



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

Fisheries

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

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2021/22 Aleutian Islands (AI) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2021. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 5.93 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude (Figure 1). For the 2021/22 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.61 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.32 million pounds, a 10% decline overall from 2020/21. percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. All harvest is confidential except in the eastern area IFQ fishery where 2.96 million pounds or 91% of the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) TAC has been harvested by three vessels. Both areas close by regulation on April 30, 2022.

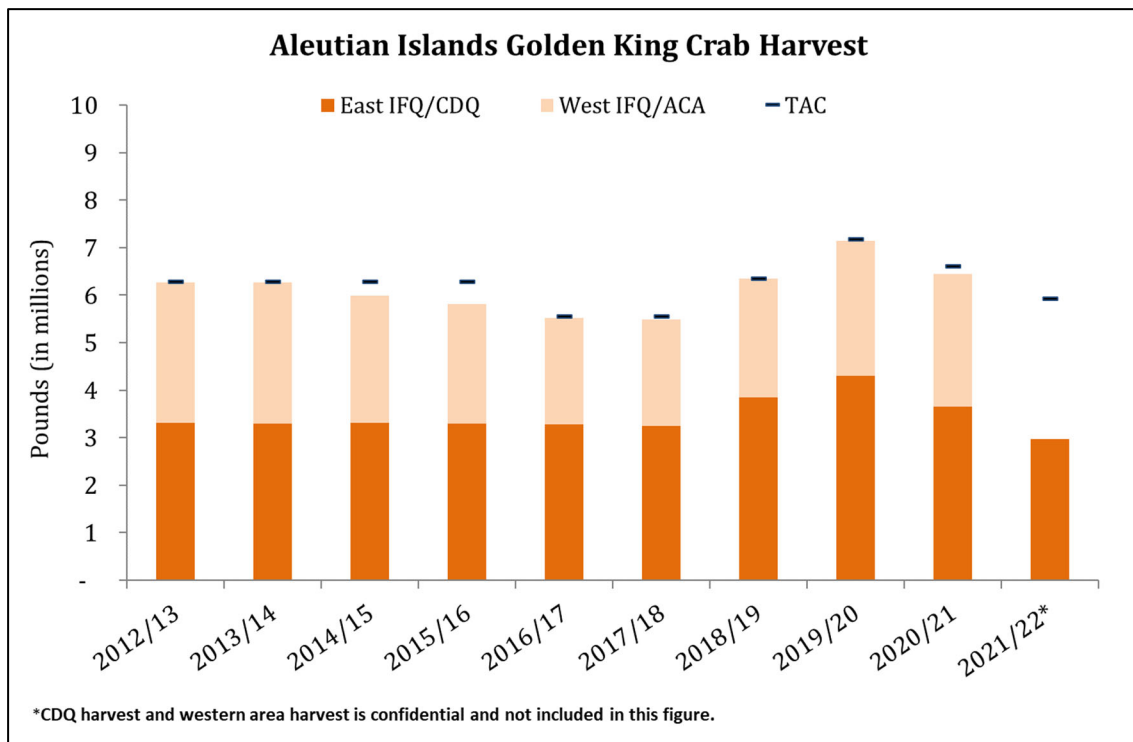


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2021/22 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in the western area (West of 166° W longitude) on October 15, 2021, with a TAC of 1.1 million pounds with ten percent, 110,000 pounds, allocated to CDQ fisheries. The 2021/22 TAC is 53% lower than in 2020/21. Through November 24, 62,000 pounds have been harvested by four vessels in the IFQ fishery and there has been no effort in the CDQ fishery (Figure 2).

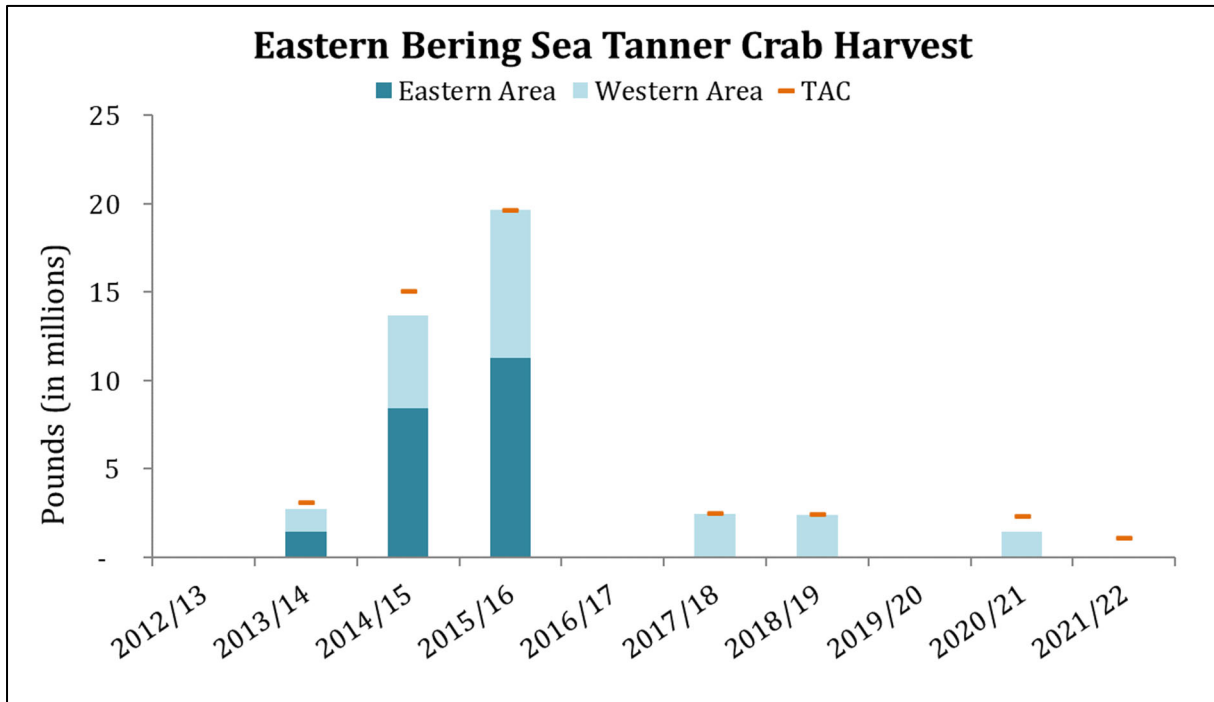


Figure 2. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2021. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2021/22 season is 345,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 68,000 pound increase from the 2020/21 cumulative GHL (Table 1). To date 278,635 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (Figure 3).

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2021/22.

2021/22 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 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	8,000	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	30,000	18,000	25
	Shelikof District	80,000	40,000	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	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.				

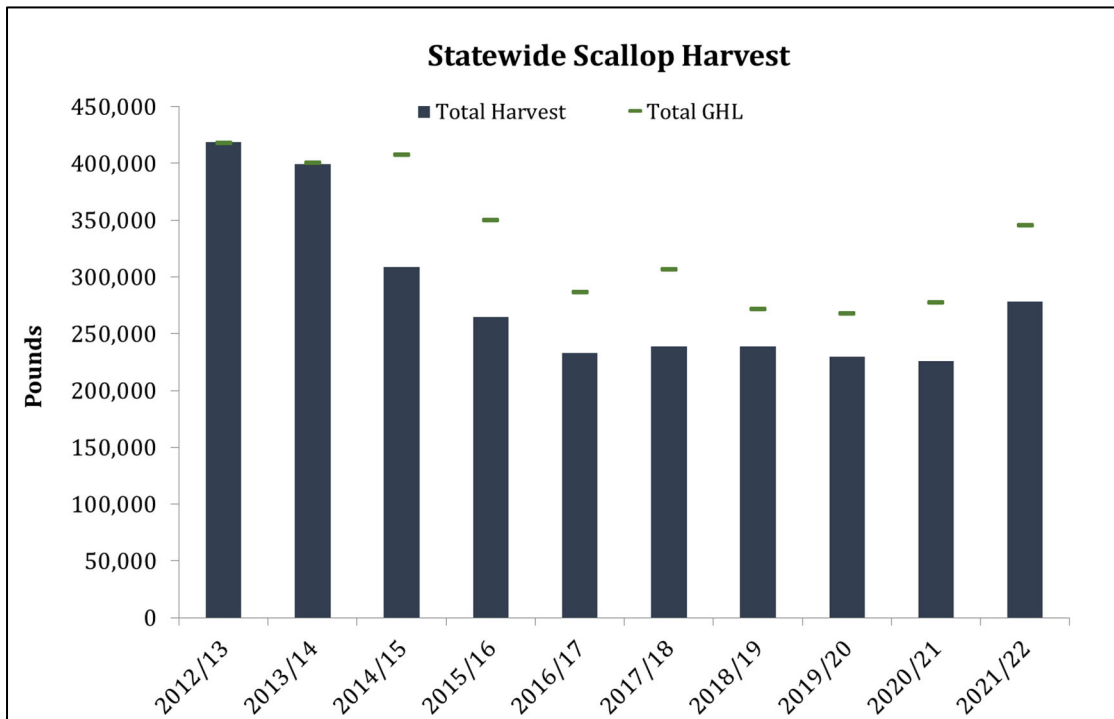


Figure 3. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22.

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. 2021 GHLs and harvest to date are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation	Gear	2021 GHL (pounds)	Harvest** (pounds) through 11/29/21	
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%	Jig/Pot	164,107		
		Longline	929,937	877,891	
Chignik	8.75%	Jig	263,428		
		Pot	2,370,849	2,344,095	
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	12.50%	Jig	1,881,626	1,751,809
			Pot	1,881,626	1,897,975
Cook Inlet	3.75%	Jig	169,348		
		Pot	959,639	943,839	
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%	Jig	792,267	637,494	
		Pot	4,489,514	4,053,162	
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 10%	Jig	100,000		
		Pot	27,292,000	27,585,848	
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict*	Aleutian Islands - 39%	All	15,000,000	14,777,163	

*AI Subdistrict GHL is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)
 ** excludes confidential harvest data

Since the last report to the Council, state-waters Pacific cod harvest has occurred in the Kodiak and South Alaska Peninsula jig gear fisheries, but harvest is confidential (Figure 4). Since the 2021 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict GHL was achieved, the 2022 GHL will be established at 11% of the Bering Sea Pacific cod ABC.

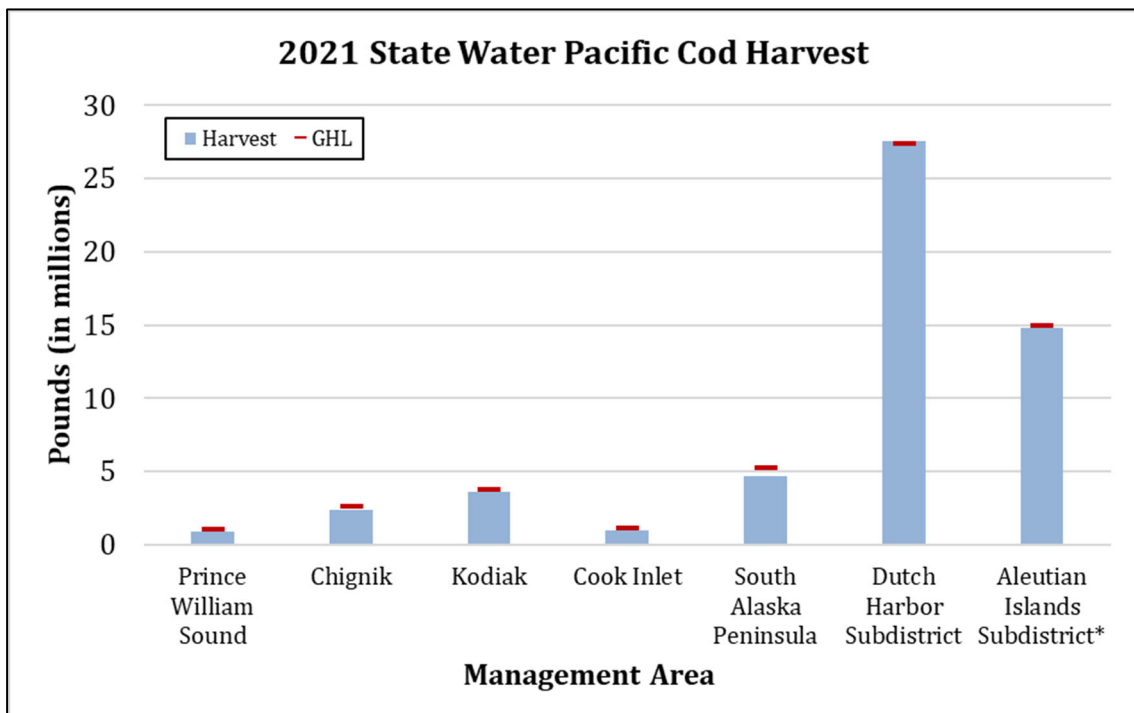


Figure 4. Summary of 2021 State waters Pacific cod harvest through November 29, 2021 by management area. Excludes confidential harvest data.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Upcoming meetings:

- Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish, January 4-15, 2022, Ketchikan. [Comments](#) are due December 22, 2021.

Proposals that may be of interest to the Council include:

PROPOSAL 215. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, align opening and closing of the state waters sablefish fishing season with the federal sablefish fishing season.

PROPOSAL 216. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, extend the sablefish fishing season from November 15 to December 15.

PROPOSAL 218. Require vessels to register with ADF&G prior to participating in the non-exclusive Pacific cod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. This proposal would assist with scheduling staff for port sampling landings to collect biological information such as length, weight, sex, and age that are used to inform stock health and resulting management decisions.

PROPOSAL 219. Clarify lawful gear for rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska to allow rockfish retention in pot gear. Allowing retention of all rockfish in pot gear will provide the department with better catch information and reduce wastage, which occurs when rockfish are discarded at sea. This proposal is supplemental to proposal 222 which would require full retention of rockfish by CFEC permit holders in groundfish and halibut fisheries.

PROPOSAL 222. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, require CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut using hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear retain and land all rockfish. Black, dark, and blue rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) are managed by the State of Alaska in both state and federal waters, and current regulations require full retention of these rockfish only. This proposal mirrors federal rockfish retention requirements to provide better estimates of rockfish catch, reduce waste and incentives to discard, and maintain consistency between state and federal fisheries management.

PROPOSAL 232. Create a new spiny dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska.

- Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound Shrimp, March 11-16, 2021, Anchorage. [Comments](#) are due February 24, 2021.