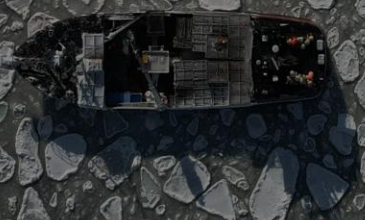
BSFRF Crab Research Update

Crab Plan Team – May 14, 2026



Scott Goodman
Executive Director

Photo Credits:
C. Lescher

Projects BSFRF is working on:

- CPS surveys (BBRKC, CPS3 and beyond)
- OPS survey (Opilio, OPS1 and beyond)
- Tags – continuing w/ partners (BBRKC, other)
- Supporting Synthesis of Information
- Tanner Crab PhD and related research
- Opilio MSE – (steering committee progress)
- Substantial Disaster Relief and Other Research
  - Current 3 direct grants, partnering on others

Photo Credits: C. Lescher

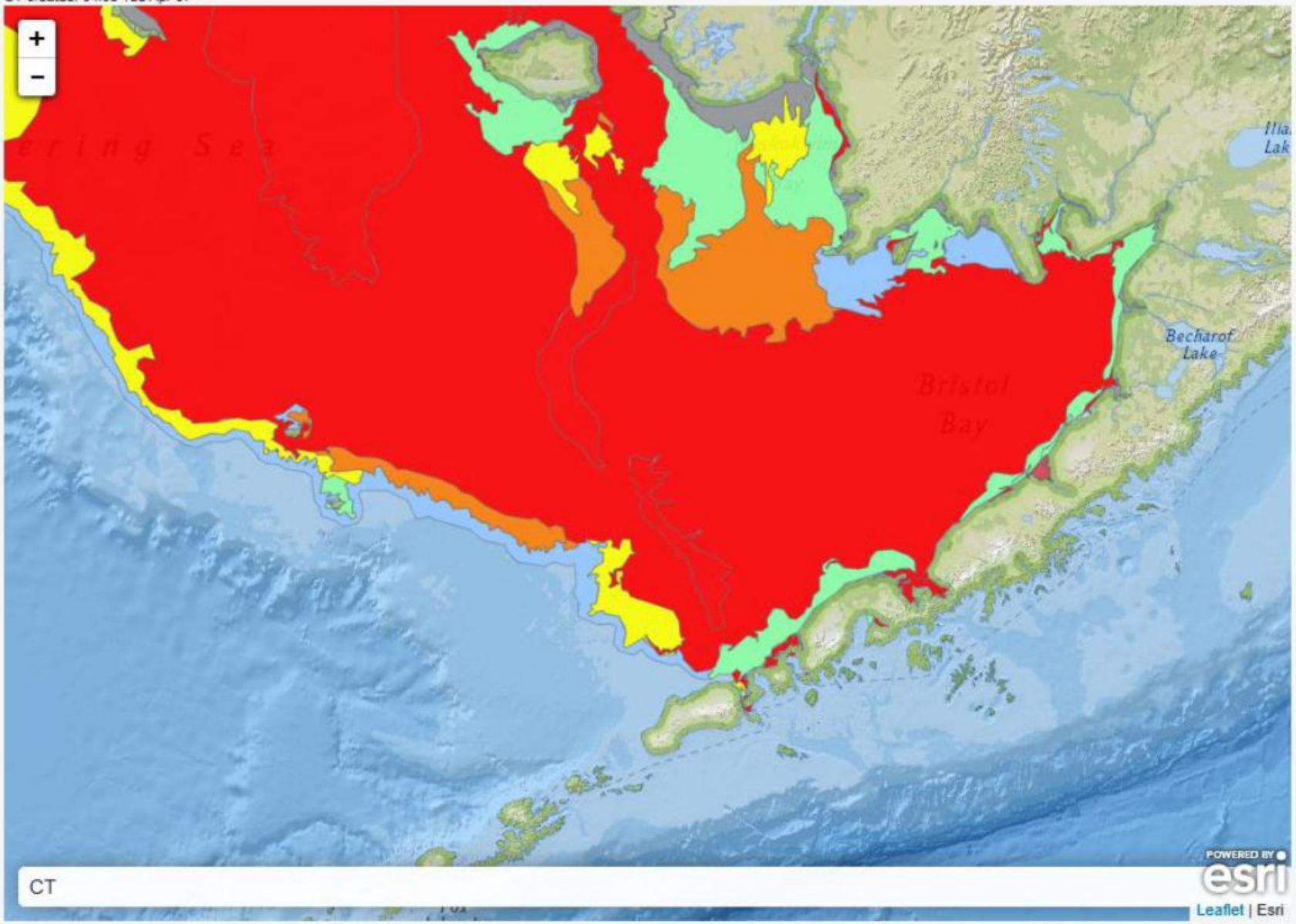
➢CPS3 Cancelled after trying to wait out ICE

- All 3 boats staged, loaded, ready in DH for a week
- Cooperation with all partners, ADFG/NOAA/others was critical

Zoomable Maps | Standard Ice Analysis & Forecast Maps | Sea Ice Forecast | 3 Month Sea Ice Outlook | Additional Satellite Resources

Ice Analysis Layer: (•) Concentration ( ) Stage ( ) Forecast Legend

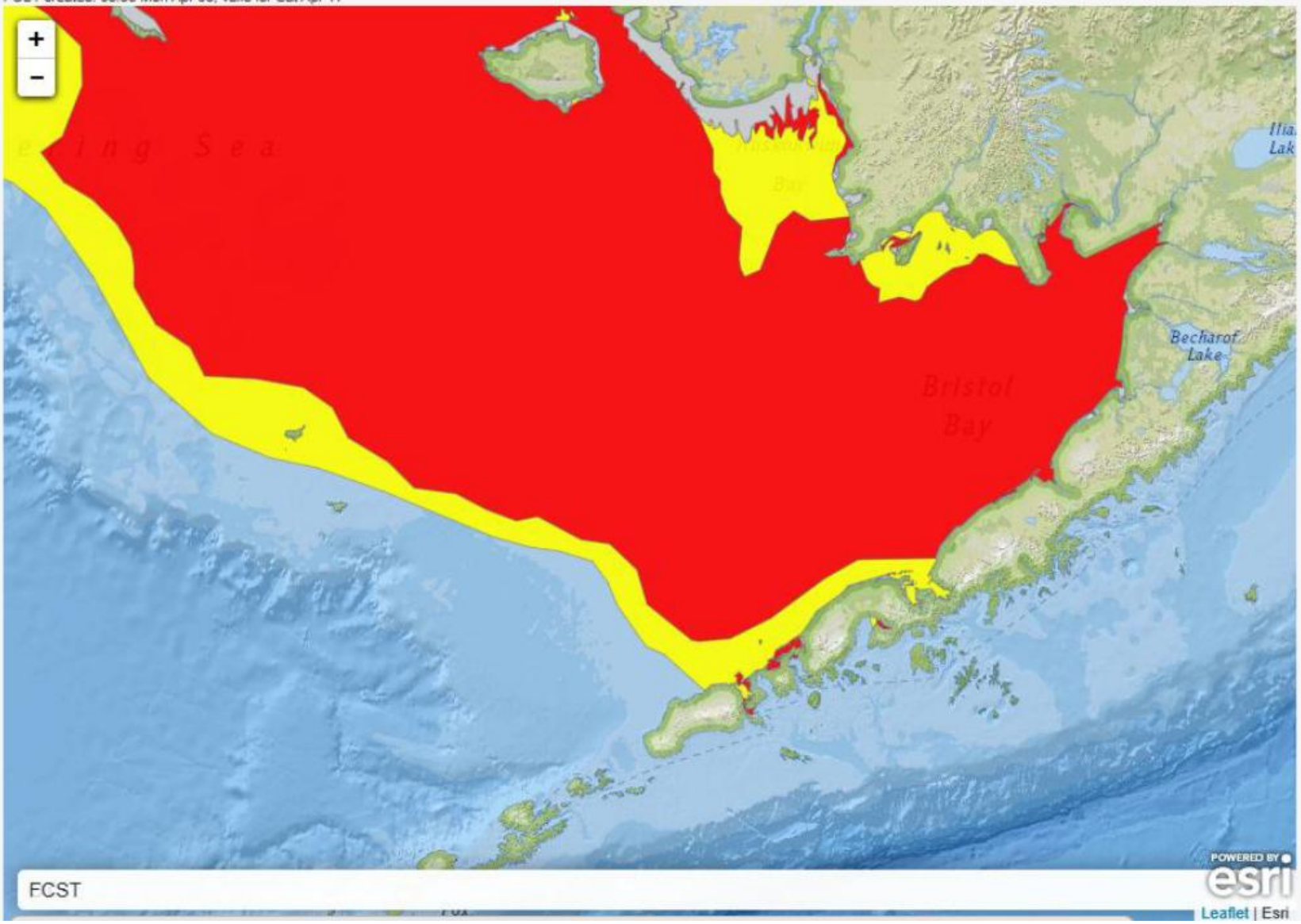
CT created: 04:08 Tue Apr 07

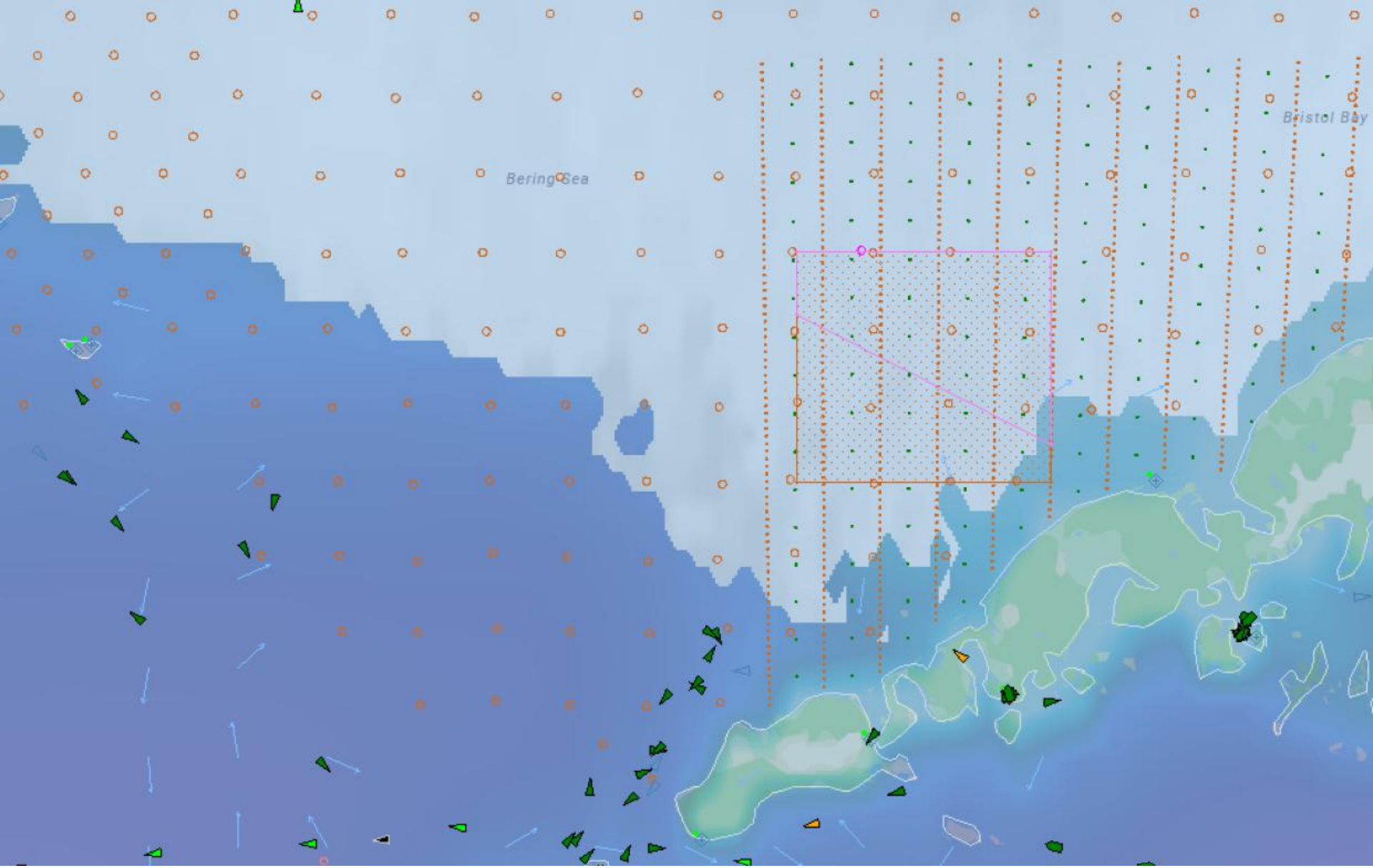


Zoomable Maps | Standard Ice Analysis & Forecast Maps | Sea Ice Forecast | 3 Month Sea Ice Outlook | Additional Satellite Resources

Ice Analysis Layer: ○ Concentration ○ Stage ◉ Forecast ? Legend

FCST created: 03:53 Mon Apr 06; valid for Sat Apr 11





- Vessels, gear, and people de-staged 3/23-3/26
- Save remaining resources for upcoming projects

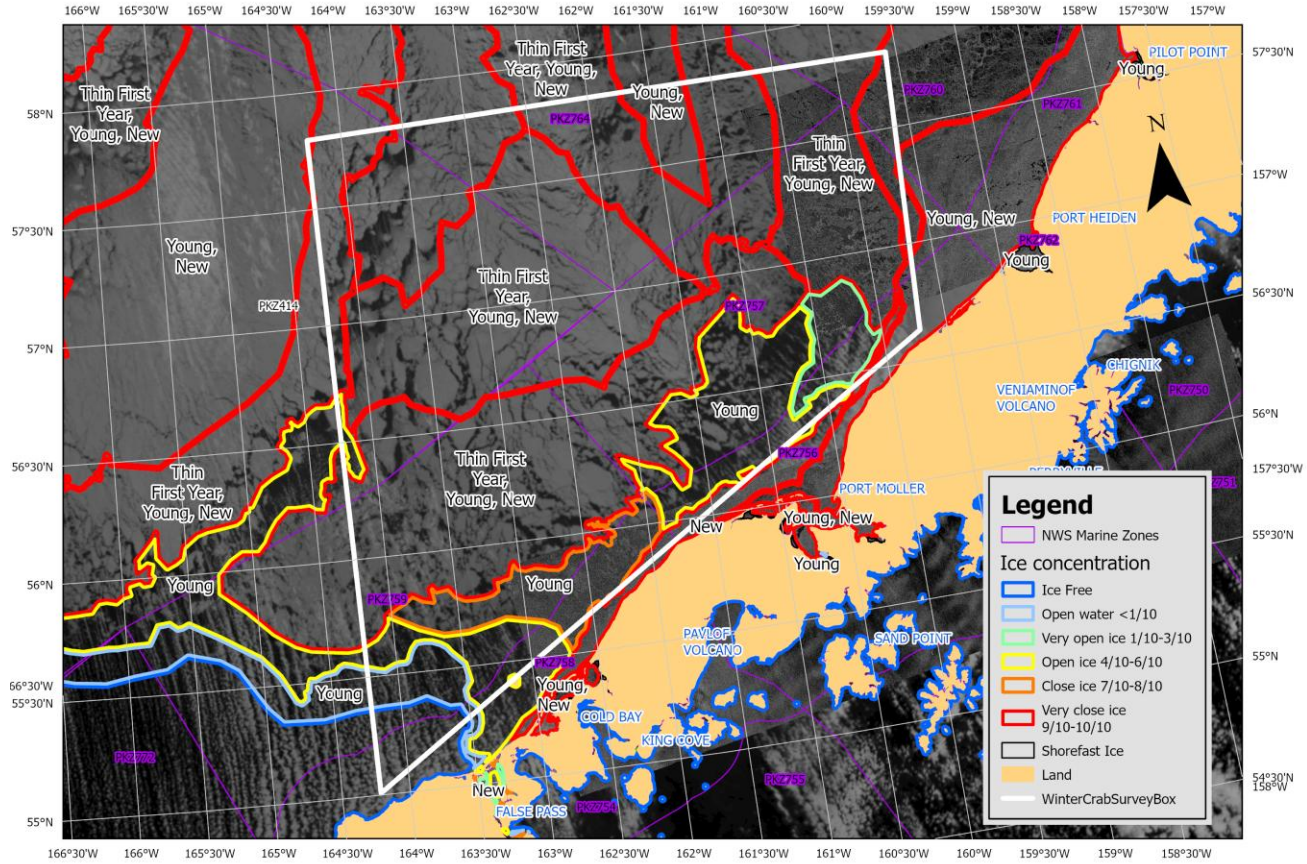
NA

michael.lawson@noaa.gov on behalf of NWS AR ASIP - NOAA Service Account <nws.ar.asip@noaa.gov>
3/16/2026 1:01 PM
To: Leah Zacher - NOAA Federal <leah.zacher@noaa.gov>, cory@alaskacrabbers.org, sgoodman@nrccorp.com, mshipley@nrccorp.com,

Good afternoon,

Today's key points:

- Northerly winds continue through the week
- Pack ice will continue to encroach on the Alaska Peninsula
- Long term guidance suggests no change in meteorological pattern anytime soon (continued northerly winds)
- We are nearing record extent for the eastern Bering Sea/Bristol Bay in the last 30 years



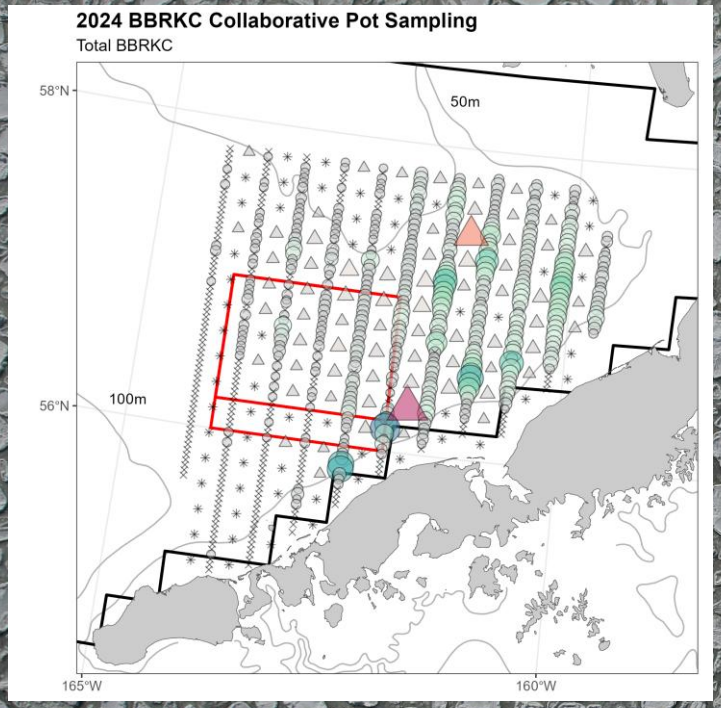
Winter Spring BBRKC surveys -

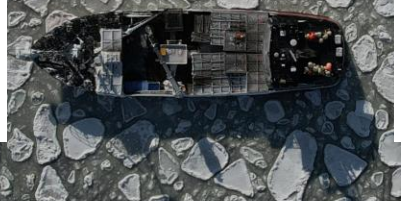
- Current plans are adjusting to missing 2025 & 2026
- Plans going forward include 2 additional iterations

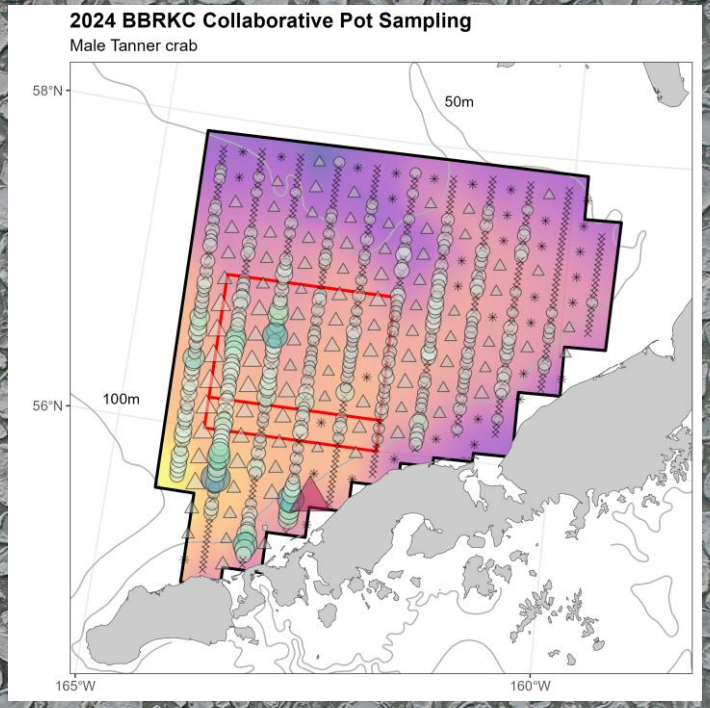
BBRKC Field Work

Year	Project	Vessels	Cost $M	Source
2023	CPS1	2	1.00	ADFG/NOAA
2024	CPS2	3	1.25	BSFRF CDS
2025				
2026				
2027	CPS3	3	1.25	BSFRF DR
2028	CPS4	3	1.25	BSFRF DR

Winter Spring BBRKC surveys -







Summary Item	CPS1 - 2023		CPS2 - 2024	
	POT	TRW	POT	TRW
Pot Lifts/Tows	637	0	646	128
RKC Catch	10,191		6,415	496
RKC Sex Ratio (M/F)	77/23	<--->	76/24	44/56
Bairdi Catch	670		1,009	928
Bairdi Sex Ratio (M/F)	83/17	<--->	99/1	68/32

Synthesis and summary of available information to inform options

Sharing and cooperation with pollock industry

- BSFRF plans to share/help coordinate options again as in A-season 2026

BSFRF
Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation

BERING SEA FISHERIES RESEARCH
23929 22ND DR SE BOTHELL, WA
FORGING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERS

November 12, 2025

RE: Suggested Options for BBR Closure Areas for PTR, 2026 A-Season

Bering Sea Pollock Industry Re
on Dynamic Spatial Closure
Measures for 2026 A Seaso

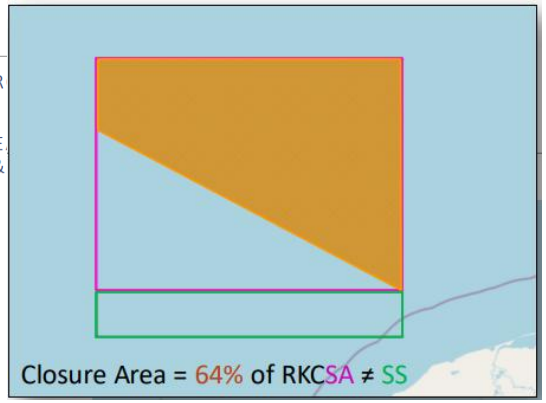
NPFMC MEETING – DECEMBER 2025 – B9

SUSIE ZAGORSKI - AFA CV IC MANAGER AND INSHORE IPA REPRESENTATIVE

JAMES MIZE – MOTHERSHIP IPA REPRESENTATIVE

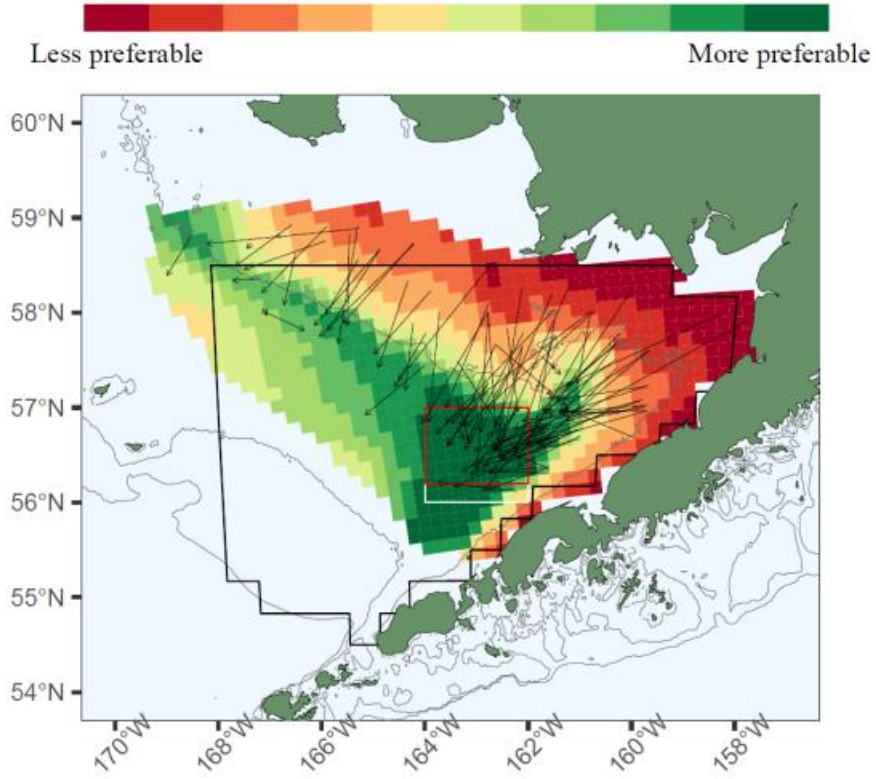
CAITLIN YEAGER – AT SEA PR ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN ESTABROOKS – AT SE PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION & REPRESENTATIVE



Support of Dr. Sean Hardison's research

- BSFRF has approved direct support of this research for 2026, likely beyond



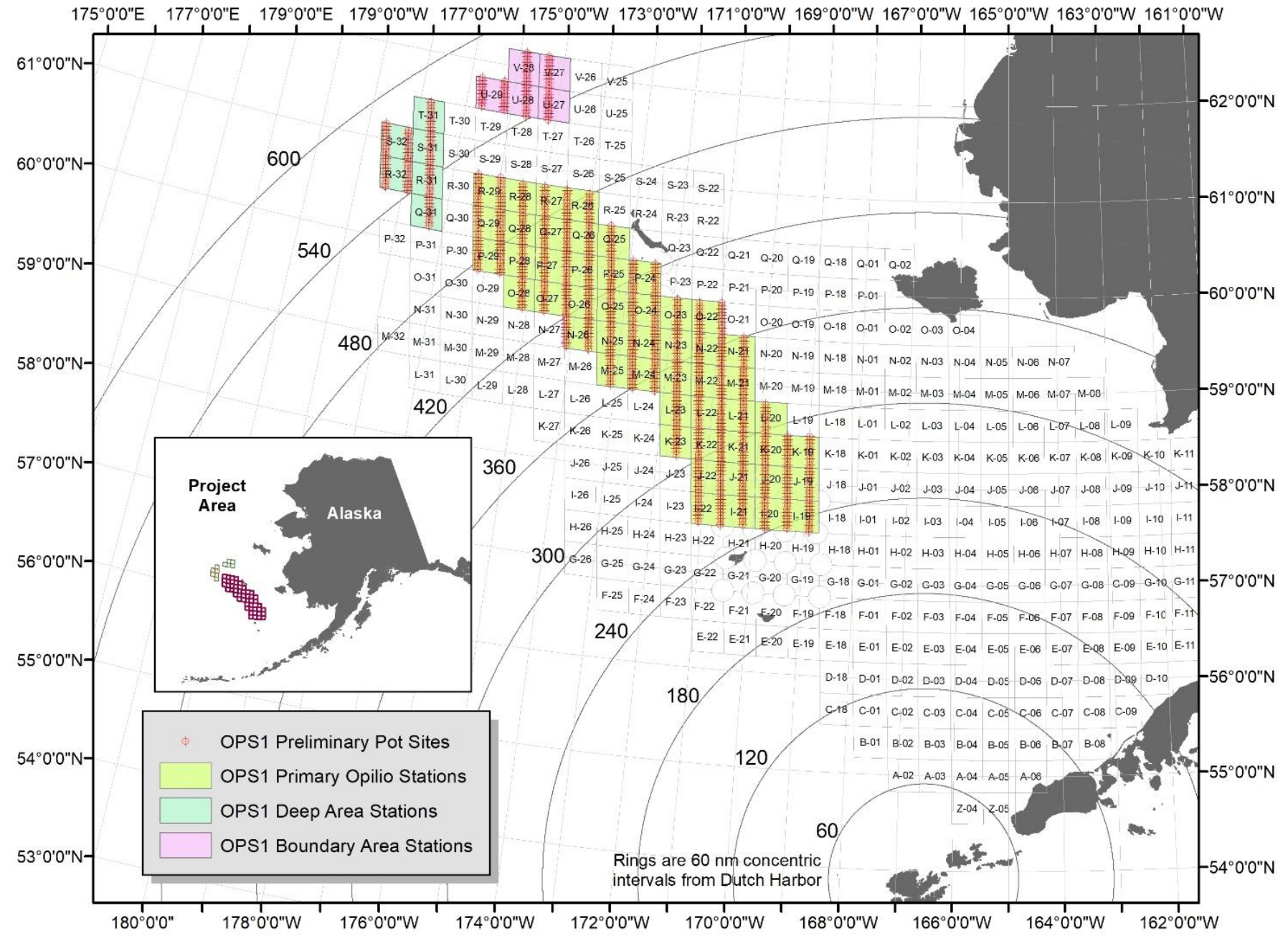
Opilio Pot Sampling 1 (OPS1)

[may include additional effort for NMFS survey gear testing]

Project online for August 2026

Objectives, sampling area, logistics, permitting – all complete

RFP for Crab Charters ASAP

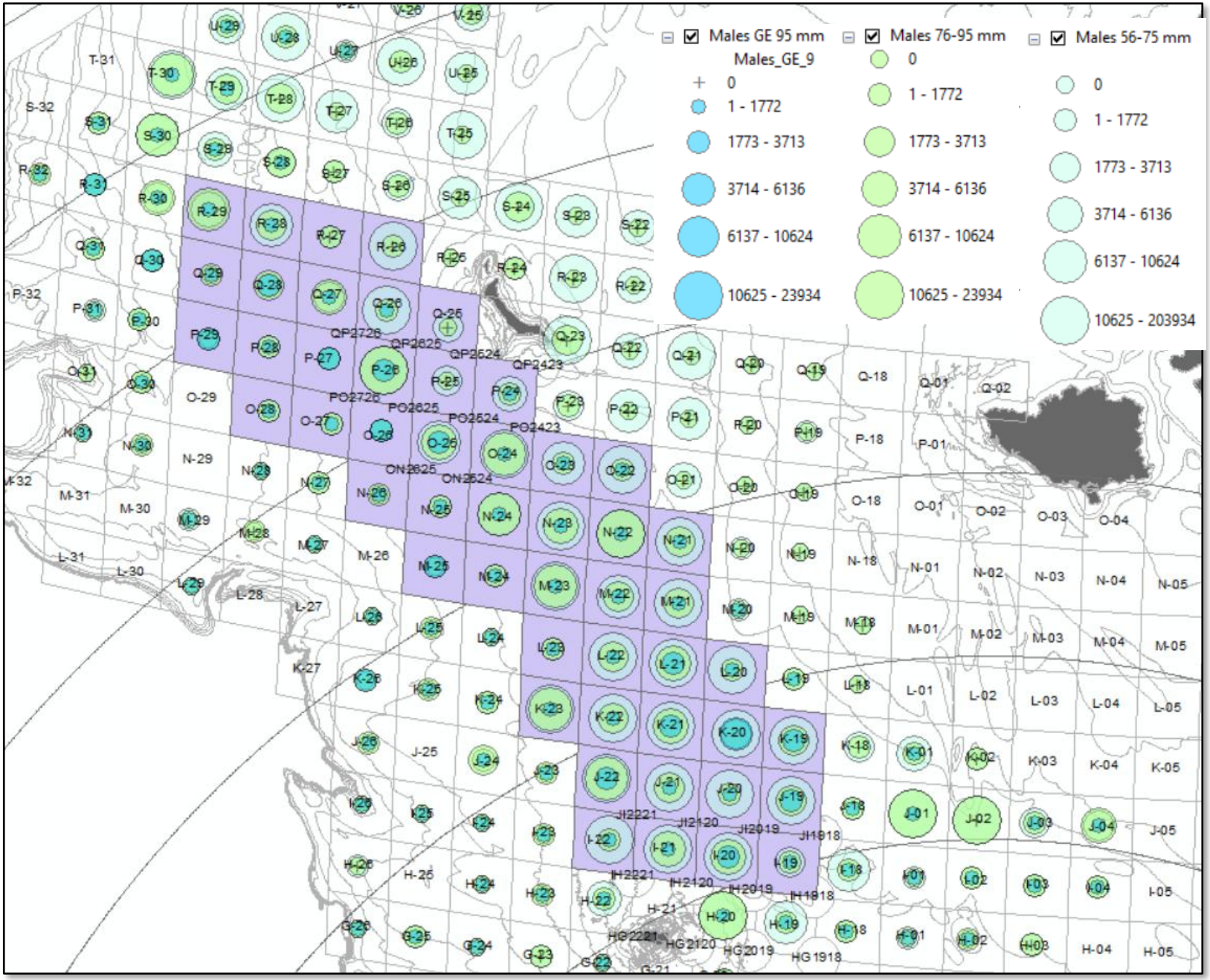

Project Area
Alaska
OPS1 Preliminary Pot Sites
OPS1 Primary Opilio Stations
OPS1 Deep Area Stations
OPS1 Boundary Area Stations
Rings are 60 nm concentric intervals from Dutch Harbor
600
540
480
420
360
300
240
180
120
60

Opilio Pot Sampling 1 (OPS1)

Objectives:

- Validate/calibrate Opilio CPUE from trawl/pot sampling
- Increased sampling density to examine variance
- Targeted sampling at fine scale in areas (in/out of survey area)
- Index area stations in deep water, EBS/NBS boundary
- Collection of chela measurements, higher spatial resolution
- Collect bottom temperature information over OPS area
- Secondary – cameras in pots, bait tests, tagging

RFP for Crab Charters ASAP


Males GE 95 mm
Males_GE_9
0
1 - 1772
1773 - 3713
3714 - 6136
6137 - 10624
10625 - 23934
Males 76-95 mm
0
1 - 1772
1773 - 3713
3714 - 6136
6137 - 10624
10625 - 23934
Males 56-75 mm
0
1 - 1772
1773 - 3713
3714 - 6136
6137 - 10624
10625 - 203934

Coordination and progress with partners and our team:

Science Team

Ms. Madison Heller-Shipley
Mr. Cory Lescher
Dr. Gordon Kruse
Dr. Tim Loher
Dr. Gary Stauffer
Mr. Scott Goodman

BSFRF
Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation

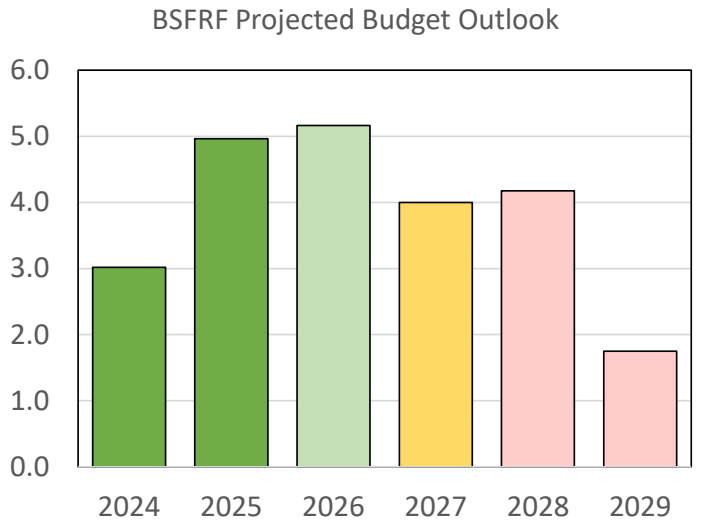
Continuing research options with partners - including:

- Collections for energetics
- Collections for disease samples
- Live holding/transport delivery
- Reciprocal tag placement (movement research)
- OA bottom water samples
- Habitat – cameras, new tech options
- Synthesis of available info (e.g. movement & seasonal distribution/bycatch considerations)
- Other new topics (hybrid prevalence, changing reproductive dynamics, etc.)

Disaster Relief Research Planning → Bairdi, Opilio and BBRKC

- Bairdi and BSS/BBR funds available w/ PSMFC grants
- BSFRF Research Strategy for 2025-2028
  - Several projects/charters for opilio/BBRKC

Year	CPSx	OPSx	CAMSLED	Other
2025				
2026				
2027				
2028				



- Coordinating w/NPRB, other special DR crab projects

Disaster Relief Research Planning → Opilio and BBRKC [through NPRB]

No.	Title	PI	Contact	Org	Requested	Funded
5056	CLRUP North- Chionoecetes Left-to-Right and Under Pressure in a changing NBS	Andrew Seitz	acseitz@alaska.edu	UAF	$1,423,255	$1,423,255
5063	Top-to-Bottom assessment of early life snow crab ecology in a melting northern Bering Sea	Jared Weems	jared.weems@alaska.gov	ADFG	$1,384,914	$1,384,914
5065	Understanding the link between Bristol Bay red king crab larval supply and recruitment strength	Ben Daly	ben.daly@alaska.gov	ADFG	$1,011,705	$750,000
5067	Understanding lost crab pot degradation and impacts on the Bristol Bay red king crab stock	Scott Goodman	sgoodman@nrccorp.com	BSFRF	$1,178,960	$1,178,960
5077	Metabolic costs of migration for Bering Sea snow crab in response to rapid regional warming	Trond Kristiansen	trondkr@faralloninstitute.org	Farallon Institute	$708,033	$708,033
5079	Population genomics of Bristol Bay red king crab for fishery management and enhancement	Kristen Gruenthal	kristen.gruenthal@alaska.gov	State of Alaska	550,968	$550,968
Total of Requested and Funded					**$5,706,867**	**$5,996,130**

Disaster Relief Research Planning → Opilio and BBRKC [through NPRB]

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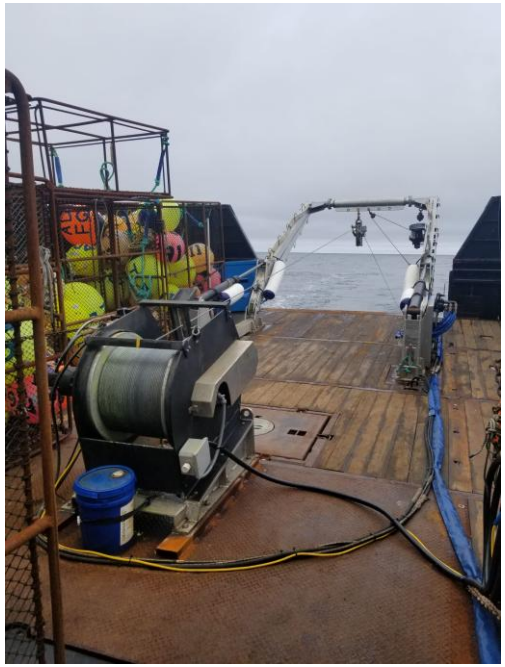
Simulated Loss of Crab Pots in Bristol Bay (UFM Pot Project)

- 50-60 BBRKC pots deployed as baited, fishing pots “left out”
- Approximately November 1, 2026, timed with early part of fishery
- Pots will test rot cord decay times with pop-up satellite tags
- Cameras will record time-lapse activity in several pots
- Smart buoys will mark pot locations
- Pots will be deployed and recovered with crab charters
- All pots intended to be retrieved by the end of 1 year (season)
- Several details are in final planning/testing development
- PI’s Goodman, Lescher, Antonelis, several collaborators
- Reporting more on this soon after pilot testing

Assisting, coordinating habitat research

- Early life and juvenile habitat area survey/evaluation
- Working with ADFG and others on charters and details



- Adult red king crab habitat evaluation near/around fishing activity
- Advising ABSC on habitat research project in development

Collection of Brood Stock BBR Females for St Paul Hatchery

- Several collaborative partners on large multi year project
- 32 gravid female crabs captured and delivered recently BB to STP
- Coordinated with BSFRF and the FV Confidence/FV Pacific Mariner
- Further reporting from hatchery leadership soon

Top 12 Research Priorities, 2024-2028 – CRAB IN RED

(bullets are not in order, shortened summary text from actual)

- Reduce **western Alaska salmon bycatch** in Bering Sea groundfish fisheries
- Quantify **fishing gear impacts on crab** and their habitat – toward gear innovation
- Evaluate **marine mammal-fishery interactions** and potential mitigation measures
- Examine economic, social, and cultural **effects of fisheries and policy on communities** over time
- Actionable **ecosystem indicators** relevant to assessments that **address climate change impacts** to managed stocks
- Acquire **basic life history information** - emphasize improved estimates of **size/age at maturity** & related dynamics
- Spatial distribution, habitat requirements, and **movement of crabs relative to life history events & fishing**
- Predictive tools & **models that evaluate projected climate scenarios** on managed resources to inform options
- **Retrospective and meta- analysis** on 'efficacy and rationale' of fishery management plans perform over time
- **Norton Sound Red King Crab** case study as a pilot study for the **incorporation of Local Knowledge**
- Improve **surveys in untrawlable habitat**, particularly for rockfish, Atka mackerel, sculpins, and **snow crab**
- Improve **discard mortality rate estimates** for scallops, crab, and groundfish stocks by gear types

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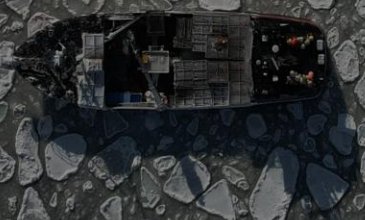

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