



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last state report to the Council include those for crab, scallop, and groundfish.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2022/23 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on July 1, 2022 for the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and on August 1, 2022 for the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fisheries. The total allowable catch (TAC) for Aleutian Islands golden king crab is 5.05 million pounds and the TAC is apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude. For the 2022/23 fishing year, the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.32 million pounds and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 1.73 million pounds. Ten percent of the EAG TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the WAG TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. Current EAG harvest is 2,228,423 pounds, 67% of the TAC, and WAG harvest is 1,379,723 pounds, 80% of the TAC (Figure 1). Both areas close by regulation on April 30, 2023.

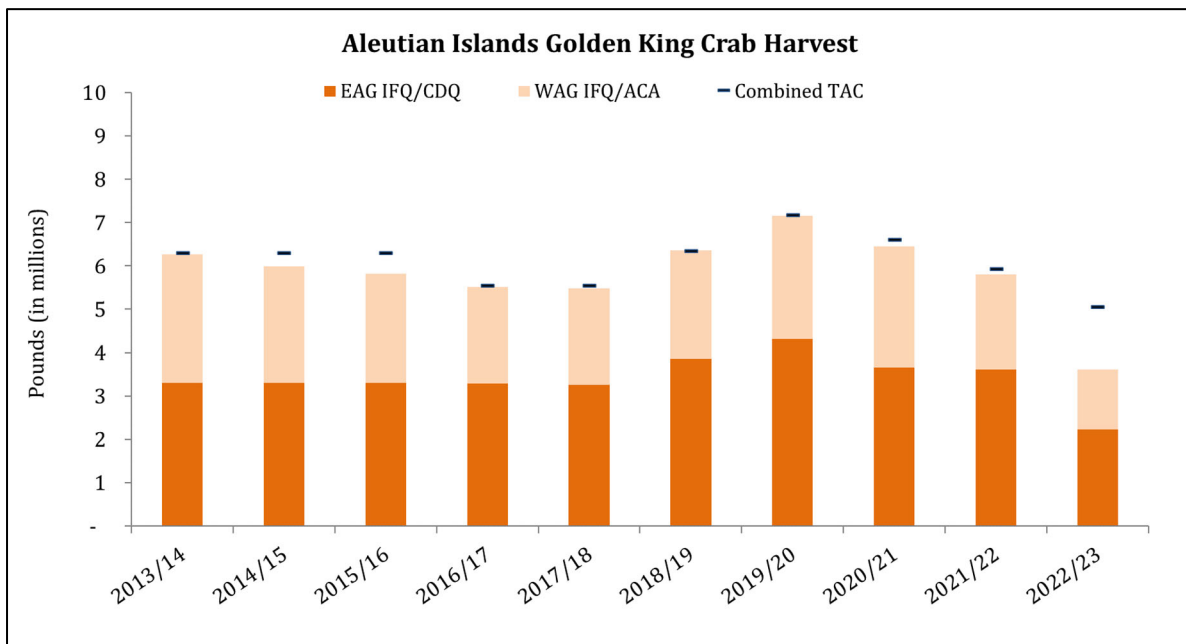


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2013/14 – 2022/23 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2022/23 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in both the western area (west of 166° west longitude) and eastern area (between 166° west longitude and 163° west longitude) on October 15, 2022. TAC in the western area is 850,000 pounds and TAC in the eastern area is 1.163 million pounds; 10% of

the TAC in each area is allocated to CDQ fisheries. Current harvest in the western area is 241,212 pounds, 24% of the western TAC, and harvest in the eastern area is 542,780 pounds, 47% of the eastern TAC (Figure 2). Both areas close by regulation on March 31, 2023.

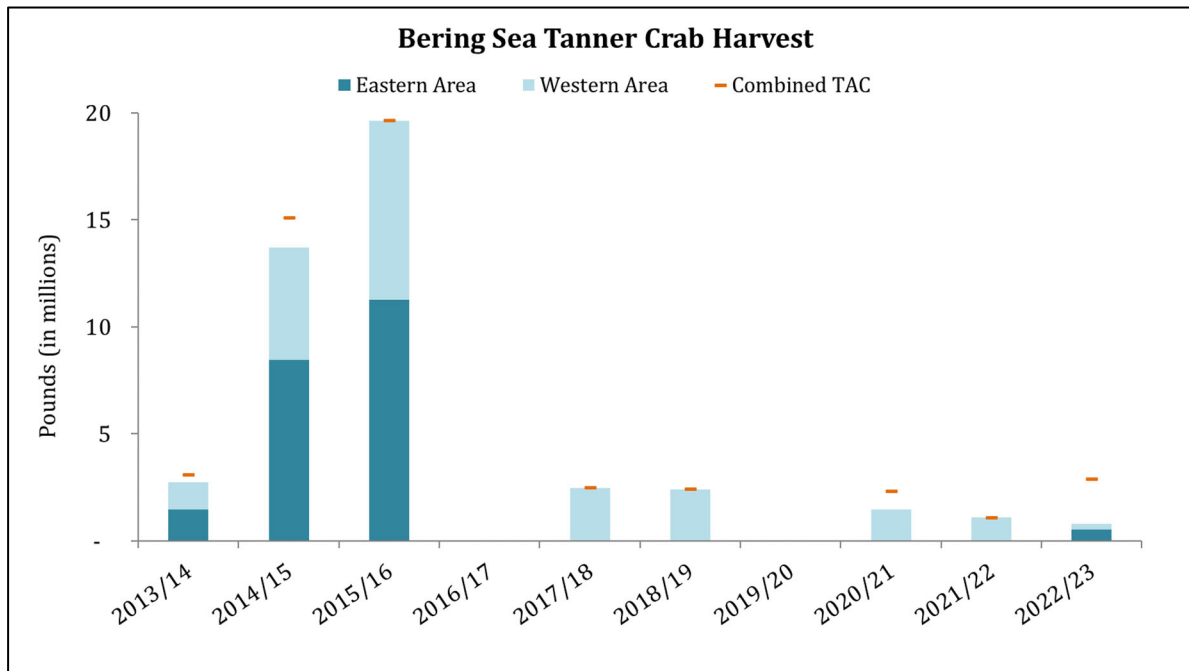


Figure 2. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area and TAC, 2013/14 – 2022/23 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2022. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2022/23 season is 375,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 30,000 pound increase from the 2021/22 cumulative GHL. To date, 329,095 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested and no effort has occurred since the last update to Council (Figure 3). Scallop fisheries close by regulation on February 15, 2023.

2022/23 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest and Crab Bycatch Levels				
Registration Area	District/Management Unit	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
			Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat		145,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2022/23 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	8,000	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2022/23 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	40,000	24,000	25
	Shelikof District	100,000	50,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	21,000	25
	Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Semidi Islands District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	Central (160° to 161° W. long)	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight ¹	7,500	4,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	3,750	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	5,000	3,750	10
Bering Sea		7,500	18,750	100
			<i>C. opilio & hybrids</i>	
			11,250	

¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

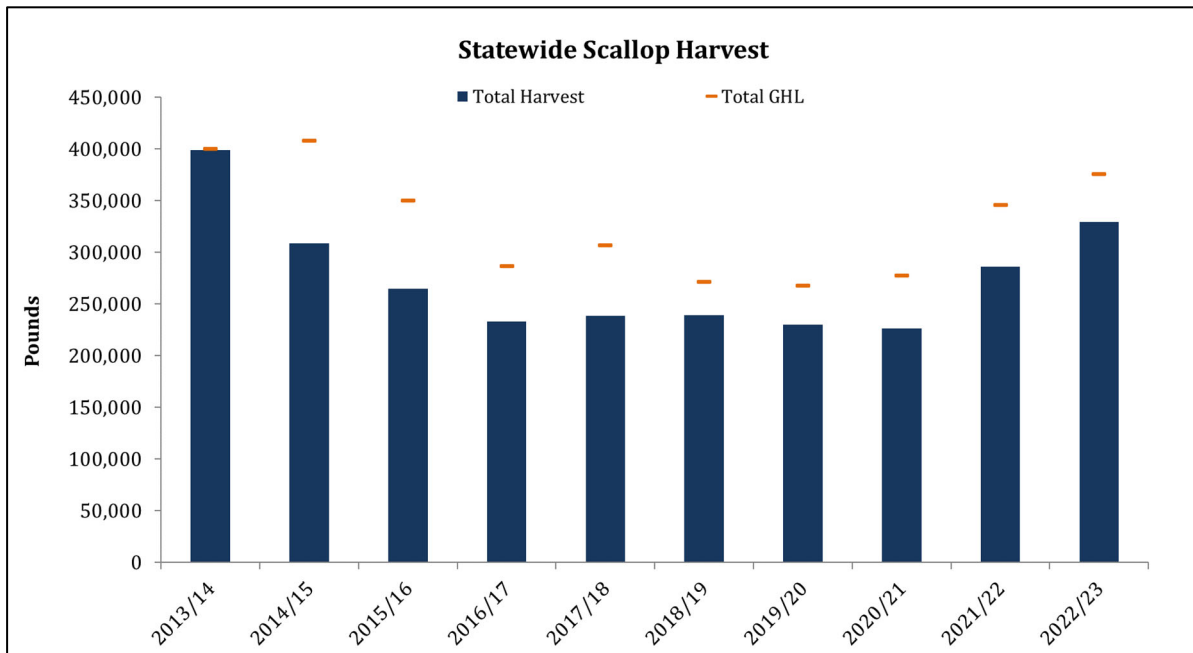


Figure 3. Statewide scallop harvest and GHL, 2013/14-2022/23 seasons.

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 and 2023 GHLs are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2023 GHL (pounds)	2023 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	193,456	88
			Longline	1,096,249	497
Chignik	8.75%		Jig	286,074	130
			Pot	2,574,670	1,168
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	12.50%	Jig	2,043,389	927
			Pot	2,043,389	927
Cook Inlet	3.75%		Jig	183,907	83
			Pot	1,042,139	473
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	740,481	336
			Pot	4,196,059	1,903
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 12%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	38,316,000	17,380
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict*	Aleutian Islands - 39%		All	11,875,000	5,386

Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot fishery opened on January 23 with a GHL of 38.4 million pounds and 2.6 million pounds (7% of the GHL) have been harvested as of February 1. Since more than 90% of the 2022 GHL was achieved, the 2023 GHL increased to 12% of the Bering Sea Pacific cod ABC.

Aleutian Islands

The 2023 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) GHL is 39% of the Aleutian Islands ABC which is 11.9 million pounds in 2023. The Adak Section, between 175° west longitude and 178° west longitude, opened January 1 to vessels 60 feet or less overall length (OAL), except for vessels fishing with longline gear which are limited to an OAL of 58 feet. On January 16, the AIS opened to vessels 60 feet or less OAL using trawl or mechanical jig gear, vessels 100 feet or less OAL using pot gear, and vessels 58 feet or less OAL using longline gear. The fisheries will close when the GHL is achieved.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Upcoming Board of Fisheries meetings:

- Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik Finfish, February 20-25, 2023, Anchorage. Comments are due February 6, 2023.
- Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues, March 10-14, 2023, Anchorage. Comments are due February 23, 2023.

Proposals that may be of interest to the Council include:

PROPOSAL 153. Define escape mechanisms for collapsible ‘slinky’ groundfish pots. ADF&G is working on language to define escape mechanisms for collapsible ‘slinky’ groundfish pots and will bring forward language at this BOF meeting.