



ABSC Skipper Surveys

Crab Plan Team – May, 2026

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Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers



Management Questions

- 7 static Q's
 - Specific to crab pot fisheries
- Building a time series of annual observations
- Perceived abundance:
 - ♂ (Legal/Sublegal)
 - ♀
 - Juveniles
 - a. Increased a lot (more than 25%)
 - b. Increased a little (10% to 25%)
 - c. About the same (within +/- 10%)
 - d. Decreased a little (10% to 25%)
 - e. Decreased a lot (more than 25%)
 - f. Other



Management Questions

- Based on your observations...
...compared to last year:
 - Change in legal males
 - Change in fishing practices
 - Change in abundance of small males (i.e., pre-recruits)
 - Change in number of females
 - Change in old shell/terminal molt males



Industry Questions

- Q's can change with each season
- Identify additional patterns/trends
- Identify additional research needs
- Monitor species interactions/bycatch
- Fishermen interests
- Management interests
- Stock author interest



Current Challenges

- Closed fisheries
 - Currently no skipper survey in the event of closed fishery
 - Is there any (skipper) data that would be helpful to collect in these scenarios?
- Skippers
 - Challenge to contact post-fishery
 - When were they last active?
 - More than one captain/fishery
- Vessels switching between fisheries
- Variable timing (AIGKC, bairdi)
 - Does this matter?
 - Inconsistent/long seasons
- AIGKC Pilot
 - East/West
 - Long season
 - Confidentiality

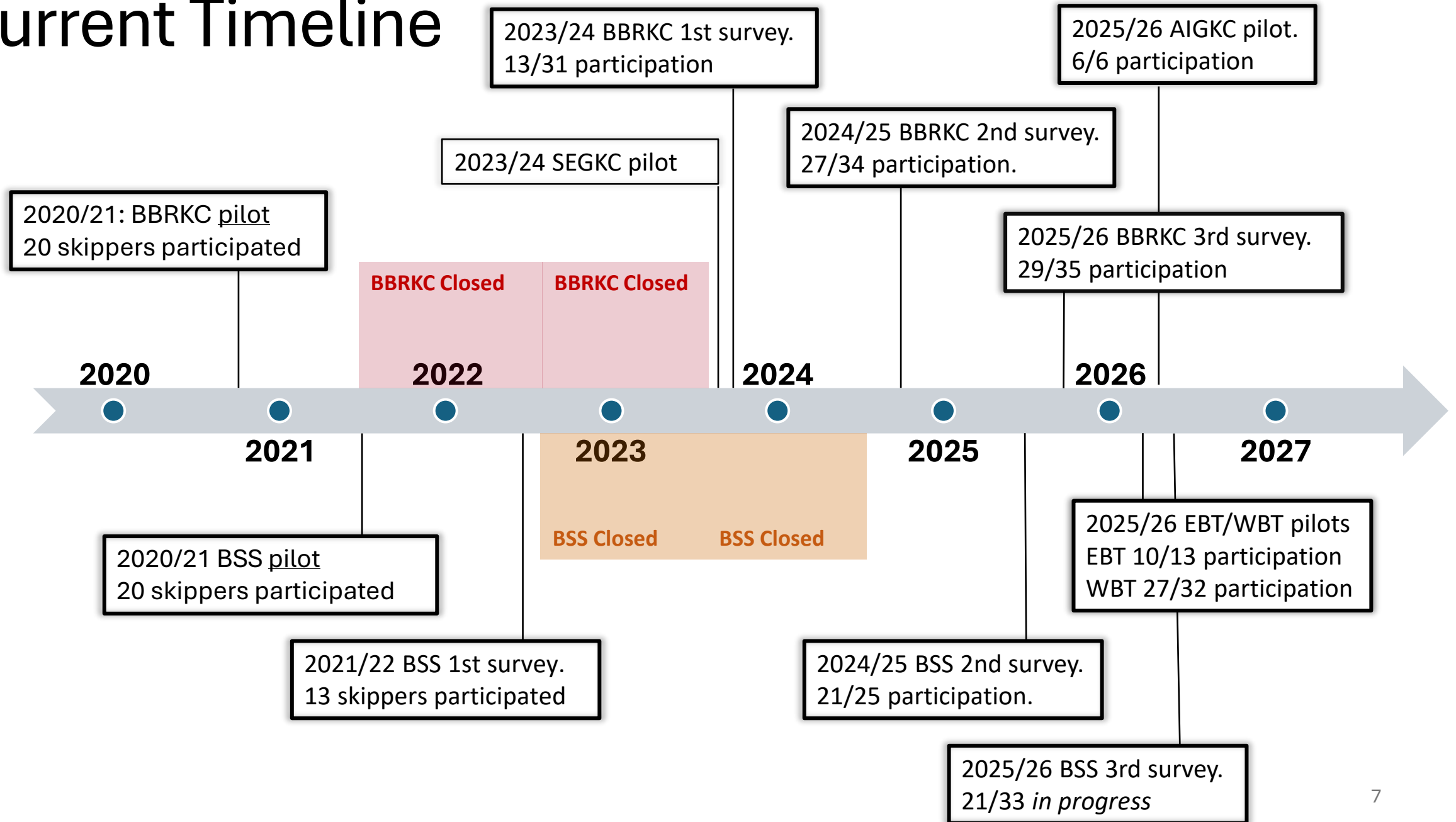


Current Timeline

- Bristol Bay Red King Crab:
 - Pilot 2020/21
 - **Closed** 21/22
 - **Closed** 23/23
 - 1st survey 23/24
 - 13 / 31 vessels completed survey
 - 2nd survey 24/25
 - 27 / 34 vessels completed survey
 - 3rd survey 25/26
 - 29/35 vessels completed survey
- Snow Crab:
 - Pilot 2020/21
 - 1st survey 2021/22
 - 13 vessels completed survey
 - **Closed** 22/23
 - **Closed** 23/24
 - 2nd survey 24/25
 - 21 / 25 vessels completed survey
 - 3rd survey 2025/26
 - *Survey ongoing*
- Tanner Crab
 - EBT pilot 2025/26
 - WBT pilot 2025/26
- AIGKC
 - Pilot 2025/26



Current Timeline

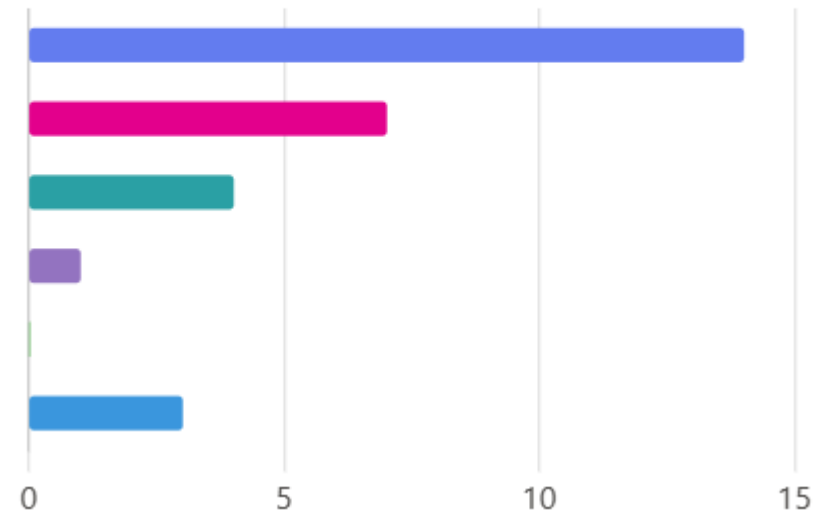


BBRKC 2025/2026

- TAC: 2.68 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 35 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 29 skippers

1. Based on your observations this red king crab season, how did the amount of legal males that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to last RKC season?

● Increased a lot (more than 25%)	14
● Increased a little (10% to 25%)	7
● About the same (within +/- 10%)	4
● Decreased a little (10% to 25%)	1
● Decreased a lot (more than 25%)	0
● Other	3



BBRKC 2025/2026

- TAC: 2.68 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 35 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 29 skippers

15. Based on your observations from this BBRKC season, do you think ADF&G's TAC for BBRKC (2.68Mlb) was in the right "ballpark" and tracked with relative red king crab abundance and health of the stock that you saw on the grounds?

● Yes	4
● No, should have been lower	0
● No, could have been higher	21
● Other	4

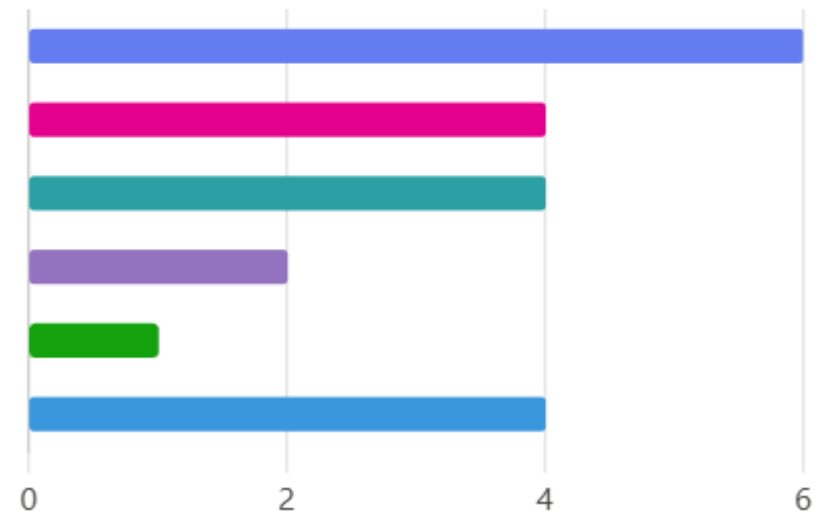


Snow Crab 2025/2026

- TAC: 9.30 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 33 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 21 skippers (*in progress*)

1. Based on your observations this snow crab season, how did the amount of industry preferred males that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to the last snow crab season?

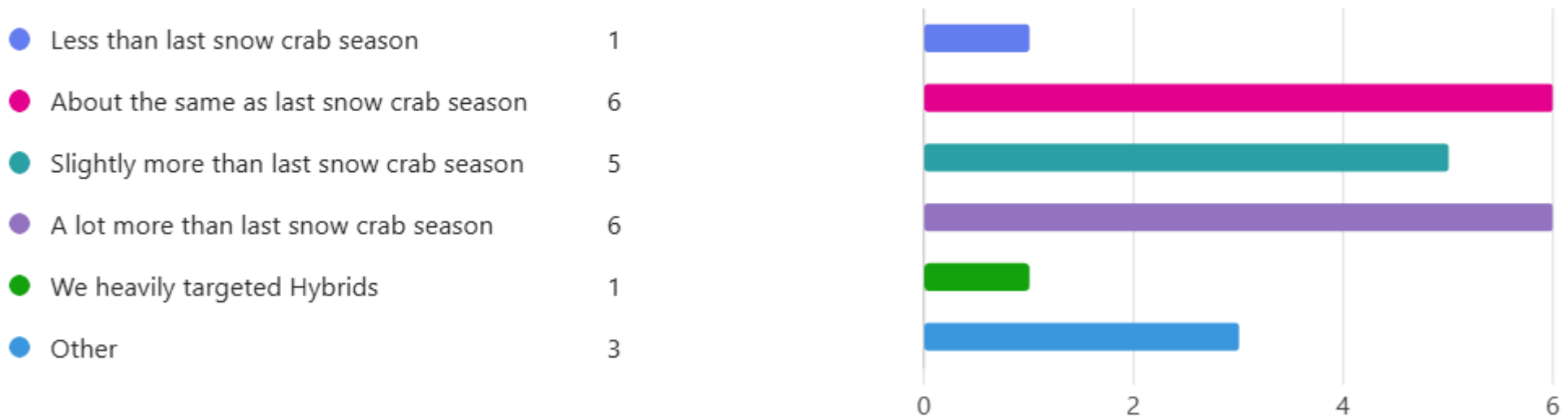
● Increased a lot (more than 25%)	6
● Increased a little (10% to 25%)	4
● About the same (within +/- 10%)	4
● Decreased a little (10% to 25%)	2
● Decreased a lot (more than 25%)	1
● Other	4



Snow Crab 2025/2026

- TAC: 9.30 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 33 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 21 skippers (*in progress*)

10. During this snow crab season, how often did you encounter Hybrids?

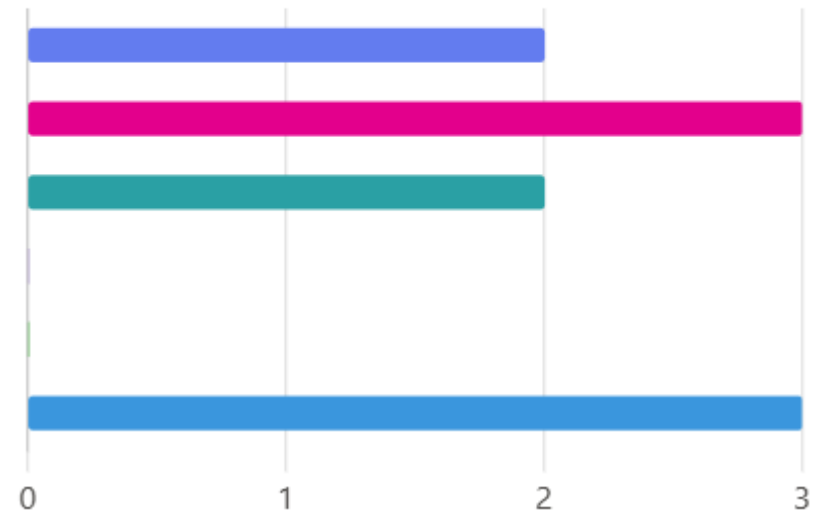


EBT 2025/2026

- TAC: 1.13 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 13 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 10 skippers

1. Based on your observations this Eastern bairdi season, how did the amount of industry preferred males that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to the last bairdi season?

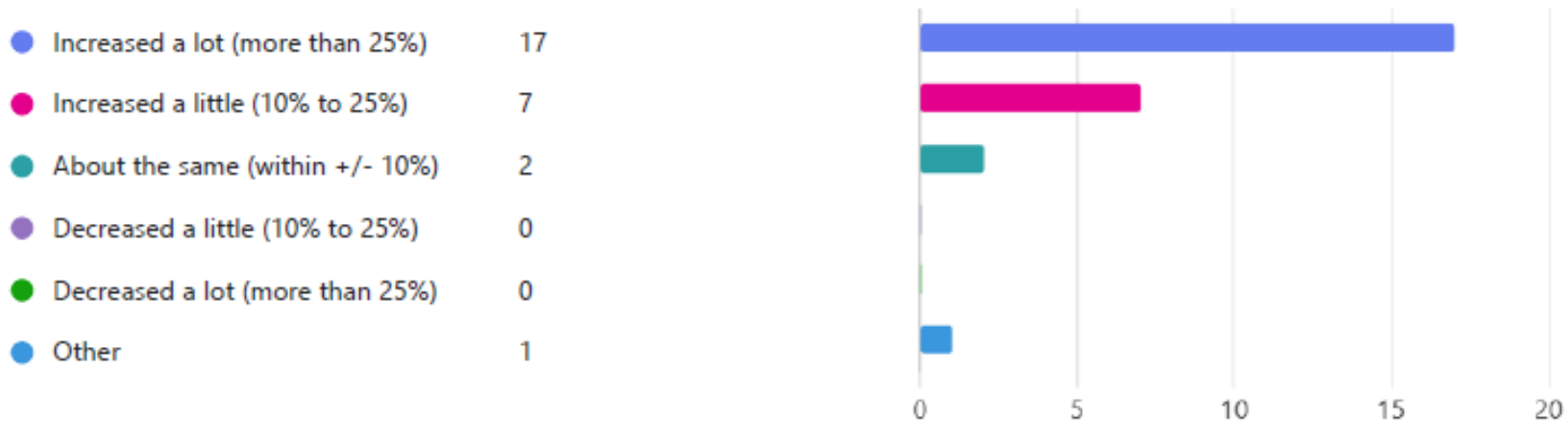
● Increased a lot (more than 25%)	2
● Increased a little (10% to 25%)	3
● About the same (within +/- 10%)	2
● Decreased a little (10% to 25%)	0
● Decreased a lot (more than 25%)	0
● Other	3



WBT 2025/2026

- TAC: 10.12 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 32 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 27 skippers

1. Based on your observations this red king crab season, how did the amount of legal males that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to the last open RKC season?

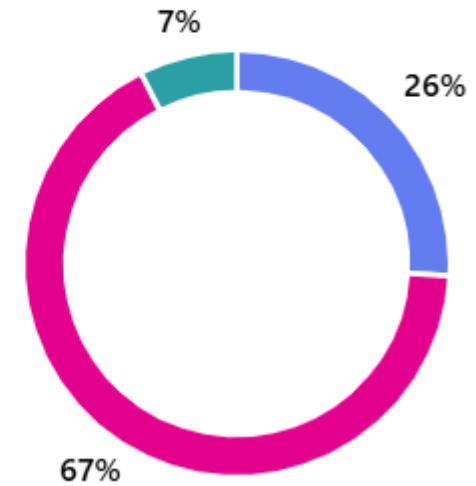


WBT 2025/2026

- TAC: 10.12 million lbs
- Fishery participation: 32 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 27 skippers

10. During this *W. bairdi* season, did you target Hybrid crab?

● Yes	7
● No	18
● Other	2

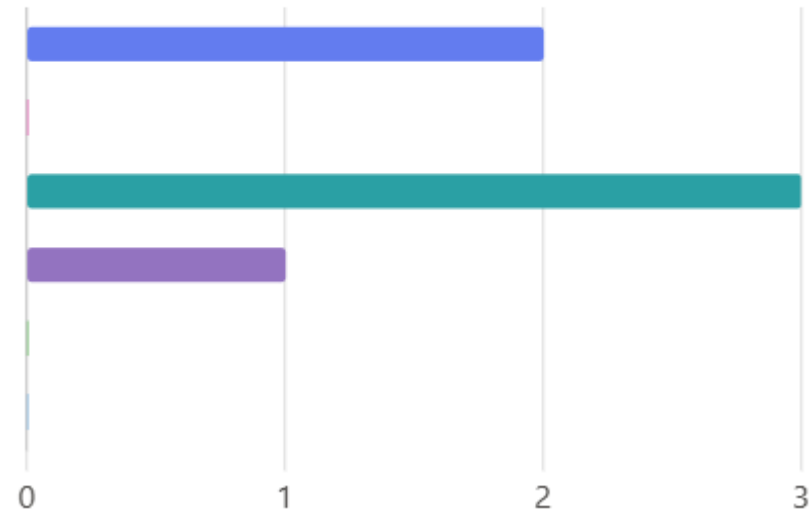


AIGKC 2025/2026

- TAC:
 - EAG 3.32 mil lbs
 - WAG 0.87 mil lbs
- Fishery participation: 5 individual vessels
 - Skipper survey participation: 6 skippers

1. Based on your observations this golden king crab season, how did the amount of legal males that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to last GKC season?

● Increased a lot (more than 25%)	2
● Increased a little (10% to 25%)	0
● About the same (within +/- 10%)	3
● Decreased a little (10% to 25%)	1
● Decreased a lot (more than 25%)	0
● Other	0



AIGKC 2025/2026

- TAC:
 - EAG 3.32 mil lbs
 - WAG 0.87 mil lbs
- Fishery participation: 5 individual vessels

19. Do you have suggested ideas towards additional research we can focus on in the coming years?

5 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Surveys more surveys
2	anonymous	Water temperature impacts & tide/current impacts
3	anonymous	Yes, small web pots
4	anonymous	Small mesh surveys
5	anonymous	May 20th-July 20th; November 20th-January 20th. I believe that these two different time periods are poor times for research because these dates are centered around winter and summer solstice when there are extremely heavy currents in the eastern Aleutians and the crab struggle to feed.

Discussion

Next steps

- **Identify what Q's to use**
 - **ESPs** not every stock
 - **Risk Tables**
 - **ESR** (*skipper science*)

Skipper survey results

- What data would you like to see reported?
- AIGKC split EAG/WAG?



Fishery Informed

Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend												
Skipper Survey: Perceived Abundance of Industry Preferred Males	Increase in perceived abundance 	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of Responses for Perceived Abundance</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Trend Category</th> <th>Number of Responses</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25%+ Increase</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-25% Increase</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Change</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-25% Decrease</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25%+ Decrease</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Trend Category	Number of Responses	25%+ Increase	8	10-25% Increase	6	No Change	5	10-25% Decrease	1	25%+ Decrease	2
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Skipper Survey: Motivation for Changes in Fishing Behavior	Change in behavior 	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of Responses for Motivation for Changes in Fishing Behavior</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Motivation</th> <th>Number of Responses</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Undesirable Crab Trawlers in the Area</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Change</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low CPUE</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Too Much Sorting</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Motivation	Number of Responses	Undesirable Crab Trawlers in the Area	10	No Change	8	Low CPUE	2	Too Much Sorting	2		
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Acknowledgements:



Questions?



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