

Agenda Item: "B-3"



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
October 2010

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

Scallops (FIGURE 1 & 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 a 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).

The Northeast District of the Kodiak Registration Area closed to commercial fishing on August 29, 2010 and the portion of Registration Area E (Prince William Sound) located between 144° 00' W long. and the longitude of the Cape Saint Elias lighthouse 144° 35.9' W long., and south of Kayak Island closed to commercial scallop fishing on August 23, 2010. 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	169,925	13
Shellkof 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	<i>C.bairdi</i> 500
		300,000	<i>C.opilio and hybrids</i>
¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in the SW District			

Norton Sound Red King Crab (FIGURE 3)

The Norton Sound red king crab summer fishery opened on July 1, 2010 with a total quota of 400,000 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent (30,000 pounds) and the remaining 370,000 pounds was allocated to the open access fishery. The open access fishery closed on August 24, 2010 and total harvest (open access and CDQ combined) was 417,304 pounds which exceeded the GHL by 17,304 pounds which equated to an exploitation rate on legal males of 9.4%.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 4 & 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 October 4, 2010, approximately 1.23 million pounds have been harvested by three vessels.

The Western TAC is 2.835 million pounds, with the IFQ harvest set at 2.55 million pounds. Catch for this fishery is confidential given the number of participants. The golden king crab fishery in the Aleutian Islands remains open through May 15, 2011.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (FIGURE 6)

The 2010/11 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opens on October 15, 2010 and will remain open through January 15, 2011. The IFQ TAC for this fishery is 13.36 million pounds.

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (FIGURE 7)

The St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery opens on October 15, 2010 with an IFQ TAC of 1.44 million pounds. The season remains open through February 1, 2011.

Pribilof Islands Red and Blue King Crab

The Pribilof District red and blue kind crab fisheries will remain closed for the 2010/11 season.

A minimum threshold of 13.2-million pounds of total mature biomass must be achieved in two consecutive years in order for the Pribilof District blue king crab fishery to open. Both the 2009 and 2010 estimates of total mature biomass were well below this threshold.

Abundance estimates for mature and legal-size male red king crab in the Pribilof District increased from the 2009 level, however the fishery will remain closed based on the considerable uncertainty surrounding the precision of the abundance estimates, potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, and poor performance of recent ADF&G pot surveys and cost-recovery fishing efforts.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 8)

The 2010/11 snow crab IFQ TAC is 48.85 million pounds. The 2010/11 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opens 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 snow crab fishery will not open 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.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab (FIGURE 9)

The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W longitude, with a separate TAC for each area. The 2010 area-swept survey estimate of mature female biomass in the Bering Sea District is 15.1-million pounds and is below the minimum mature female biomass threshold of 21.0-million pounds. The Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery will not open during the 2010/11 season.

Central Region Pacific Cod

Prince William Sound

The 784,735 pound GHL was fully harvested this year (825,226 pounds) and will be increased next year to 25 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 1, 2010, 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery with a GHL of 4.05 million pounds. The GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the ABC for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area and is allocated 75% to pot gear and 25% to jig gear. Pot vessels larger than 58 feet are limited to 25% of the total GHL prior to September 1. The fishery closed to all pot gear on March 28, 2010. The fishery reopened on September 13 to all gear types. Total harvest to date is 3.08 million pounds.

Westward Region Pacific Cod

Kodiak Pacific Cod

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened on February 7, 2010, seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The 2010 state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) is 13.51 million pounds. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear, or 6.755 million pounds each. The fishery closed to pot gear on February 23, 2010, and to jig gear on June 5, 2010.

Chignik Pacific Cod

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Chignik opened by regulation on March 1. The GHL is 9.46 million pounds, with pot vessels targeting 90 percent of that amount (8.51 million pounds). The fishery closed to pot gear on April 6, 2010. There was no effort from jig gear so by regulation the jig allocation (726,000 pounds) was rolled over to both pot and jig gear on August 16, 2010. The State waters season was closed on Sept. 1 for the CGOA B season and reopened on September 13, 2010 after the federal closure. There have been two pot boats fishing since September 13.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod

The Pacific cod fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula was scheduled to open on February 7, 2010, seven days after the close of the federal fishery. Due to weather delays, the fishery did not open until February 26, 2010. The GHL is 15.25 million pounds, with 85 percent targeted by pot gear (12.2 million pounds). The fishery closed to pot gear on March 23, 2010 and closed to jig gear on May 27, 2010.

Kodiak groundfish managers noted that this is the first year since the state-waters fisheries were created that all pot and jig quota in all three areas was (or will be) caught.

Aleutian Islands (Adak) Pacific Cod

The state waters Pacific cod fishery in Adak opened on March 16, 2010, four days after the close of the parallel catcher vessel trawl fishery in the BSAI. The GHL is calculated as 3% of the BSAI ABC and was set at 11.5 million pounds for the 2010 season. The state-waters fishery is managed so that no more than 70% of the GHL (8.05 million pounds) is available for harvest prior to June 10. As of June 1, 2010, three catcher processors were participating using pot gear and the fishery closed at noon on June 4, 2010. The remaining 30% of the GHL (3.45 million pounds) was available beginning June 10, 2010. Two pot CPs have been targeting this allocation so harvest remains confidential.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

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.

KODIAK FINFISH January 11-14, 2011

Kodiak Groundfish

- 52 Close state waters of Sitkalidak Strait to pelagic trawling.
53 Close state waters of Marmot Bay to pelagic trawling.
57 Modify fishing season regulation that allows groundfish to be taken at any time in the Kodiak Area.

CHIGNIK FINFISH January 16-19, 2011

Chignik Groundfish

- 83 Establish 58-foot vessel size limit in parallel Pacific cod fisheries.
84 Modify Pacific cod fishery registration requirements to add state and parallel fisheries to 5 AAC 28.506 Chignik Area Registration section (b).
85 Change the guideline harvest for jigging and hand troll to 5% of the allowable harvest, for the pot fishery to 95%.
86 Establish rollover criteria for state-waters Pacific cod jig allocation.
87 Reduce jig allocation to 5 percent for state-waters Pacific cod fishery; however, pot fleet may take jig allocation if no registered jig gear.
88 Change season opening date for state-waters Pacific cod fishery to March 15.
94 Modify fishing season regulation that allows groundfish to be taken at any time in the Chignik Area.

KING AND TANNER CRAB, AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES March 22-26, 2011

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab

- 299 In the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, allow fishery to extend beyond May 15 if total allowable catch not achieved.
300 In the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, increase the biodegradable twine requirement to 90 thread.
301 Change boundary in the Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery.
302 Amend onboard observer standards.
303 Amend onboard observer standards so that harassment issues may also include vessel crew.
305 Change fishing season for St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery.
306 Escape mechanism for king crab pots in Norton Sound.
307 Reduce the minimum size for Bering Sea Tanner crab.
ACR 7 Increase total allowable catch for Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery.

Figure 2

Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

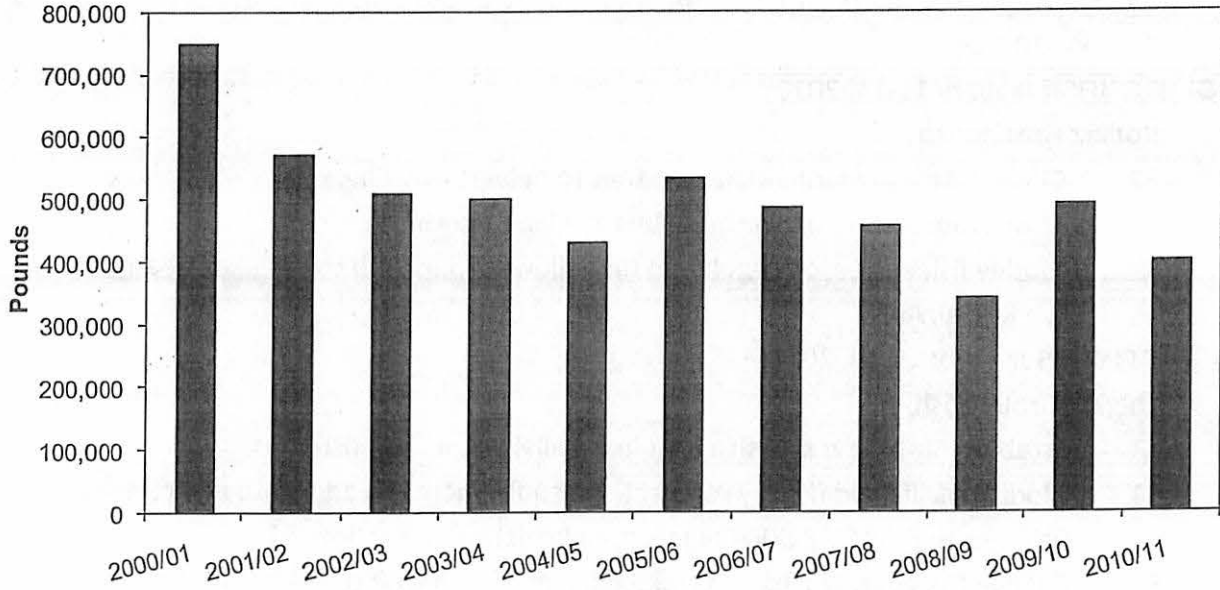


Figure 3

Norton Sound open access summer fishery

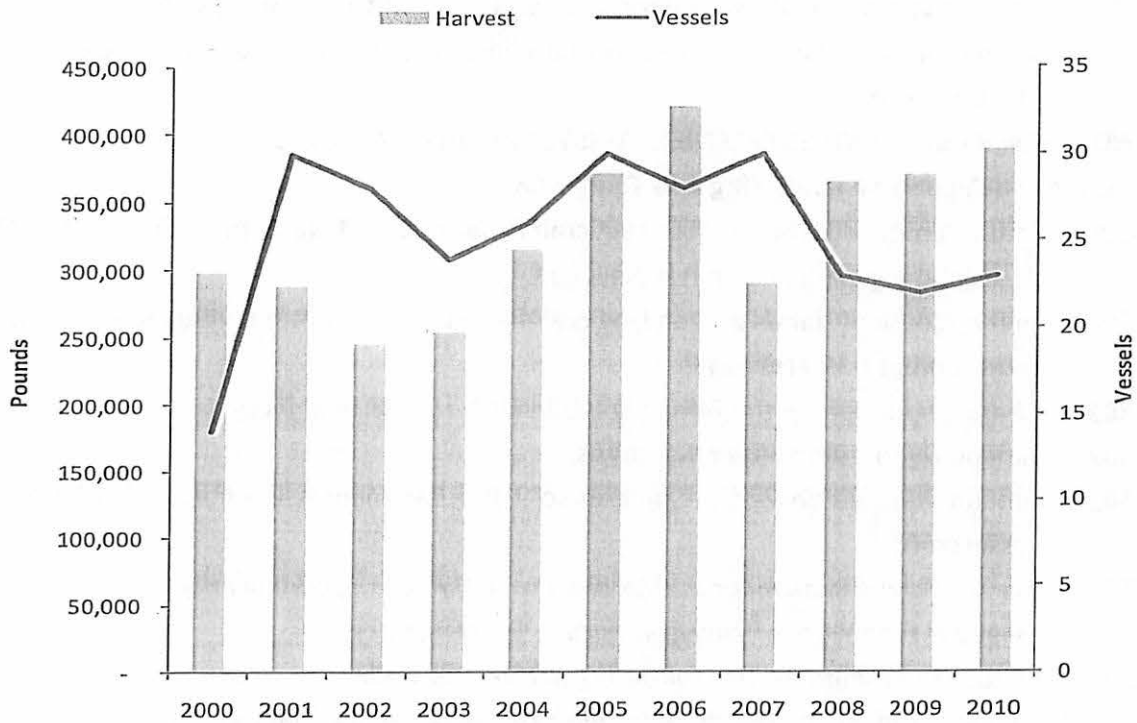


Figure 4

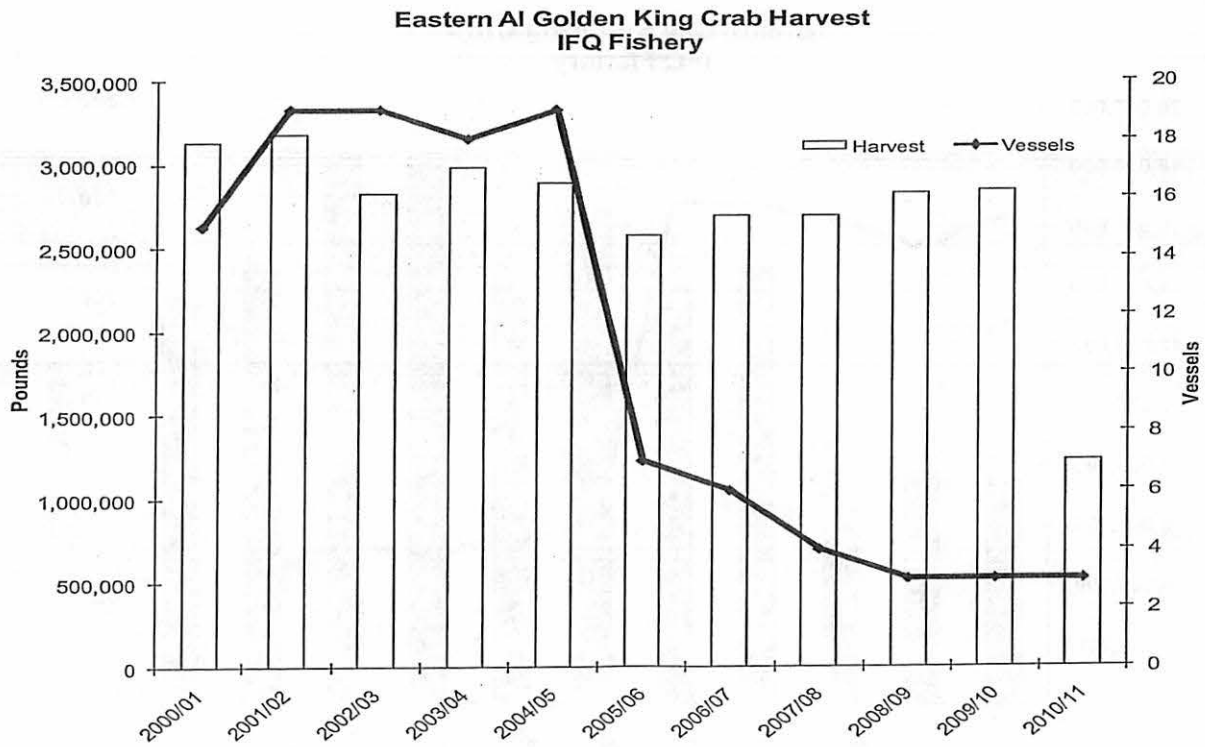


Figure 5

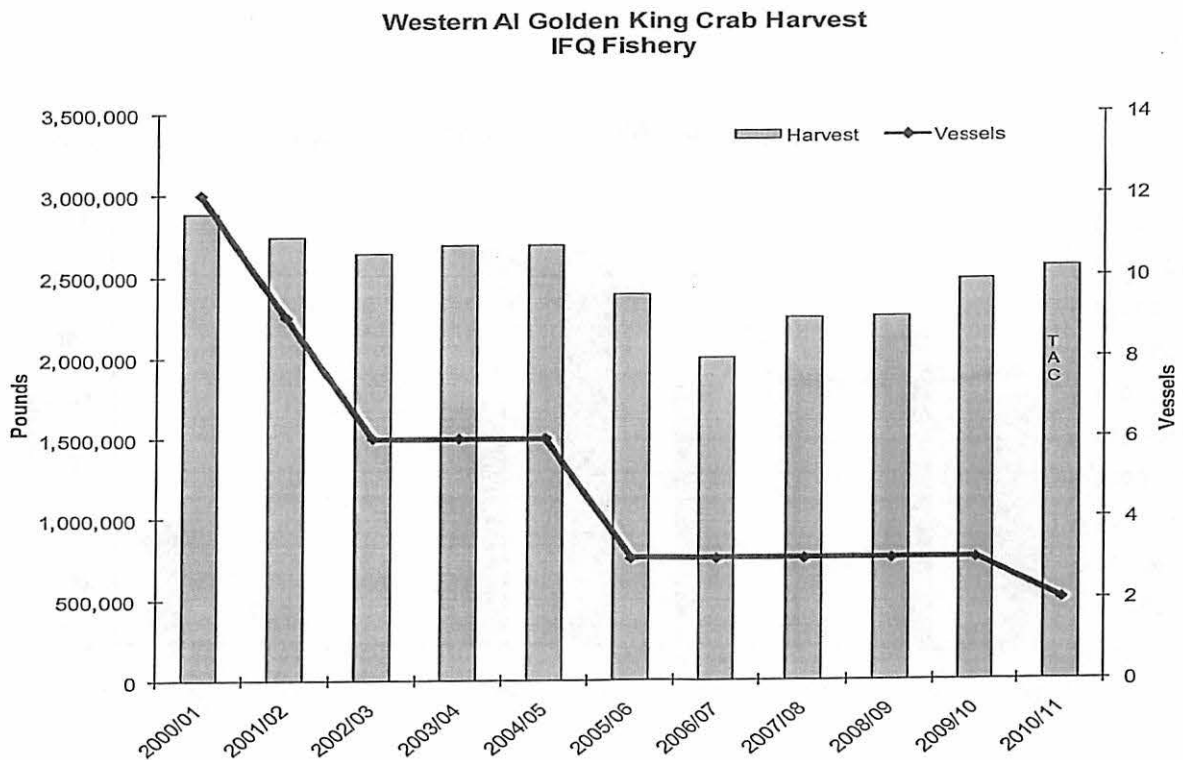


Figure 6

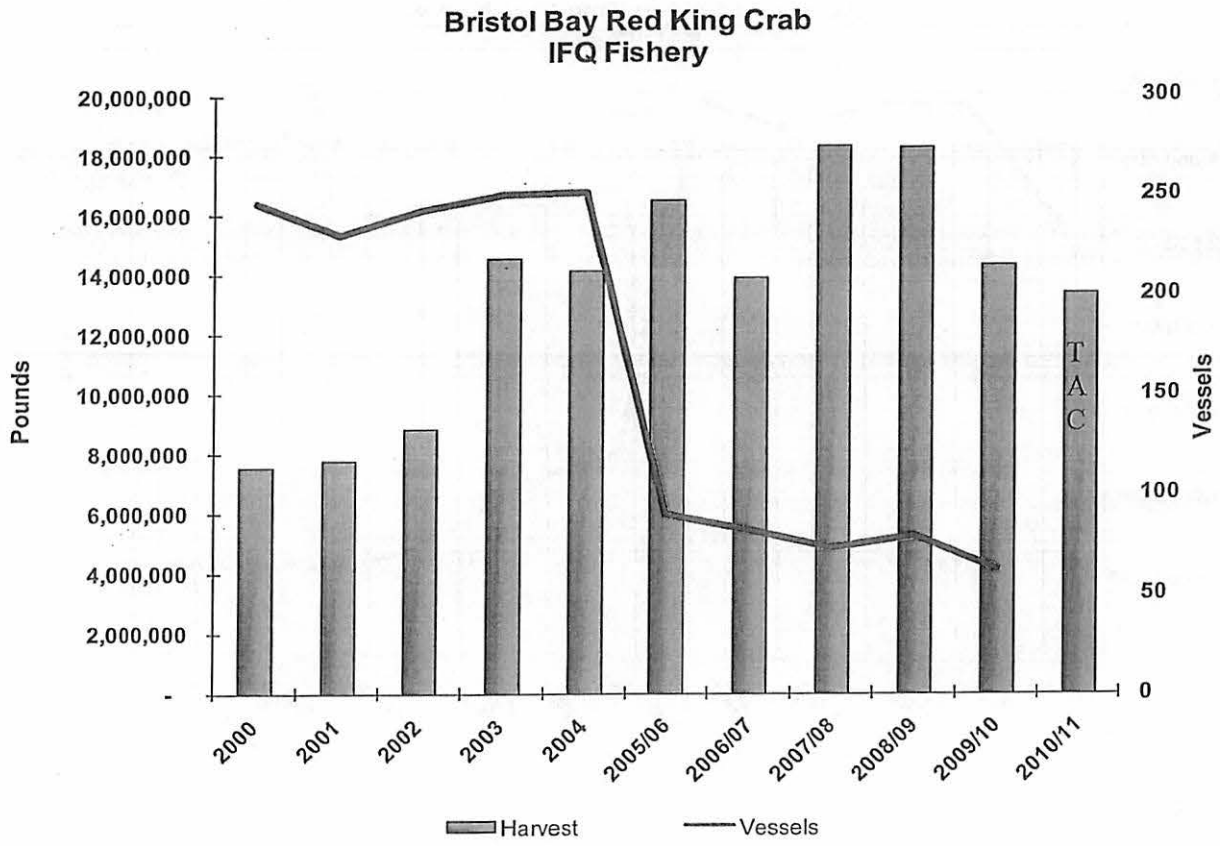


Figure 7

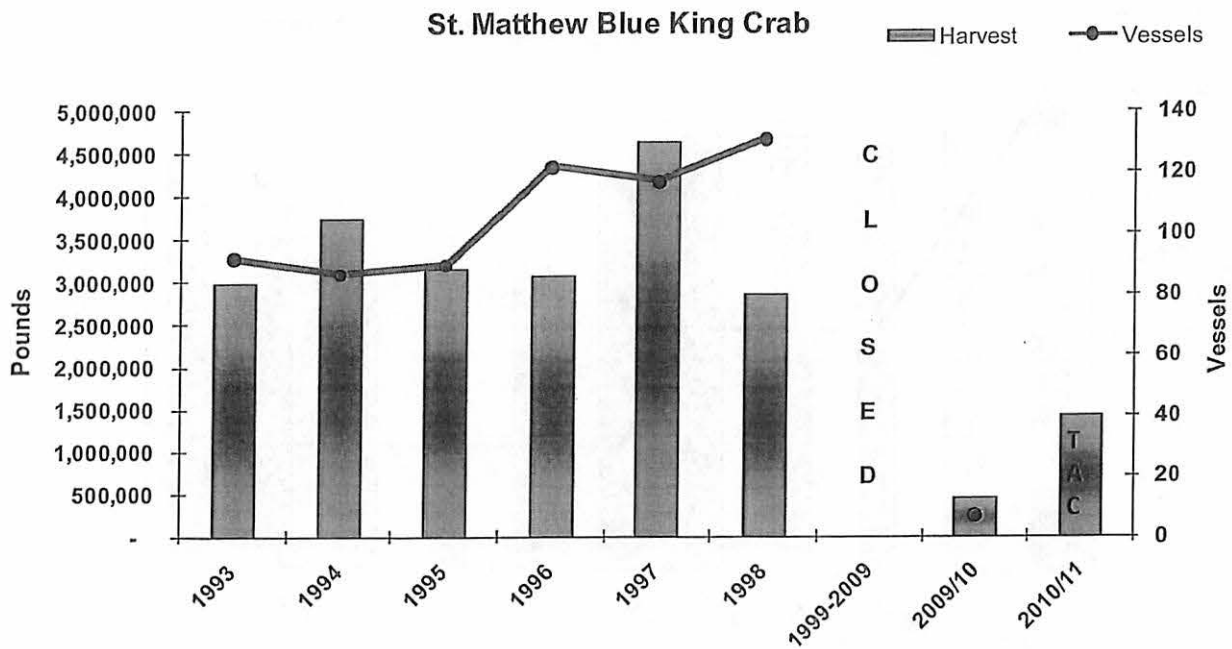


Figure 8

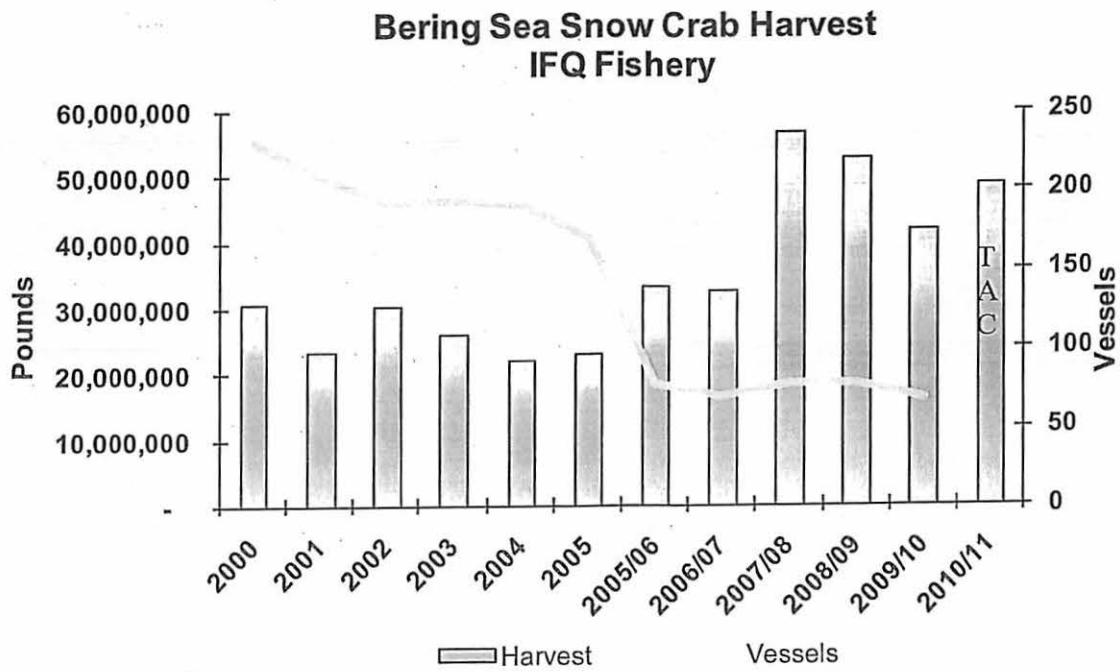
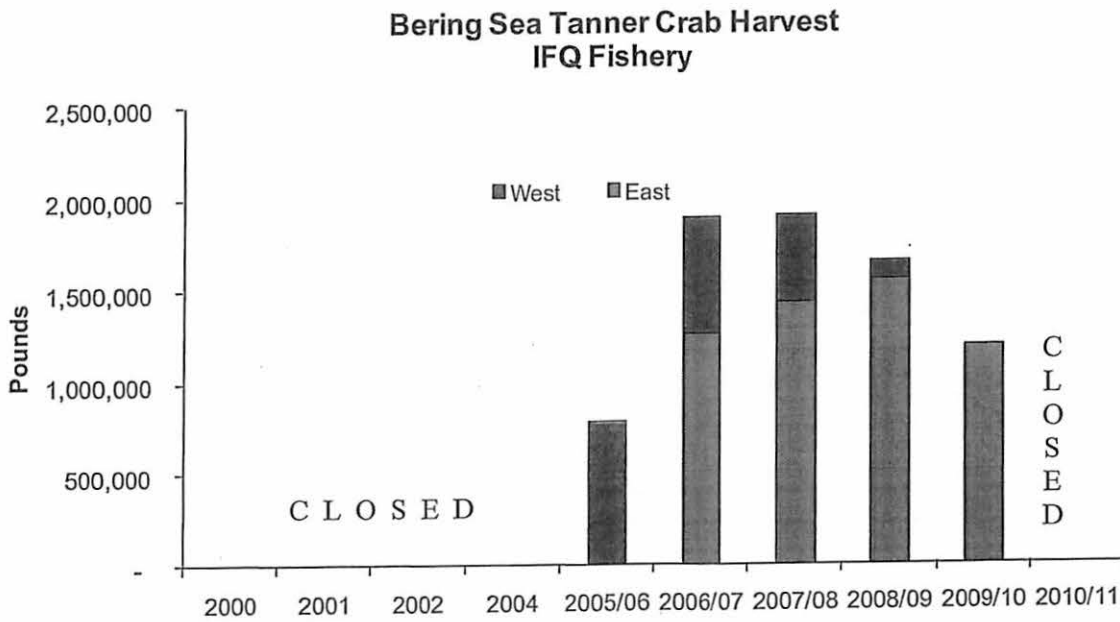


Figure 9



Final 2009 Sport Halibut Harvest Estimates Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Area 2C Harvest:

Table 1. Area 2C sport halibut harvest estimates by harvest survey area.

Area	Charter			Non-Charter		
	MeanWt (lb)	No. Fish	Yield (lb)	MeanWt (lb)	No. Fish	Yield (lb)
Ketchikan	21.3	5,567	118,393	14.3	14,375	206,221
POW Island	12.3	13,138	161,367	11.7	9,492	110,878
PBG/WRG	37.4	3,609	134,839	18.1	9,449	171,472
Sitka	23.6	14,918	352,234	21.7	4,260	92,391
Juneau	15.4	5,741	88,506	13.0	14,534	188,976
Haines/SKG	15.4	152	2,343	13.0	316	4,109
Glacier Bay	37.0	10,477	387,313	26.6	13,123	348,718
Area 2C	23.2	53,602	1,244,996	17.1	65,549	1,122,764

Table 2. Approximate confidence intervals for harvest estimates (million pounds).

User	Estimate	StdErr	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Charter	1.245	0.080	1.088	1.402
Non-Charter	1.123	0.083	0.959	1.286
Overall	2.368	0.106	2.161	2.575

Table 3. Comparison of final estimates to October 2009 projections (million pounds).

User	Projection	Final	Error (%)
Charter	1.302	1.245	4.6%
Non-Charter	1.244	1.123	10.8%
Overall	2.546	2.368	7.5%

Table 4. Area 2C sport halibut harvest history.

Year	Charter				Non-Charter			Total Sport Harvest		
	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)	GHL (M lb)	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)
1995	49,615	19.9	0.986	No GHL	39,707	19.3	0.765	89,322	19.6	1.751
1996	53,590	22.1	1.187		41,307	22.8	0.943	94,897	22.4	2.129
1997	51,181	20.2	1.034		53,205	21.4	1.139	104,386	20.8	2.172
1998	54,364	29.1	1.584		42,580	21.5	0.917	96,944	25.8	2.501
1999	52,735	17.8	0.939		44,301	20.4	0.904	97,036	19.0	1.843
2000	57,208	19.7	1.130		54,432	20.7	1.126	111,640	20.2	2.251
2001	66,435	18.1	1.202		43,519	16.6	0.721	109,954	17.5	1.923
2002	64,614	19.7	1.275		40,199	20.3	0.814	104,813	19.9	2.090
2003	73,784	19.1	1.412		45,697	18.5	0.846	119,481	18.9	2.258
2004	84,327	20.7	1.750		62,989	18.8	1.187	147,316	19.9	2.937
2005	102,206	19.1	1.952	60,364	14.0	0.845	162,570	17.2	2.798	
2006	90,471	19.9	1.804	50,520	14.3	0.723	140,991	17.9	2.526	
2007	109,835	17.5	1.918	68,498	16.5	1.131	178,333	17.1	3.049	
2008	102,965	19.4	1.999	66,296	19.1	1.265	169,261	19.3	3.264	
2009	53,602	23.2	1.245	0.788	65,549	17.1	1.123	119,151	19.9	2.368

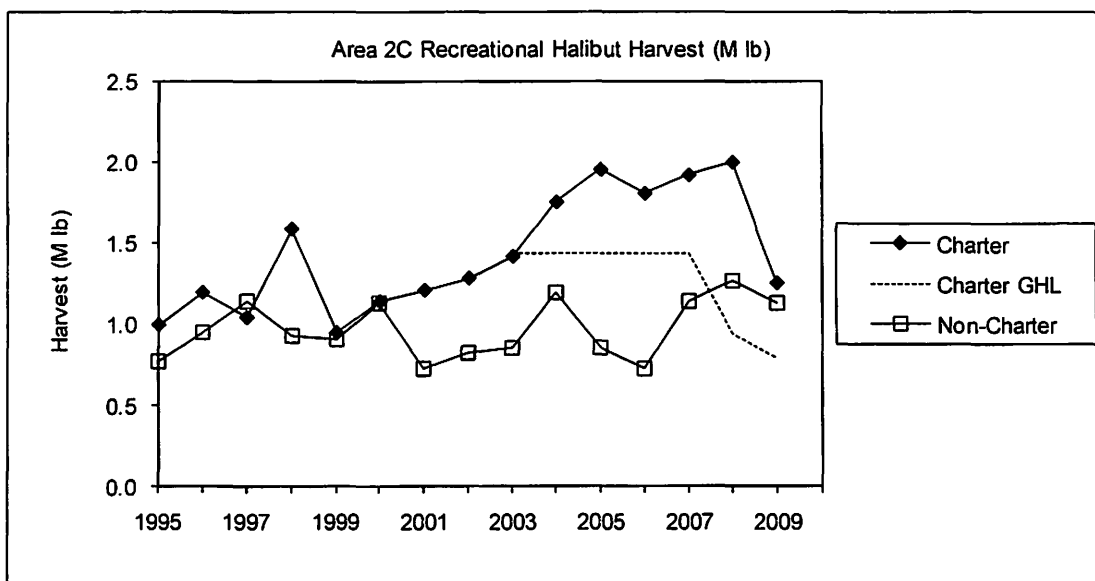


Table 5. Area 2C charter regulation history.

Year	Charter Regulations
1995-2005	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), no limit on crew retention.
2006	Two-fish bag limit (no size limit), state EO prohibiting crew harvest 5/26-12/31.
2007	Two-fish bag limit (1 under 32" eff. 6/1), no crew retention 5/1-12/31 (State EO and Federal Rule).
2008	Two-fish bag limit (1 under 32"), except one-fish bag limit Jun 1-10 (halted by injunction).
2009	One fish (no size limit), no harvest by skipper & crew, line limit (effective June 5).
2010	One fish (no size limit), no harvest by skipper & crew, line limit.

Area 3A Harvest:

Table 1. Area 3A sport halibut harvest estimates by harvest survey area.

Area	Charter			Non-Charter		
	MeanWt (lb)	No. Fish	Yield (lb)	MeanWt (lb)	No. Fish	Yield (lb)
Central Cook Inlet	15.5	43,704	675,660	14.6	41,498	606,298
Lower Cook Inlet	14.9	58,543	874,402	12.4	51,549	639,245
Kodiak	17.2	13,050	224,056	15.6	18,540	288,309
North Gulf Coast	13.5	30,491	410,700	10.3	20,113	207,775
Eastern PWS	29.1	10,187	296,080	12.5	9,160	114,289
Western PWS	16.6	8,147	135,225	18.2	7,747	140,740
Yakutat	34.0	3,477	118,192	16.6	1,598	26,600
Area 3A	16.3	167,599	2,734,315	13.5	150,205	2,023,256

Table 2. Approximate confidence intervals for harvest estimates (million pounds).

User	Estimate	StdErr	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Charter	2.734	0.133	2.474	2.994
Non-Charter	2.023	0.113	1.802	2.244
Overall	4.758	0.171	4.423	5.092

Table 3. Comparison of final estimates to October 2009 projections (million pounds).

User	Projection	Final	Error (%)
Charter	2.564	2.734	-6.2%
Non-Charter	1.966	2.023	-2.8%
Overall	4.531	4.758	-4.8%

Table 4. Area 3A sport halibut harvest history.

Year	Charter				Non-Charter			Total Sport Harvest		
	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)	GHL (M lb)	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)	No. Fish	Avg. Wt.	Yield (M lb)
1995	137,843	20.6	2.845	No GHL	95,206	17.5	1.666	233,049	19.4	4.511
1996	142,957	19.7	2.822		108,812	17.6	1.918	251,769	18.8	4.740
1997	152,856	22.3	3.413		119,510	17.6	2.100	272,366	20.2	5.514
1998	143,368	20.8	2.985		105,876	16.2	1.717	249,244	18.9	4.702
1999	131,726	19.2	2.533		99,498	17.0	1.695	231,224	18.3	4.228
2000	159,609	19.7	3.140		128,427	16.9	2.165	288,036	18.4	5.305
2001	163,349	19.2	3.132		90,249	17.1	1.543	253,598	18.4	4.675
2002	149,608	18.2	2.724	93,240	15.9	1.478	242,848	17.3	4.202	
2003	163,629	20.7	3.382	3.650	118,004	17.3	2.046	281,633	19.3	5.427
2004	197,208	18.6	3.668	3.650	134,960	14.4	1.937	332,168	16.9	5.606
2005	206,902	17.8	3.689	3.650	127,086	15.6	1.984	333,988	17.0	5.672
2006	204,115	17.9	3.664	3.650	114,887	14.6	1.674	319,002	16.7	5.337
2007	236,133	16.9	4.002	3.650	166,338	13.7	2.281	402,471	15.6	6.283
2008	198,108	17.0	3.378	3.650	145,286	13.4	1.942	343,394	15.5	5.320
2009	167,599	16.3	2.734	3.650	150,205	13.5	2.023	317,804	15.0	4.758

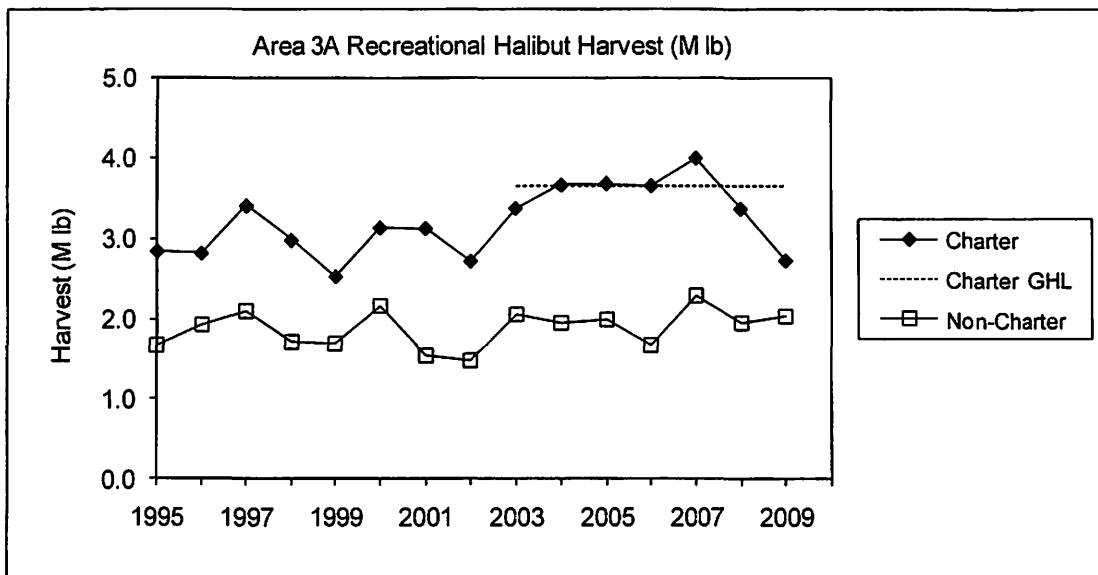
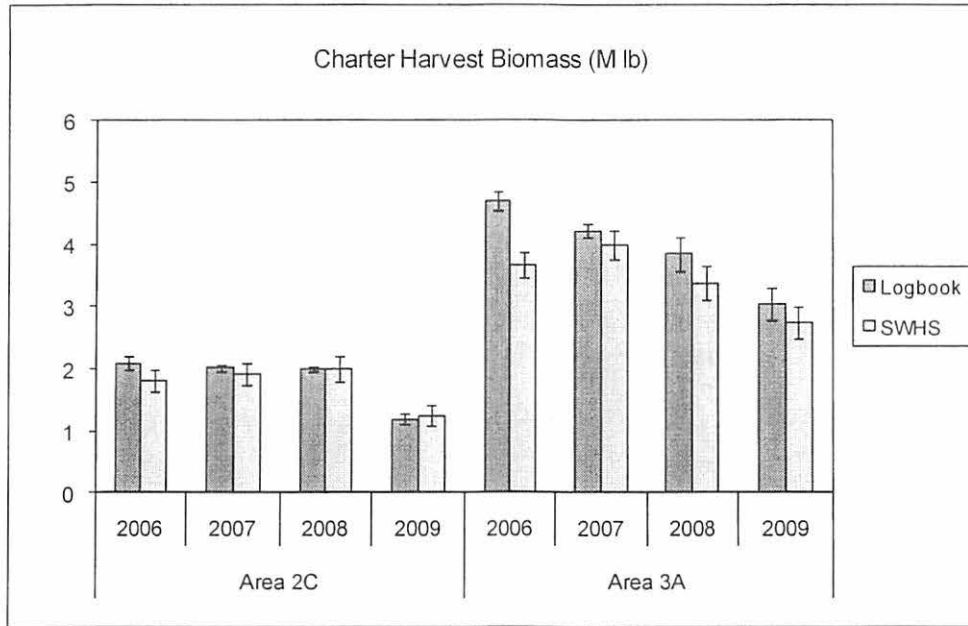


Table 5. Area 3A charter regulation history.

Year	Charter Regulations
1995-2006	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), no limit on crew retention
2007	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), state EO prohibiting crew harvest 5/1-12/31.
2008	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), state EO prohibiting crew harvest 5/24-9/1.
2009	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), state EO prohibiting crew harvest 5/23-9/1.
2010	Two-fish bag limit (no size restrictions), no limit on crew retention

Comparison of Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Estimates



Area	Year	Logbook		Statewide Harvest Survey	
		Harvest (M lb)	StdErr	Harvest (M lb)	StdErr
2C	2006	2.094	0.053	1.804	0.089
	2007	2.019	0.028	1.918	0.085
	2008	1.996	0.025	1.999	0.099
	2009	1.187	0.042	1.245	0.080
3A	2006	4.690	0.076	3.664	0.108
	2007	4.224	0.059	4.002	0.120
	2008	3.843	0.140	3.378	0.142
	2009	3.029	0.130	2.734	0.133