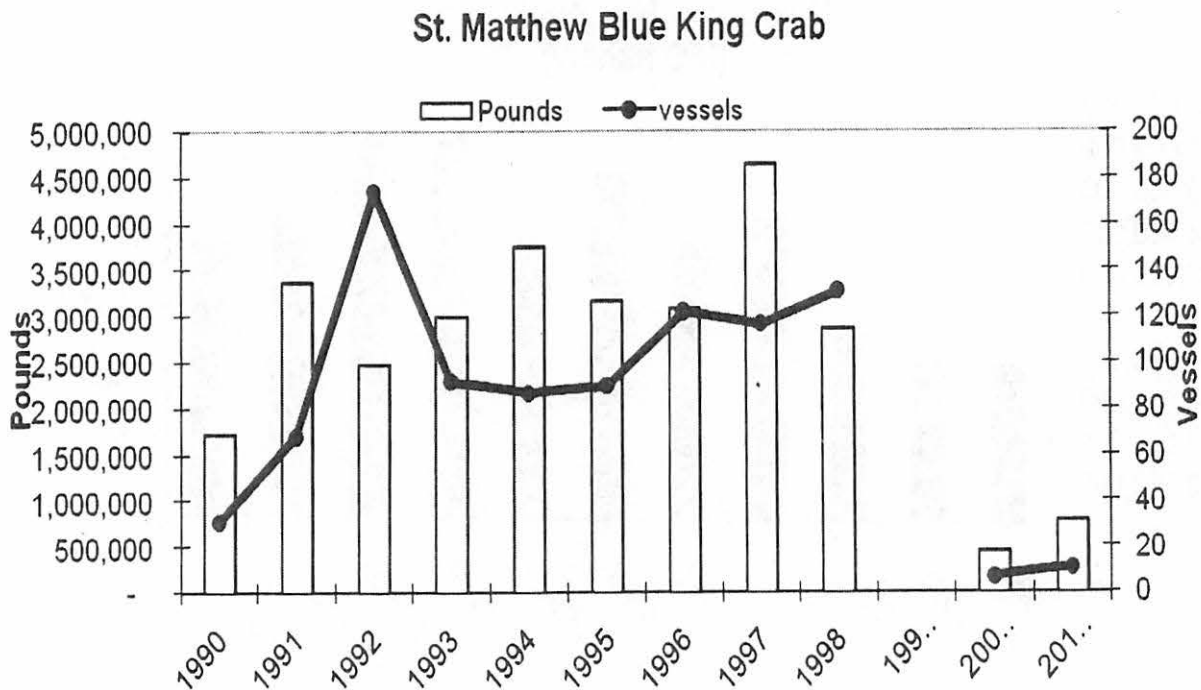


Figure 9

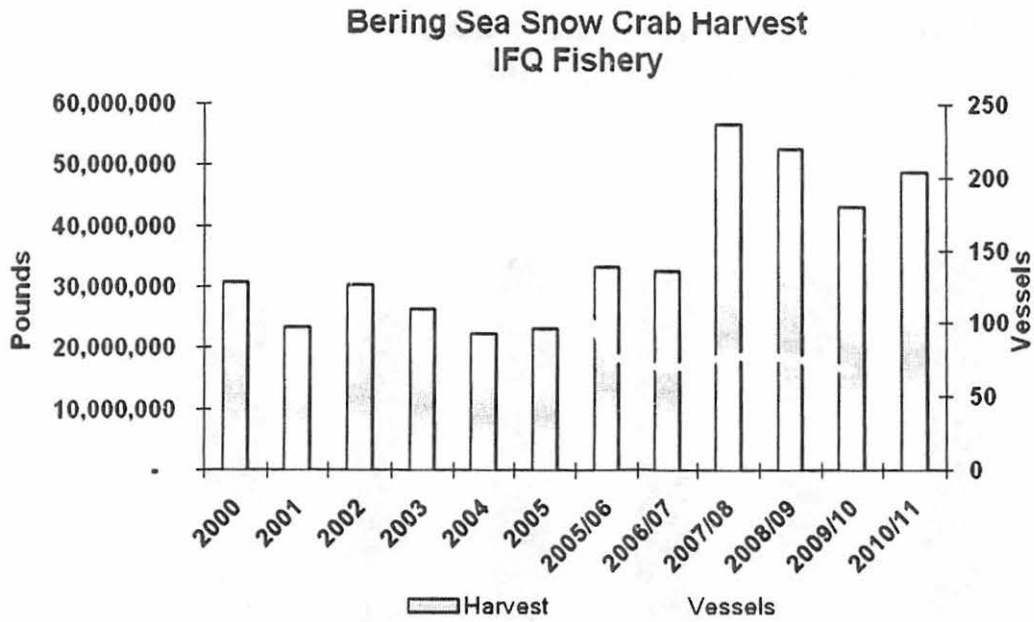


Figure 10

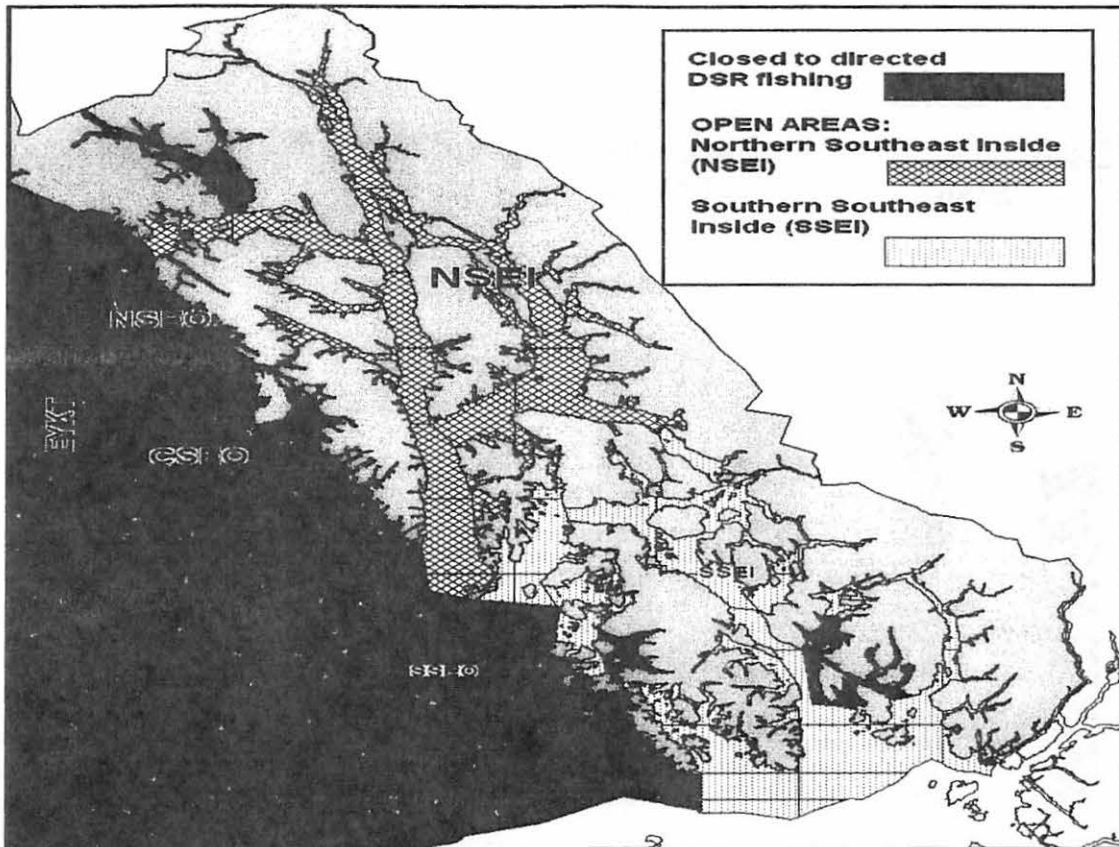


Figure 11

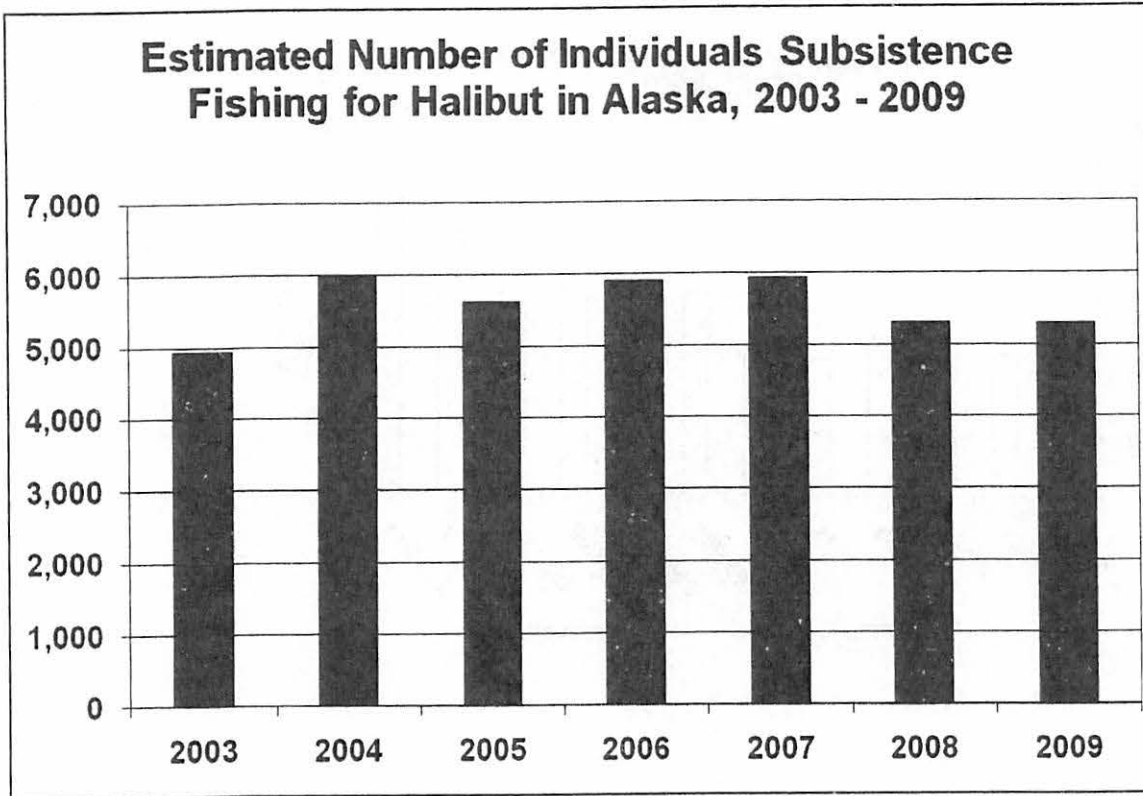


Figure 12

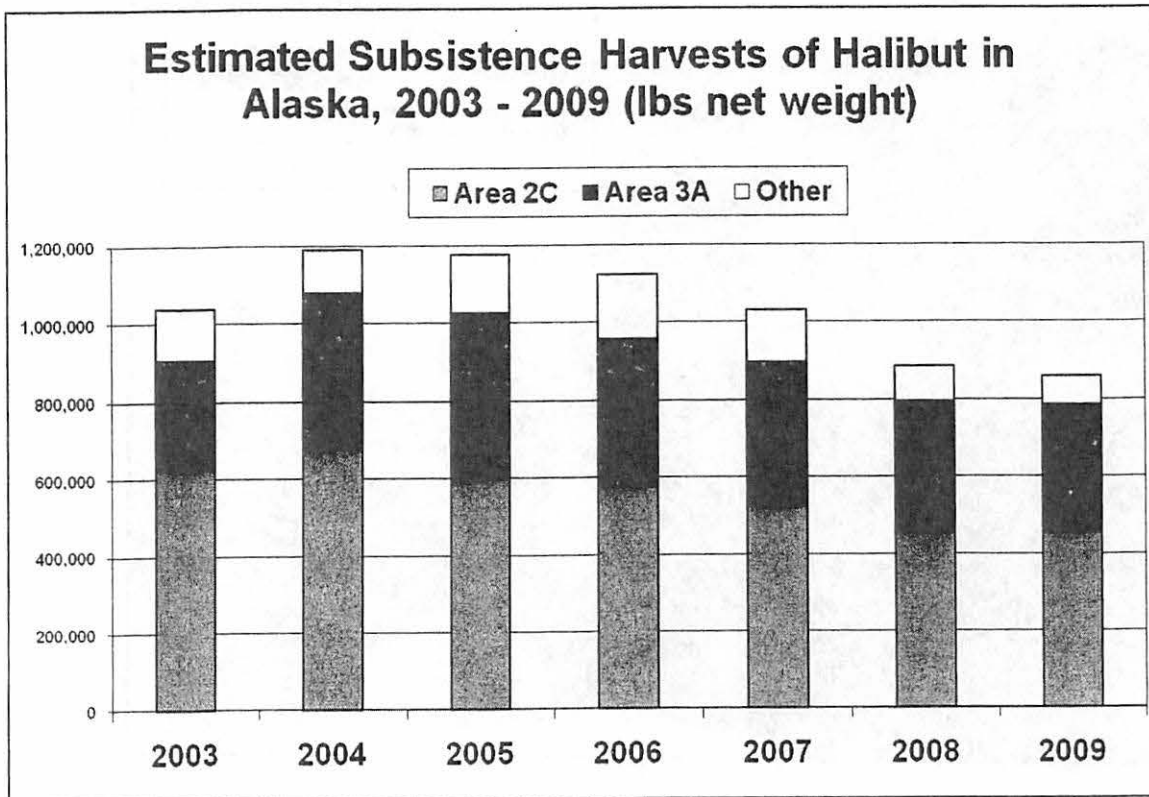


Figure 13

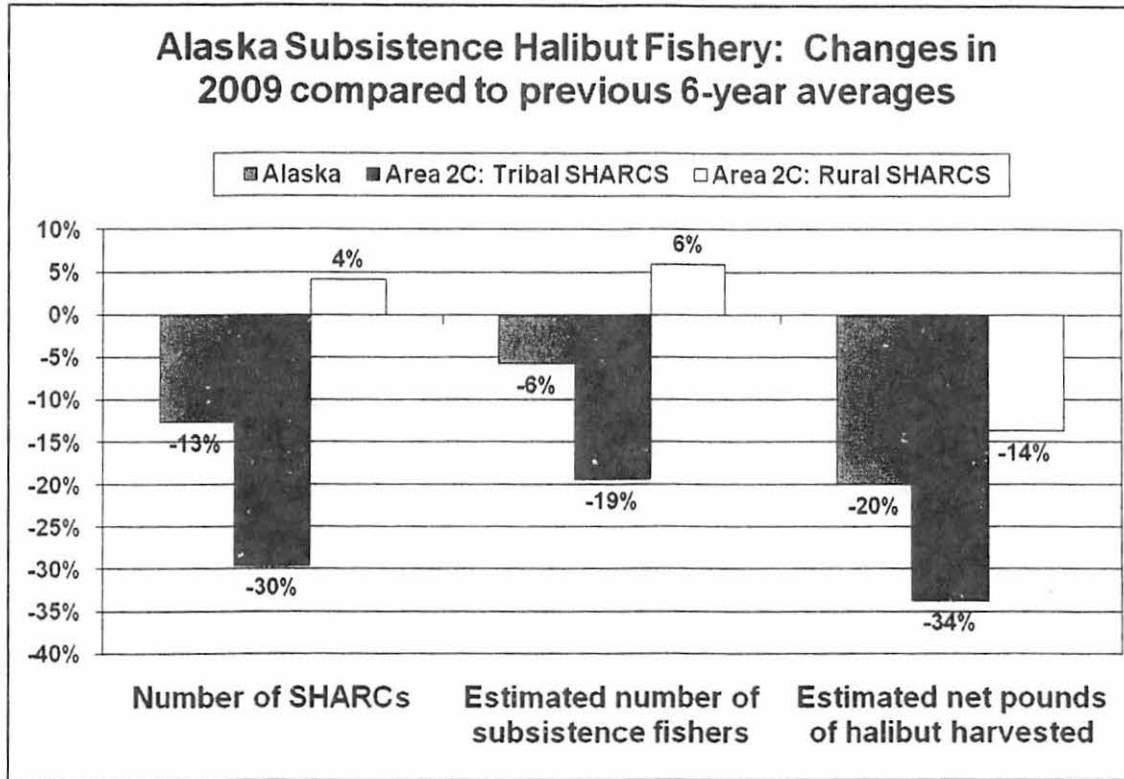


Figure 14

