



**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, scallops, and groundfish.

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** During the 2018/19 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, Western Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) 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.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2018/19 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2018. The total allowable catch (TAC) was set at 6.35 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.856 million pounds (17% increase from 2017/18) and the western TAC is 2.5 million pounds (12% increase from 2017/18). Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the CDQ (eastern) and Adak Community Allocation (western) fisheries. Three vessels are currently participating in the western area and harvest to date is 2.07 million pounds. Two vessels are fishing in the eastern area and harvest remains confidential.

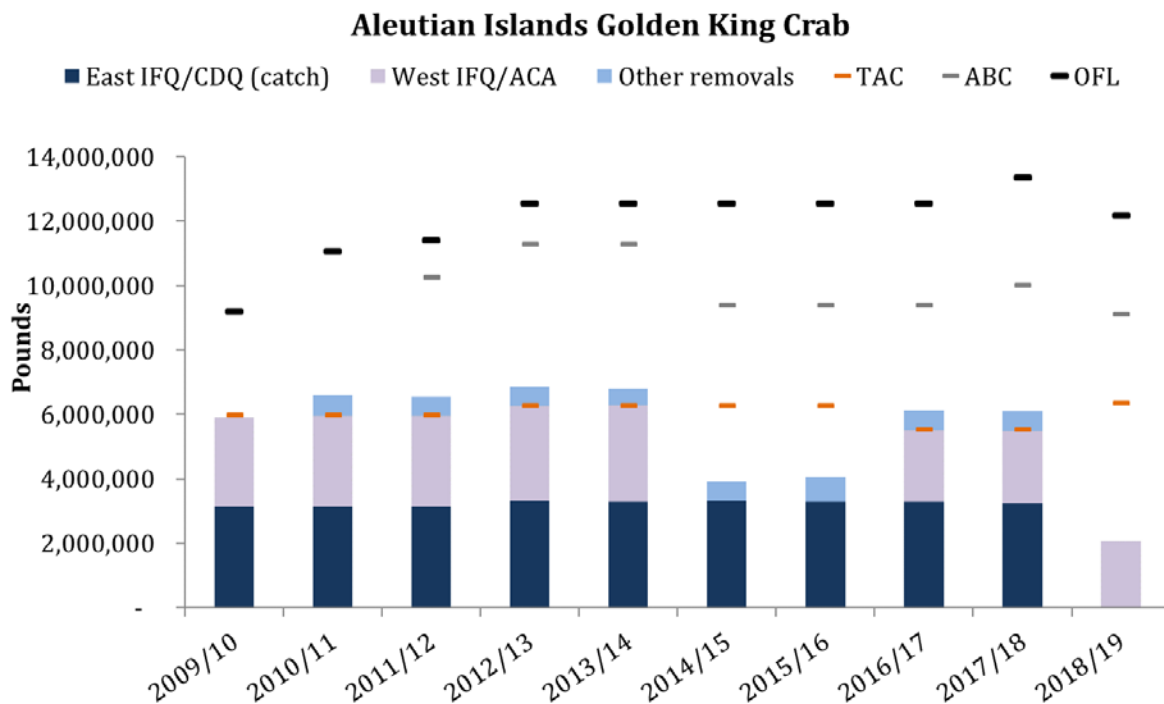


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2009/10 – 2018/19.

**Bristol Bay Red King Crab**

The 2018/19 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened October 15, 2018 with a TAC of 4.308 million pounds (35% decrease from the 2017/18 fishery). All vessels have checked out of the fishery for now, 98% of the IFQ TAC and 100% of the CDQ TAC has been harvested; total catch is 4.22 million pounds. Fifty-four vessels participated this season and the average catch rate was 20 crabs per pot (the same CPUE as 2017/18). Average weight also increased this year to 7.09 lbs (up from 6.84 pounds in 2017/18). This fishery closes by regulation on January 15, 2019.

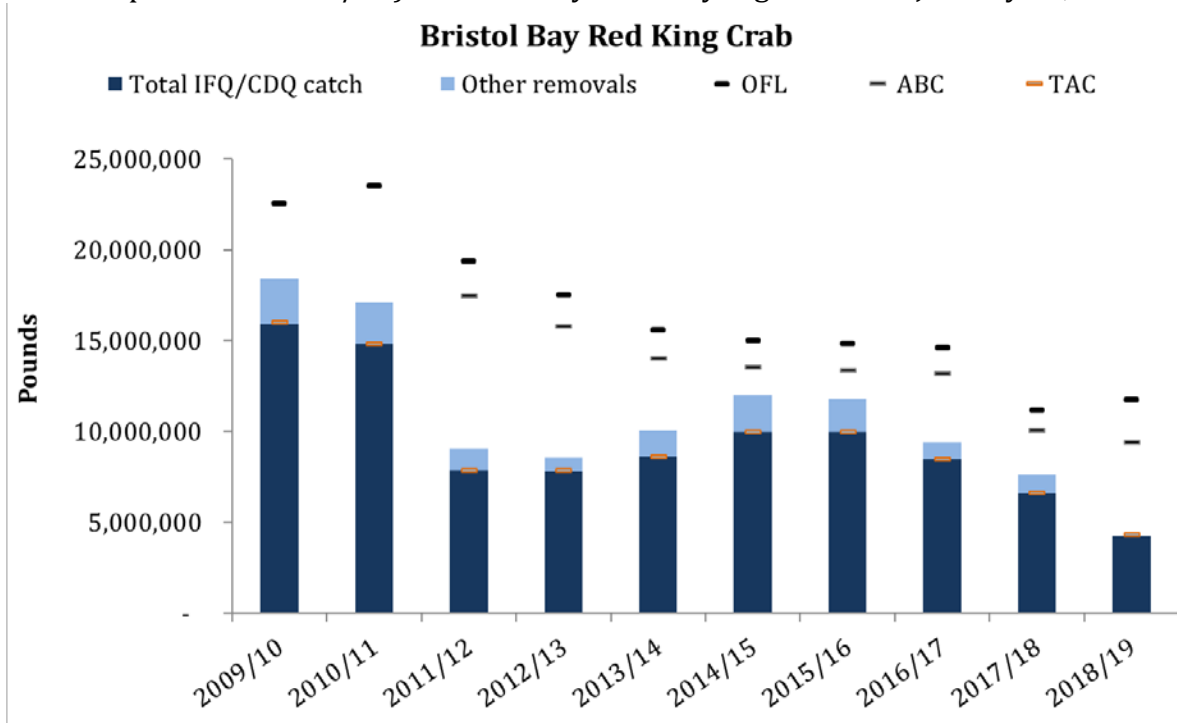


Figure 2. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

**Bering Sea Snow Crab**

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2018 and will remain open through May 15, 2019 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2018 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2018/19 snow crab TAC is 27.581 million pounds (a 45% increase from 2017/18). No directed fishing has occurred this season; however, fishing is expected to begin in early January.

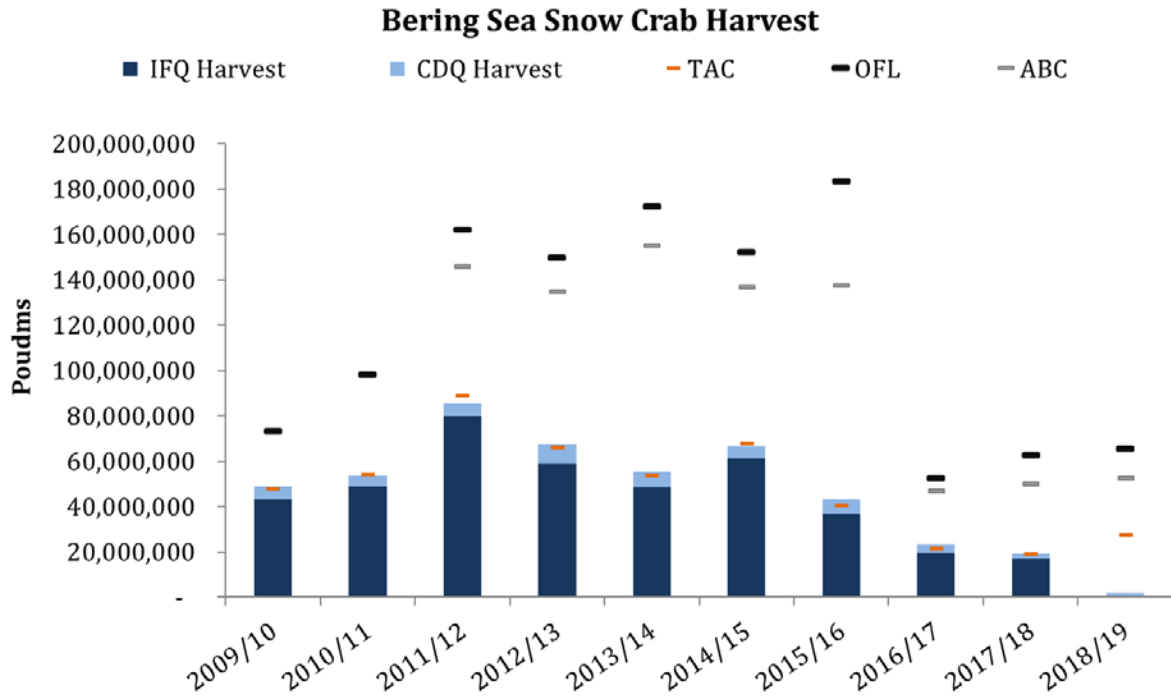


Figure 3. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2009/10 – 2018/19 seasons.

#### Western Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2018/19 Western Bering Sea tanner crab fishery opened October 15, 2017 with a TAC of 2.439 million pounds. Total catch is 1.254 million pounds. Twenty-one registered vessels are currently participating, and the average catch rate is 37 (ranging between 11 and 62) crabs per pot. The fishery closes by regulation on March 31, 2019.

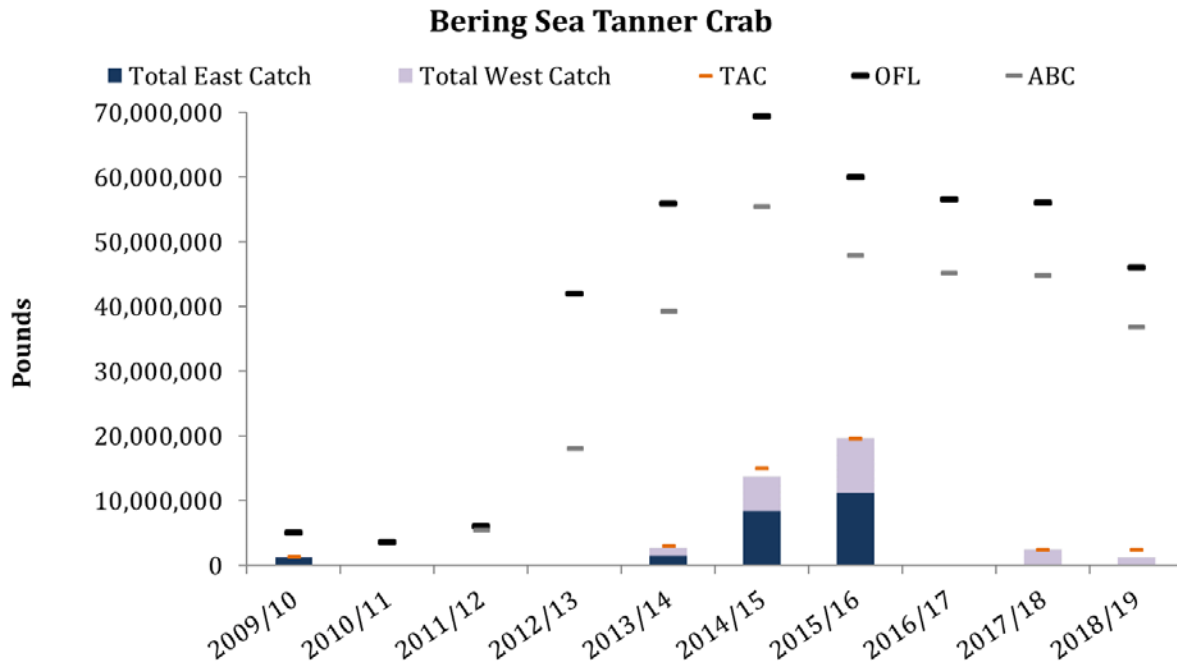


Figure 4. Eastern Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2008/09 – 2017/18 seasons.

**Scallops.** Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2018. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2018/19 season is 271,300 pounds of shucked meats, a 35,000-pound decrease from the 2017/18 cumulative GHL.

2018/19 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 2018/19 season</i>		
	West Kayak Subsection	6,300	1,600	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2018/19 season</i>		
Kodiak	Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Shelikof District	25,000	12,500	25
	Southwest District	30,000	18,000	25
	Southeast District	15,000	7,500	25
	Semidi Islands District <sup>1</sup>	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	15,000	7,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	<i>Closed for the 2018/19 season</i>		
Bering Sea		7,500	65,000	500
			<i>C. opilio &amp; hybrids</i>	
			300,000	

<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2018/19.

Total harvest to date is approximately 238,000 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in Area D, Prince William Sound west of Kayak Island, Shelikof District of the Kodiak Area, Southwest Kodiak, and the Bering Sea.

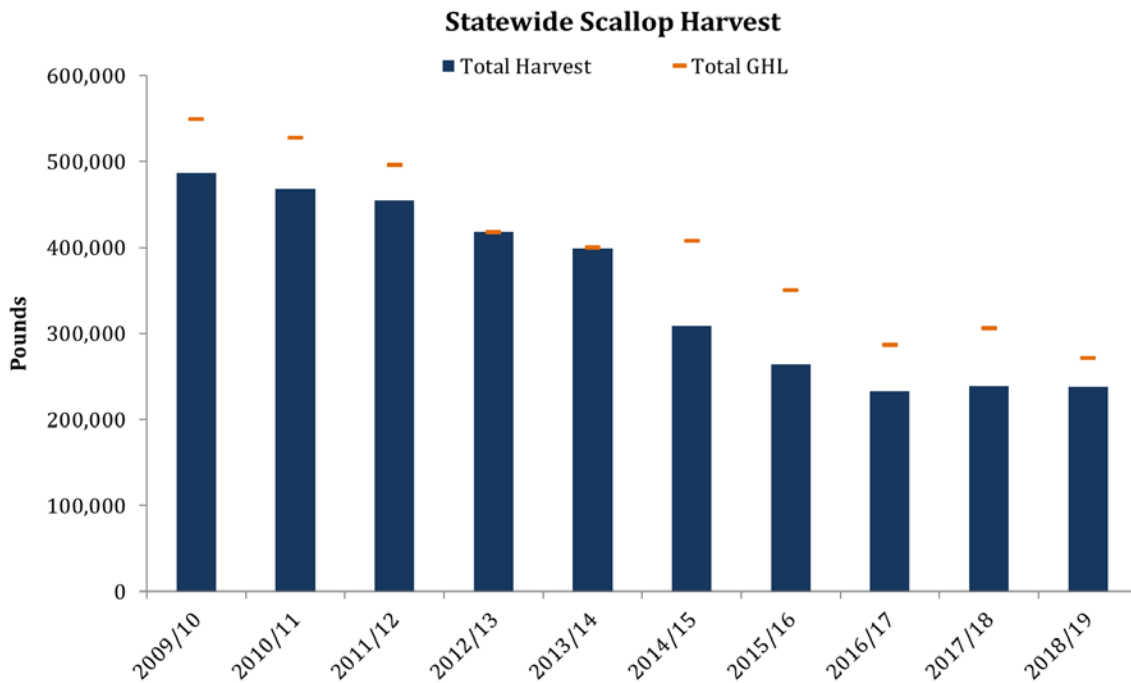


Figure 4. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2009/10 – 2018/19.

**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	2018 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%	450
Chignik	CGOA	8.75%	710
Kodiak		25%	1,015
Cook Inlet		3.75%	304
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%	2,425
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	BS	6.4%	12,864
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	AI	27%	5,805

Fisheries remain open in the Chignik and Kodiak areas. There has been no participation in the Chignik jig fishery since it opened March 31<sup>st</sup> and no participation from pots since the rollover State water fishery on August 15<sup>th</sup>. There has been no jig participation since June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Board considered out-of-cycle proposals and Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) at the October work session (October 15-16, 2018), the Joint Protocol Committee meeting followed on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Pacific cod meeting was October 18-19 in Anchorage. The Bristol Bay Finfish meeting was November 28 – December 3, 2018 in Dillingham. The next Board of Fisheries meeting for Arctic/ Yukon/ Kuskokwim Finfish will be January 15 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Anchorage, public comment is due January 2, 2019.

### Accepted Agenda Change Requests:

**ACR 3 - Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration Area O.** Proposal to implement a new harvest strategy for Aleutian Island Golden King Crab based off the newly accepted stock assessment. This proposal is scheduled for the March 9 – 12, 2019 meeting in Anchorage.

### Board Generated Proposal:

**5 AAC 34.6XX Registration Area O red king crab management plan, and 5 AAC 35.5XX. Registration Area O C. *bairdi* Tanner crab management plan.** Establish commercial state-waters red king crab and Tanner crab fisheries in the Aleutian Islands, as follows:

Management measures include:

- Establish a 3-S (size, sex, and season) management framework.
- Create new management districts for king and Tanner crab west of 170° W. longitude.
- Limit participation to vessels 60 feet overall length or less.

This proposal is scheduled for the March 9 – 12, 2019 meeting in Anchorage.

### ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC COD (October 18 – 19, 2018).

*Aleutian Islands Pacific cod (8 proposals, 1 carried):*

1. A 4% step-down provision if the GHL is not achieved in two consecutive years was added to the management plan.

*Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan (7 proposals, 3 carried):*

1. The GHL was increased from 6.4% of the Federal ABC to 8% with a 1% annual increase if the GHL is achieved, up to a maximum of 15% of the ABC.
2. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict area was extended to 162° 30.00' W. long. (from 164° W. long).
3. A new jig fishery within the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was established with a GHL of 100,000 pounds (45 t) of the Federal ABC.

*Chignik Area and South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plans (2 proposals, 2 carried):*

1. The jig fishery and hand troll parallel fishery opening dates were changed to open 48-hours after the guideline harvest level is achieved or on October 30, whichever occurs first. This action extends the 2-week rollover season in State waters to up to 10-weeks.
2. The weather delay provision for jig gear vessels during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery was removed.