

2024/25 BSAI crab catch and fishery performance

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Crab Plan Team Meeting
September 8-12, 2025
Virtual



Directed fishery observer coverage

Mandatory catcher-vessel coverage requirements, per **5 AAC 39.645**.

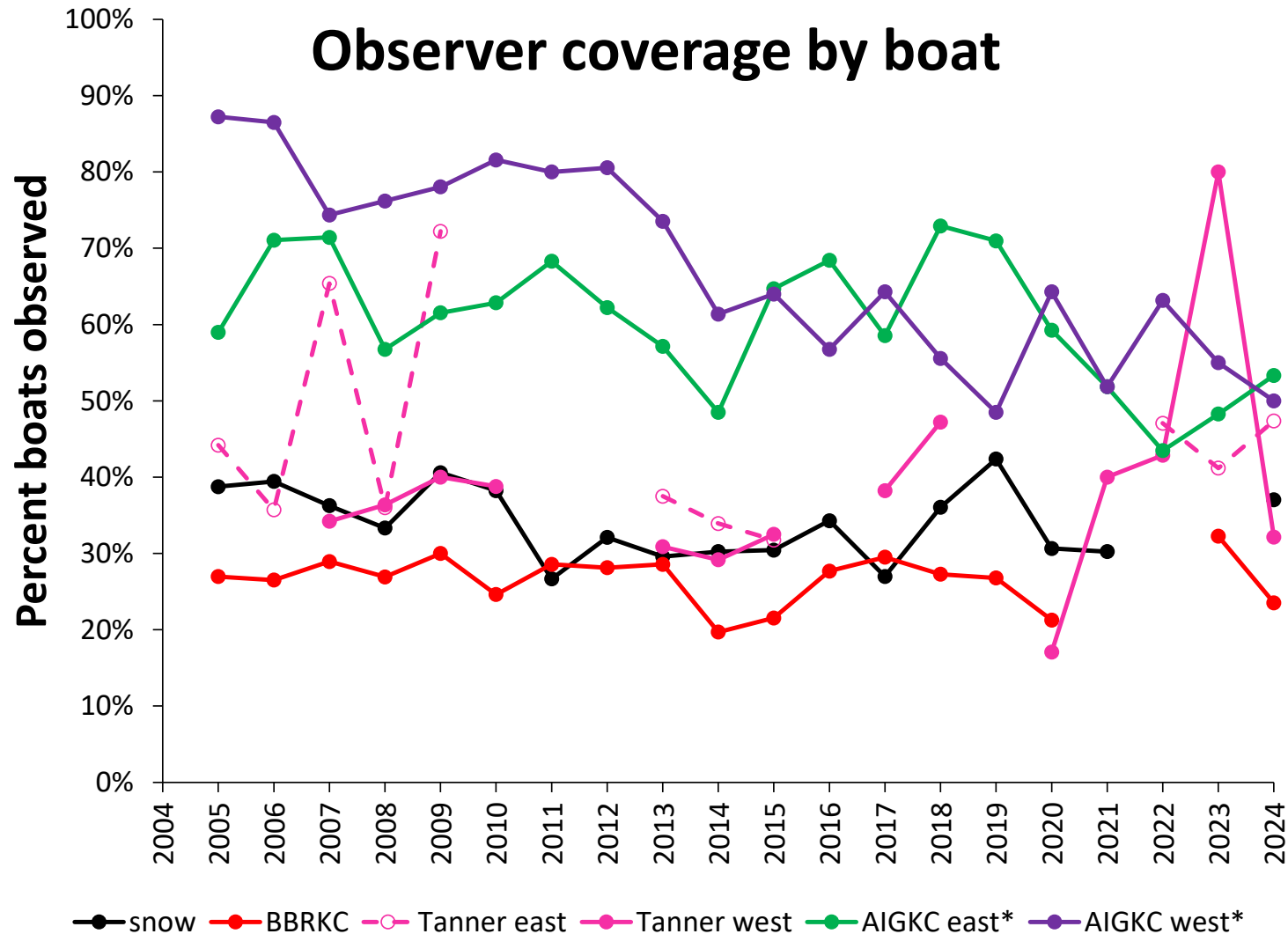
All vessels processing crab must carry observers.

Fishery	Coverage
Bering Sea snow crab	30-100% (a)
Bristol Bay red king crab	20% (a)
Bering Sea Tanner crab	30-100% (a)
Pribilof District red king crab	100%
Pribilof District blue king crab	100%
Saint Matthew Island blue king crab	100%
Norton Sound red king crab	Discretionary
Aleutian Islands golden king crab	50% (b)
Pribilof District golden king crab	100%
Adak red king crab	100%

^a Vessels required to carry observers are randomly selected.

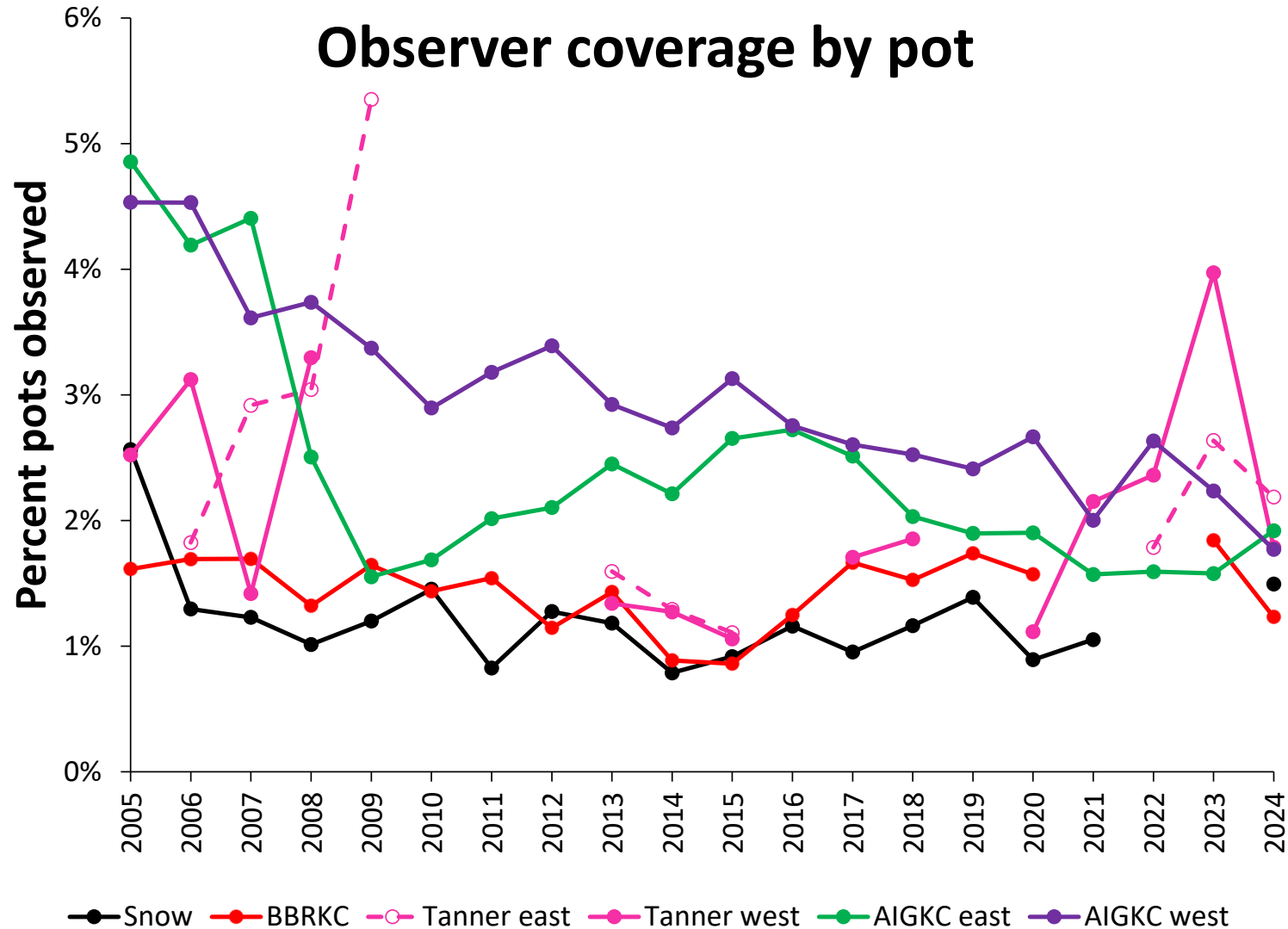
^b All catcher vessels must carry an observer during harvest of 50% of total landed catch weight in each three-month trimester of nine-month season Aug 1 – Oct 31; Nov 1 – Jan 31; Feb 1 – April 30.

Directed fishery observer coverage



*AIGKC calculated by trip because of trimester regulation

Directed fishery observer coverage



Groundfish Vessels in Full vs Partial Coverage

- **Full Coverage (1 or 2 observers if at sea or EM at sea plus observer shoreside)**
 - Catcher/Processors (limited exceptions for small non-trawl CPs)
 - Motherships
 - Catcher vessels participating in LAPP programs that have transferable PSC allocations
 - Shoreside Processors receive or processing BSAI pollock
 - Electronic monitoring (EM) for pelagic trawl pollock
- **Partial Coverage (observer or EM)**
 - Catcher vessels fishing groundfish
 - Catcher vessels fishing IFQ/CDQ halibut/sablefish
- **No Coverage**
 - Vessels < 40 ft.
 - Jig catcher vessels
 - No FFP (can only fish inside 3 miles)
 - State Guideline Harvest Level fisheries

Source: [2025 Annual Deployment Plan for Observers and Electronic Monitoring in the Groundfish and Halibut Fisheries off Alaska](#)



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Observer/EM Coverage Rates for Groundfish Fisheries

- Partial observer coverage rates adjusted in 2024 so sampling strata is by FMP.
- Increases sampling selection rates
- Designed to spread sampled trips throughout fisheries to increase the proportion of trips sampled.

Table 1. Summary of total trips, selection rates (rounded to the nearest whole number), the number of trips expected to be monitored in each sampling stratum in 2025.

Component	Pool	Stratum	Selection Rate (%)	Number of Trips Expected to be Monitored	Monitoring Location & Purpose
Partial Coverage	Observer Trip Selection	Fixed-gear BSAI	20	52	At-sea for discard & PSC estimation / biological sampling Plus pollock trawl deliveries monitored dockside for salmon on selected trips
		Fixed-gear GOA	6	118	
		Trawl BSAI	40	10	
		Trawl GOA	15	30	
	EM Fixed-gear Trip Selection	EM Fixed-gear BSAI	48	24	At-sea for discard & PSC estimation
		EM Fixed-gear GOA	11	100	
	EM Trawl GOA	EM Trawl GOA	100	886	At-sea EM compliance monitoring
			100	886	Dockside salmon & halibut PSC accounting
			33	295	Dockside biological sampling
	No-selection	No-selection	0	0	n/a

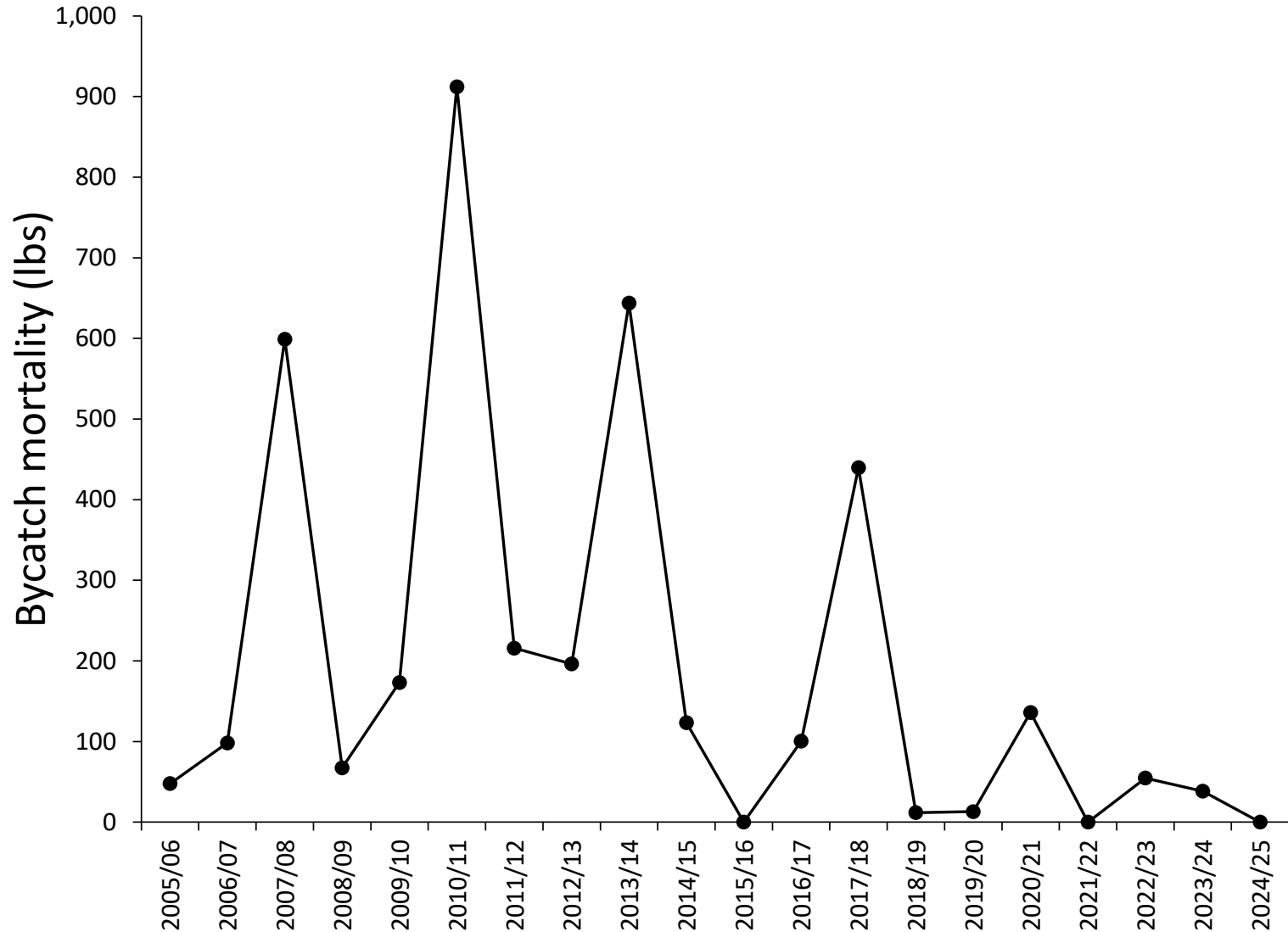
Crab Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries

- Data Source:
 - AKFIN database
 - Observer/Electronic Monitoring (full and partial coverage)
 - Estimated weight (kg) of crab mortality
- Fixed Gear = pot, hook-and-line, and jig
 - 50% estimated crab mortality
- Trawl Gear = non-pelagic and pelagic
 - 80% estimated crab mortality
- Crab Fishing Year (July 1 – June 30)
 - Calendar year for Pribilof Island GKC and Norton Sound RKC



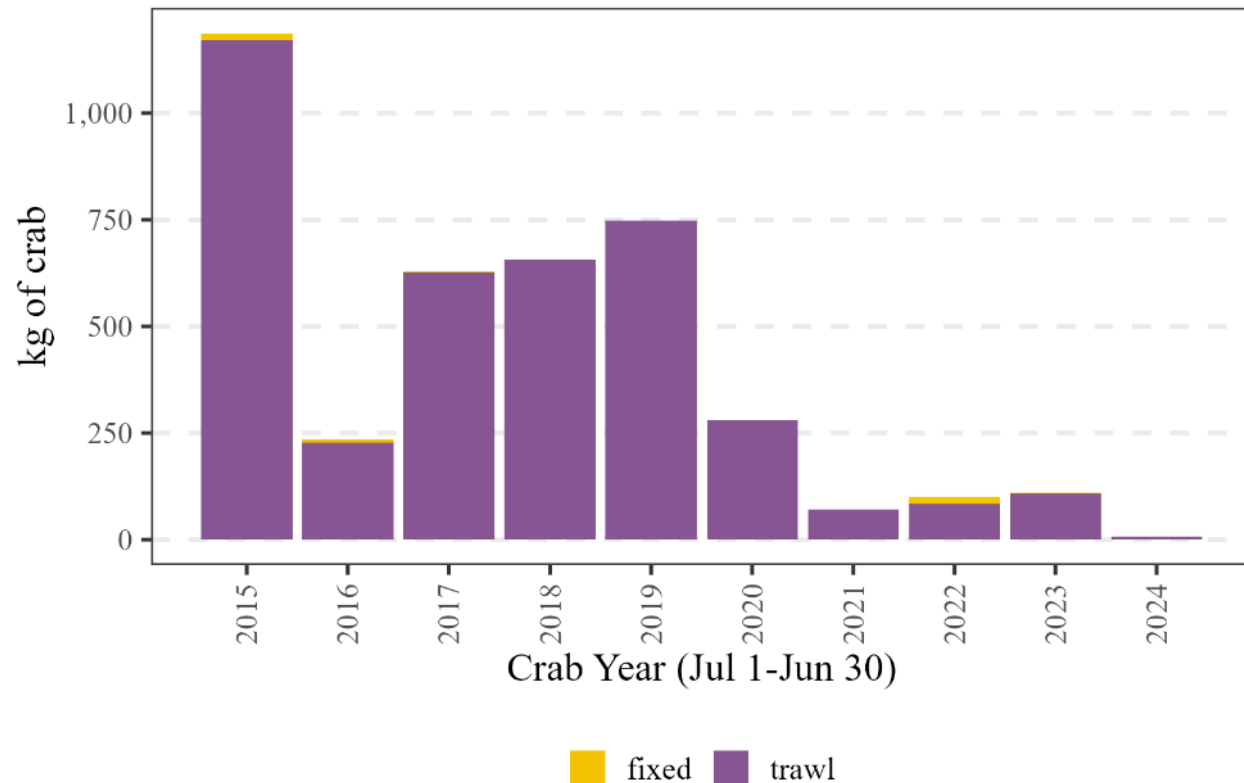
WAIRKC

RKC in AIGKC fishery

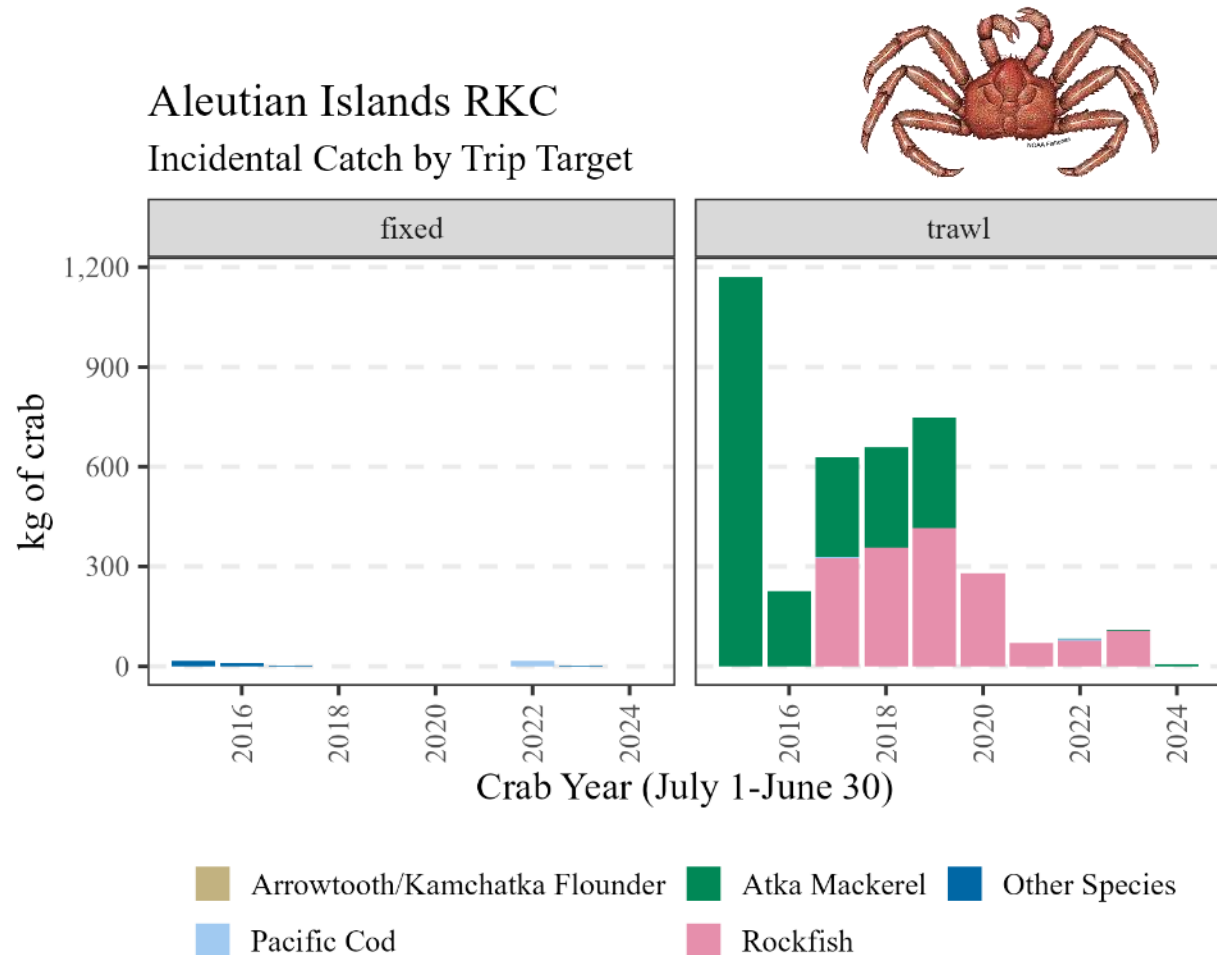


- Minimal fixed gear fishing in this area.
- Minimal fixed gear observer coverage.
- State Pacific Cod fishery in area, however, no observer/EM coverage in State groundfish fisheries

Aleutian Islands RKC Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



- A80 targeting both Atka mackerel and rockfish in recent years.
- Post-pandemic fishing patterns changed due to market conditions
- Tier 5 RKC stock and low biomass

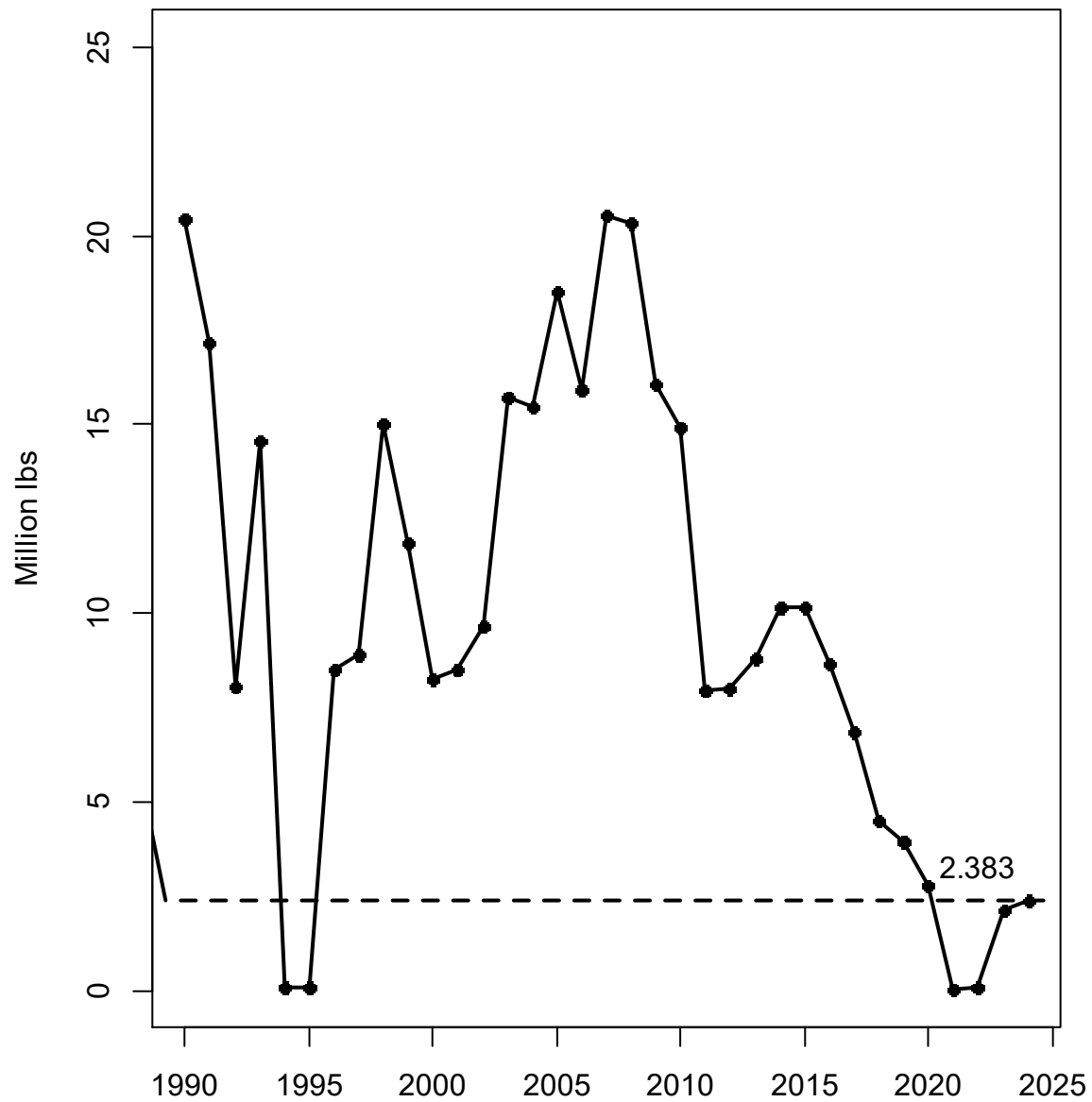


*Other species includes: pollock, halibut, & sablefish

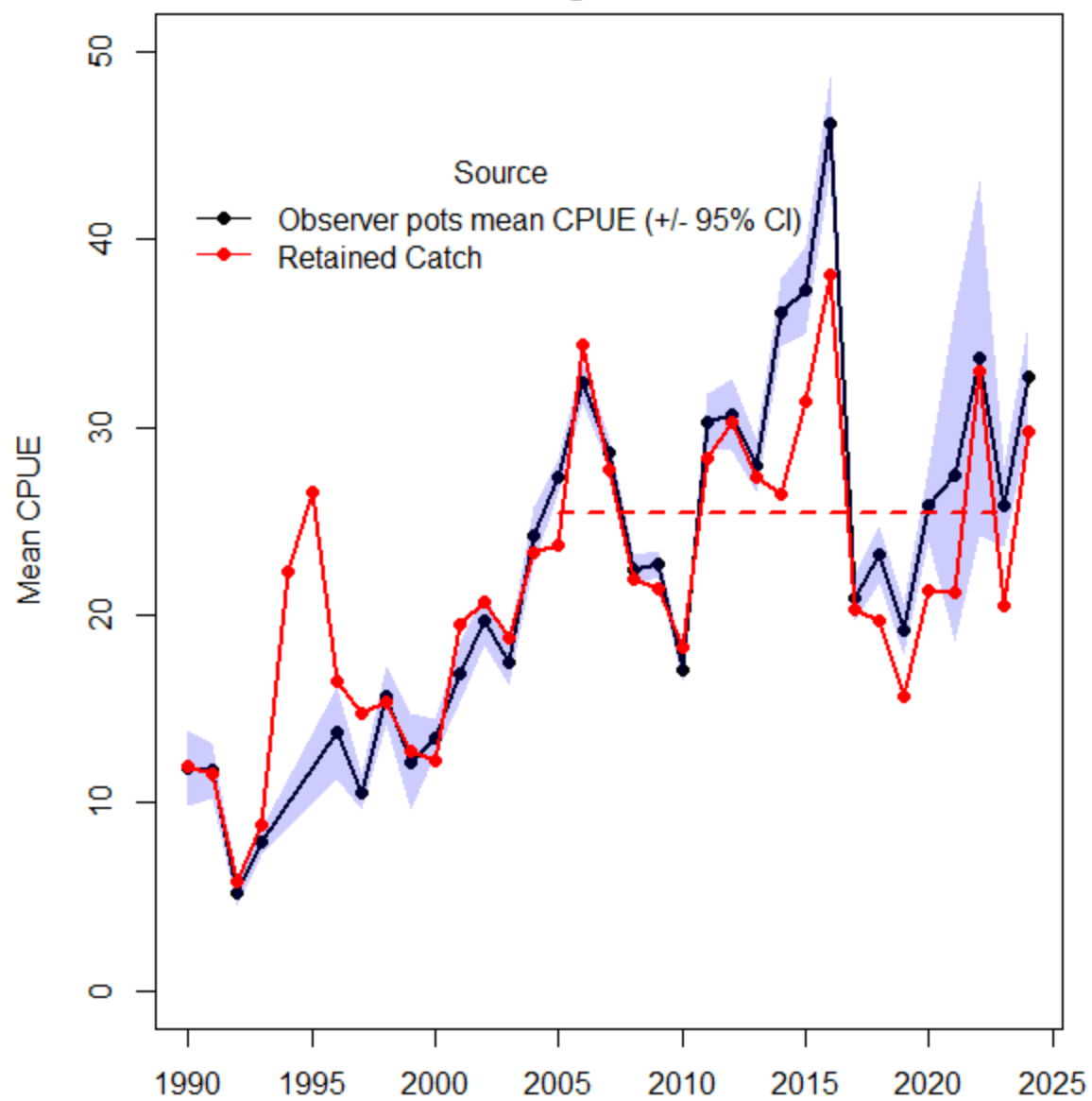


BBRKC

BBRKC retained catch

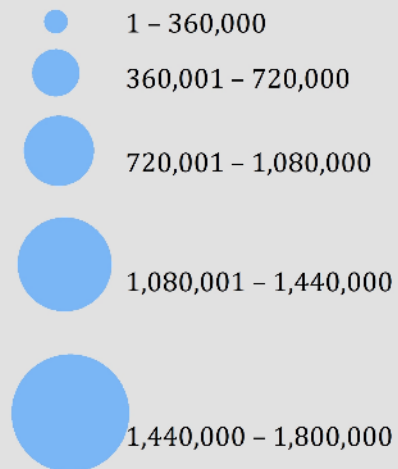


BBRKC legal male CPUE

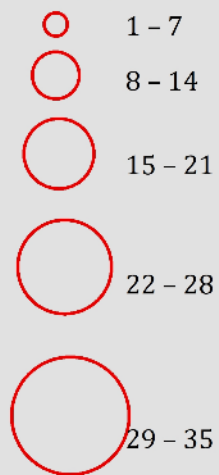


Bristol Bay Red King Crab 2024/25 Directed Fishery

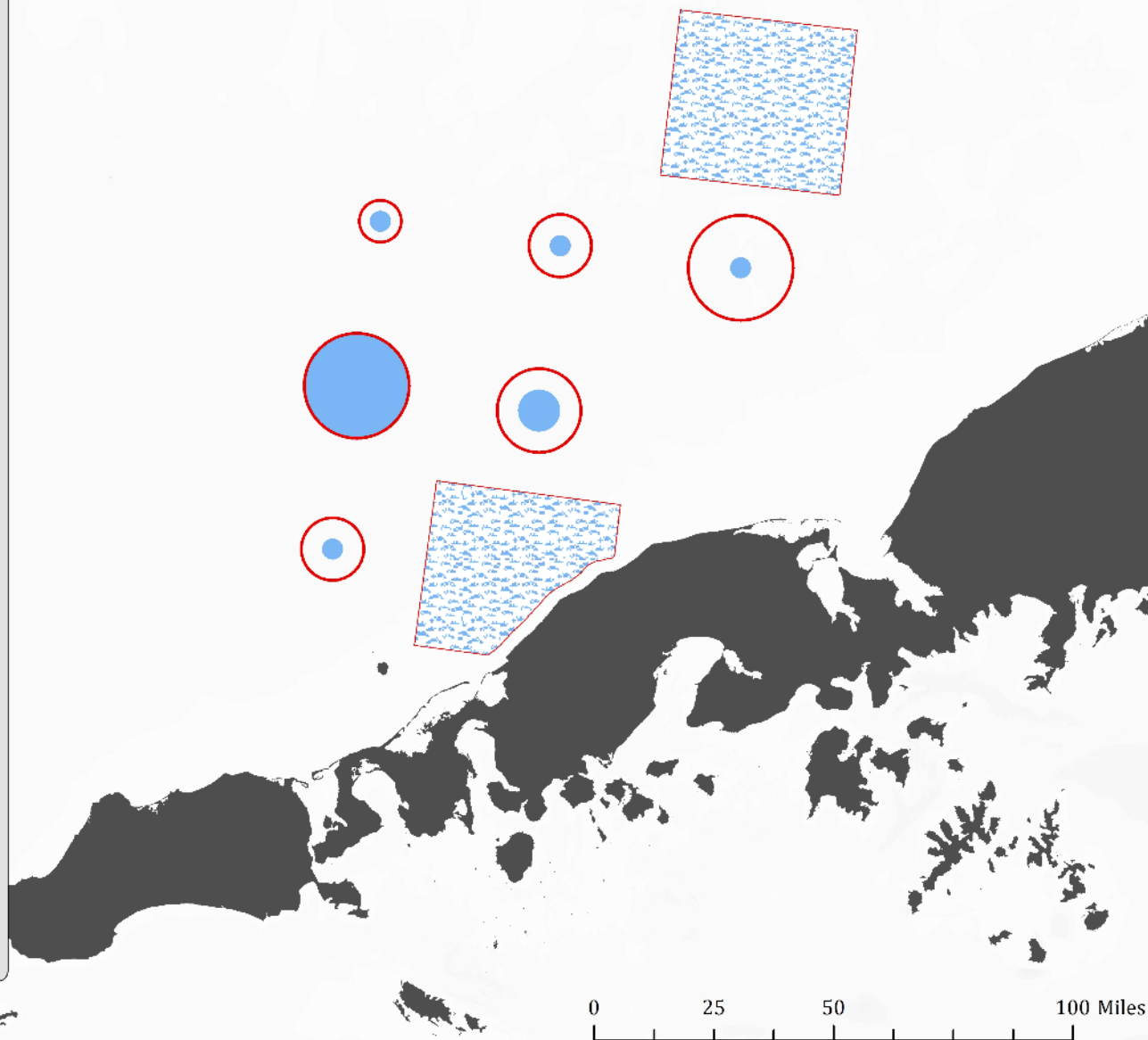
Harvest (pounds)



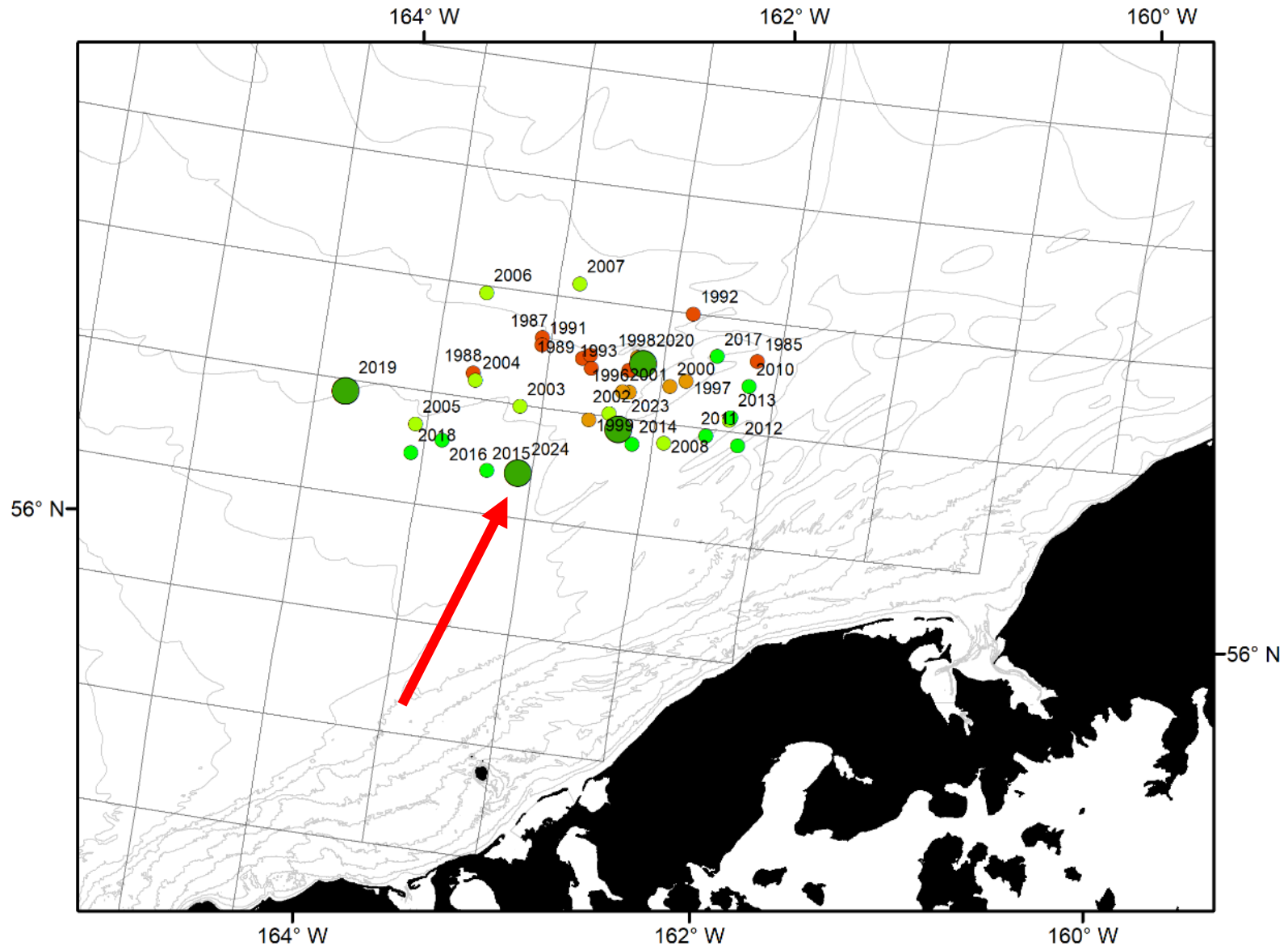
CPUE (legal male/pot)



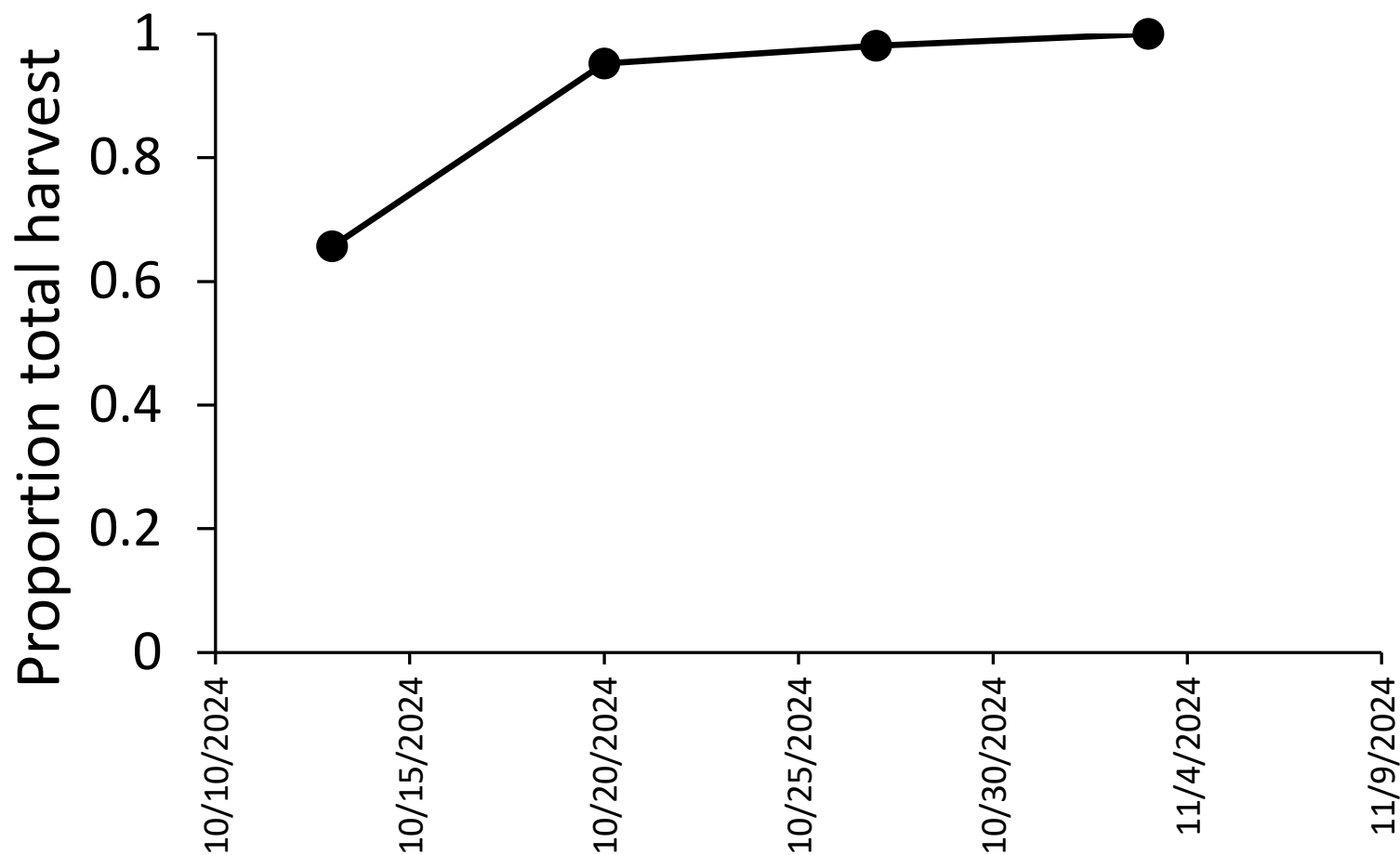
 Confidential Harvest and CPUE



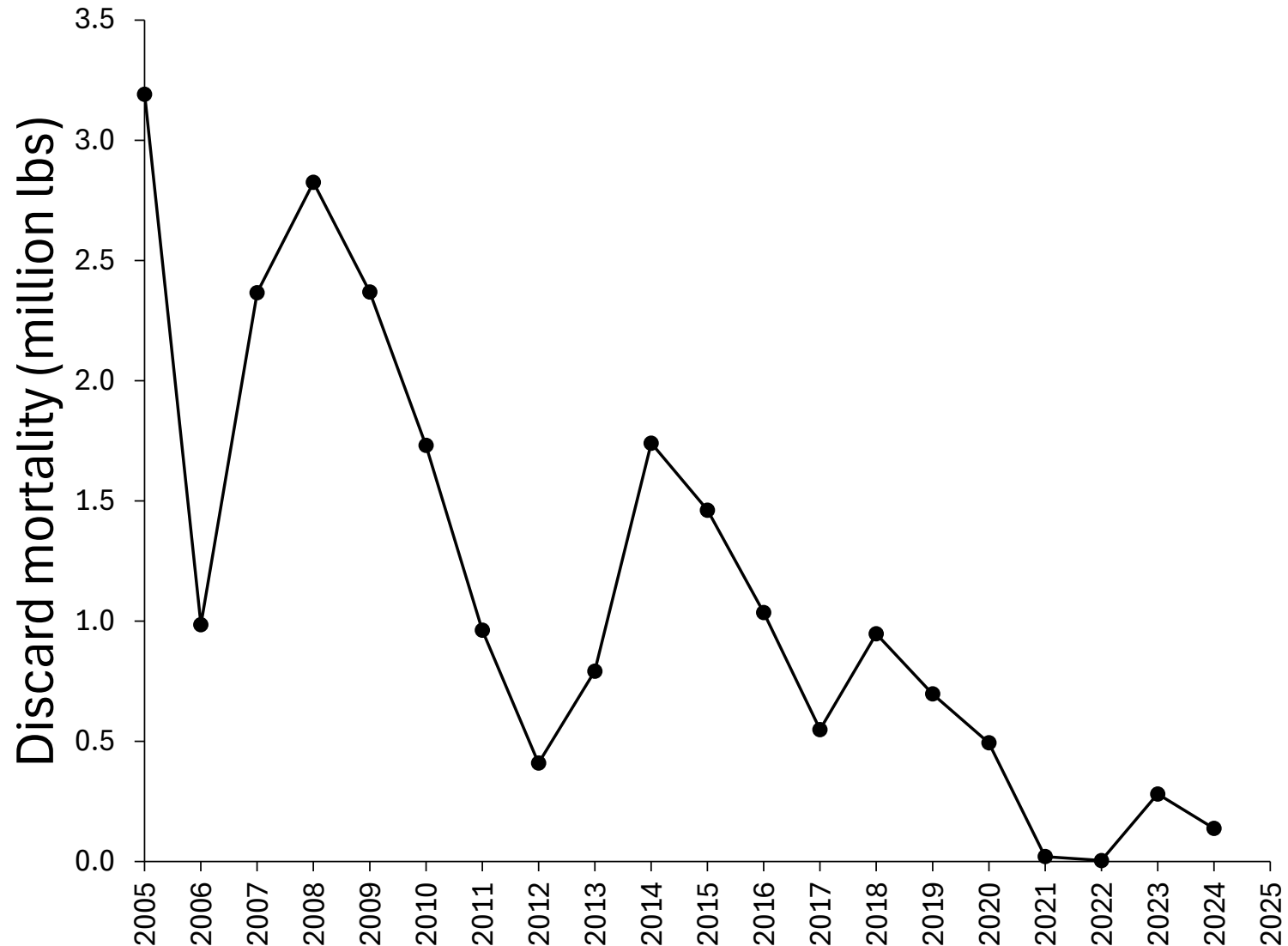
Weighted catch centers



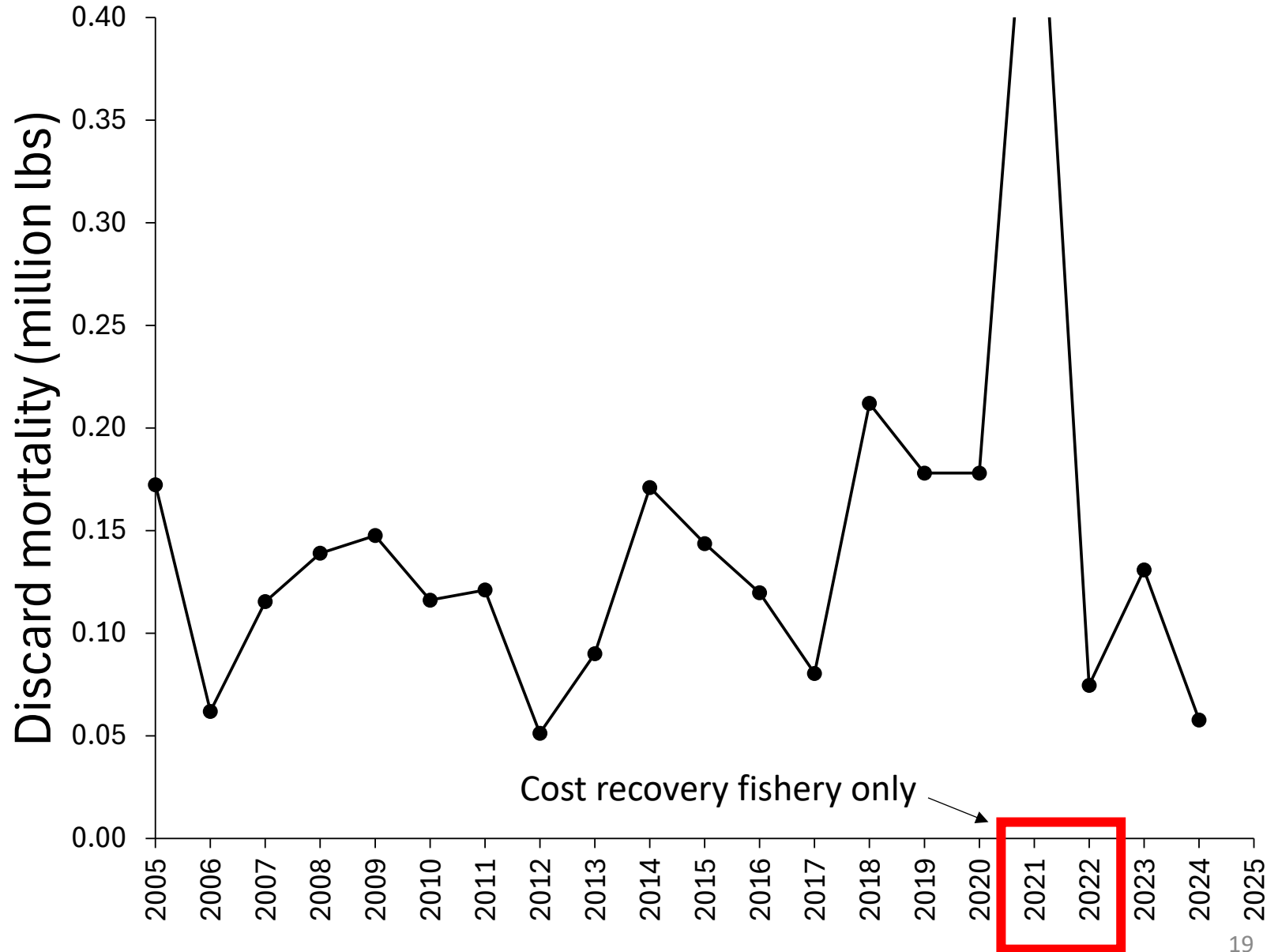
2024/25 BBRKC



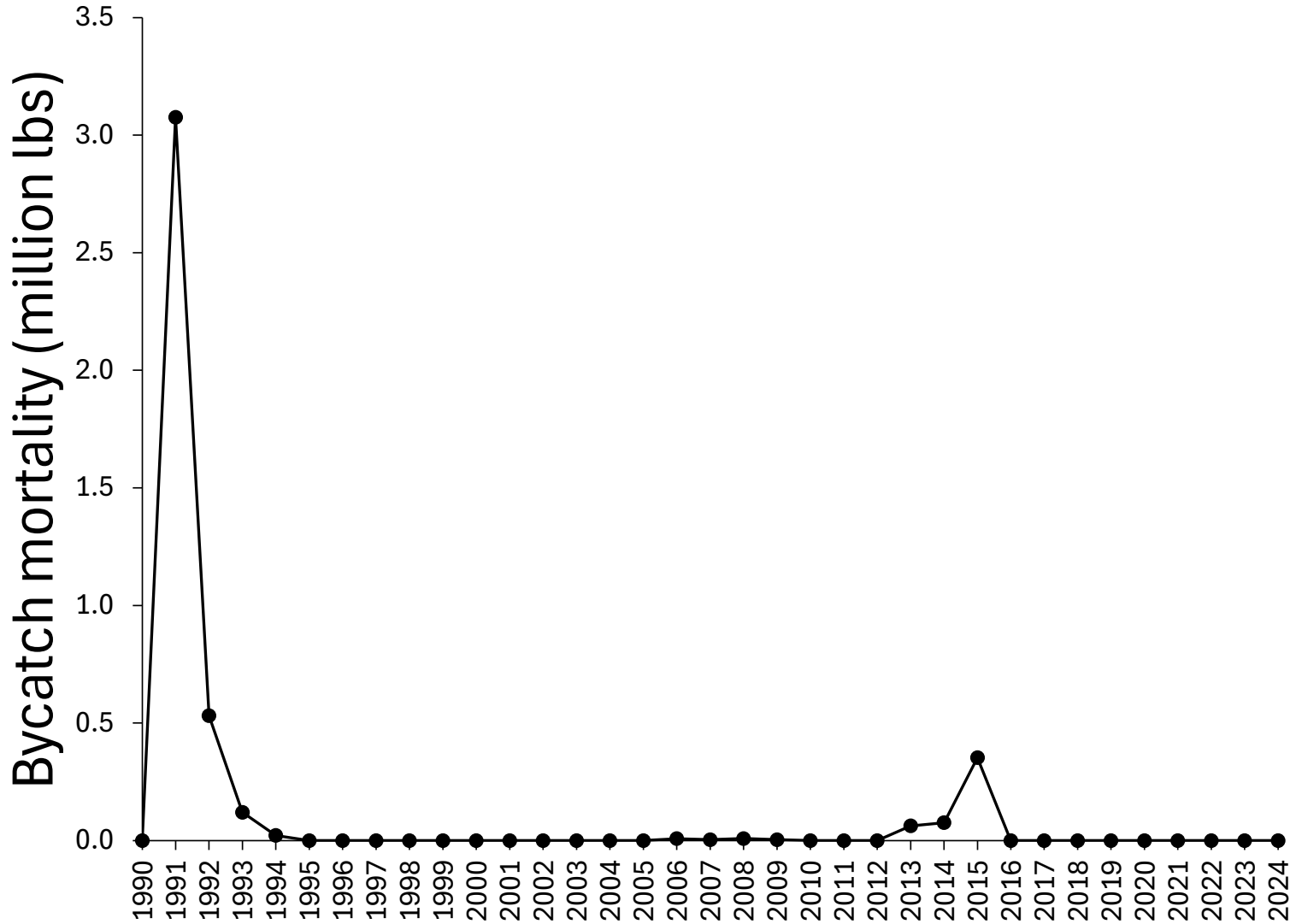
Discard mortality in directed fishery



Discard mortality in directed fishery



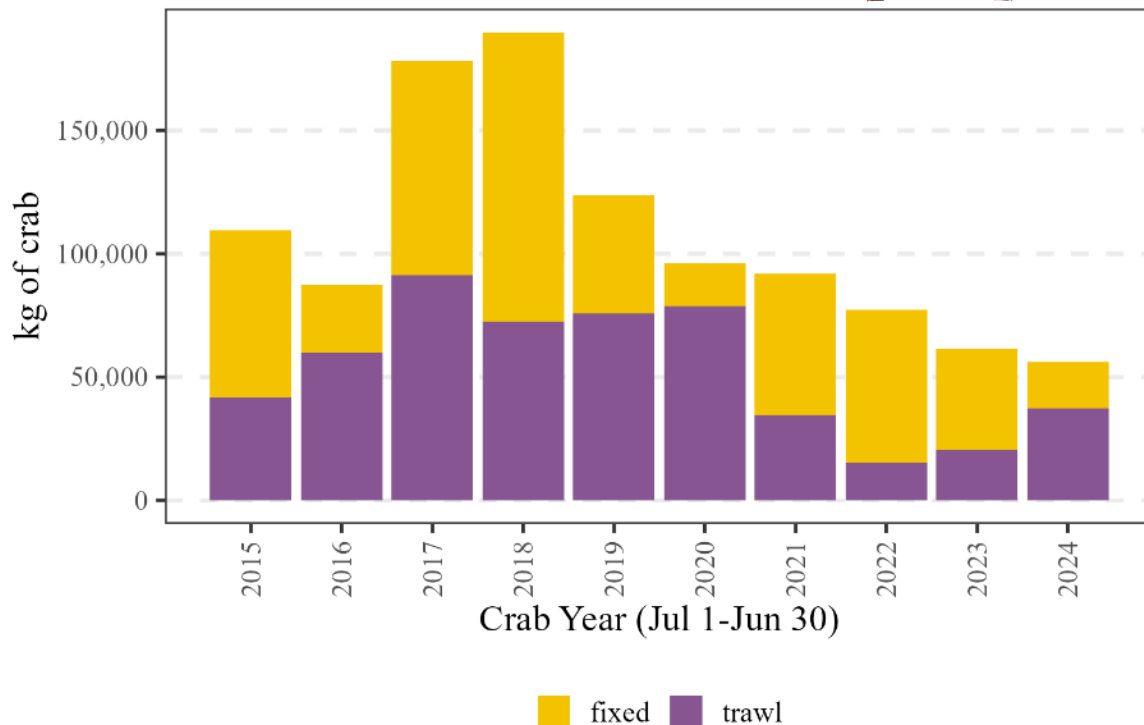
BBRKC bycatch in Tanner fishery



- Most fixed gear bycatch is in the Pacific cod pot fishery with increases in bycatch occurring in recent years
- 2020/21 lower RKC rates in fixed gear likely due to:
 - Lower observer coverage due to COVID-19
 - Lower P. cod TACs

Bristol Bay RKC

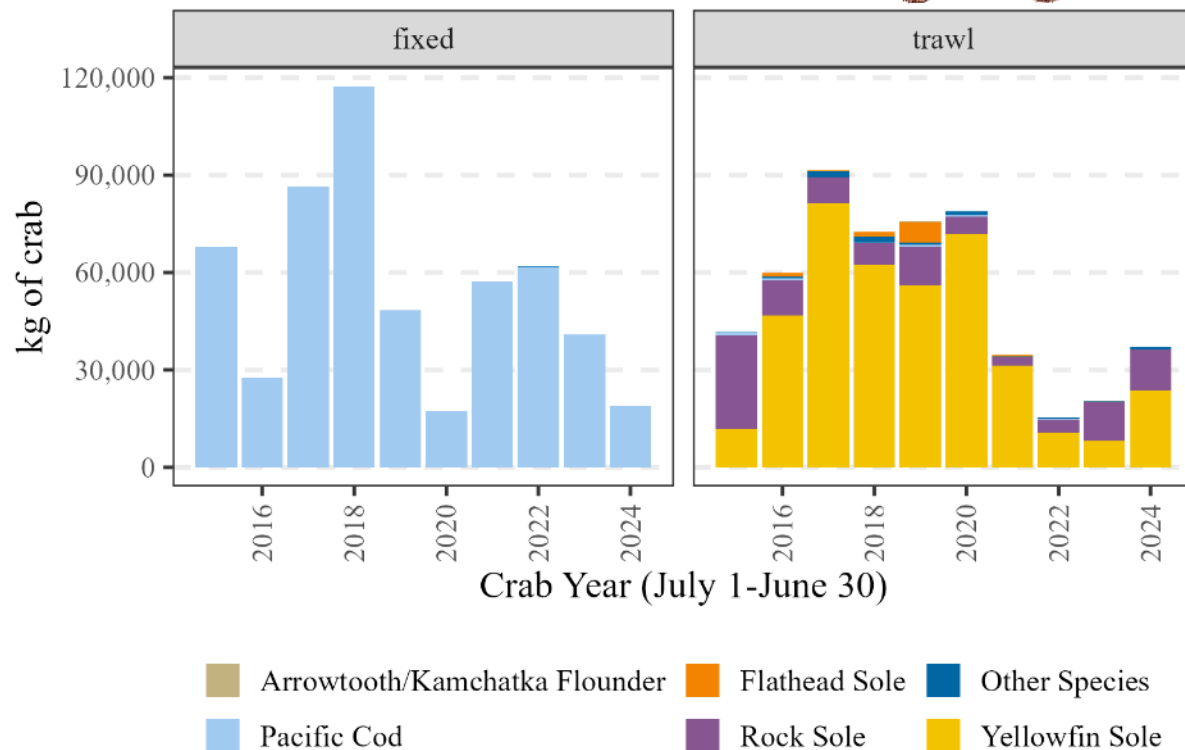
Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



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- Rock and yellowfin sole are often targeted during the same fishing trip.
- RKC savings subarea closed to nonpelagic trawl in the 2022 and 2023 calendar years.
- Bycatch of BBRKC in trawl gear typically occurs throughout the year.

Bristol Bay RKC Incidental Catch by Trip Target

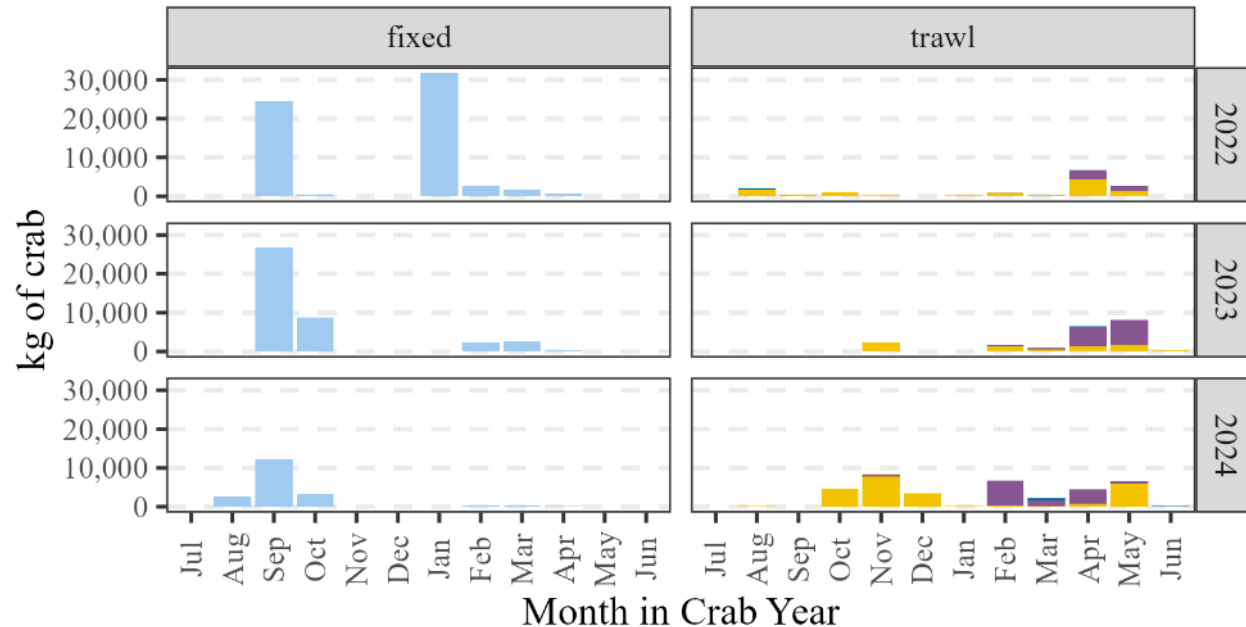


*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish & sablefish

- In most years more RKC bycatch in the P. cod pot fisheries occur in the fall.
- Minimal P.cod pot fishing occurred in Jan/Feb 2024 due to poor markets which resulted in minimal RKC bycatch.
- Increase in rock sole target due to changing market conditions

Bristol Bay RKC

Incidental Catch by Month and Trip Target

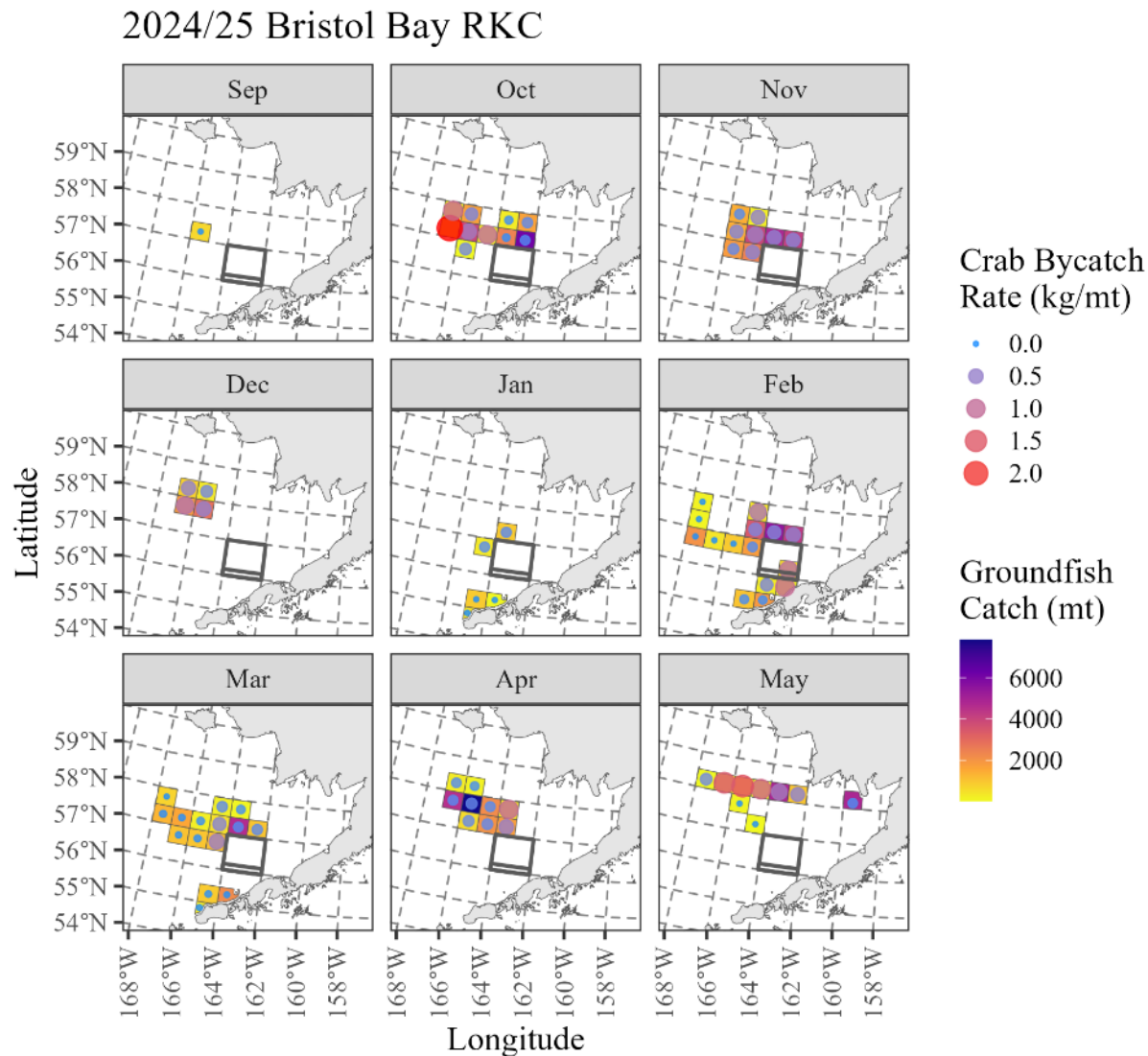


Arrowtooth/Kamchatka Flounder
 Flathead Sole
 Other Species
 Pacific Cod
 Rock Sole
 Yellowfin Sole

*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish & sablefish

2024/25 Average Rate (kg crab/mt of Groundfish) in the Flathead, Rock, and Yellowfin Soles NPT Fisheries by ADF&G Statistical Area and Months

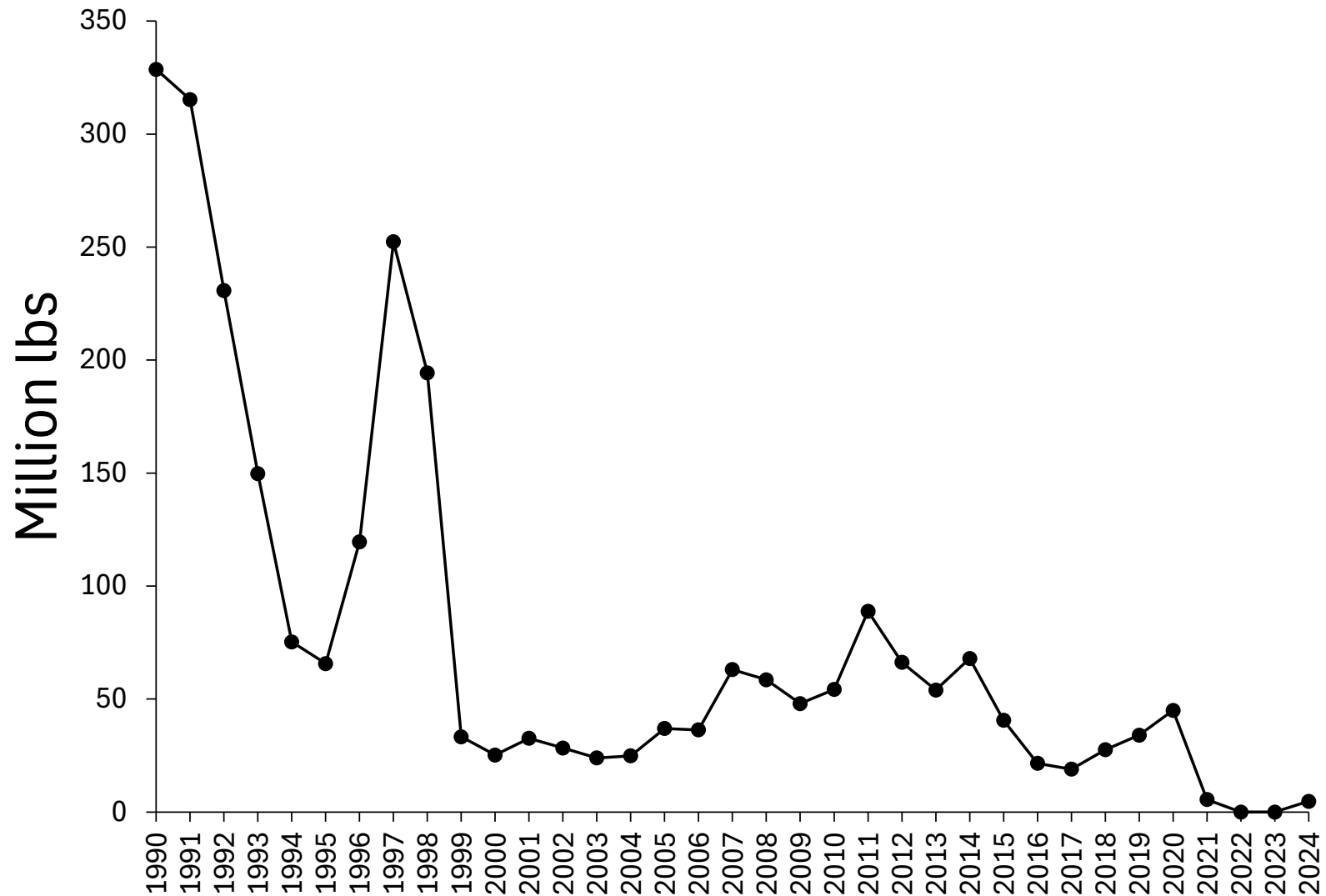
- Data mapped to statistical area and dots are center of boxes
- Confidential fishing areas excluded



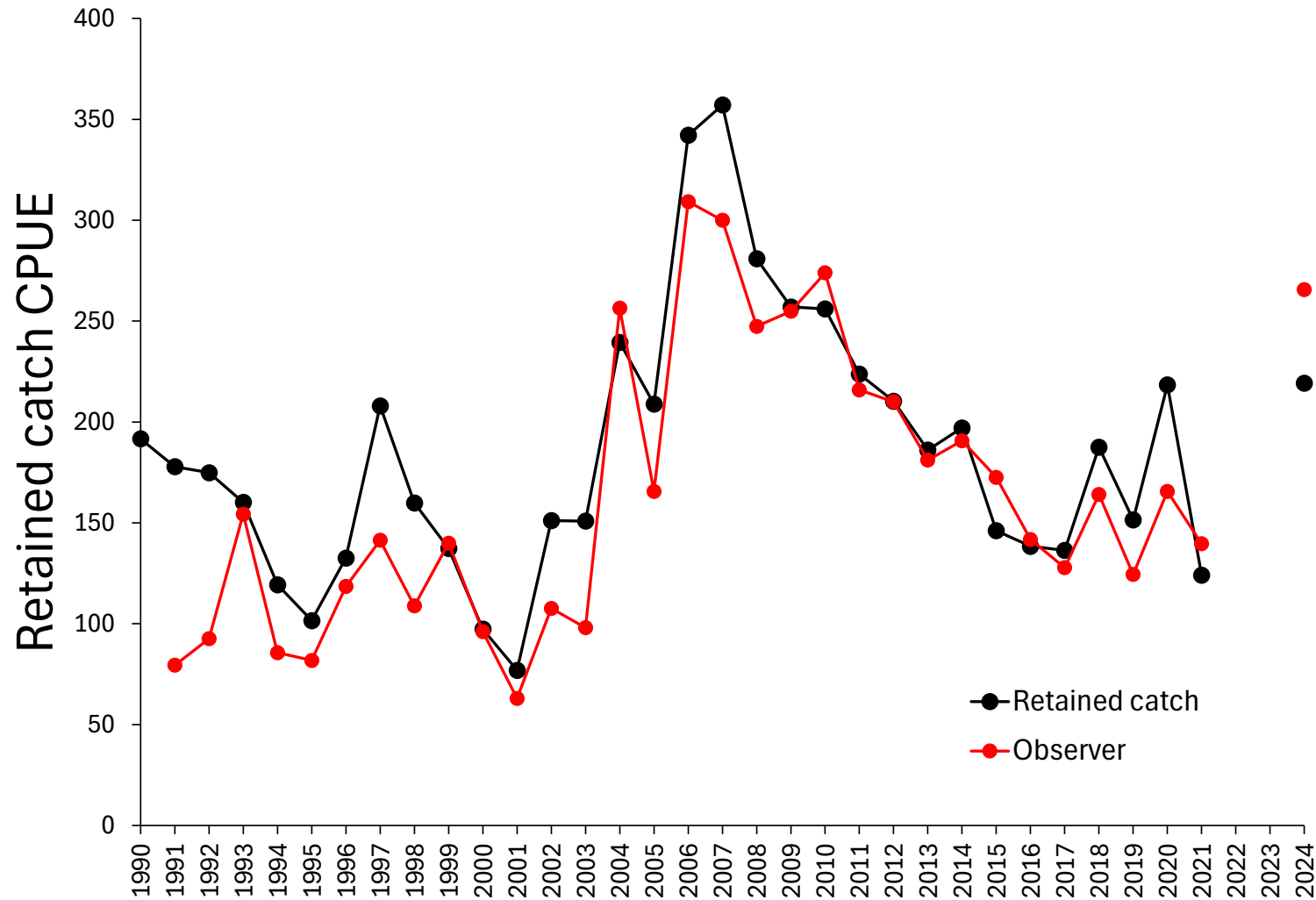
A close-up photograph of a large pile of snow crabs. The crabs are light brown and pinkish, with their long legs and claws visible. They are piled together, creating a dense texture. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Snow crab".

Snow crab

Retained catch

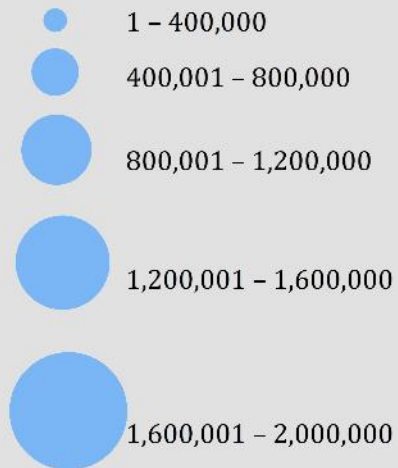


snow crab CPUE

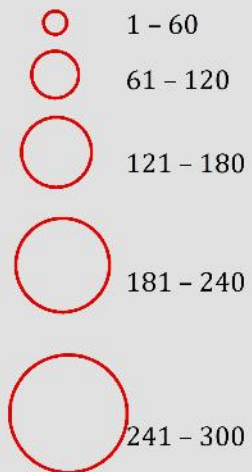


Bering Sea Snow Crab 2024/25 Directed Fishery

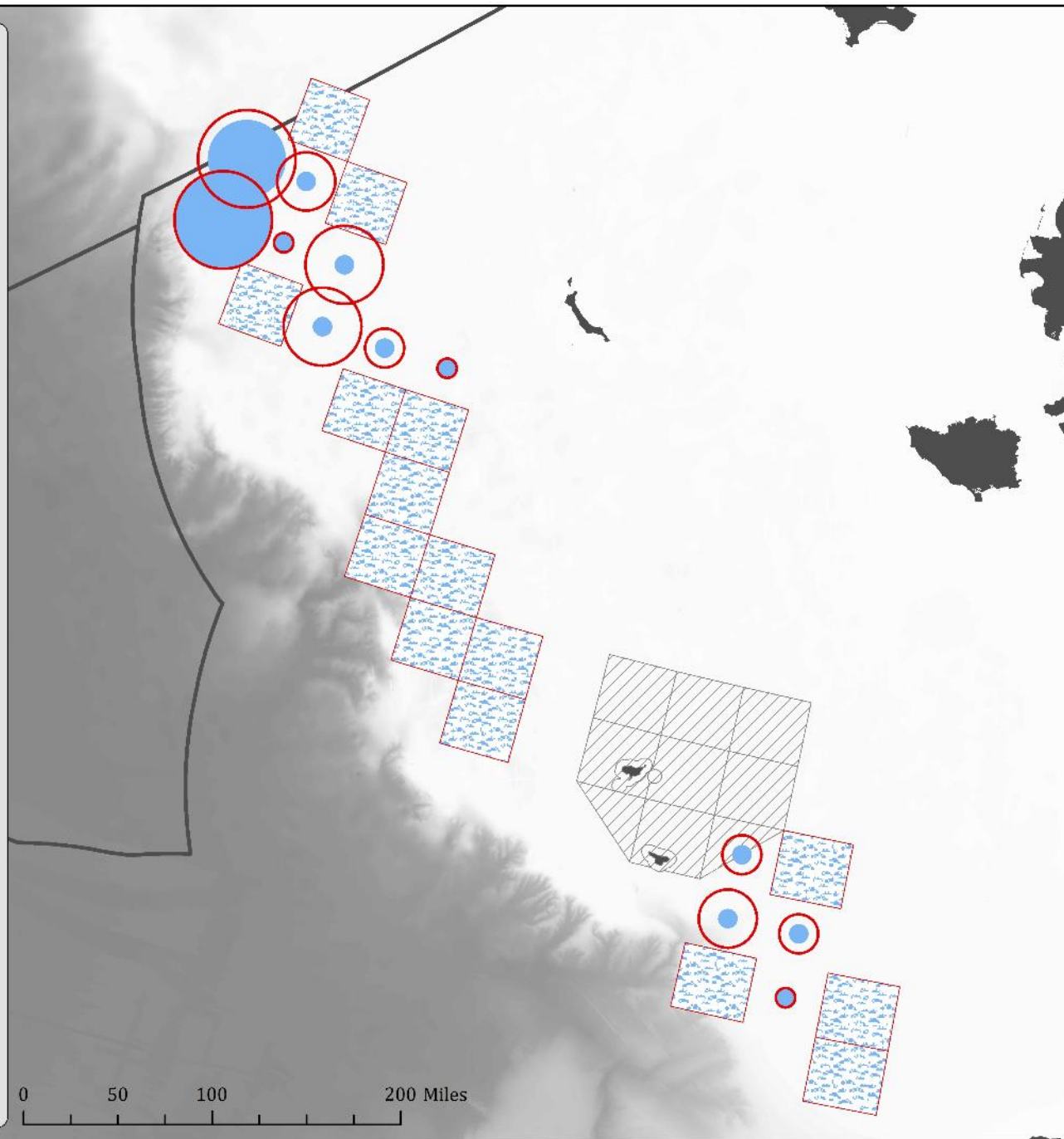
Harvest (pounds)



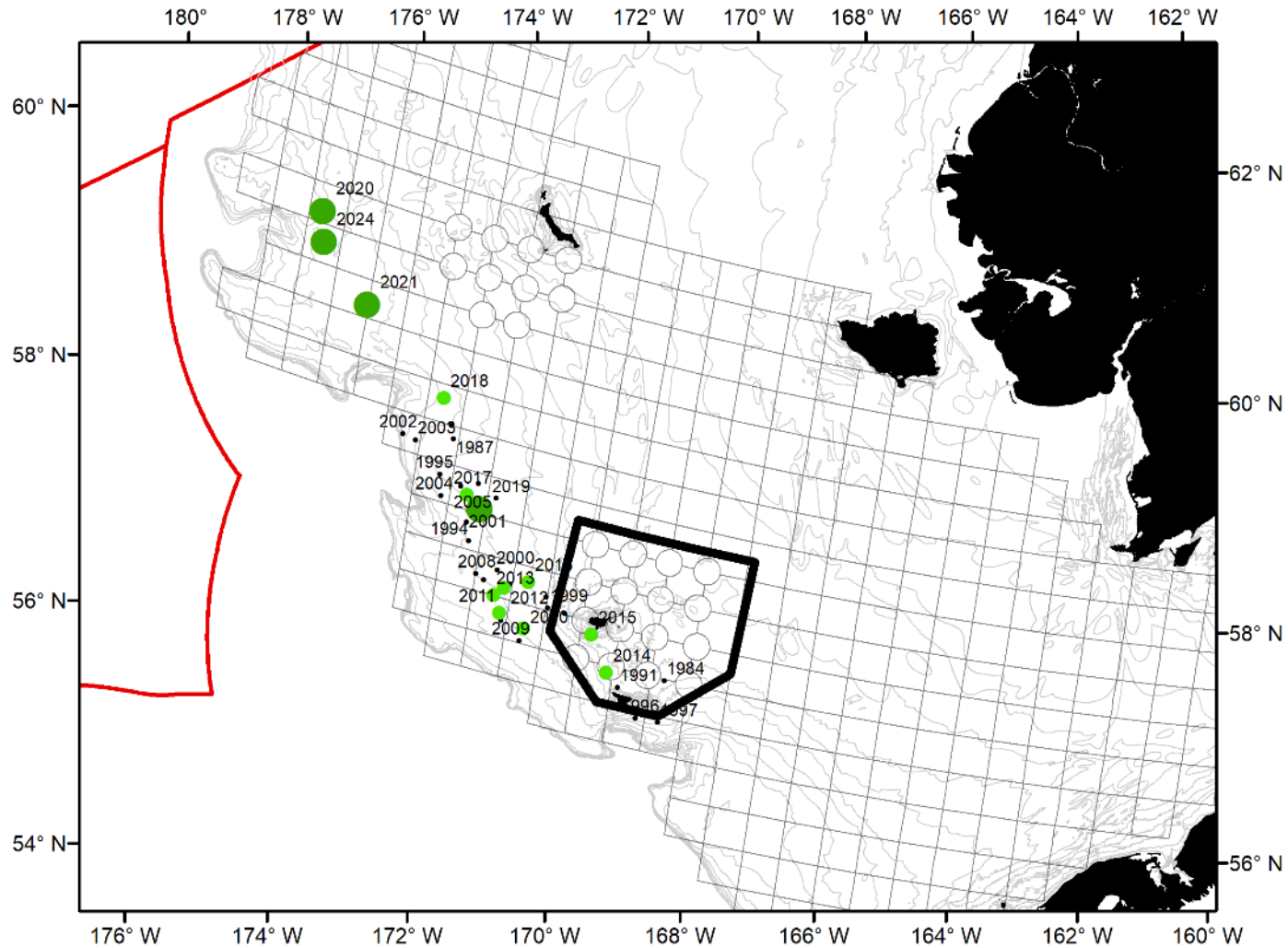
CPUE (4-inch male/pot)



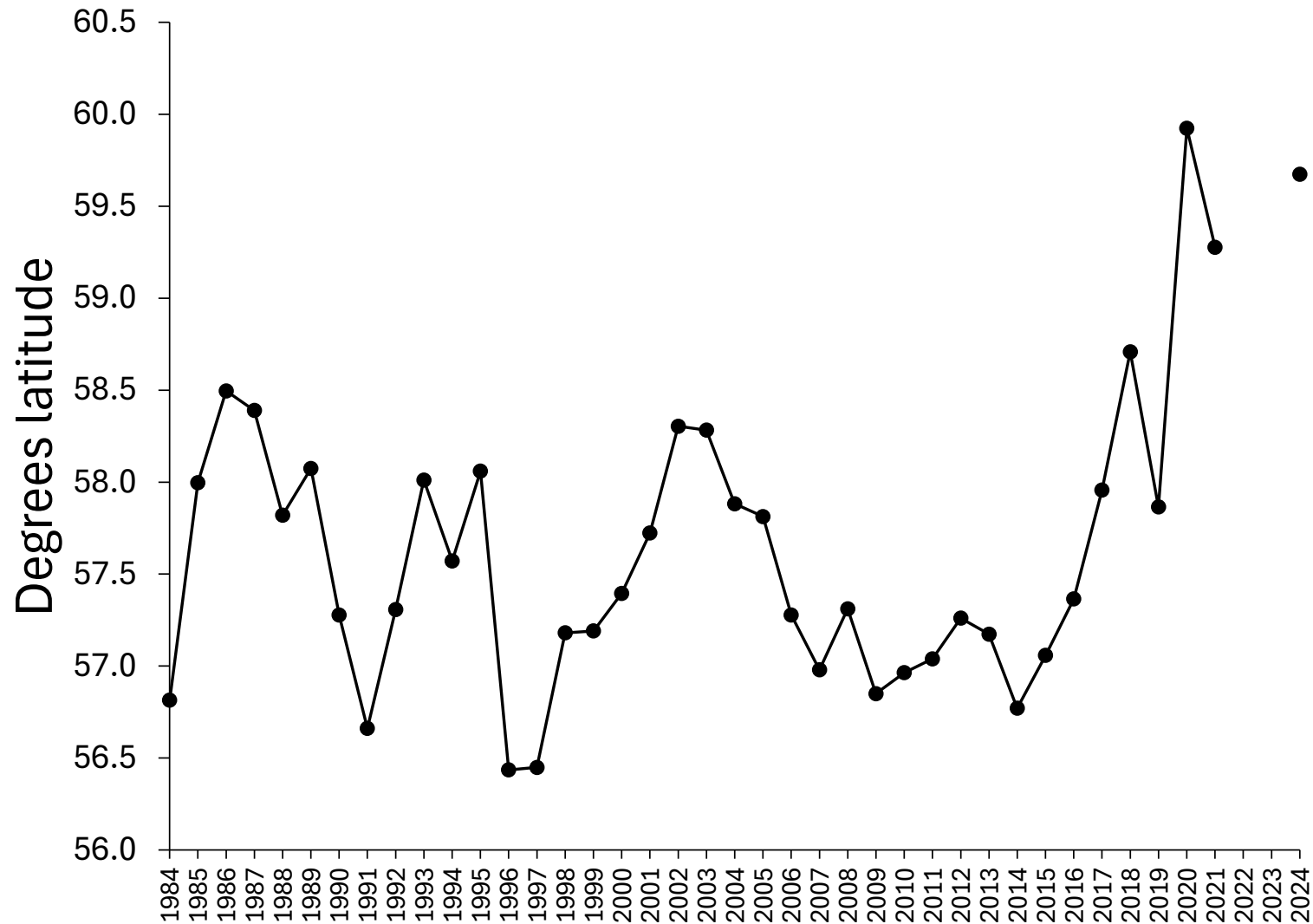
 Confidential Harvest and CPUE
 Pribilof Closure Area



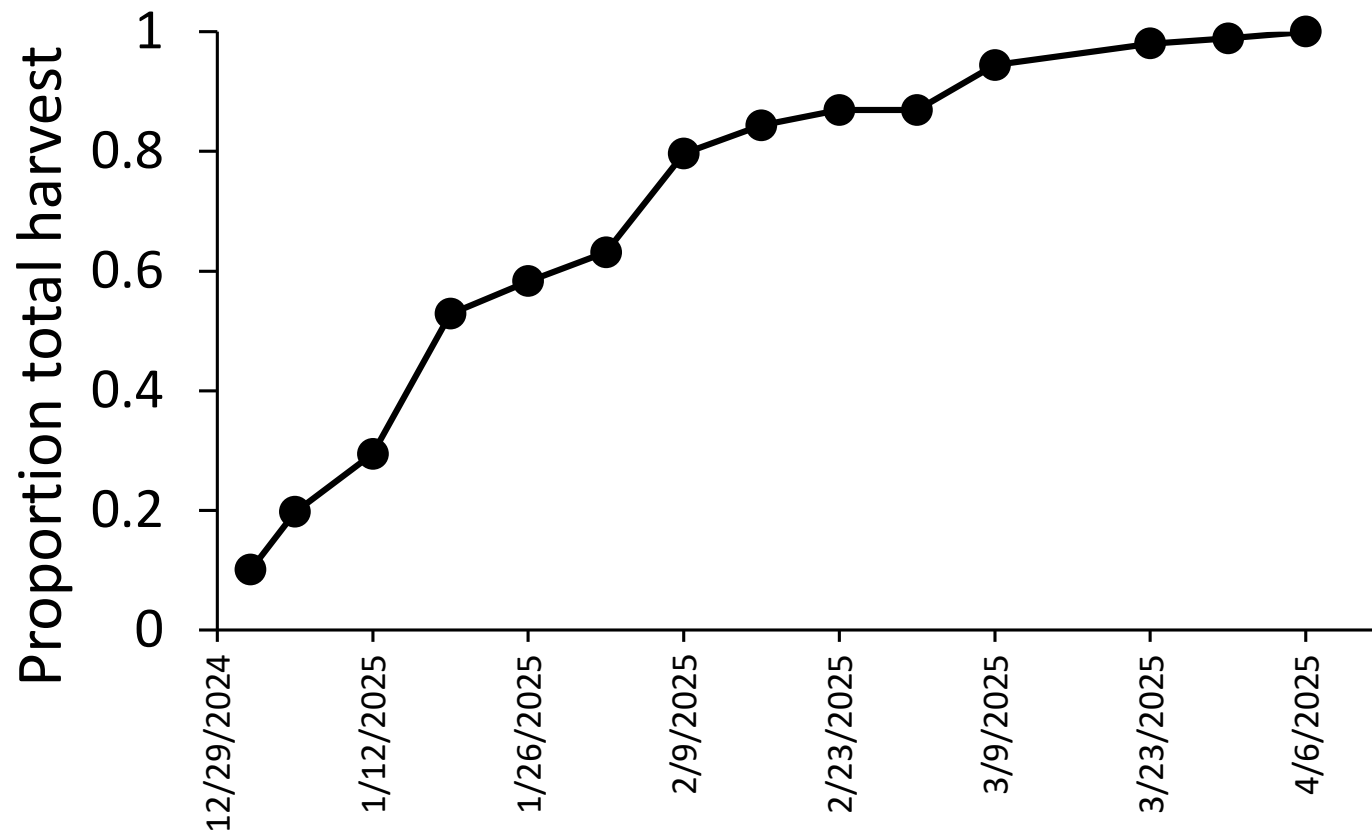
Weighted catch centers



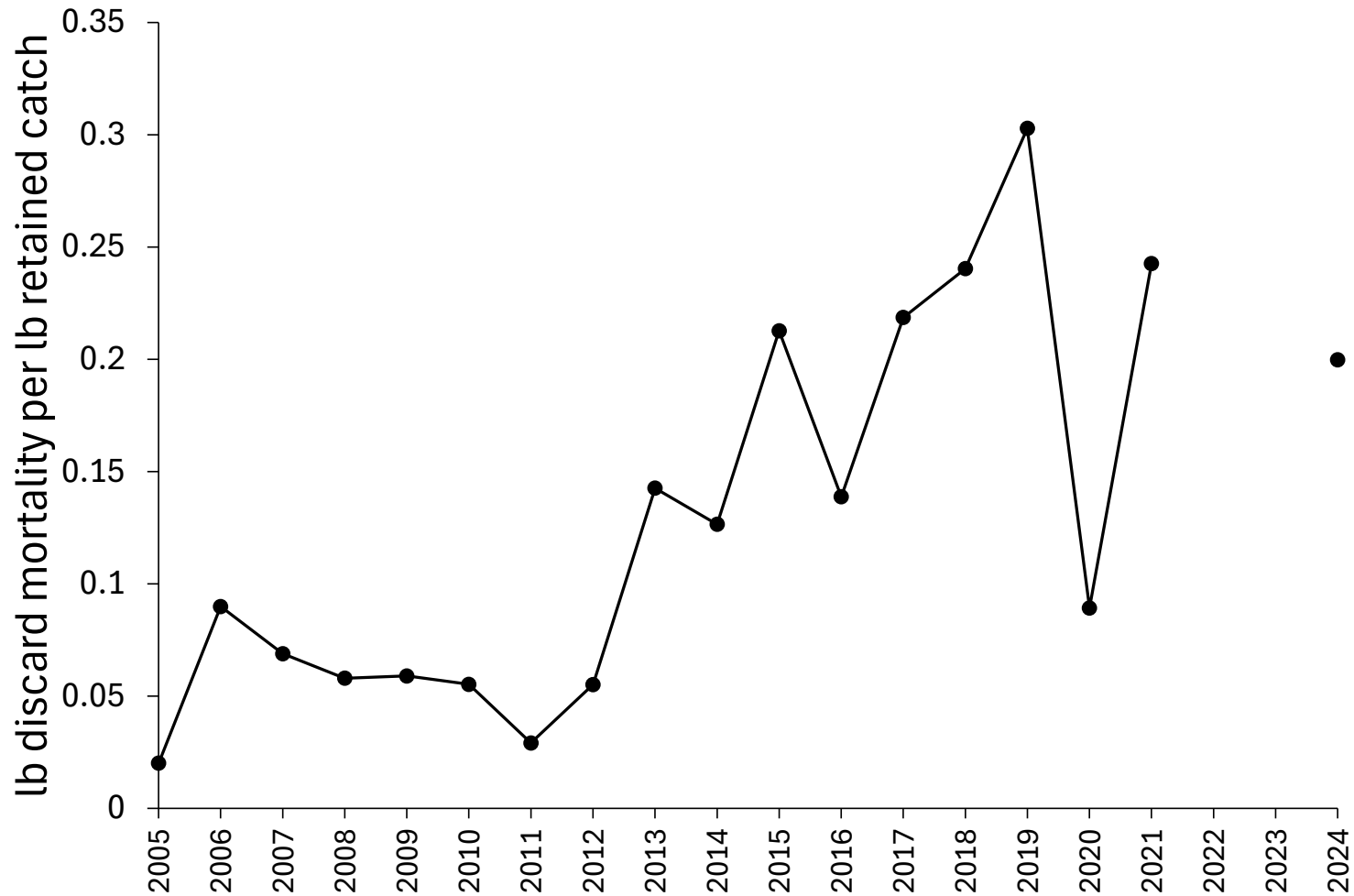
Weighted catch centers



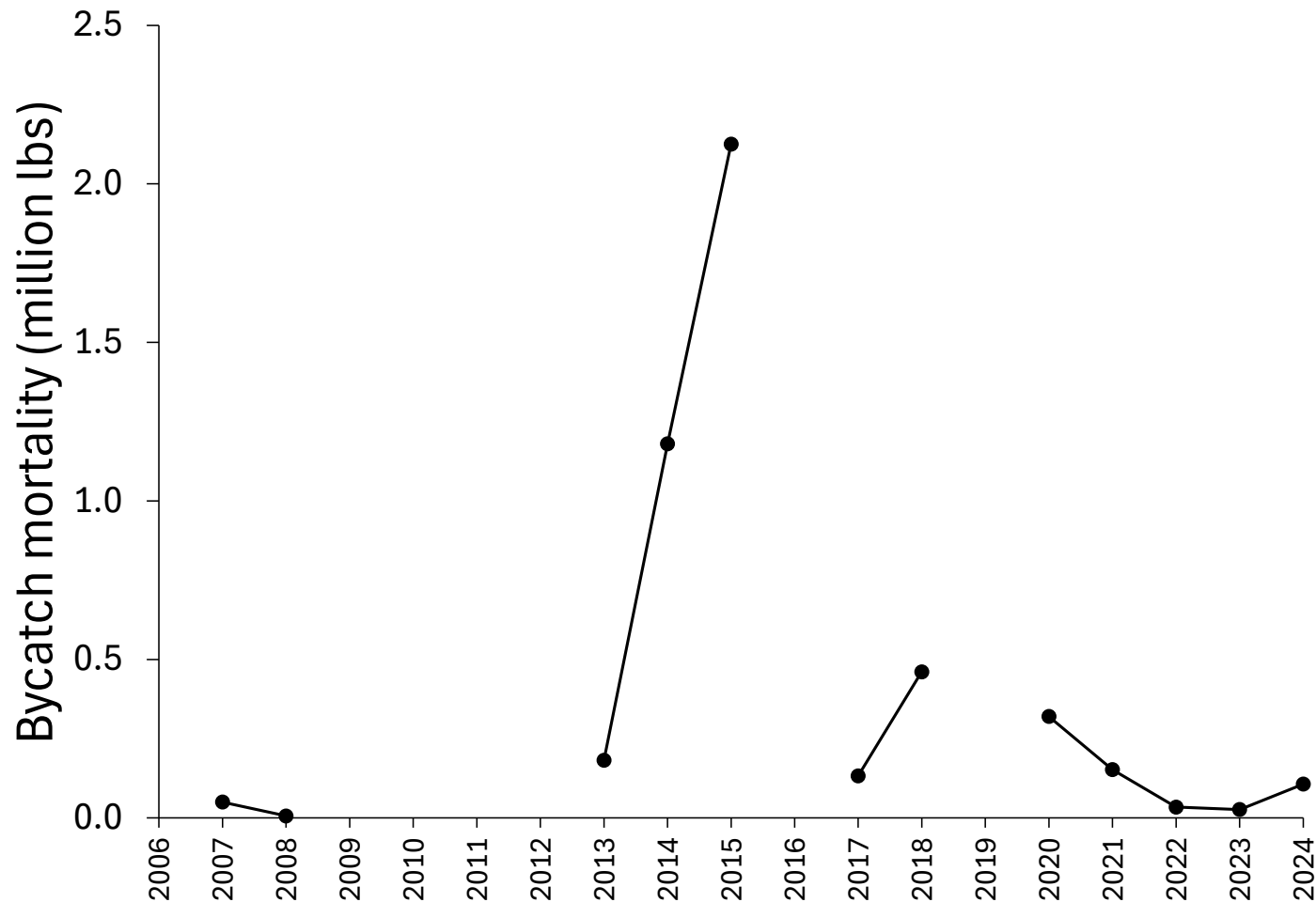
2024/25 snow crab



Discard mortality rate in directed fishery

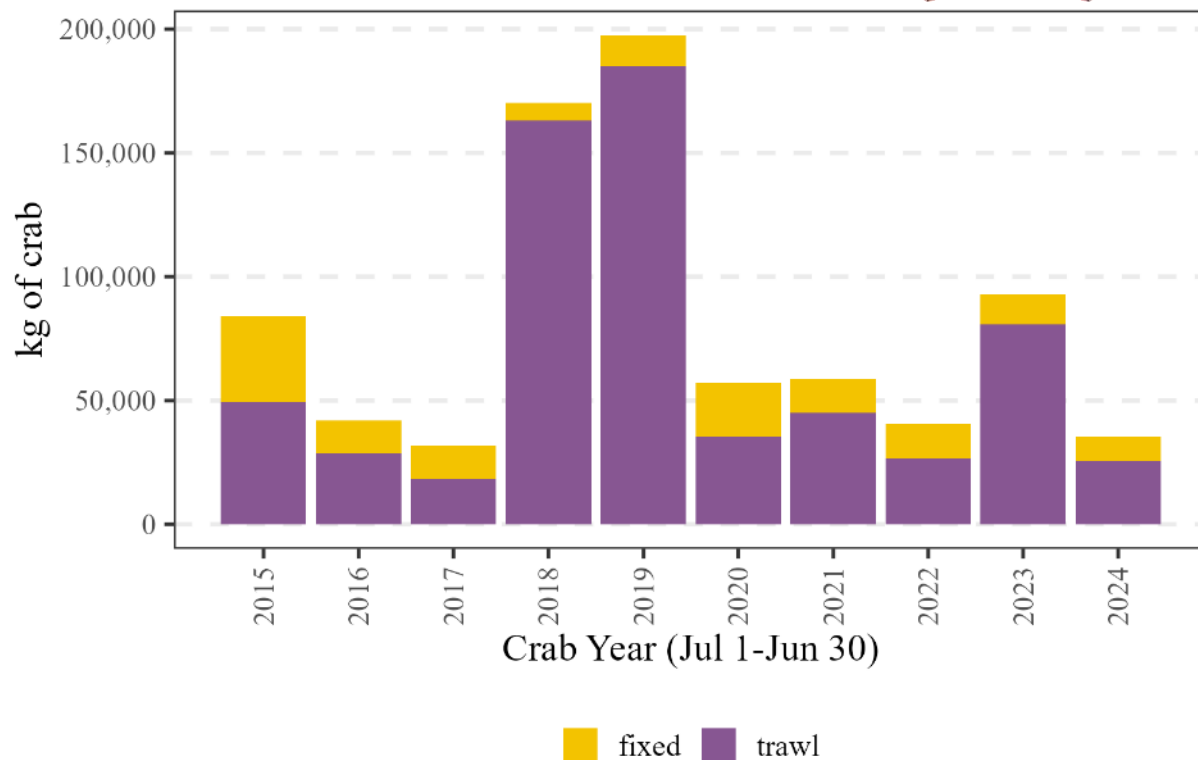


Snow crab bycatch mortality in Tanner W fishery

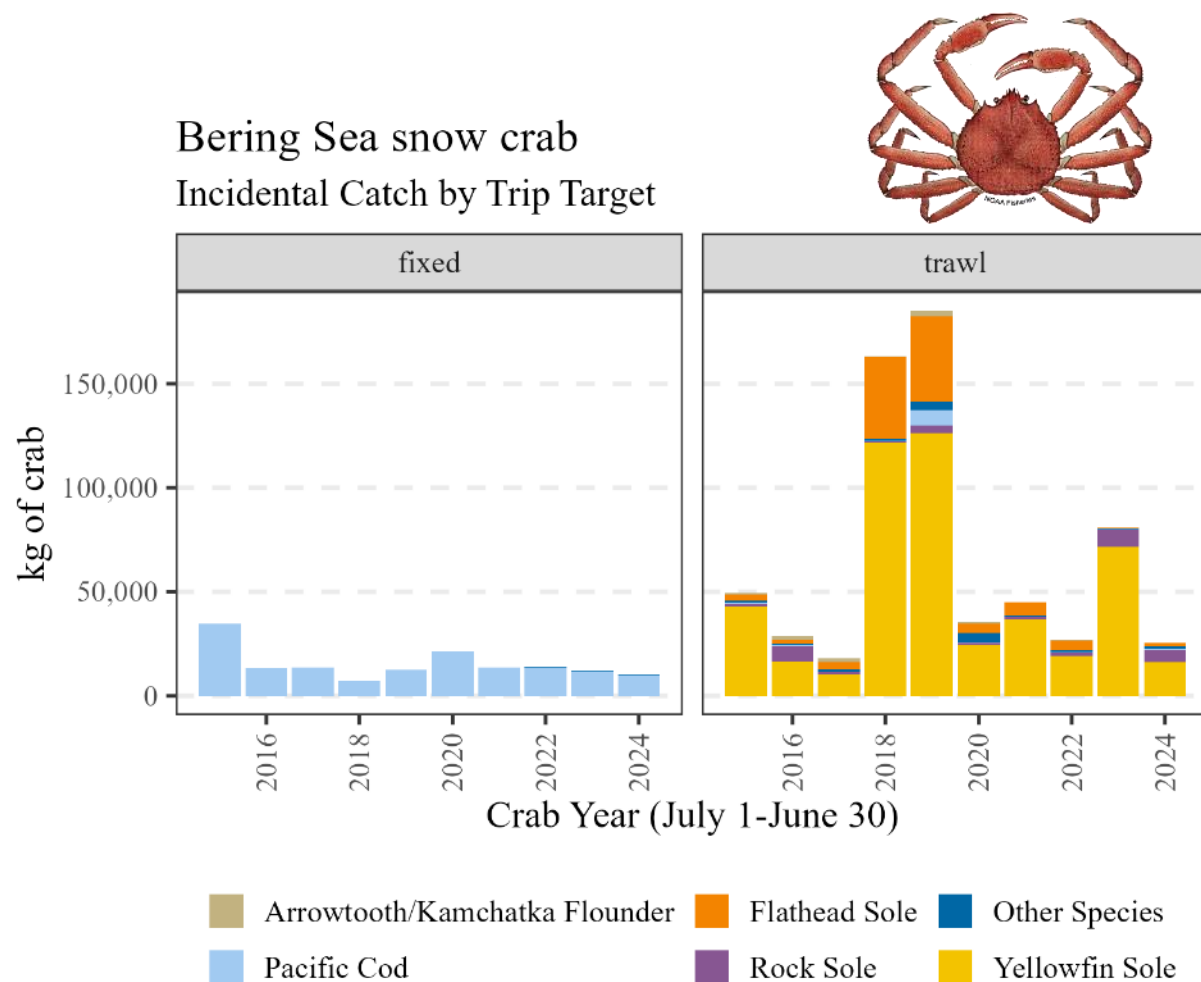


- Pot and hook-and-line Pacific cod fishing accounts for most BSS bycatch in the fixed gear category.
- Hook-and-line Pacific cod fishing is spread out throughout the stock area.
- Pot Pacific cod fishing is concentrated on the north side of Unimak Island to Port Moller.

Bering Sea snow crab
Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries

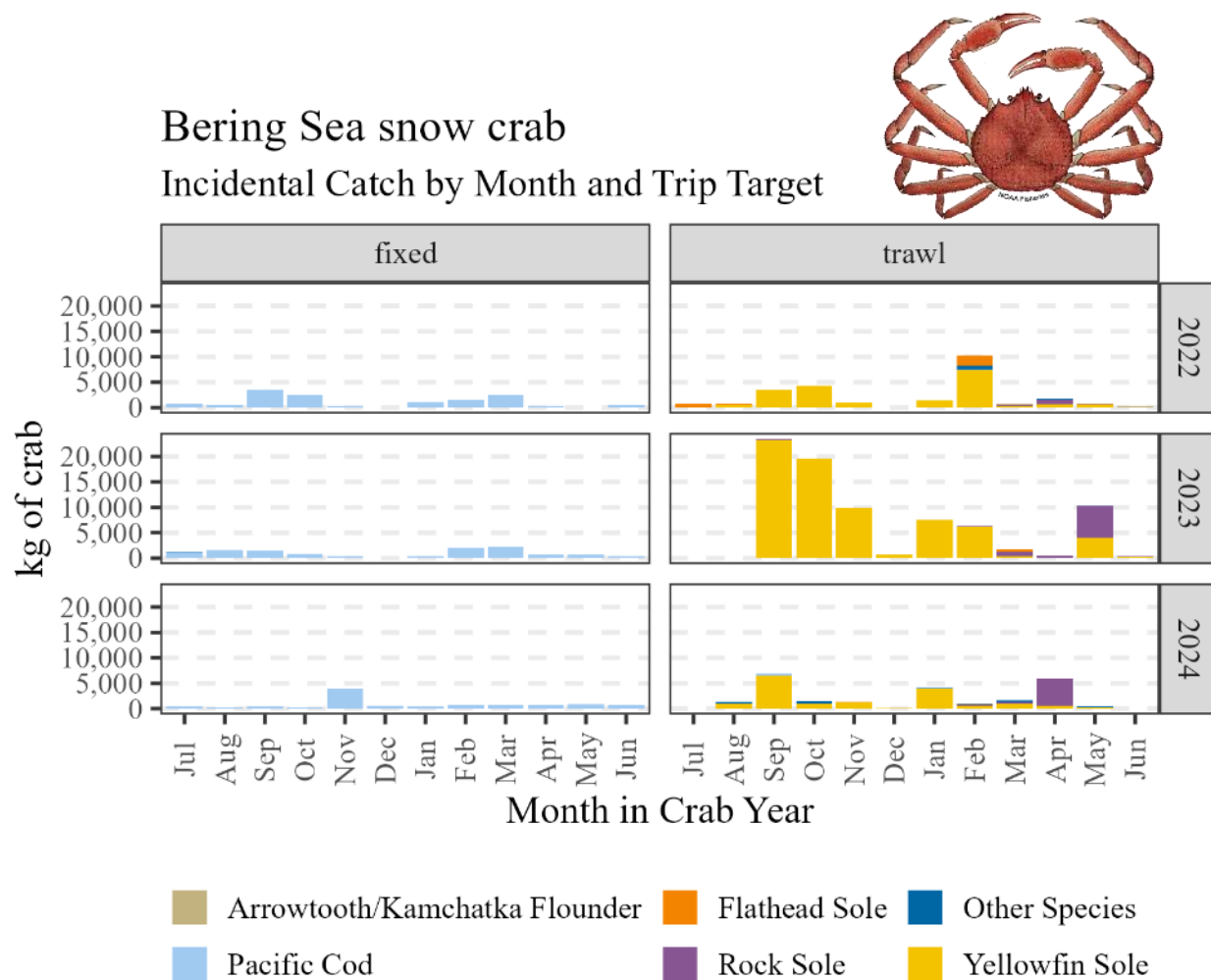


- 2018/19 and 2019/20 increased BSS bycatch in the yellowfin fishery was due mainly to increased yellowfin sole fishing in the area above the Pribilof Islands.



*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

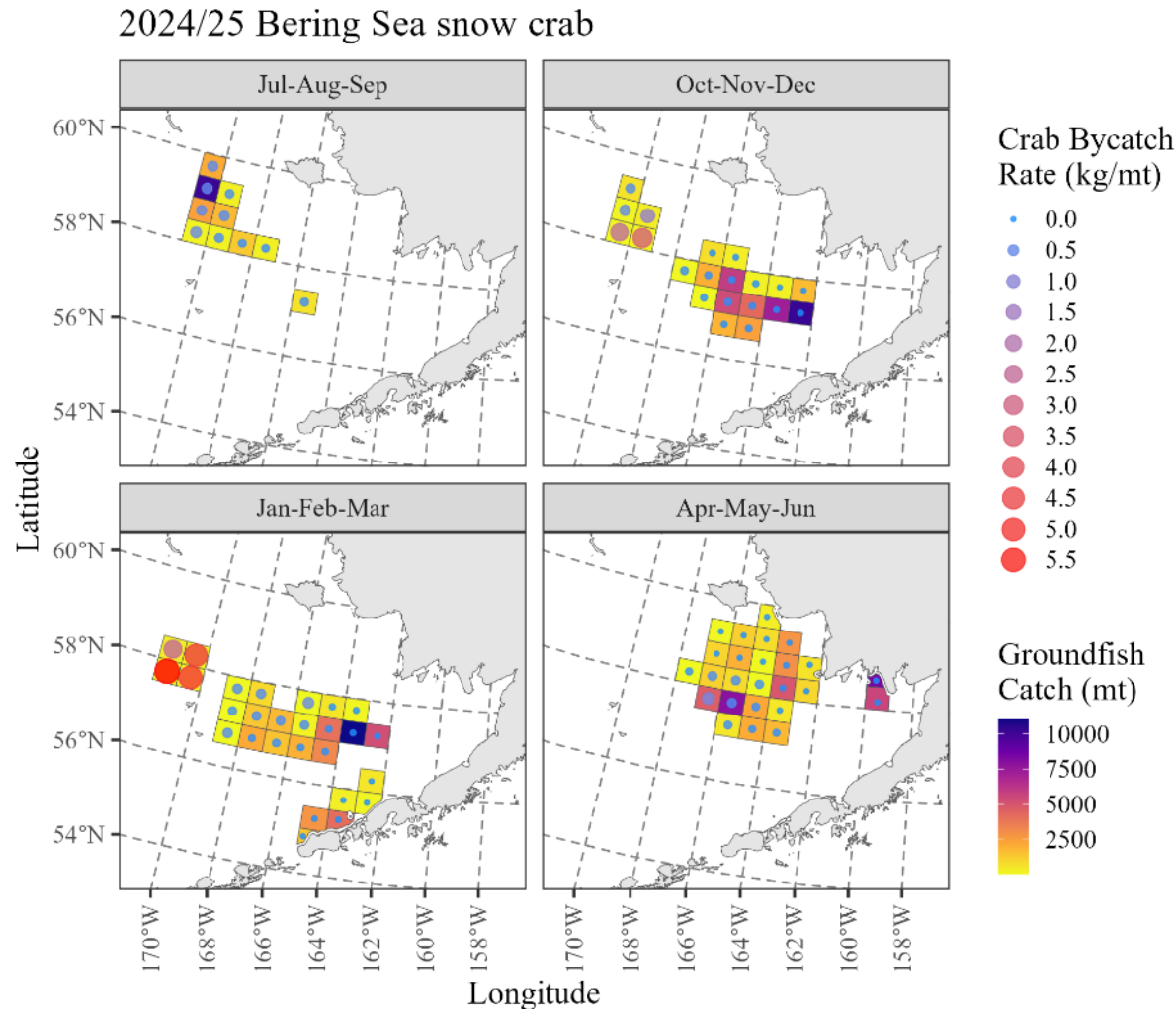
- Bycatch of BSS in trawl gear typically occurs throughout the crab year.
- Majority of yellowfin sole harvest occurred in Sept.-Nov.



*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

2024/25 Average Rate (kg crab/mt of Groundfish) in the Flathead, Rock, and Yellowfin Soles NPT Fisheries by ADF&G Statistical Area and Months

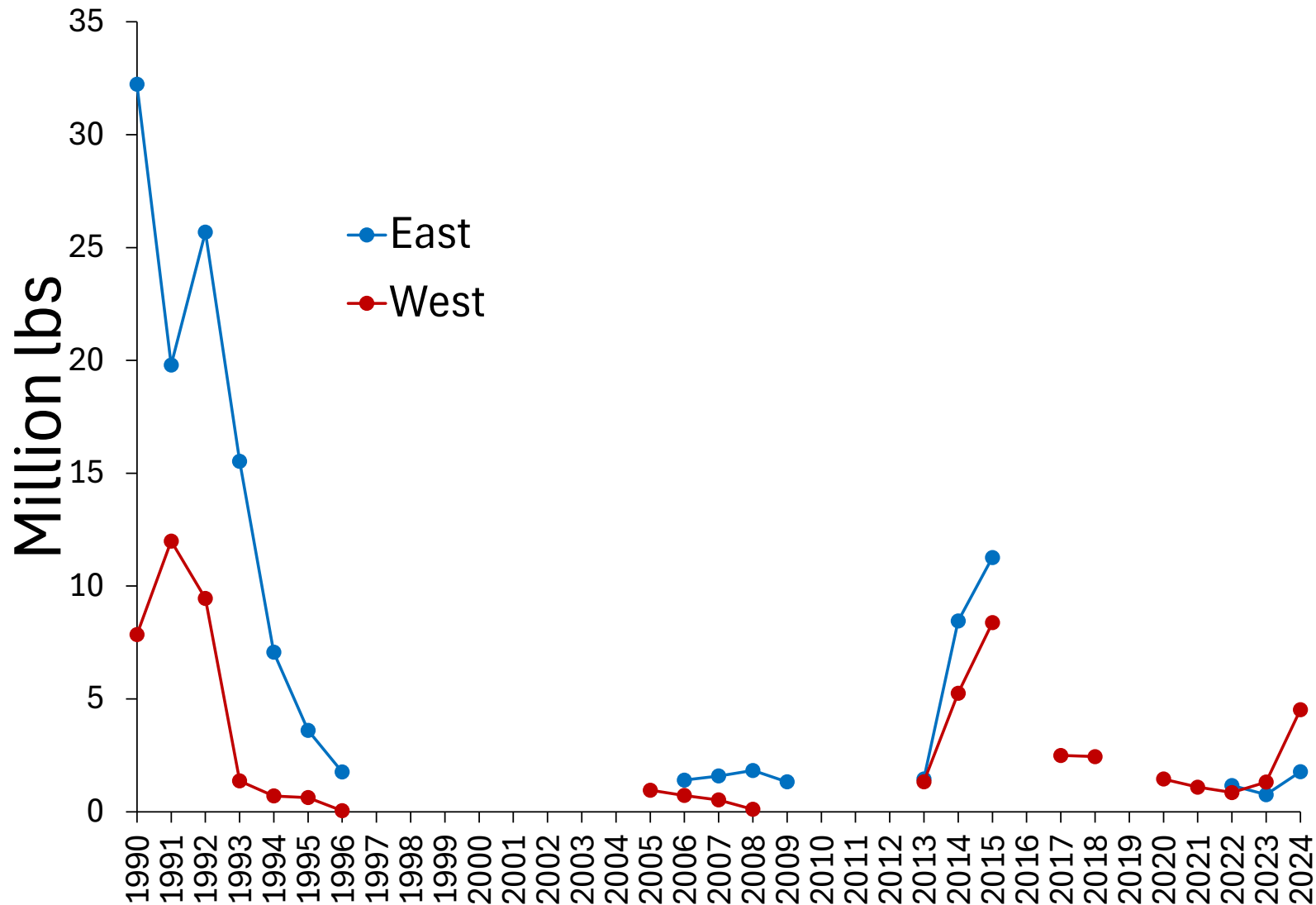
- Data mapped to statistical area and dots are center of boxes
- Confidential fishing areas excluded





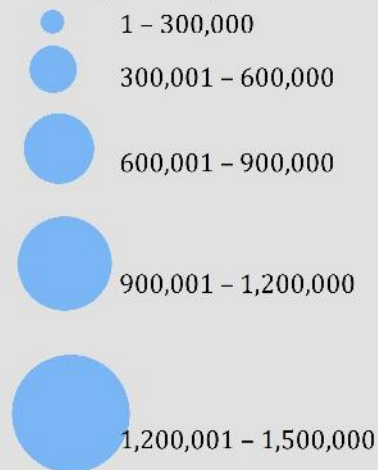
Tanner crab

Tanner crab retained catch

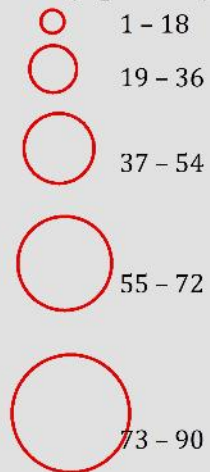


**Bering Sea Tanner Crab
2024/25 Directed Fisheries
East and West of 166° W. long.**

Harvest (pounds)



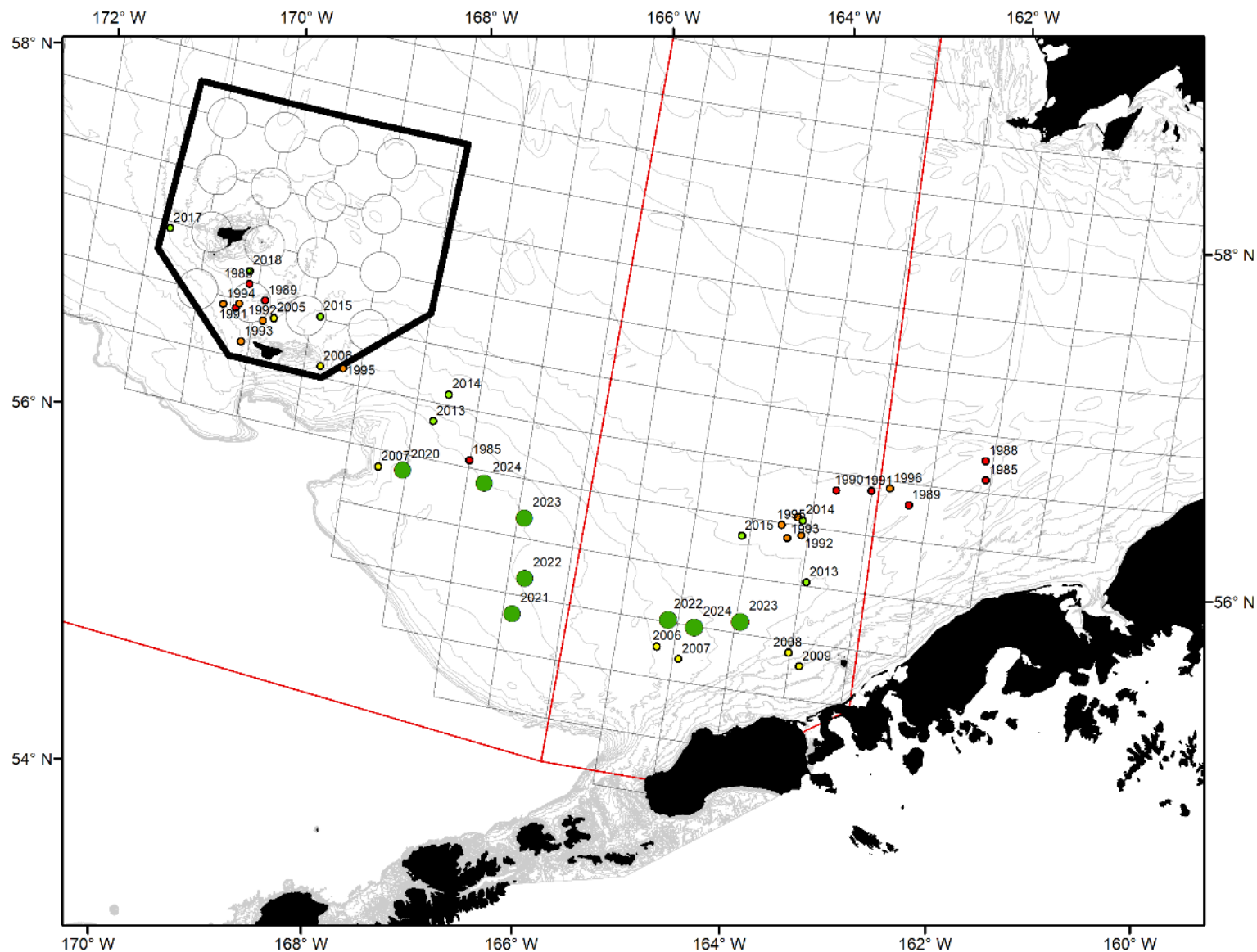
CPUE (legal male/pot)



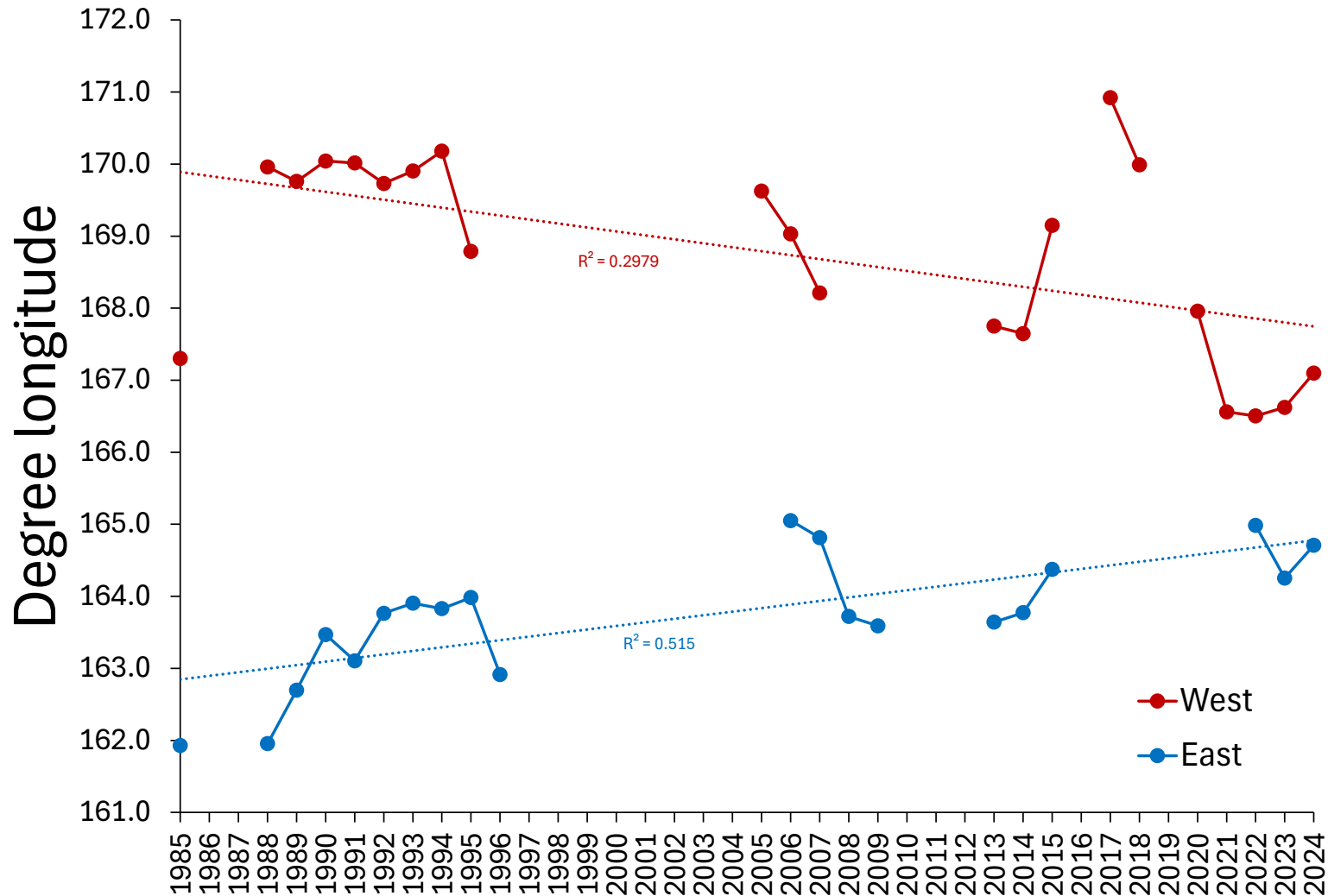
 Confidential Harvest and CPUE
 Pribilof Closure Area



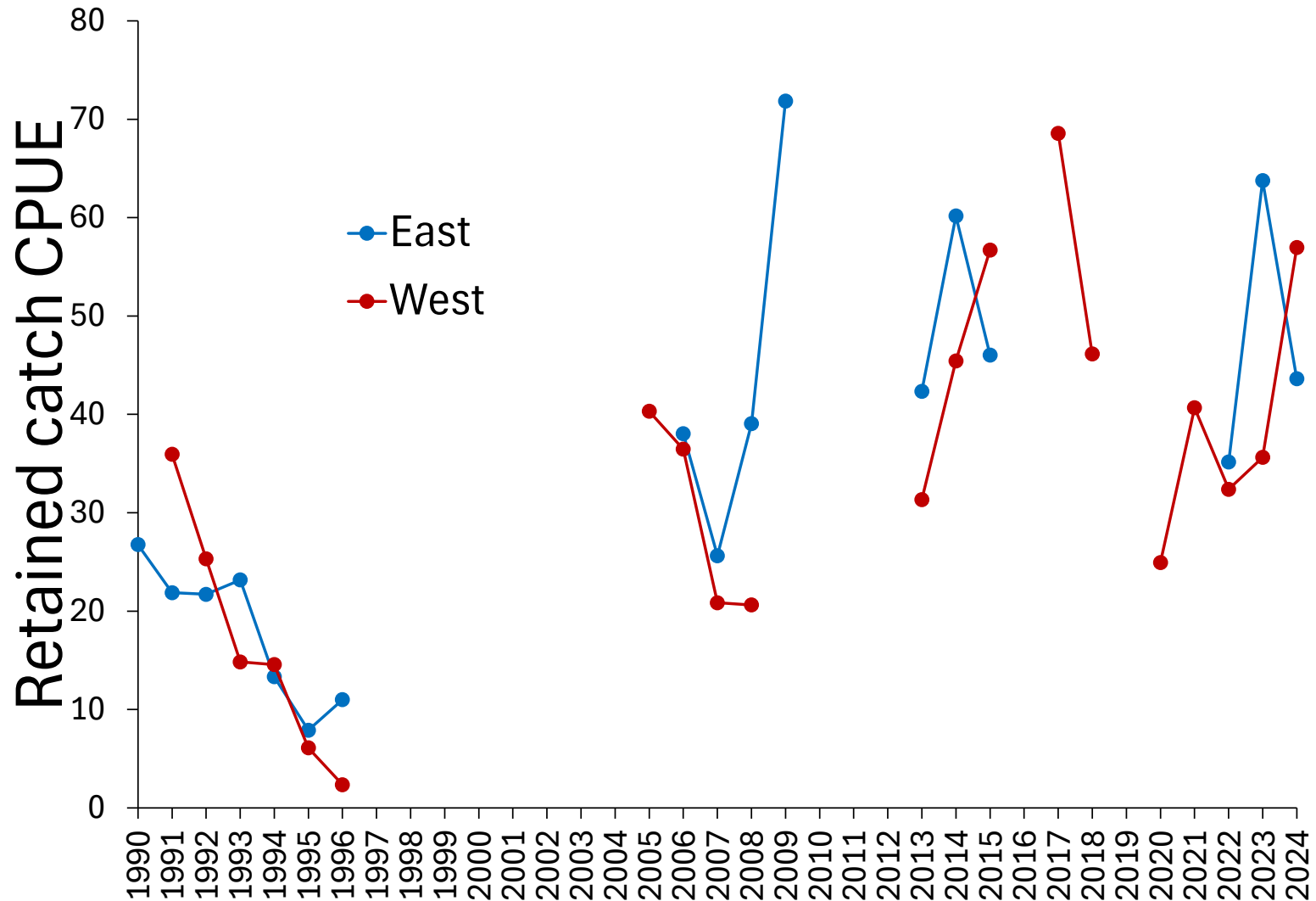
Weighted catch centers



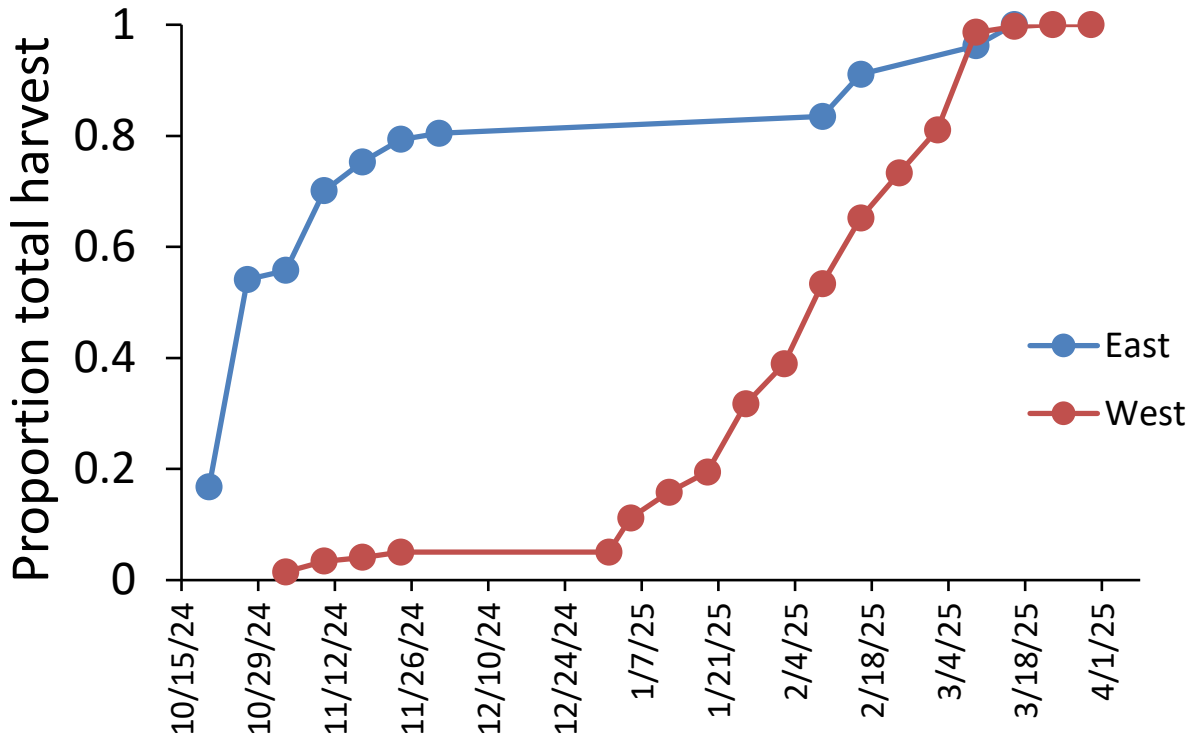
Weighted catch centers



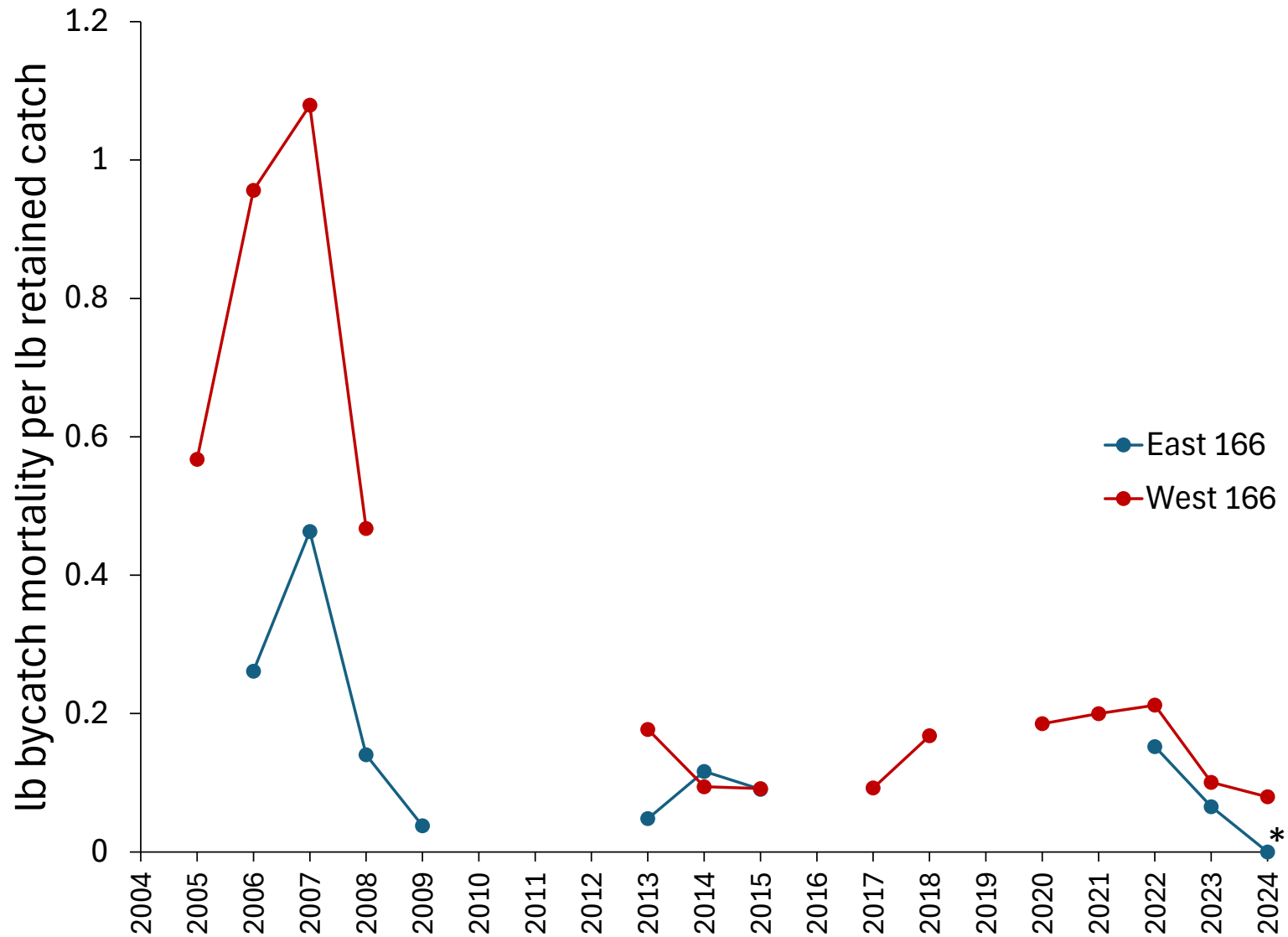
Tanner crab retained catch CPUE



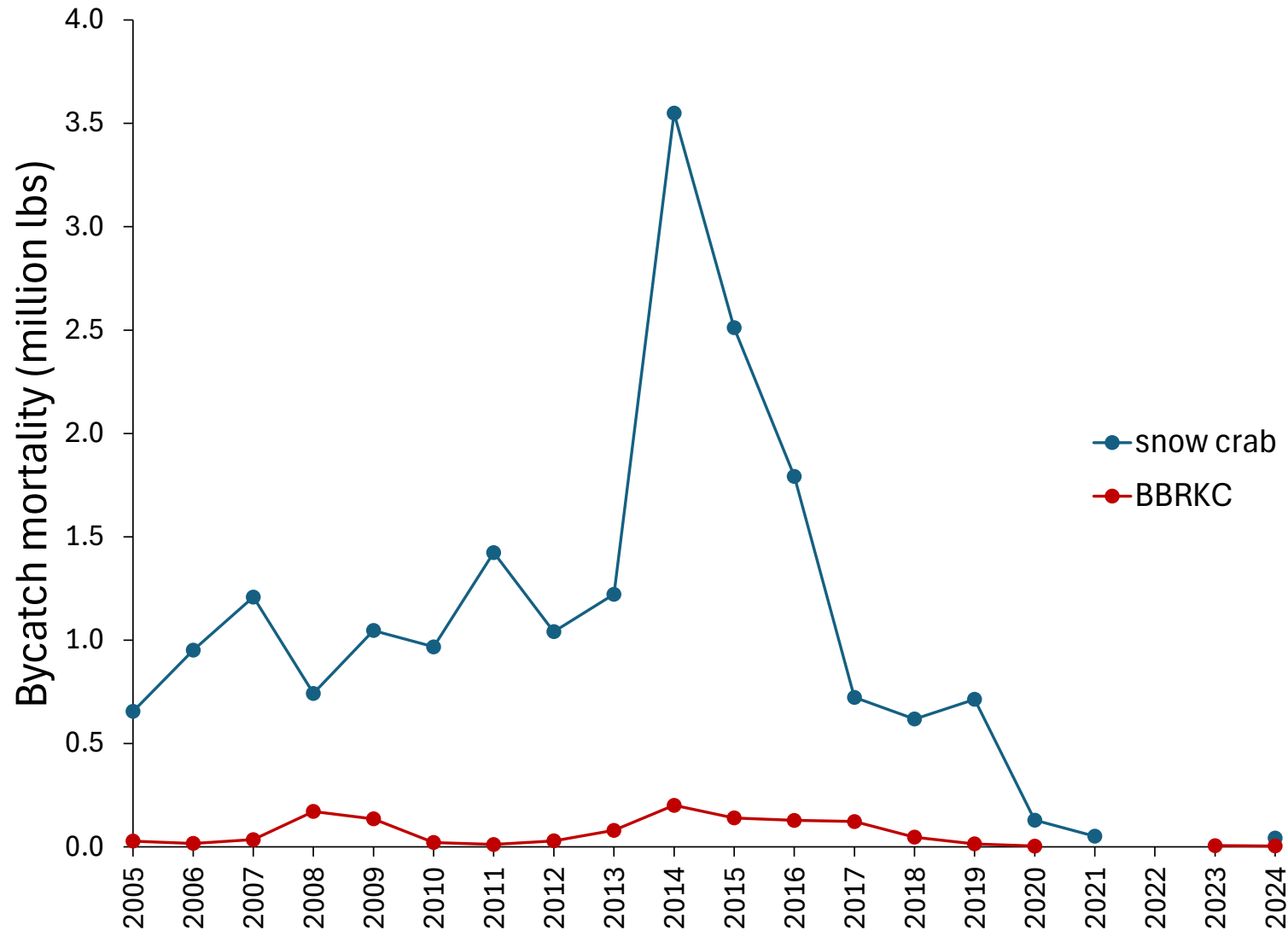
2024/25 Tanner crab



Tanner crab discard mortality rate

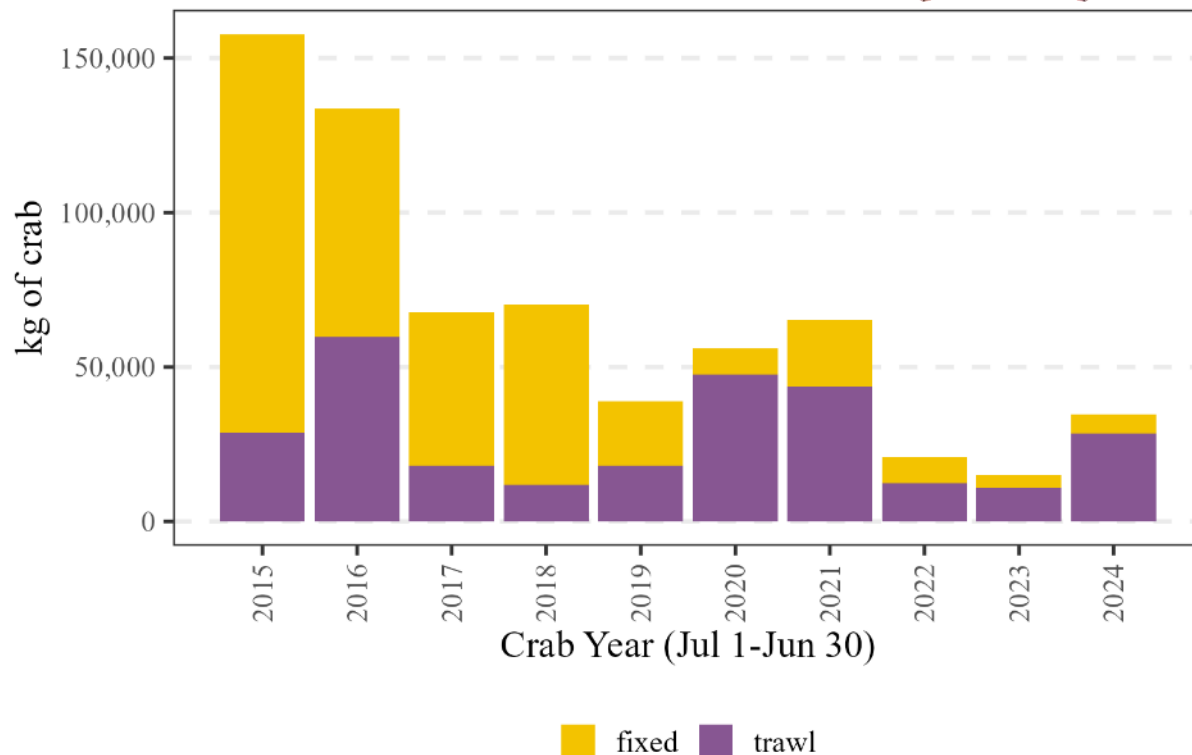


Tanner crab bycatch in non-directed crab fisheries



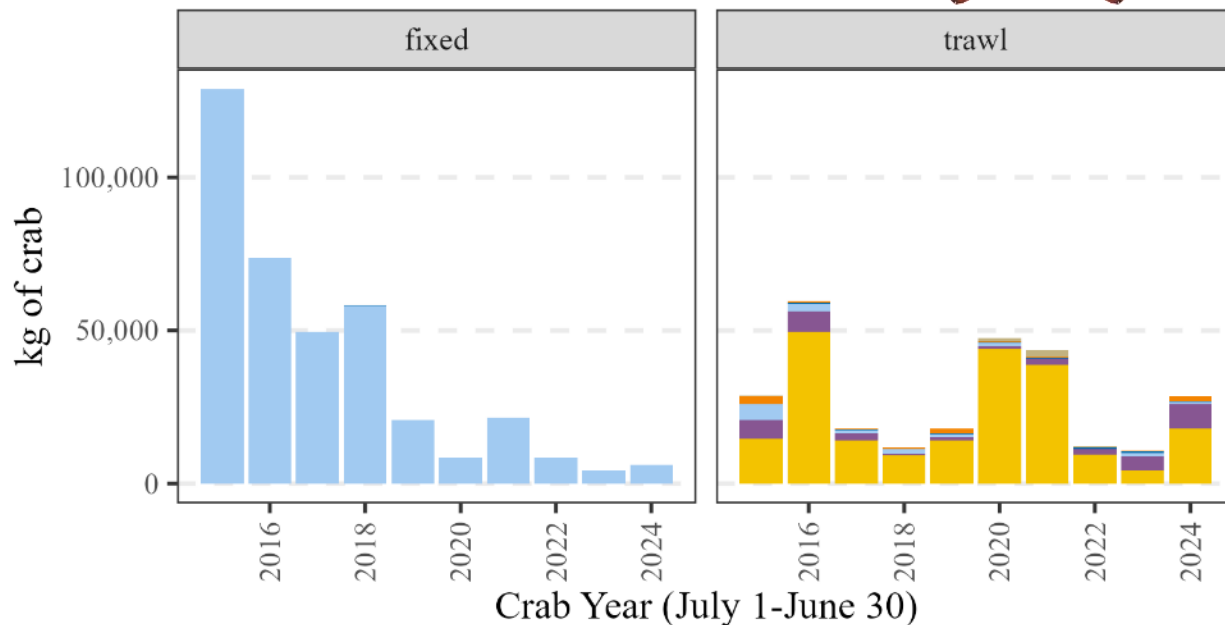
- Pacific cod fishing with pot gear accounts for most EBST bycatch in the fixed gear category.
- Pot Pacific cod fishing is concentrated on the north side of Unimak Island to Port Moller.
- East of 166° W longitude

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab
Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



- P. cod fixed gear bycatch decreasing since 2015.
- Trawl bycatch primarily from yellowfin sole fishery.

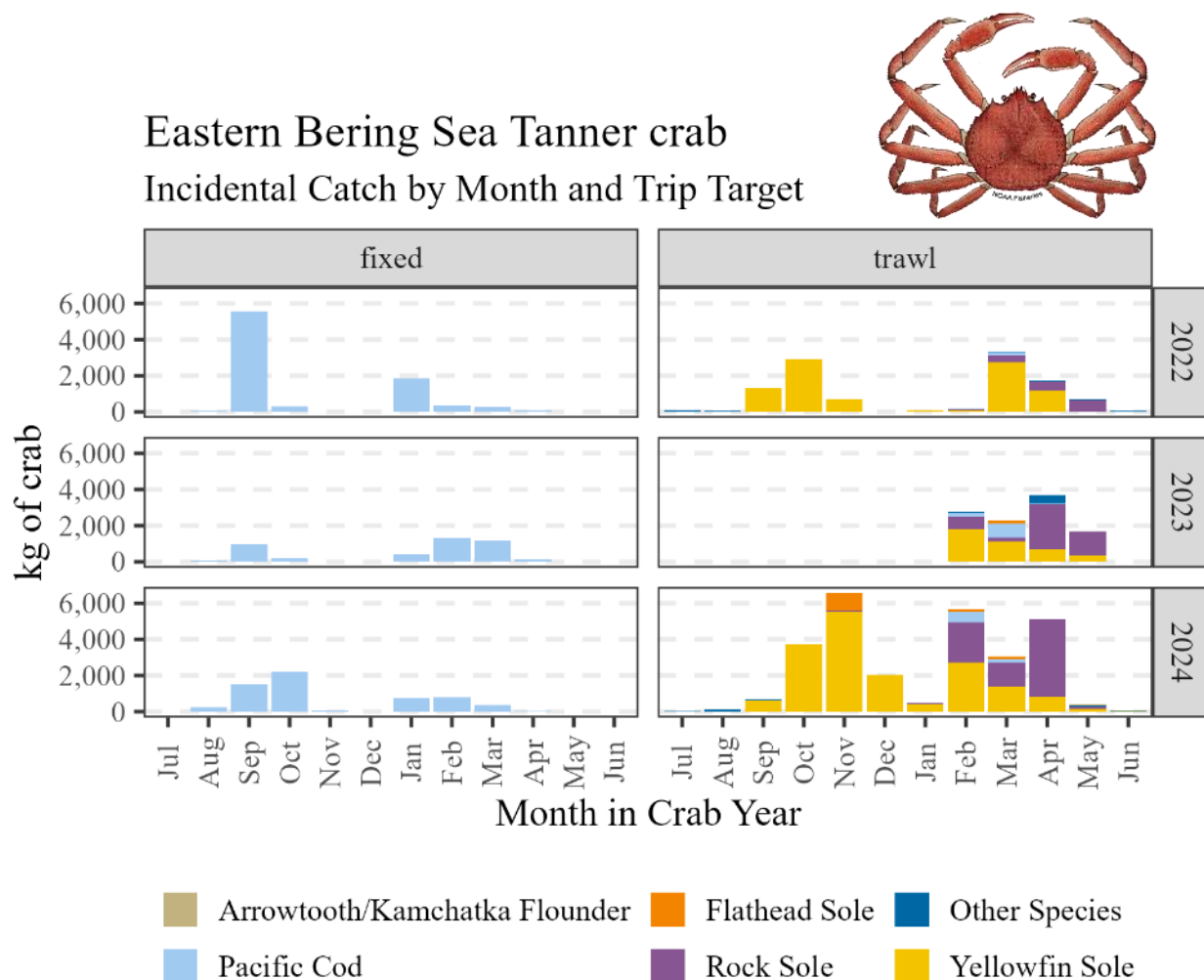
Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab Incidental Catch by Trip Target



Arrowtooth/Kamchatka Flounder
 Flathead Sole
 Other Species
 Pacific Cod
 Rock Sole
 Yellowfin Sole

*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

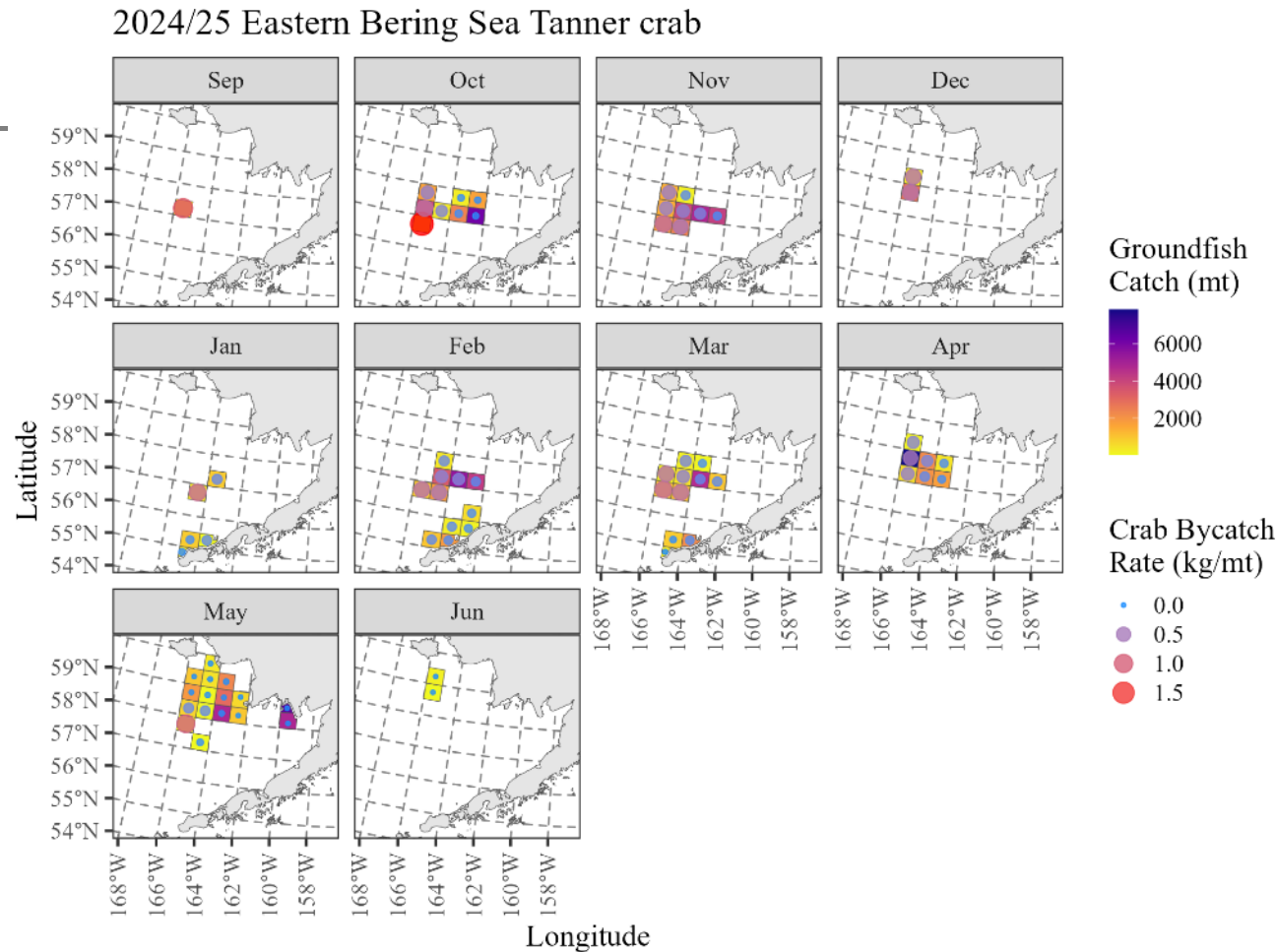
- In 2023/24 bycatch was highest in Feb.-May during the yellowfin and rock sole fisheries.



*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

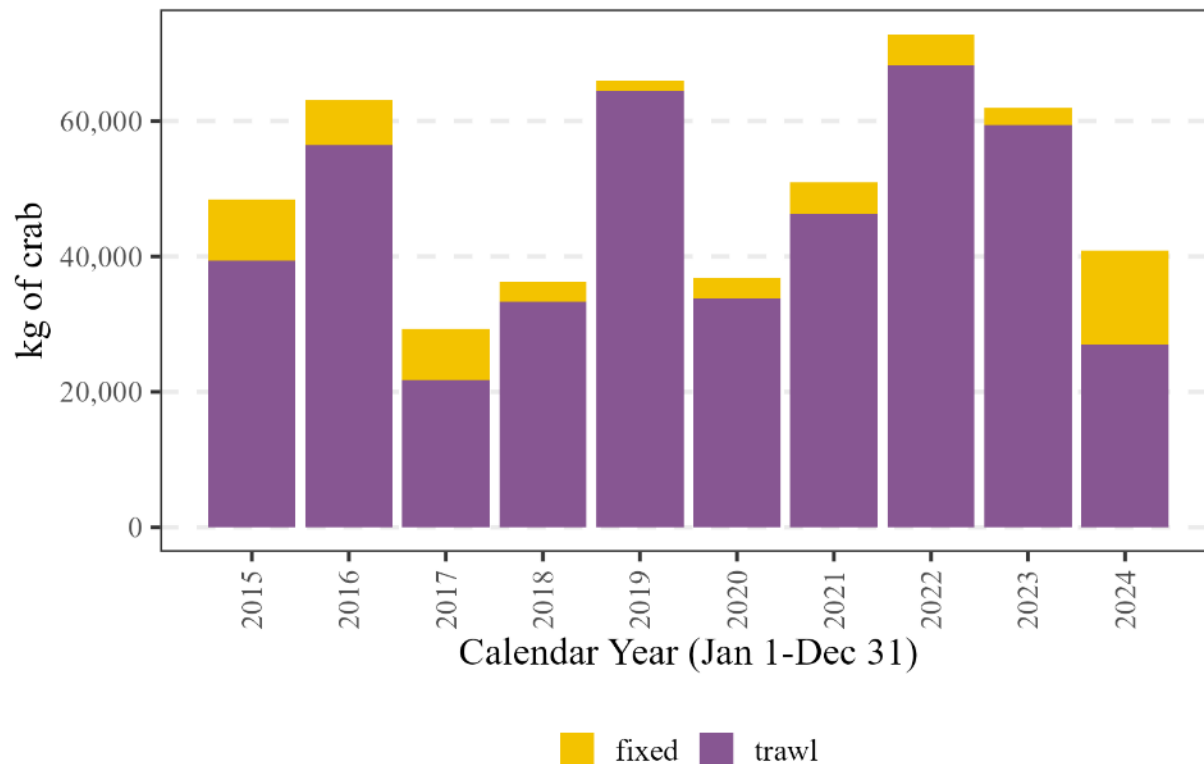
2024/25 Average Rate (kg crab/mt of Groundfish) in the Flathead, Rock, and Yellowfin Soles NPT Fisheries by ADF&G Statistical Area and Month

- Data mapped to statistical area and dots are center of boxes
- Confidential fishing areas excluded



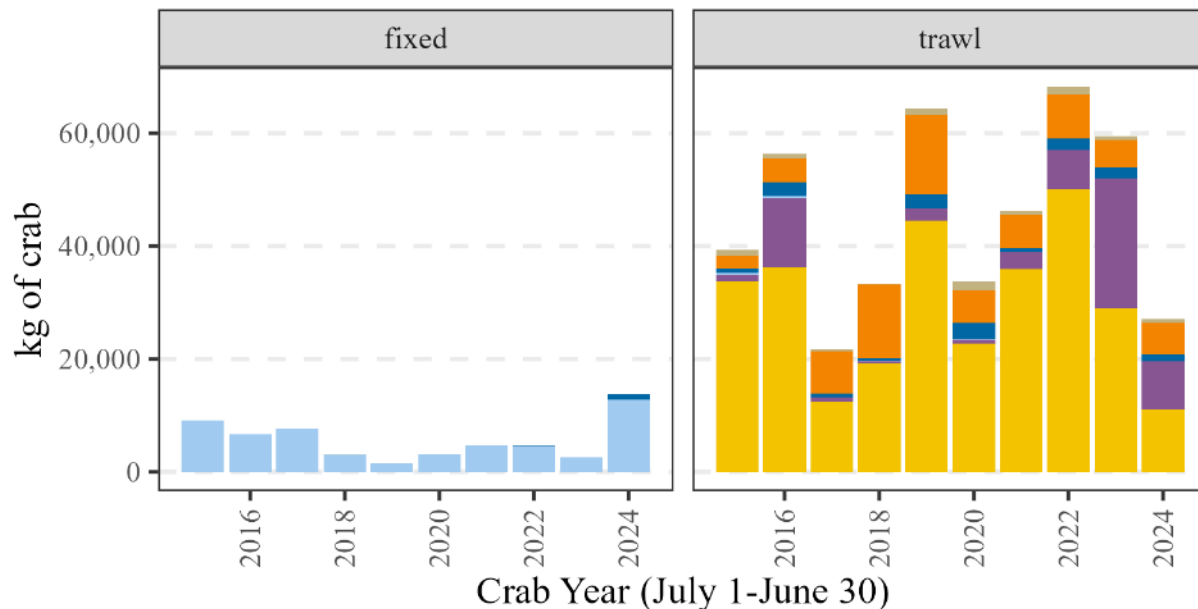
- WBST bycatch in fixed gear is mostly from hook-and-line and pot Pacific cod fisheries.
- Pot catcher vessels do not fish for groundfish in the WBST stock area as much as in the EBST stock area which results in less fixed gear bycatch in the Western area than the Eastern area.

Western Bering Sea Tanner crab
Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



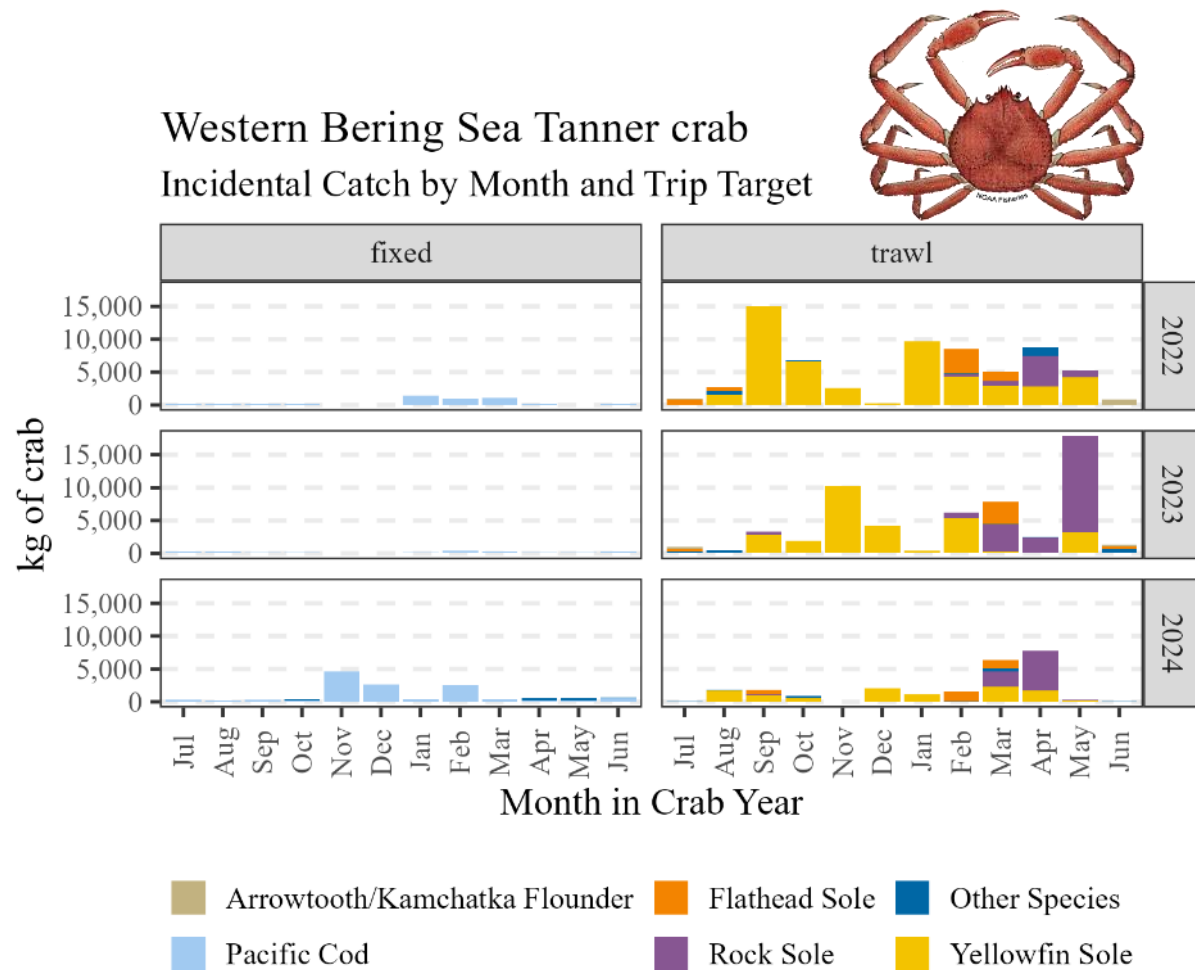
- Bycatch of WBST in trawl gear typically occurs through the crab year.
- Majority of trawl bycatch from yellowfin/flathead/rock sole fisheries
- West of 166° W longitude

Western Bering Sea Tanner crab Incidental Catch by Trip Target



*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

- In 2023/2024 bycatch was highest in Nov., Mar. and May.
- Rock sole increase driven by market conditions

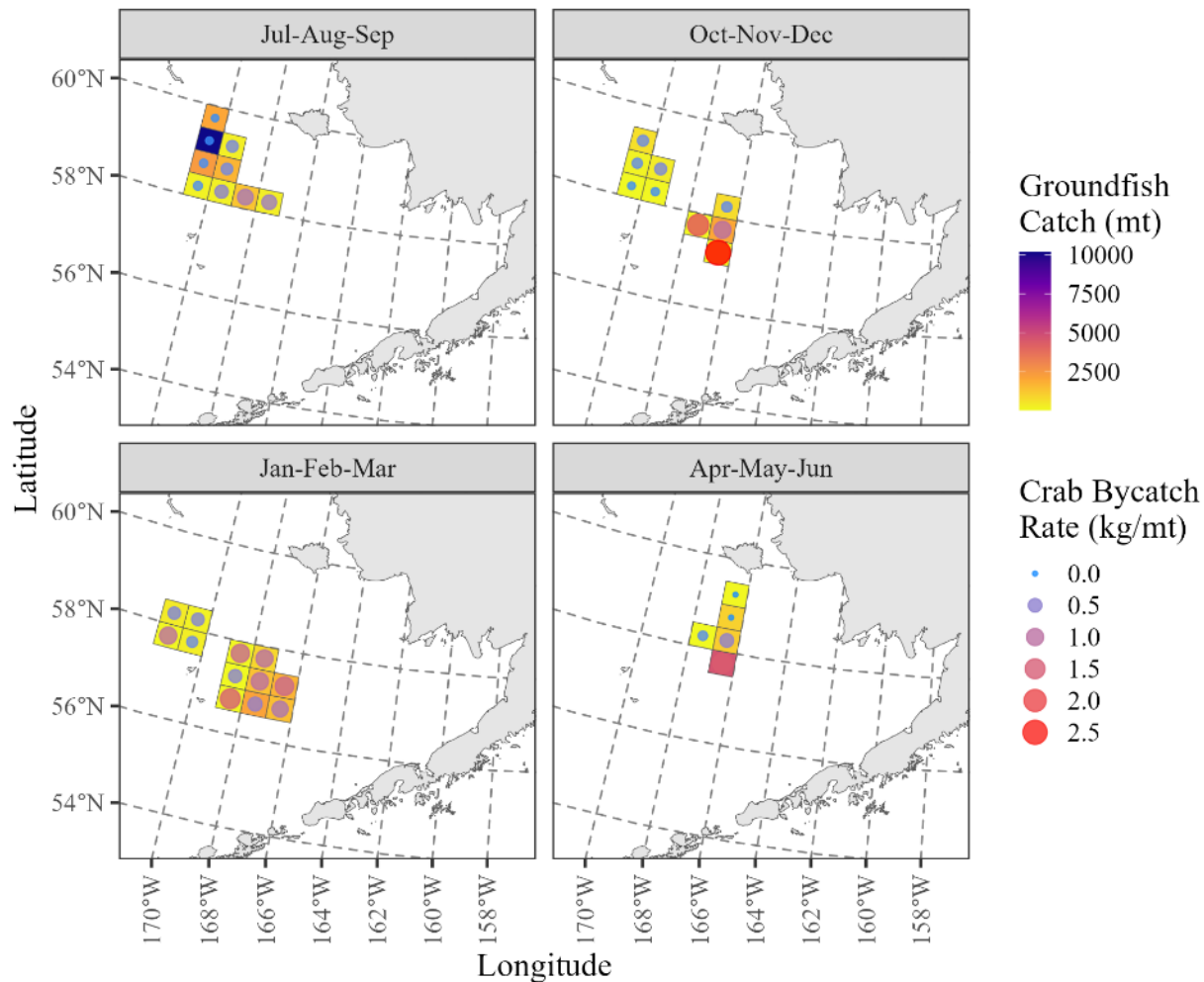


*Other species includes: Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

2024/25 Average Rate (kg crab/mt of Groundfish) in the Flathead, Rock, and Yellowfin Soles NPT Fisheries by ADF&G Statistical Area and Months

2024/25 Western Bering Sea Tanner crab

- Data mapped to stat-area and dots are center of boxes
- Confidential fishing areas excluded



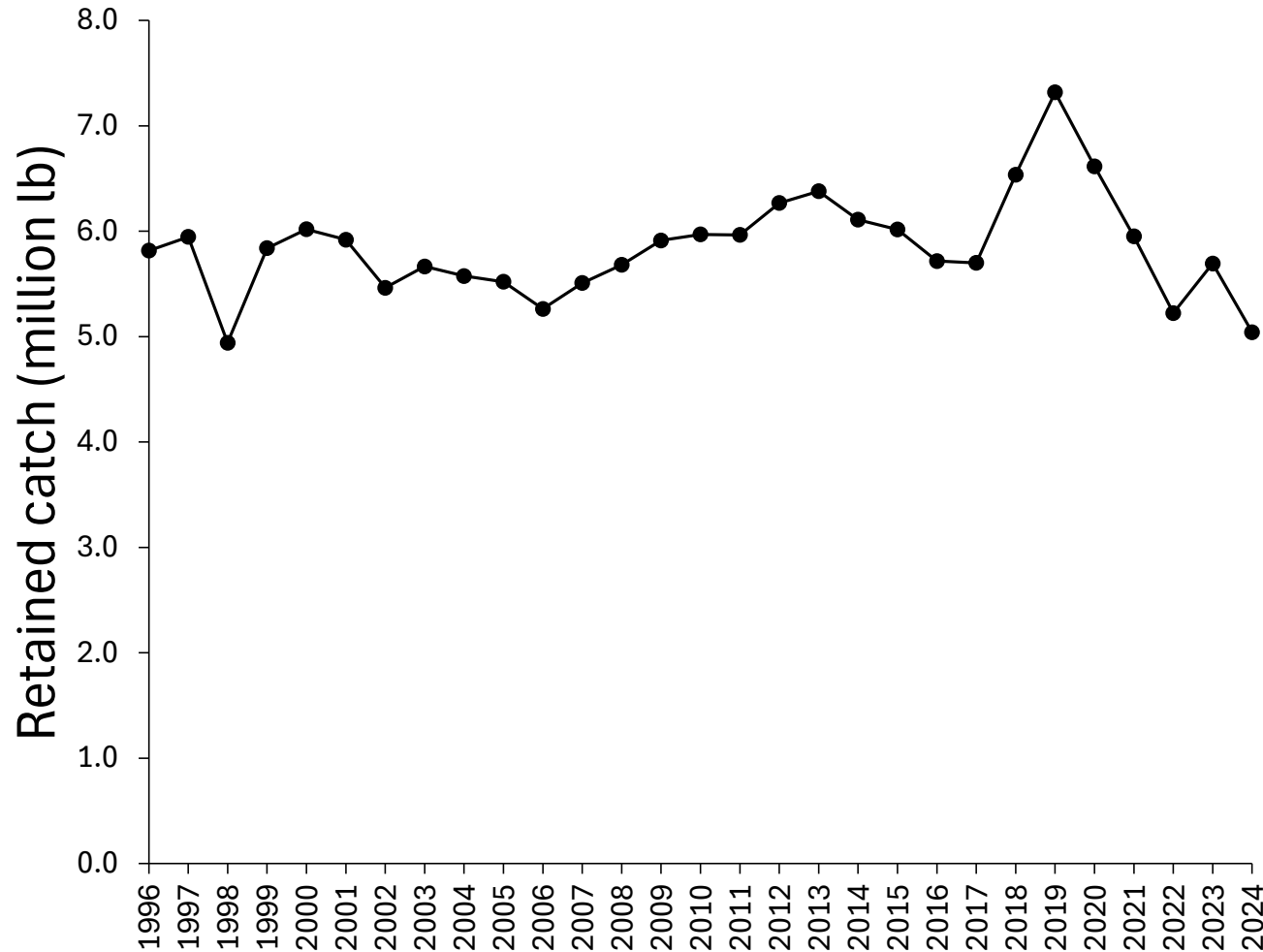


AIGKC

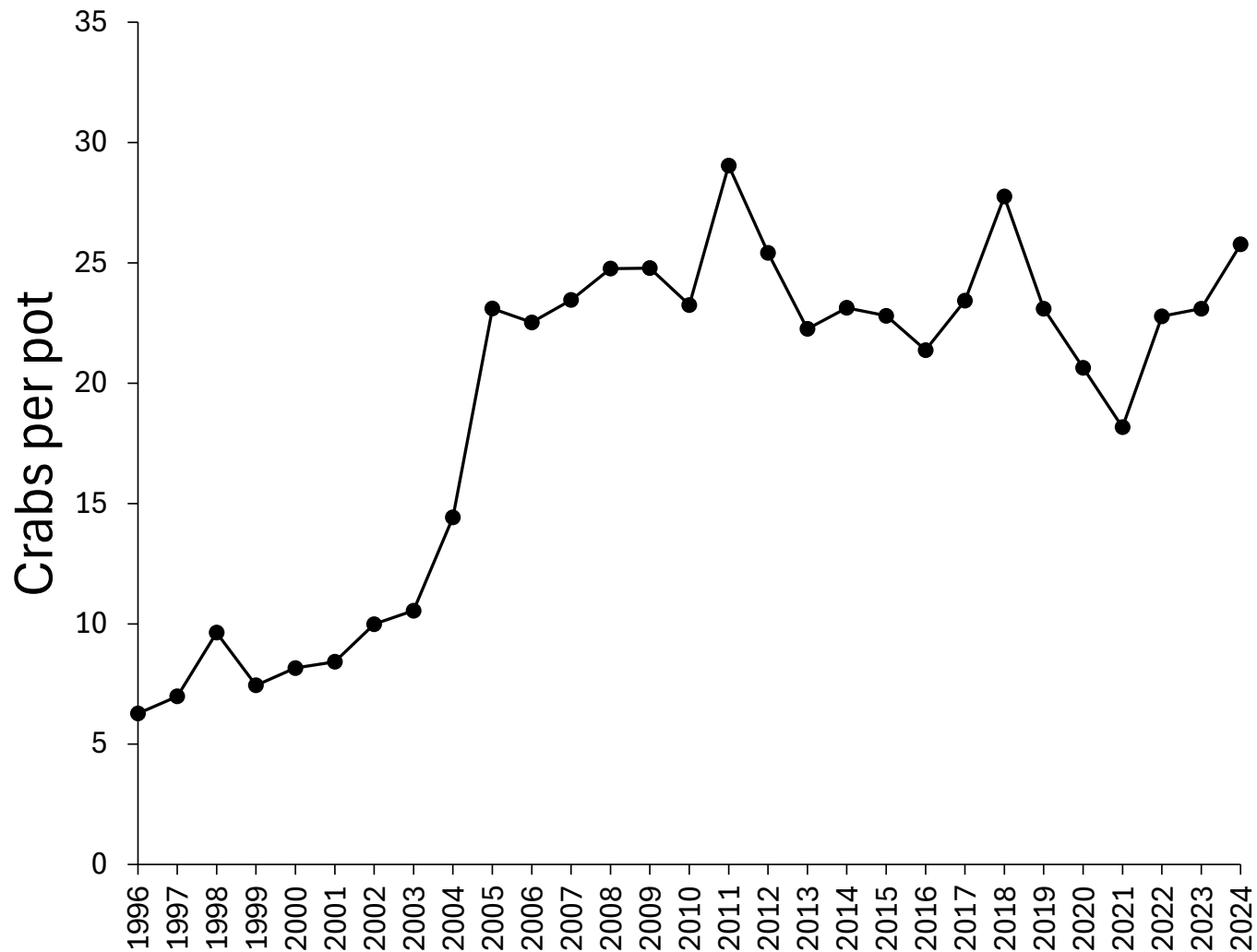
2024/25 AIGKC

- 2 vessels participated in each of the EAG and WAG fisheries
 - Not all participants signed confidentiality waivers
 - EAG/WAG-specific data confidential
 - EAG TAC = 3.76 mill lb
 - WAG TAC = 1.12 mill lb

Combined retained catch

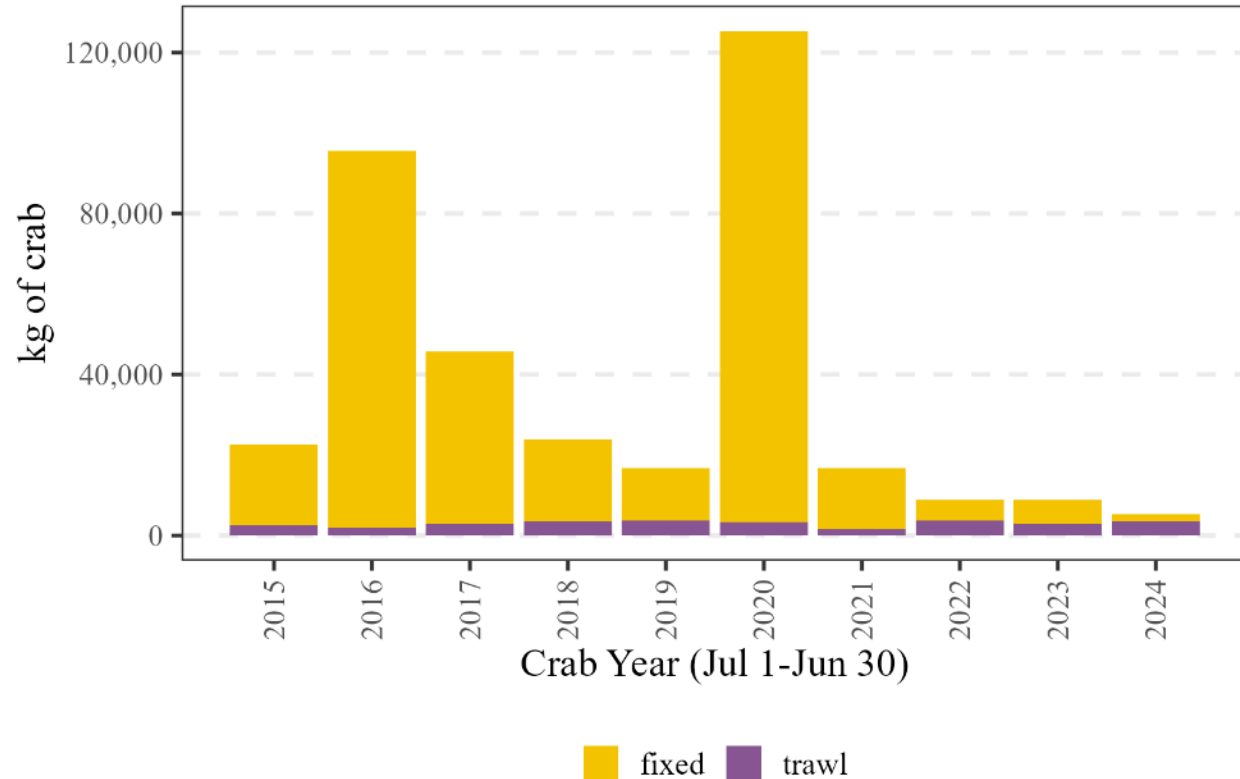


Combined CPUE



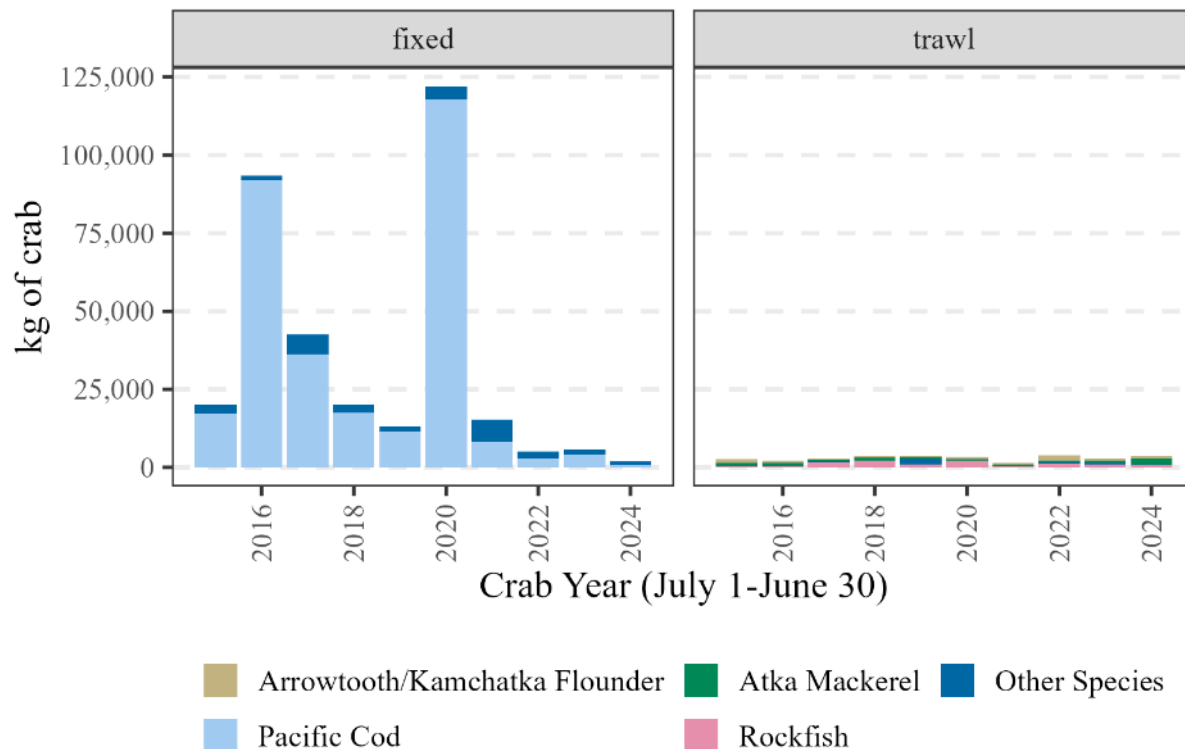
- The EAG stock area includes federal groundfish areas from the WGOA, BS, and AI.
- There is a Pacific cod State fishery for pot gear which can occur in the Eastern AI stock area and opens early in the year.

Eastern Aleutian Islands GKC Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries





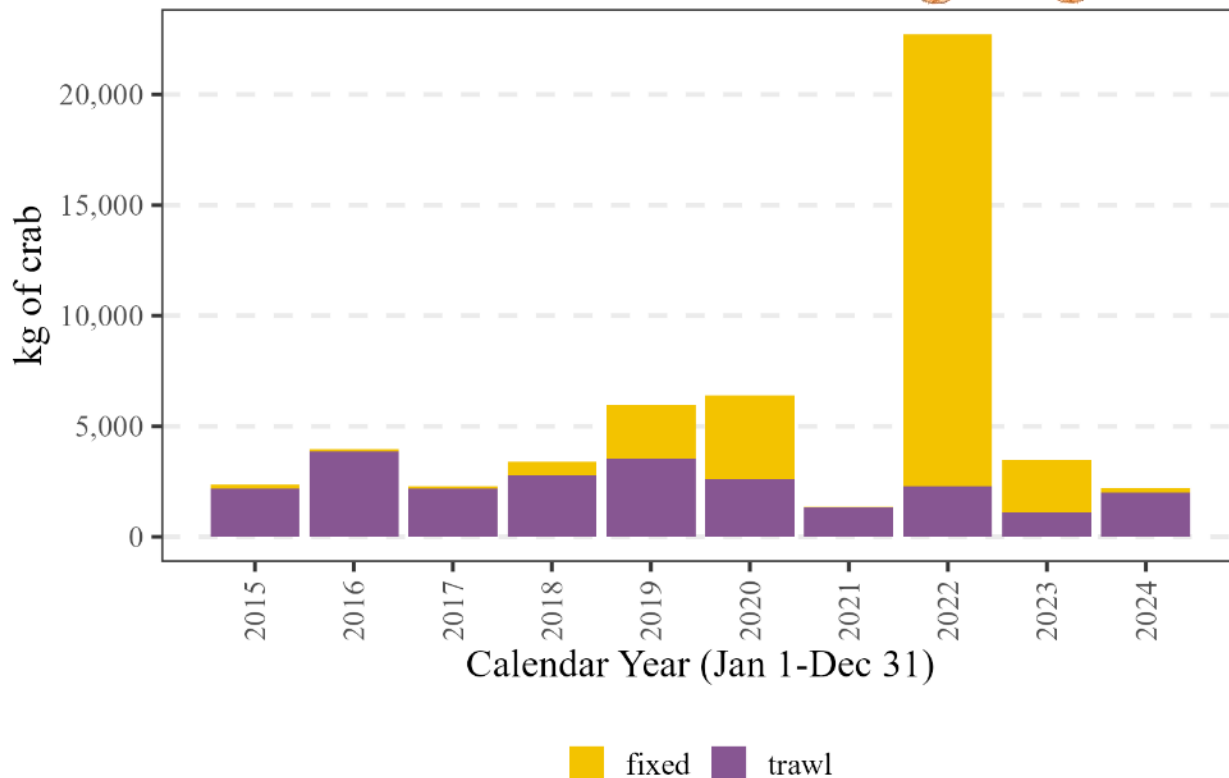
Eastern Aleutian Islands GKC Incidental Catch by Trip Target



*Other species includes: Flathead sole, Greenland turbot, other flatfish, plaice, pollock, halibut, rockfish, & sablefish

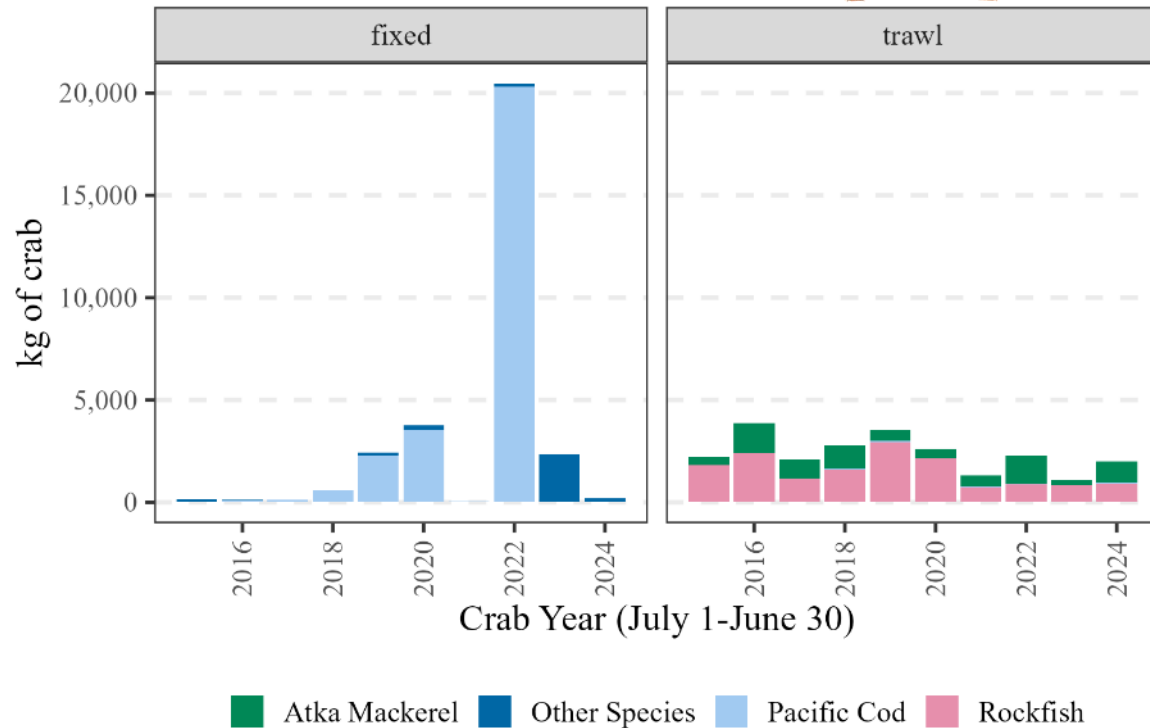
- Not much federal fixed gear fishing in this area.
- Not very much fixed gear observer coverage.
- High bycatch in pot gear in 2022 was due to extrapolations occurring from sablefish observed trips to State GHL P.cod fishery.

Western Aleutian Islands GKC Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries





Western Aleutian Islands GKC Incidental Catch by Trip Target



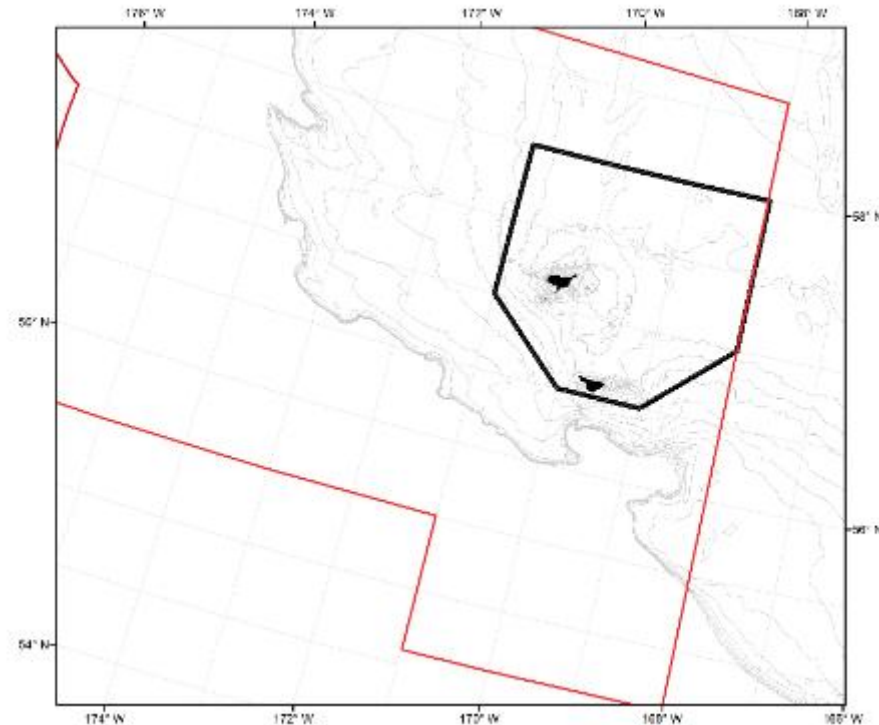
*Other species includes: Kamchatka flounder, pollock, halibut & sablefish

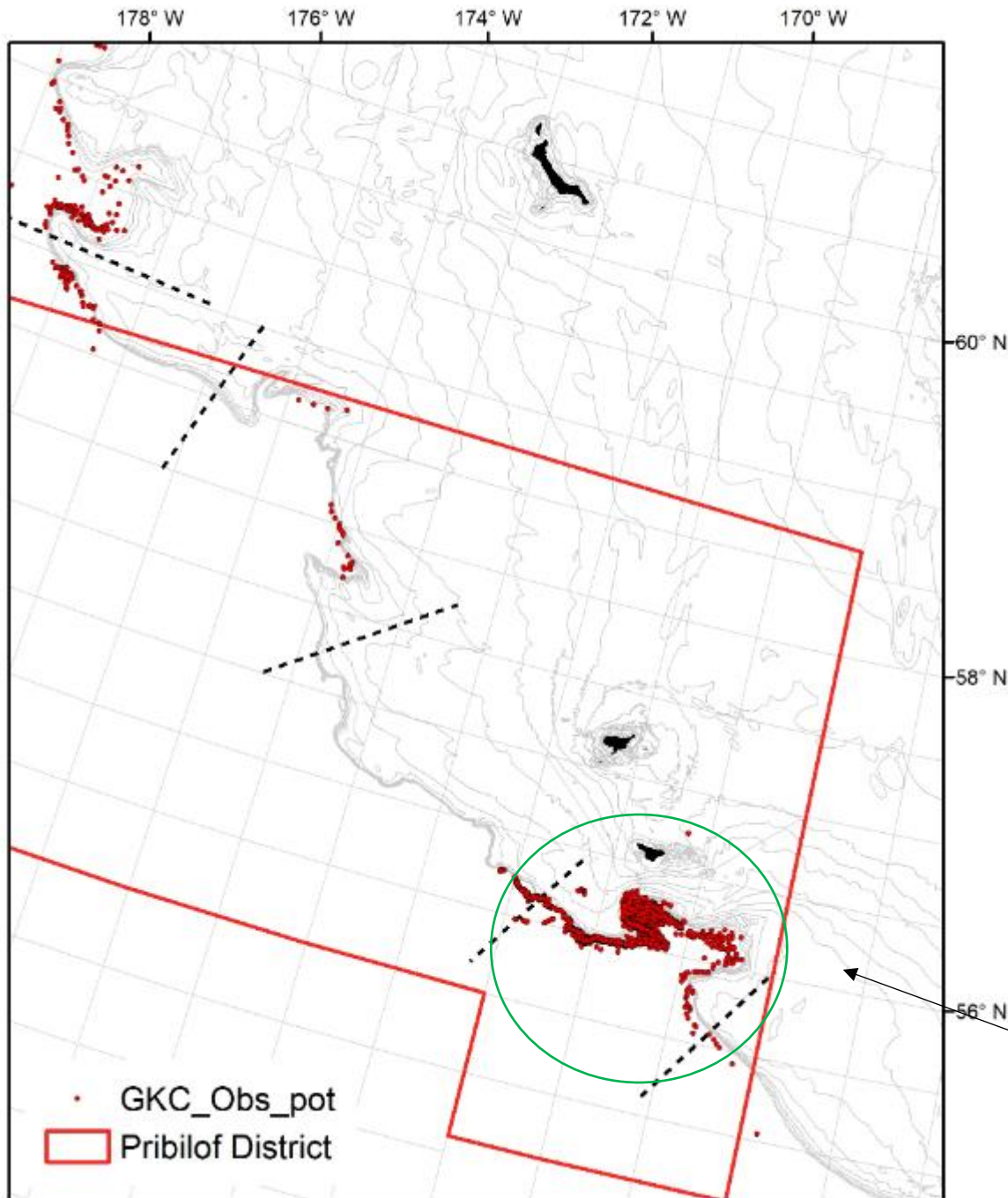
A large pile of spiny crabs, likely King crabs, is shown. The crabs are densely packed, with their long, spiny legs and carapaces visible. A white label is attached to the top right of the pile. The text "PIGKC" is overlaid in the center of the image.

PIGKC

2024 Pribilof GKC

- Managed by calendar year
- 2 vessels participated in the 2024 fishery
 - GHL = 130,000 lb (59 t)
 - Harvest = confidential

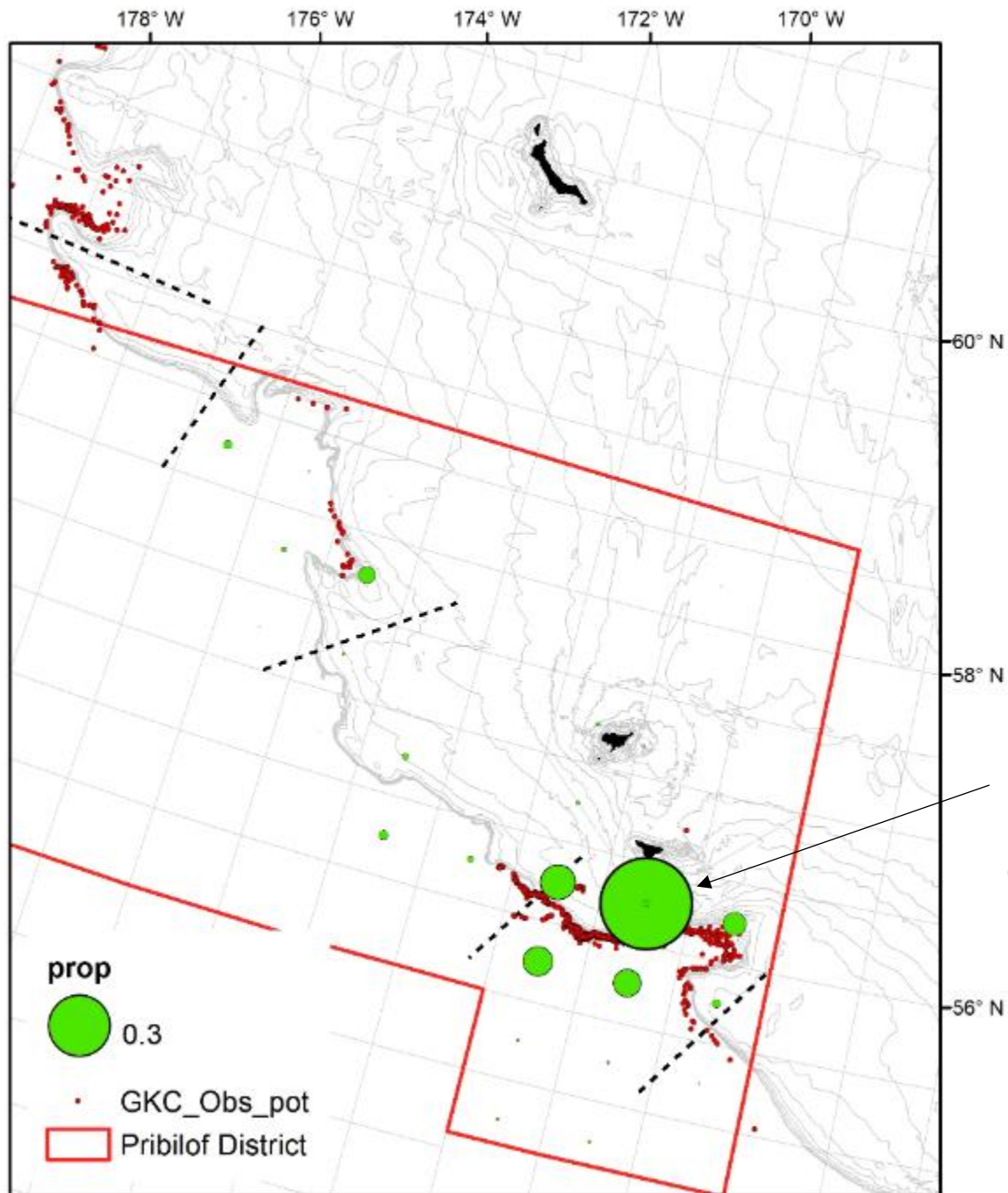




Observer pot location during Bering Sea golden king crab fisheries from 1992-2024 (n=8,251).

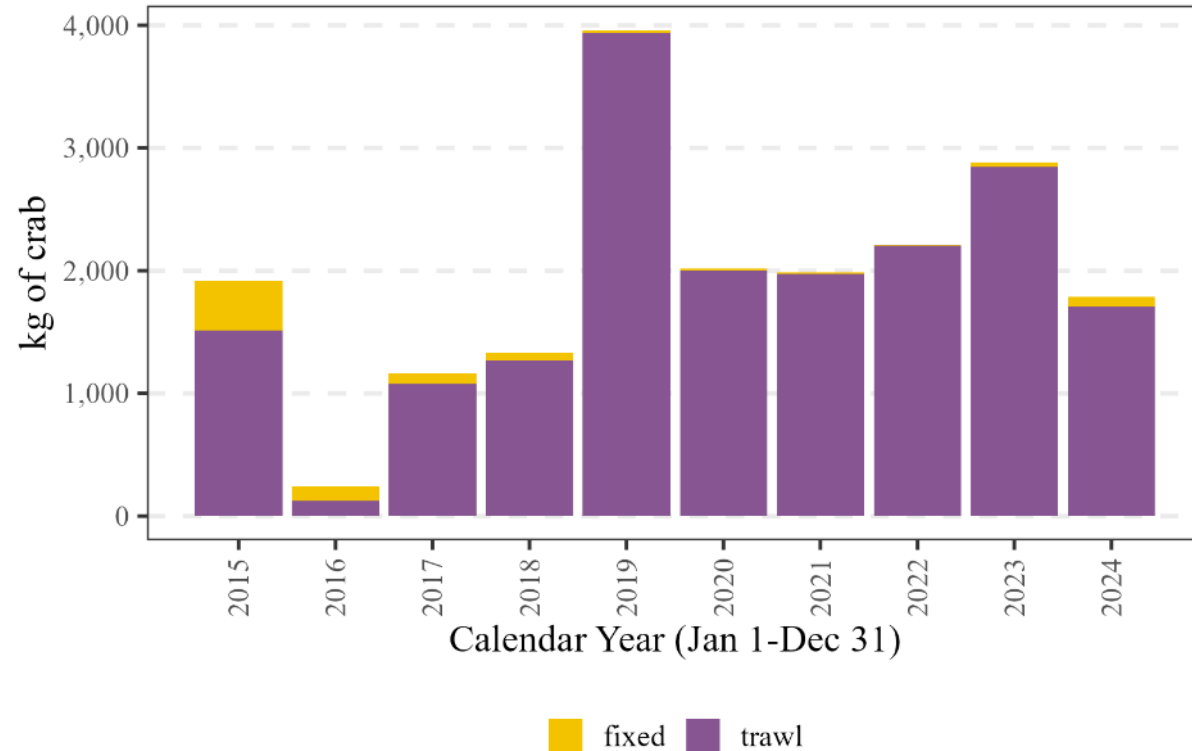
Pots north of the Pribilof District northern boundary were fished during the Northern District – Saint Matthew island Section fishery.

Proportion of
historical catch
by stat_area

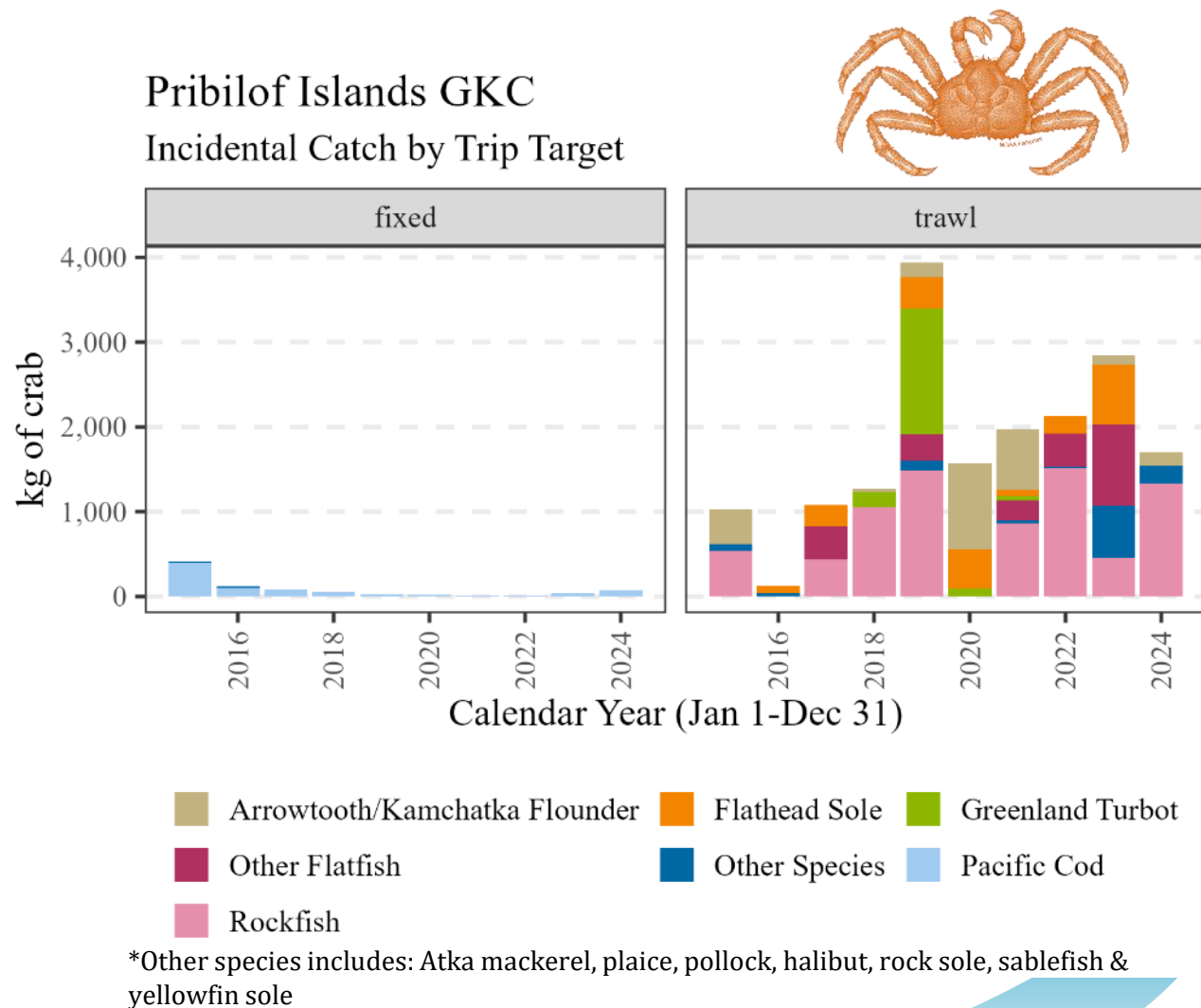


- Most fixed gear GKC bycatch is from hook-and-line Pacific cod fishing
- In 2025, new regulations implemented allowing directed fishing for Greenland turbot with longline pots which may increase PIGKC bycatch.

Pribilof Islands GKC Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries

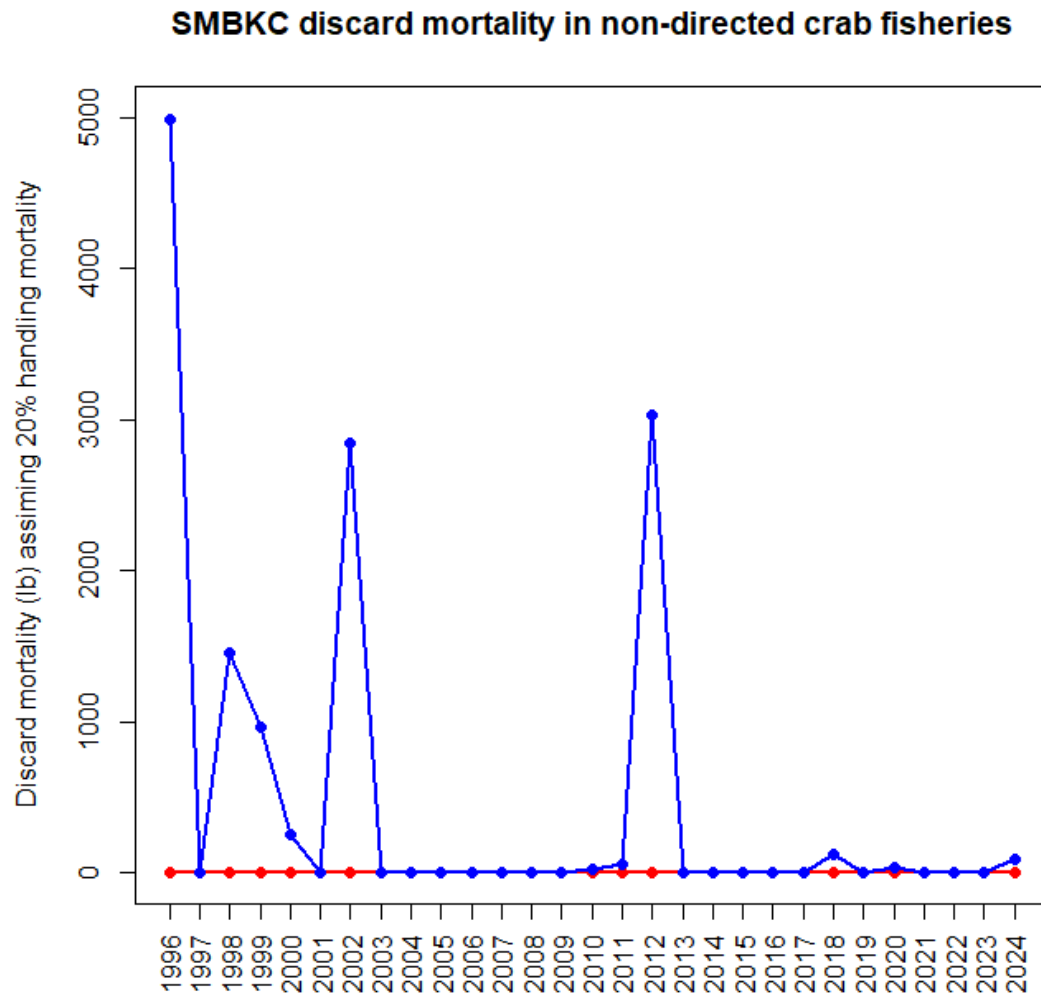


- Trawl fishery increased catch of Greenland turbot in 2019/2020
- Variety of trawl fishery targets.

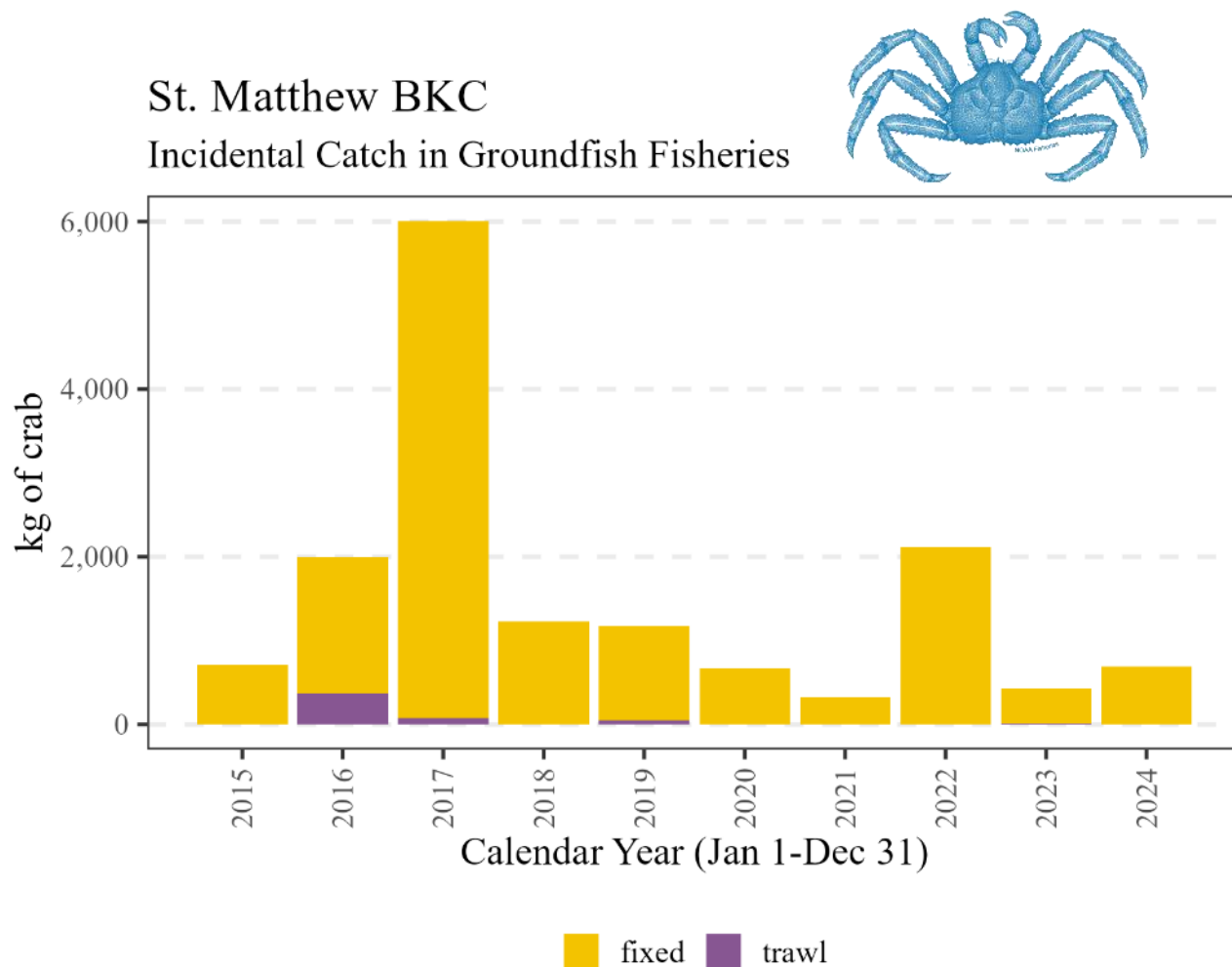


Other BSAI crab stocks

SMBKC: non-directed crab fishery bycatch



- Overfished stock.
- Very little trawling in this stock area due to trawl closure areas



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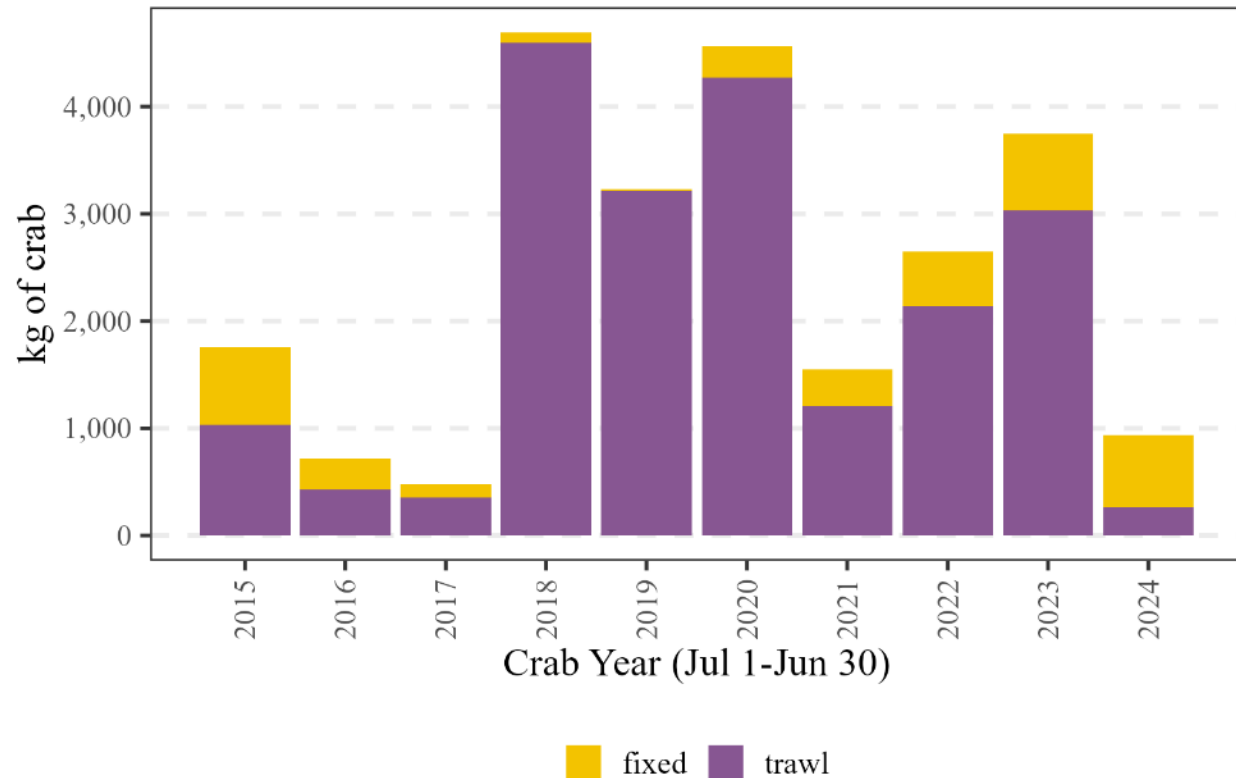


Pribilof Islands RKC

Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



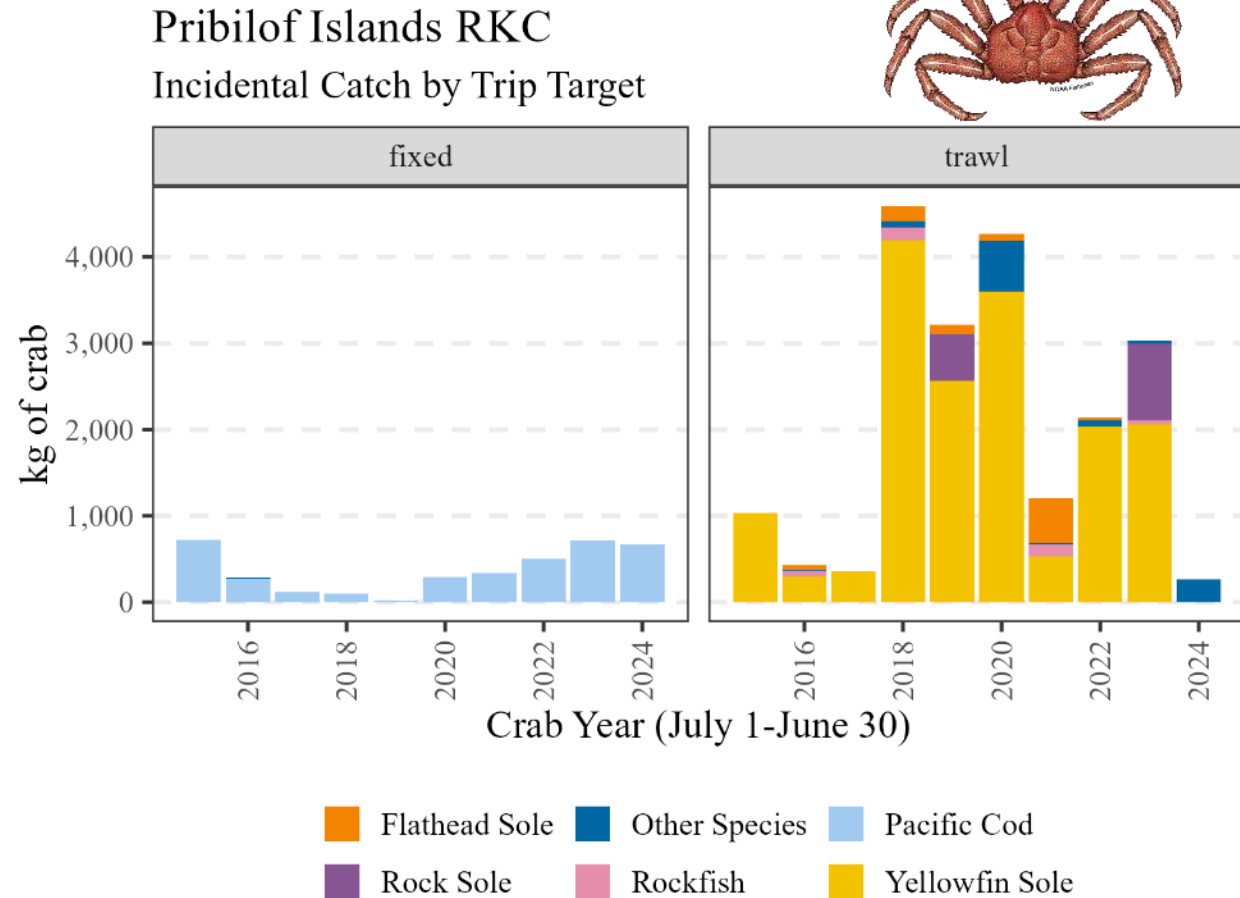
- Pot and trawl gear are prohibited in the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone which is in place to protect blue king crab.
- Most fixed gear fishing in this area is by CPs using hook-and-line gear targeting Pacific cod and came from within the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone..



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- Majority of 2023/24 bycatch was from yellowfin sole fishing in November with switching to rock sole in May



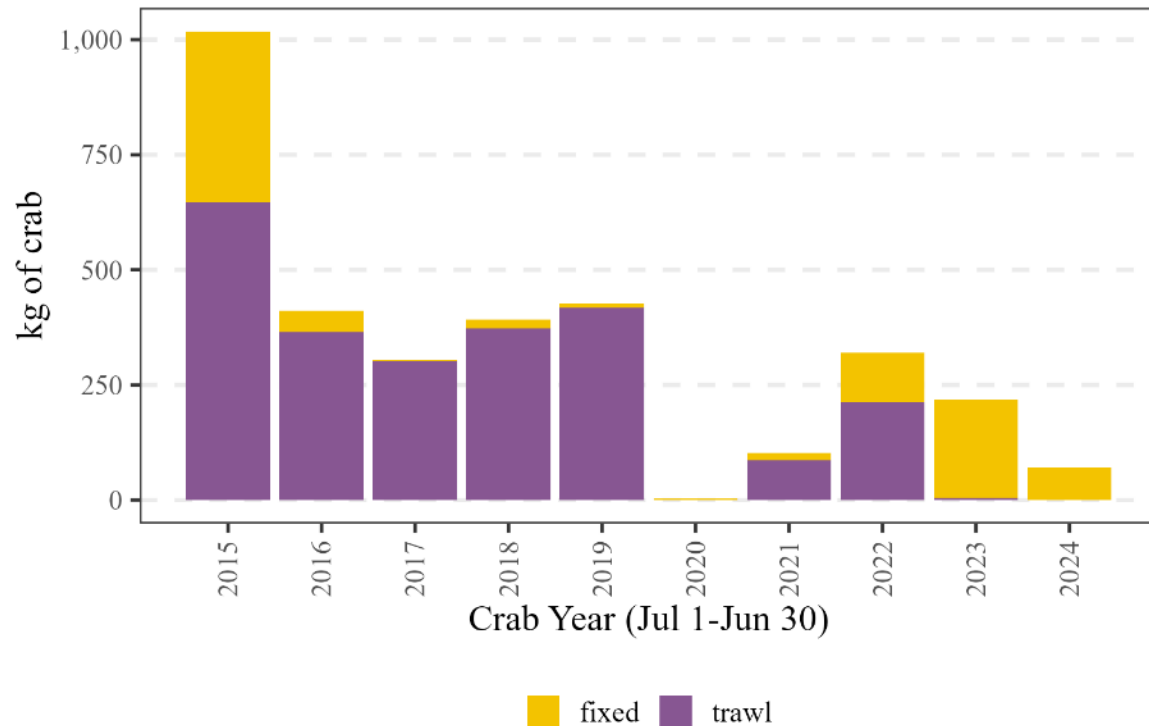
*Other species includes: Arrowtooth flounder, Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, plaice, pollock, halibut, & sablefish



- Pot and trawl gear are prohibited in the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone which is in place to protect blue king crab.
- Overfished stock
- Overfishing occurred in the 2015/16 crab year

Pribilof Islands BKC

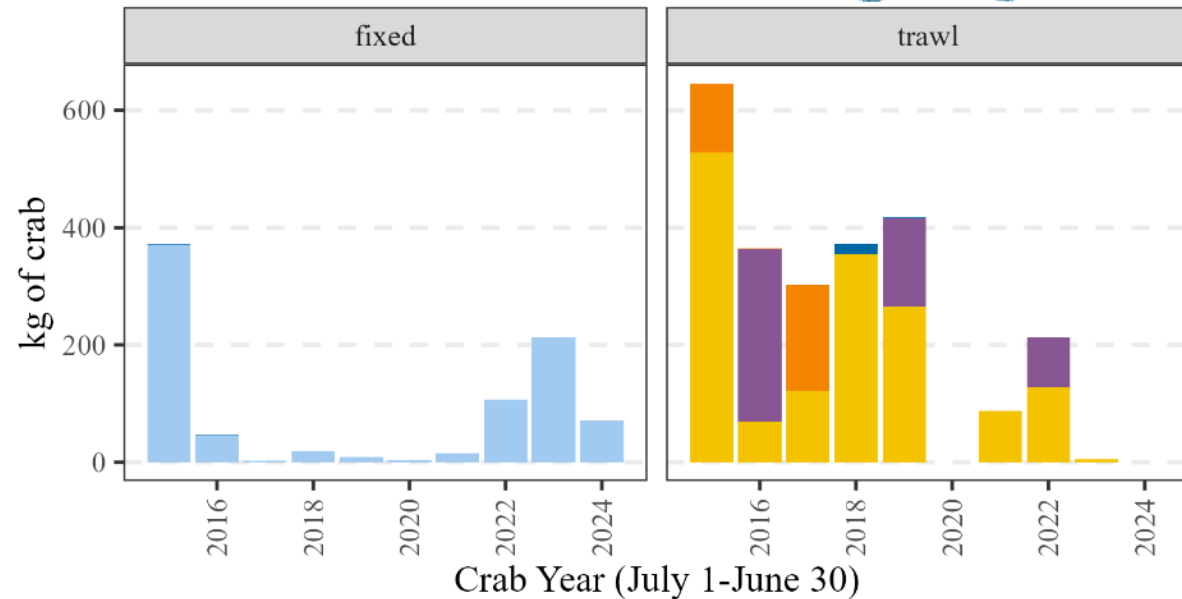
Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries





- Most trawl bycatch is occurring just outside the NE corner of the closure area.
- Decline in trawl bycatch in 2023/24 crab year.

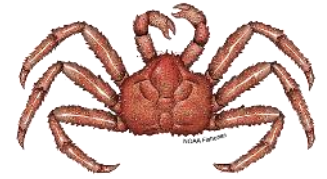
Pribilof Islands BKC Incidental Catch by Trip Target



■ Flathead Sole
 ■ Other Species
 ■ Pacific Cod
 ■ Rock Sole
 ■ Rockfish
 ■ Yellowfin Sole

*Other species includes: Arrowtooth flounder, Atka mackerel, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, plaice, pollock, halibut, & sablefish

Norton Sound Red King Crab Incidental Catch in Groundfish Fisheries



- 2009–2017: no RKC bycatch in NSRKC stock area
- 2018: 8 kg of RKC bycatch (mortality applied)
- 2019: 24 kg of RKC bycatch (mortality applied)
- 2020: 4 kg of RKC bycatch (mortality applied)
- In 2021–2025: less than 1 kg of RKC bycatch



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Thank you