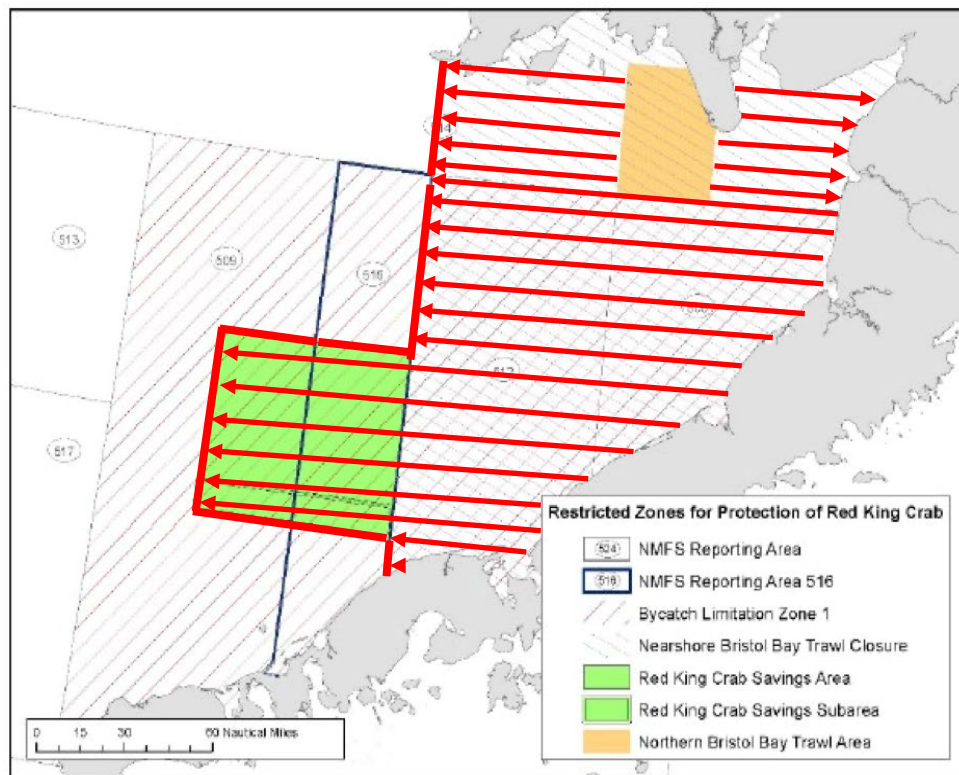


A photograph of a fishing boat deck at dusk. A large black crane is the central focus, extending from the left side of the frame. The deck is cluttered with fishing gear, including green and yellow nets, and several large white cylindrical floats. In the background, a calm body of water reflects the twilight sky, with distant mountains visible under a soft, hazy light. The overall scene is industrial yet serene.

A80 Crab Avoidance 2023 Activities and Performance

John Gauvin and Beth Concepcion
Alaska Seafood Cooperative

BBRKC NPT Spatial Management (least restrictive with RKC cap at lowest level)



Area Management: BBRKC management is dominated by vast fixed & seasonal area closures designed to protect RKC habitat & spawning grounds

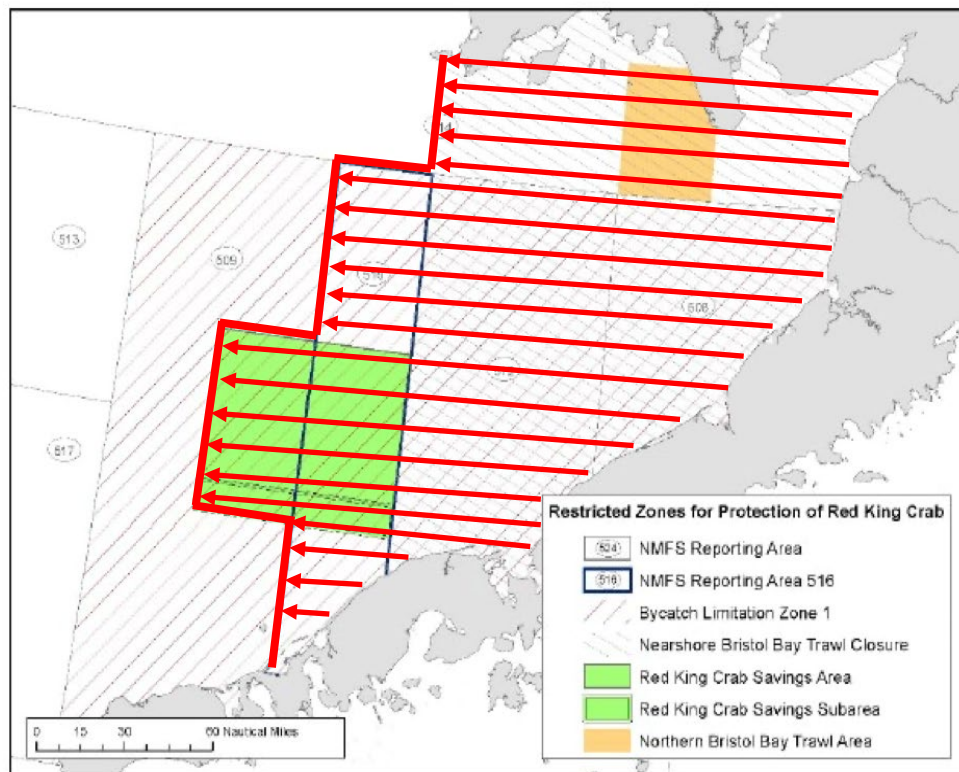
Fixed Closures:

- Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure (all trawl)
- BBRKC Savings Area (NPT)
- BBRKC Savings Sub Area (NPT) (Abundance Based)

Seasonal Openings:

- Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area (1 Apr – 15 Jun)
- Area 516 (20 Jan – 15 Mar, 15 Jun – 31 Dec)

BBRKC NPT Spatial Management 2023 with seasonal closures



Area Management: BBRKC management is dominated by vast fixed & seasonal area closures designed to protect RKC habitat & spawning grounds.

Fixed Closures:

Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure (all trawl)

BBRKC Savings Area (NPT)

BBRKC Savings Sub Area (NPT) (Abundance Based)

Seasonal Openings:

Northern Bristol Bay Trawl Area (1 Apr – 15 Jun)

Area 516 (20 Jan – 15 Mar, 15 Jun – 31 Dec)

Enhanced Crab Avoidance Protocol Started in 2021 in Response to RKC Stock Decline Repeated in 2023

- ▶ Captains/Mates on deck to watch codends being dumped for any fishing where RKC could be in catch
- ▶ If RKC seen as net is emptied, assume area has high bycatch
- ▶ Take action (Don't wait for observer data, talk to nearby boats, move to different area)
- ▶ Record event on AKSC RKC performance spreadsheet, include description of avoidance action taken (e.g. "moved west to deeper water, reported hotspot to nearby vessels")
- ▶ Send spreadsheet to AKSC at end of each trip

The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of a crab and several fish. The crab is positioned at the top, with its large, reddish-brown claws and legs visible. Below the crab, several fish are shown, including a prominent one with a white belly and a dark dorsal fin, and another with a reddish head and a white belly. The overall scene is brightly lit, highlighting the textures of the crab's shell and the scales of the fish.

**AKSC's Letter to NPFMC in Response to
October 2022 RFI on Crab Avoidance;
AKSC's Letter is Comment 7 of 17**

**[https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/
Details/2941](https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2941)**

RKC Bycatch Avoidance Performance 2019-2023

	Red King Crab	
Year	Allocation	Catch To Date
2019	43,293	20,530
2020	43,293	32,473
2021	43,293	16,389
2022	14,282	1,903
2023	14,282	2,516

Other Crab PSC Species Bycatch Performance in 2023



C. Opilio (aka Snow Crab)

Opilio BSAI - COBLZ		
Year	Allocation	Catch To Date
2019	5,230,243	590,942
2020	3,766,238	668,848
2021	3,156,567	199,319
2022	1,909,256	188,114
2023	1,909,256	640,373

Zone 1 C. Bairdi (aka Tanner Crab)

Bairdi BSAI Zone 1		
Year	Allocation	Catch To Date
2019	368,521	23,169
2020	368,521	133,986
2021	368,521	95,516
2022	312,115	21,197
2023	312,115	11,695

Zone 2 C. Bairdi (aka Tanner Crab)

	Bairdi BSAI Zone 2	
Year	Allocation	Catch To Date
2019	627,778	249,022
2020	627,778	409,944
2021	627,778	379,446
2022	532,660	337,602
2023	532,660	347,181