



ABSC Skipper Surveys

Crab Plan Team – September 10, 2025

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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



Industry Questions

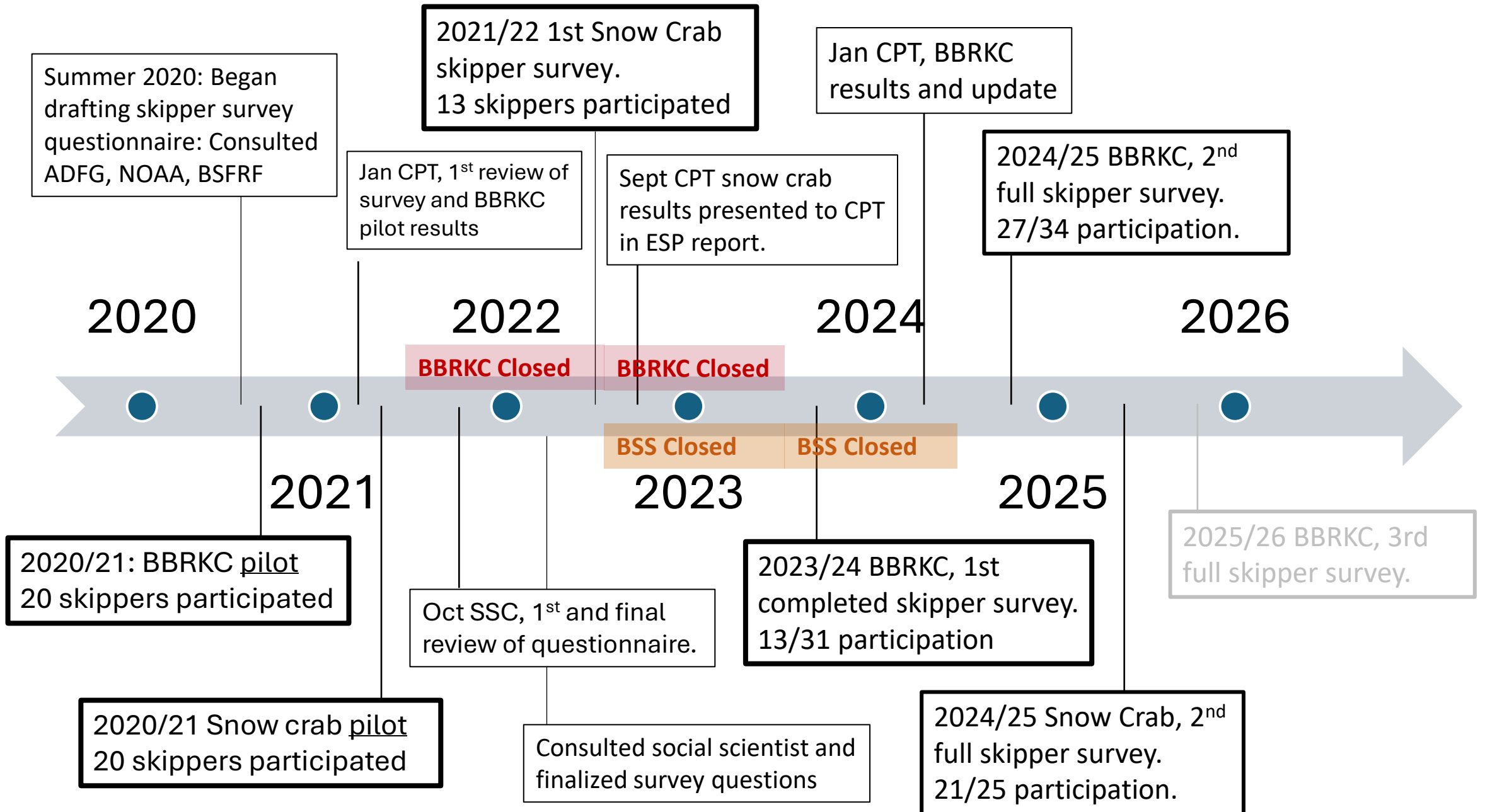
- Can change with each season
- Identify additional patterns/trends
- Identify additional research needs
- Monitor species interactions/bycatch
- Fishermen interests
- Manager interests



Current Conditions & Challenges

- Snow Crab:
 - **Closed** 22/23
 - **Closed** 23/24
 - Open 24/25 (4.63 mil lb TAC)
 - 21 / 25 vessels completed survey
- Bristol Bay Red King Crab:
 - **Closed** 21/22
 - **Closed** 23/23
 - Open 23/24 - Smallest TAC on record
 - 2,150,000 lbs
 - 13 / 31 vessels completed survey
 - Open 24/25 – Small TAC
 - 2,310,000 lbs
 - 27 / 34 vessels completed survey
- Tanner Crab
 - Two districts
 - Inconsistent seasons
- GKC
 - East/West
 - Long season
 - Confidentiality





Snow Crab 2024/2025

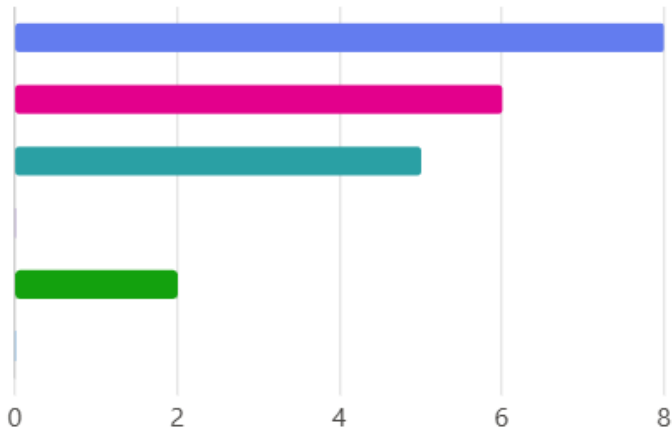
25 individual vessels fished snow crab. 2 additional vessels delivered snow crab during a Bairdi trip (ADFG data shows 27 individual vessels). 21 skippers participated in this survey. One additional skipper has not fished snow crab in over a decade so he did not qualify to complete the survey. These are the vessels that participated:

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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?

[More details](#)

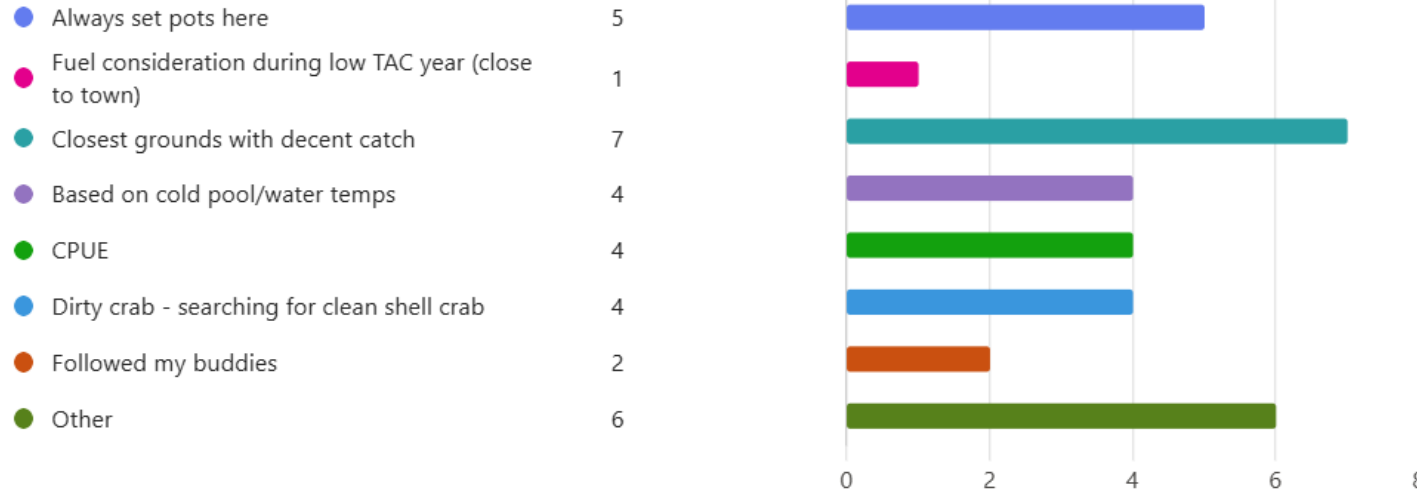
Increased a lot (more than 25%)	8
Increased a little (10% to 25%)	6
About the same (within +/- 10%)	5
Decreased a little (10% to 25%)	0
Decreased a lot (more than 25%)	2
Other	0



Snow Crab 2024/2025

14. Why did you choose to fish where you fished? (Check all that apply)

[More details](#)



Other:

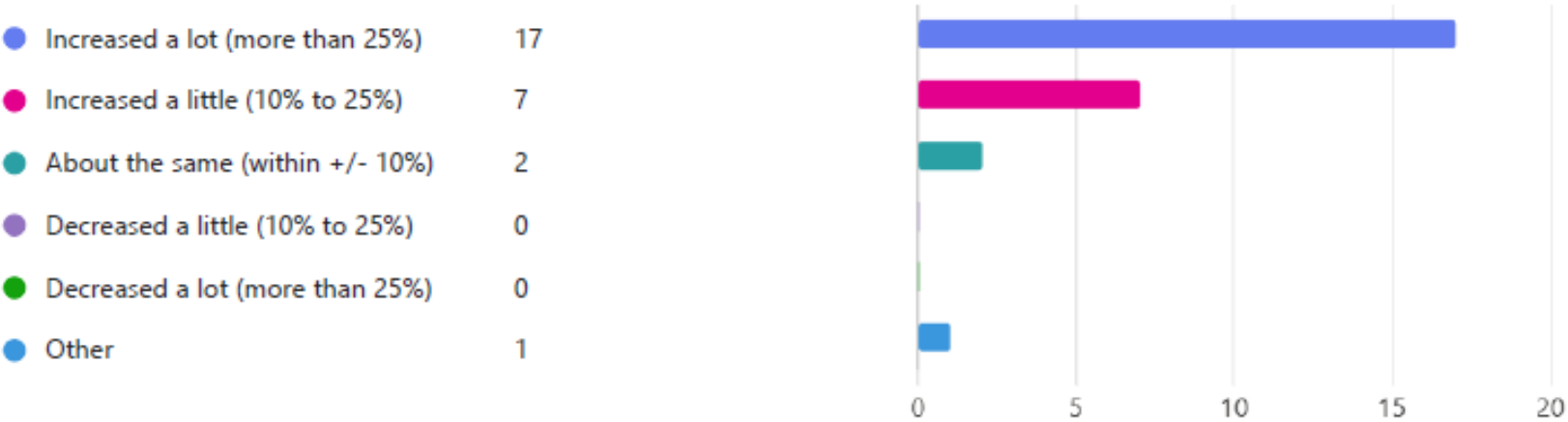
- Always set pots here; I covered a lot of bottom, best fishing was near the border
- Closest grounds with decent catch; Based on cold pool/water temps; Dirty crab - searching for clean shell crab; Followed my buddies; I chose to set SE because I wanted to see what was up and get a good feel for the future.
- Closest grounds with decent catch; Other boats called me saying they were seeing pockets of opies while bairdi fishing
- Went to the Russian line, based on the catchers that we had in the previous seasons
- Surveyed

BBRKC 2024/2025

34 individual vessels fished Bristol Bay red king crab. 27 skippers participated in this survey. These are the vessels that participated:

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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?



BBRKC 2024/2025

BBRKC 24/25 – Small TAC

- 2,310,000 lbs

14. How much quota did you have to fish this year? If you prefer not to answer, please type "NA"

27
Responses

Latest Responses

"50,000 pound"

"36,000"

"NA"

...

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Discussion

Next steps

Tanner Crab

- Two districts
- Inconsistent seasons

GKC

- East/West
- Long season
- Confidentiality

Skipper survey results

How would CPT like to receive
ABSC skipper survey results?
Annual CPT meeting? Summary of
results?



Acknowledgements:



ALASKA
BERING SEA
CRABBERS



NOAA
FISHERIES



NORTH PACIFIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Questions?



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