



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

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report includes those for crab and Pacific cod.

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** During the 2015/16 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, St. Matthew Island blue king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab, and Eastern Bering Sea Tanner (*bairdi*) crab. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

**Bering Sea snow crab**

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2015 and will remain open through May 15, 2016 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2016 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2015/16 snow crab TAC is 40.61 mlbs. Thirty-four vessels are currently active and have harvested a total of 10.46 mlbs (26% of TAC). Catch rates are highly variable between vessels; the average CPUE is 188 crabs per pot.

West of 166° W long., snow crab may be retained up to five percent of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel registered for Western Bering Sea Tanner crab. Snow crab may not be retained east of 166° W long.

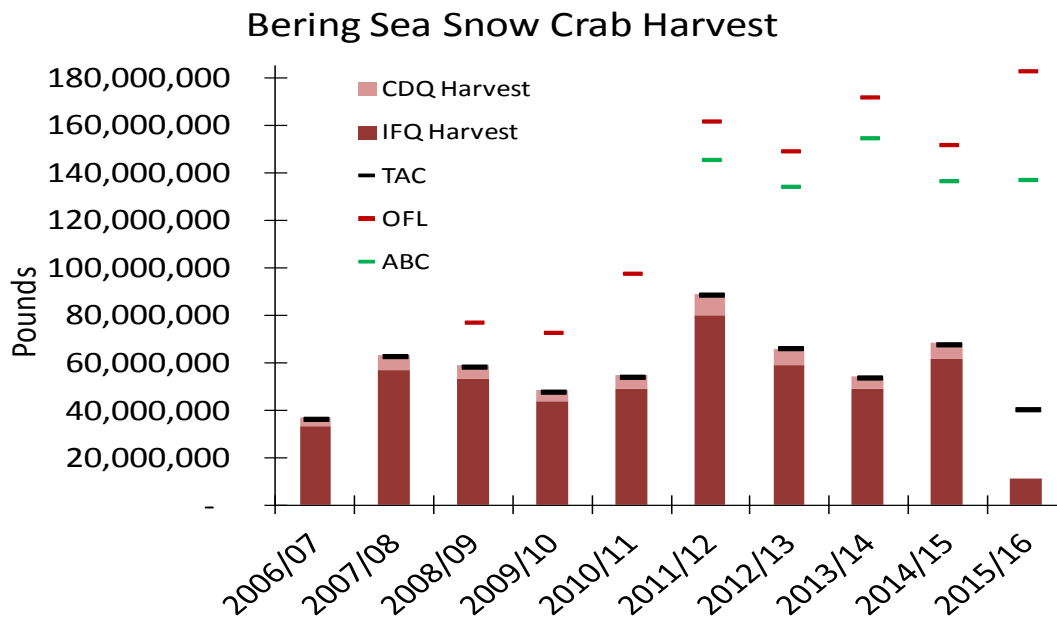


Figure 5. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC, OFL, and ABC; 2006/07 – 2015/16 seasons

## Bering Sea Tanner crab

The Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2015, and closes by regulation on March 31, 2016. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab may be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a vessel registered for Bristol Bay red king crab. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for Bering Sea snow crab. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab and western Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries.

A total of 7.3 mlbs (65% of TAC) has been harvested in the eastern district by 40 vessels; 11 vessels are currently active. Fourteen vessels have harvested a total of 4.7 mlbs of Tanner crab in the western district (56% of TAC). Catch rates are higher in the western district at 47 crabs per pot compared to 35 crabs per pot in the eastern district, overall fishing is reported as 'slow' in both areas. Some snow crab-type hybrids are being landed with eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab and reports from fishermen are that they have to sort quite aggressively to avoid retaining them.

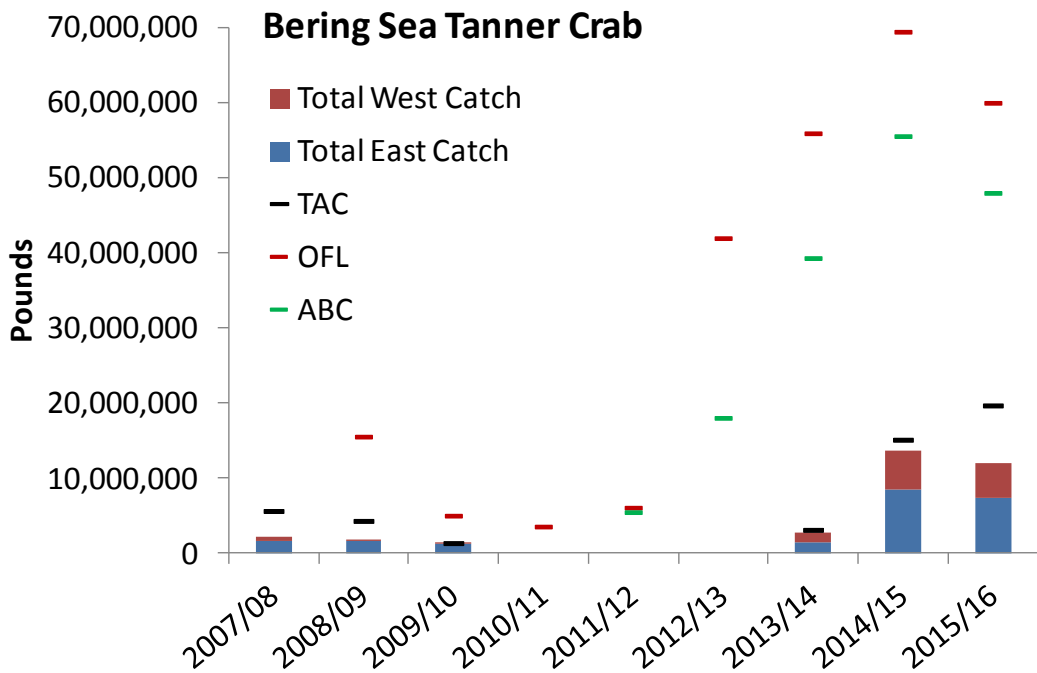


Figure 2. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2007/08 – 2015/16 seasons

**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 as follows:

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC		2016 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%		2,196
Chignik	CGOA	25%	8.75%	4,315
Kodiak			12.5%	6,164
Cook Inlet			3.75%	1,849
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%		12,151
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	6.4%		16,320
Aleutian Islands District	AI	27%		4,752

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

March 8–12, 2016, Anchorage, Hilton Hotel

*Groundfish*

- 213 Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock.
- 214 Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount.
- 215 Establish a 58’ overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel pollock fishery using trawl gear.**
- 194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear.** *This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting (Anchorage February 23 – 29, 2016), and will be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*
- 216 Establish a state waters pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.**
- 217 Establish a fishing season for pollock that does not conflict with salmon season.**
- 218 Establish state-waters pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands.**