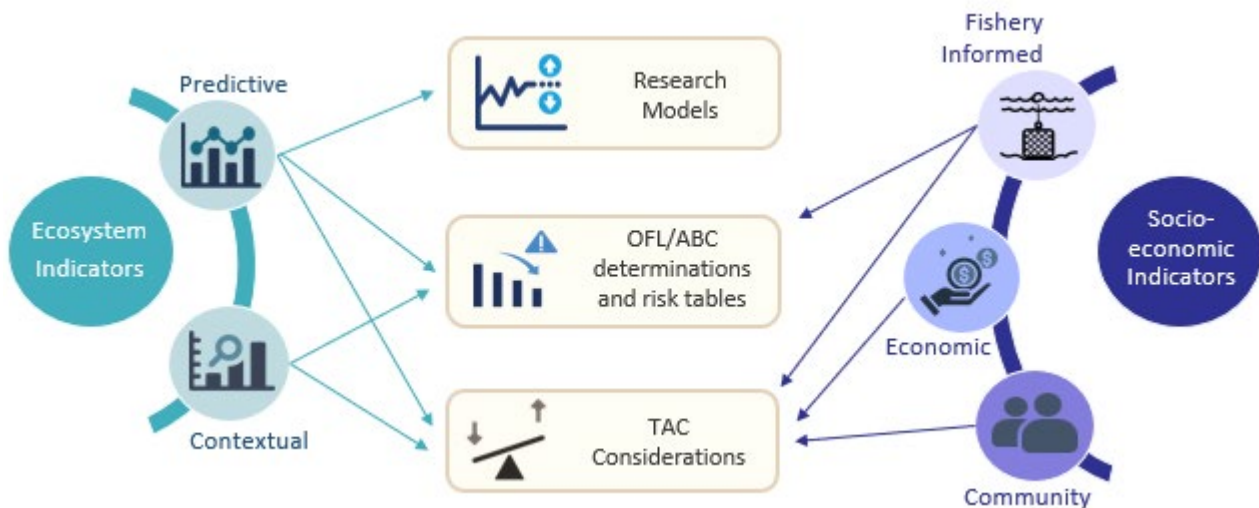




Bristol Bay Red King Crab

2026 Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP) Report Card



Ecosystem Considerations



Contextual

- Bristol Bay average bottom temperature in summer 2026 was the 4th coldest in the 47-year survey time series, resulting in 56% of mature females that had not yet completed the molt-mate cycle by June. Of the females that had successfully molted and mated at the time of survey sampling, **<1% had empty clutches**.
- Area occupied** by mature males and females in Bristol Bay was **above average** in summer 2026. Contextual indicators that highlight potential spatial distribution shifts across management boundaries and closure areas remain near-average, suggesting that **the population continues to occupy core habitats in Bristol Bay** despite below average summer bottom temperatures that have historically aggregated crab closer to the Alaska Peninsula.
- Spring bottom water **pH increased** from 2025 to 2026 to a near-average value. However, this indicator has been declining for the past three decades and continued declines to pH levels of 7.8 could negatively affect Bristol Bay red king crab survival.

Socioeconomic Considerations



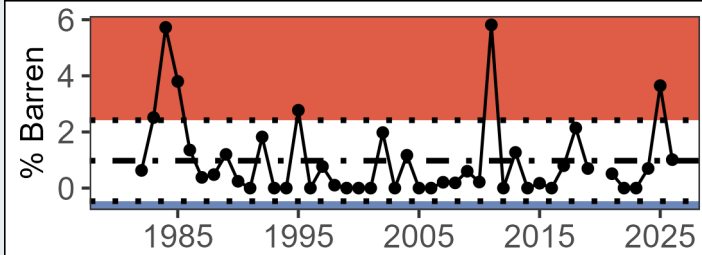
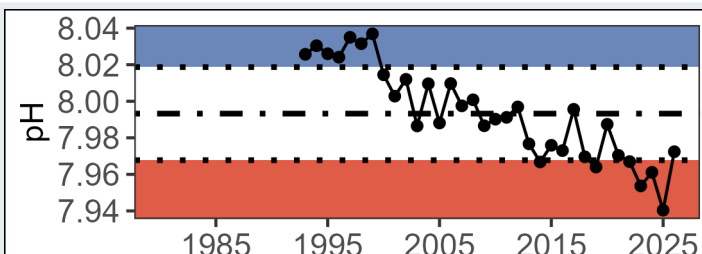
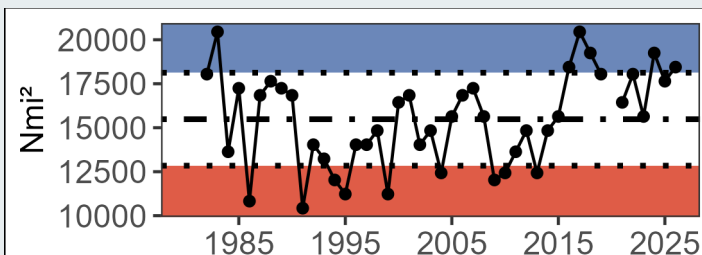
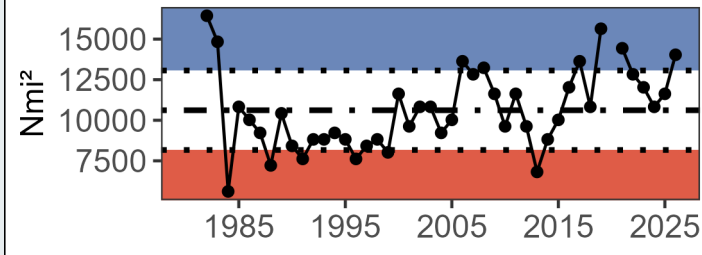
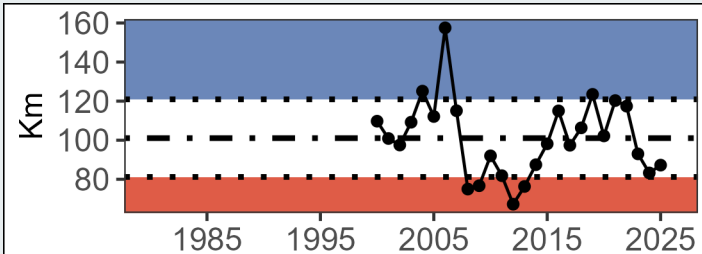
Fishery Informed

- Total effort** (# of vessels and total potlifts) in the 2025/26 BBRKC fishery increased relative to the past season but remains **below the post-rationalization average**.
- Fishery CPUE declined slightly** this season but remains above the 30-year average of legal crab per potlift.
- Results from the ABSC Skipper Survey are consistent with **high fishery CPUE**, an **increase in perceived abundance**, and **no notable changes in fleet behavior**. 81% of captains reported a >10% increase in perceived abundance of legal males relative to the previous season.



Bristol Bay Red King Crab ESP Report Card

Ecosystem Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
Female BBRKC Reproductive Failure	Near long-term mean 	
Spring pH	Near long-term mean 	
BBRKC Mature Male Area Occupied	Above long-term mean 	
BBRKC Mature Female Area Occupied	Above long-term mean 	
Fishery Catch Distance from Shore	Near long-term mean 	

Most recent year indicator status indicates *good conditions*, *average conditions*, or *poor conditions* for the stock

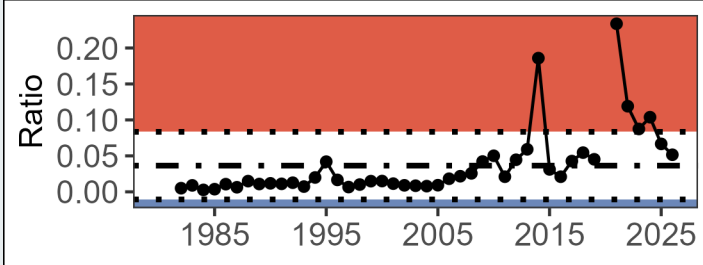
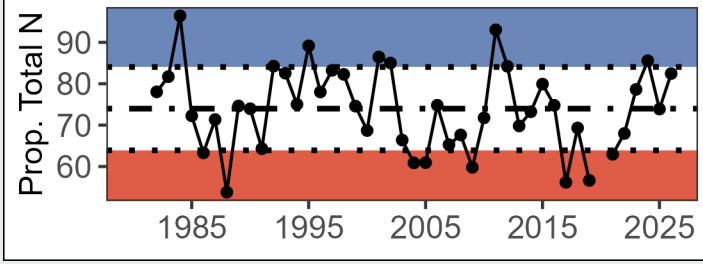


Contextual



Bristol Bay Red King Crab ESP Report Card

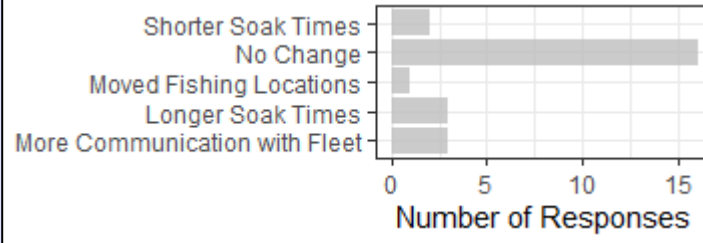
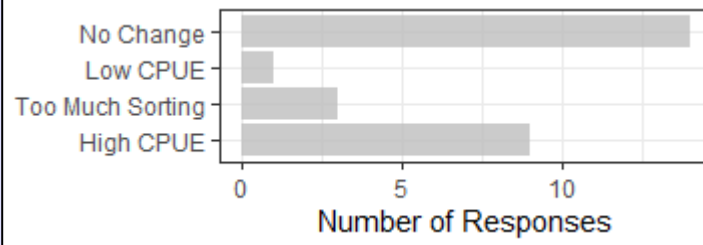
Ecosystem Indicators

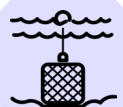
Indicator	Status	Trend
Northern District: Bristol Bay RKC Ratio	Near long-term mean 	
Proportion of Mature Males in Closure Areas	Near long-term mean 	



Contextual

Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
Skipper Survey: Changes in Fishing Behavior	Minor changes in behavior 	
Skipper Survey: Motivation for Changes in Fishing Behavior	Minor changes in behavior 	



Fishery
Informed

Most recent year indicator status indicates *good conditions*, *average conditions*, or *poor conditions* for the stock



Bristol Bay Red King Crab ESP Report Card

Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
Skipper Survey: Perceived Abundance of Legal Males	Increase in perceived abundance 	
Fishery CPUE	Above long-term mean 	
Fishery Total Potlifts	Below long-term mean 	
Annual Incidental Catch	Below long-term mean 	
Number of Active Vessels	Below long-term mean 	



Fishery Informed