



Ecosystem & Socioeconomic Profile - Socioeconomics Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

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NOAA
FISHERIES

SSC/CPT General ESP Comments

*“The CPT requested more information on how indicators were initially identified and the relationships of ecosystem indicators with crab response variables. While the primary focus here is ecosystem indicators, **the SSC notes that information on how fishery performance and socioeconomic indicators were chosen should also be included.**” (SSC, June 2025)*

Generally, there is a more expansive set of S/E indicators included in Full Tanner ESP than in ESP Updates

Fishery performance/fishery-informed indicators:

- identified by CPT based on previous iterations of other crab ESPs
- informed by considerations identified by ADFG in the TAC-setting process
- Primarily metrics of the level, location, and efficiency of fishing effort
- Note: metrics substantially overlap with more detailed information included in Fishery Summary presentation

Economic and community indicators:

- Based on metrics previously reported in crab ESPs
- Included community/processing sector indicators otherwise suspended from crab ESP reporting
- A novel economic indicator was added to the Tanner crab ESP - lease cost as percent of ex-vessel gross value (Lease Cost Share), which captures a particularly dynamic effect of the consolidation of the active fleet in response to low TACs across Bering Sea crab fisheries.
- Fuller response to comment is pending general guidance from the SSC and Council regarding priorities for ESP/socioeconomic indicators to inform TAC setting;

SSC/CPT General ESP Comments

“The CPT commented that for the economic indicators, it would be interesting to look at the centroid of the fishery in relation to the centroid of the stock from the survey.” (CPT, May 2025)

- This is likely feasible, but incorporation of additional locational indicators for the fishery awaits CPT consideration of the ESP’s initial set of fishery-informed indicators before introducing additional candidates.

“The CPT suggested that a challenge in using socio-economic indicators is that they are based on past data, and it would be useful to have a discussion at the CPT, SSC and Council levels on what is the best information that we have the capacity to provide that is likely to be the most useful to stakeholders.” (CPT, May 2025)

- Strongly agreed; given the inherently retrospective empirical data collection processes regarding- and limitations on accurately forecasting - socioeconomic factors, particularly those specific to individual stocks/fisheries, authors await guidance from the SSC and Council regarding priority socioeconomic information to inform recurring annual management decisions (e.g. ABC/OFL and TAC-setting) and, ideally, more specific criteria for selection of socioeconomic indicators in the respective categories. This guidance would be most useful if it would address the limited role the Council and NMFS play in TAC setting for crab stocks.

Socioeconomic Indicators – Tanner Crab

Socio-economic Indicators



Fishery Performance

1. Number active vessels (E/W Tanner)
2. Fishery CPUE (E/W Tanner)
3. Total potlifts (E/W Tanner)
4. Centroid of Fishery – Latitude (E/W Tanner)
5. Centroid of Fishery – Longitude (E/W Tanner)
6. Incidental catch (groundfish fisheries) (E/W Tanner)
7. TAC Utilization (E/W Tanner)



Economic

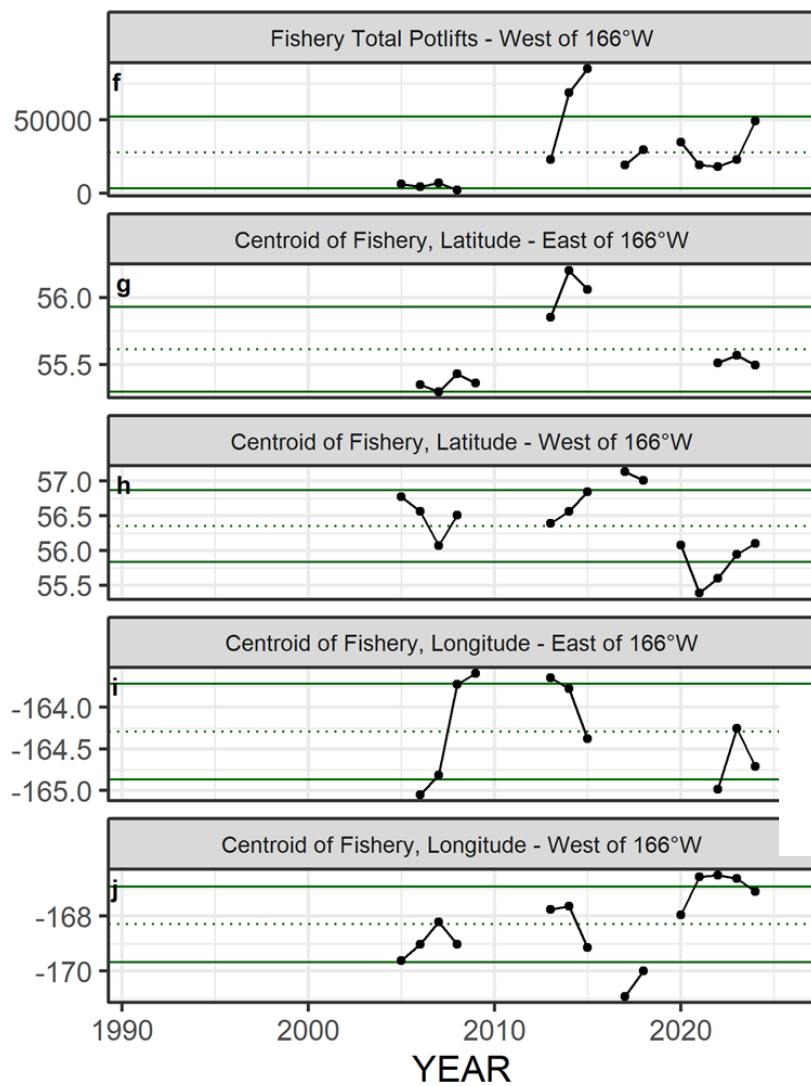
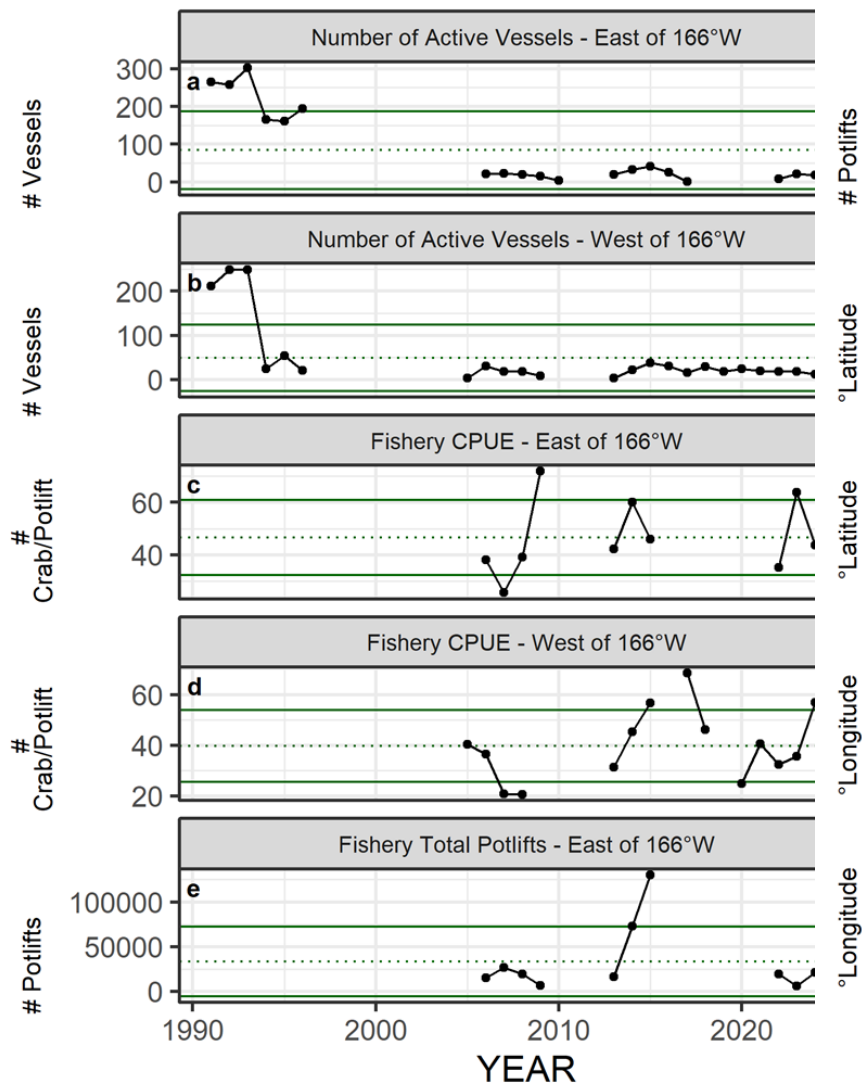
8. Ex-vessel value
9. Ex-vessel price/lb
10. Ex-vessel revenue share
11. Quota lease cost share



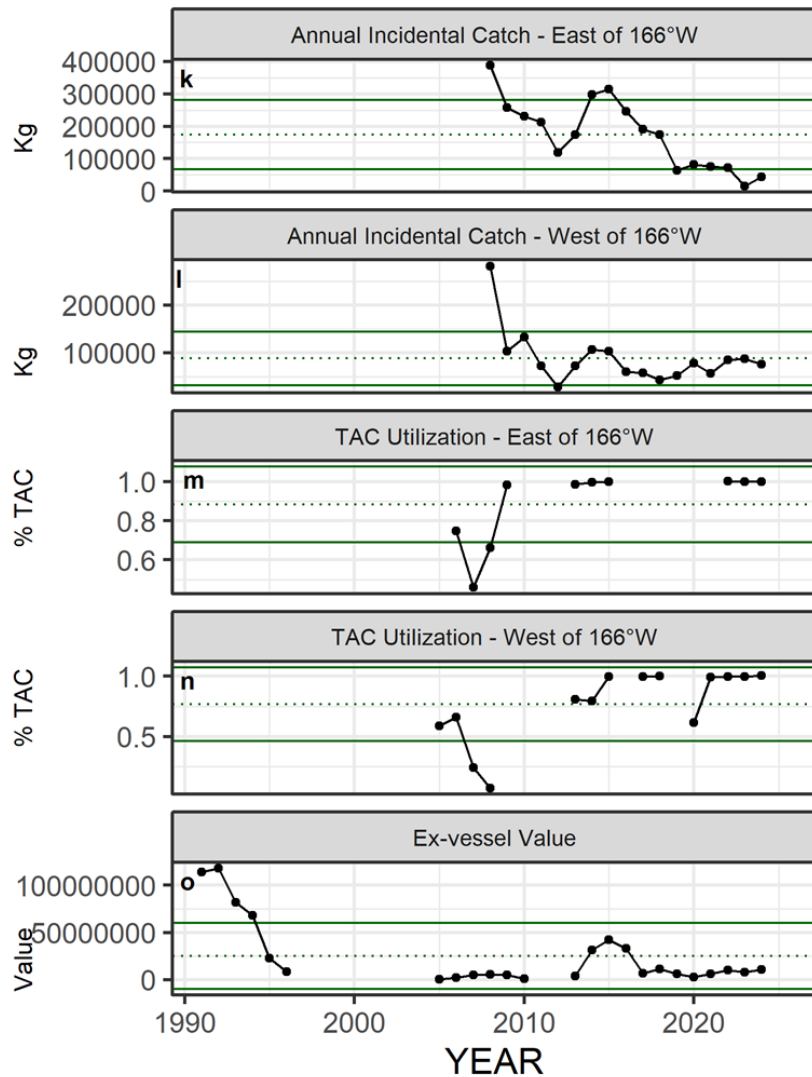
Community

12. Number of active processors
13. Processing labor hours
14. Local quotient landed – Dutch Harbor

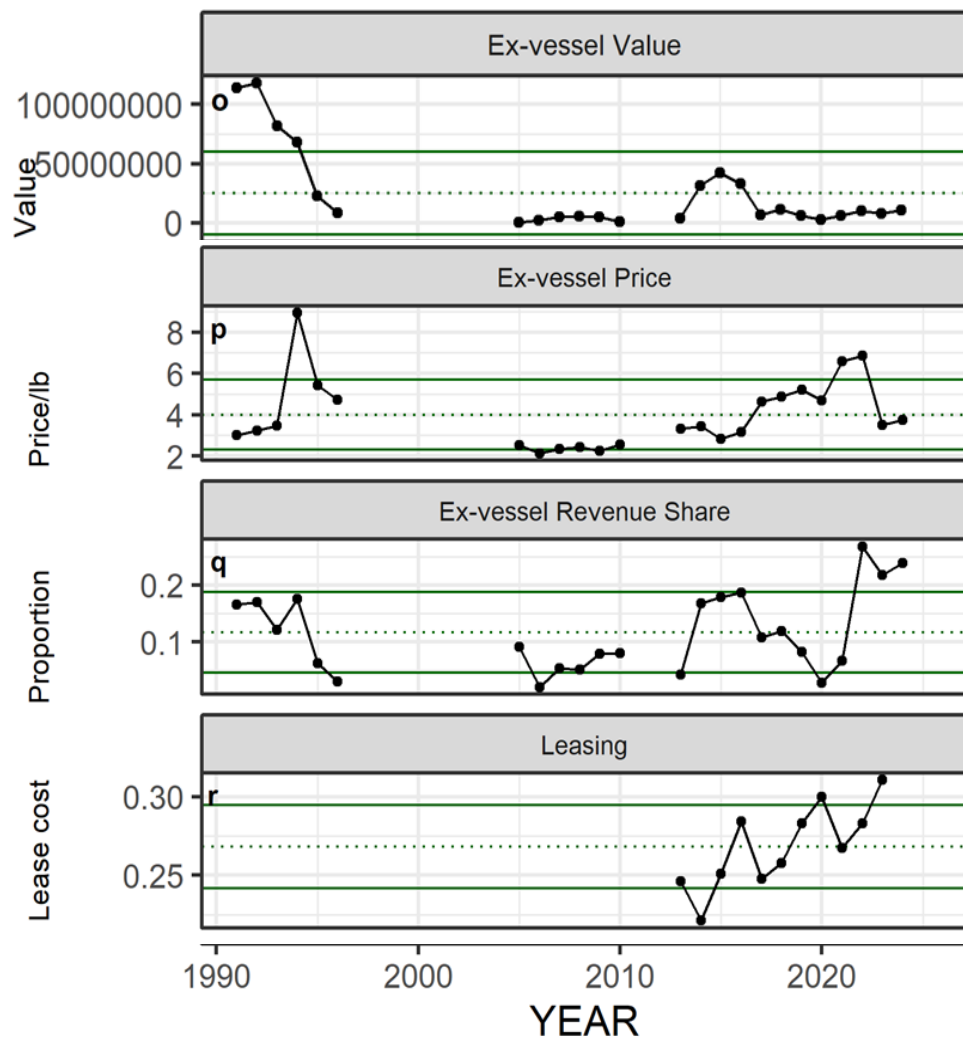
Fishery-informed Indicators



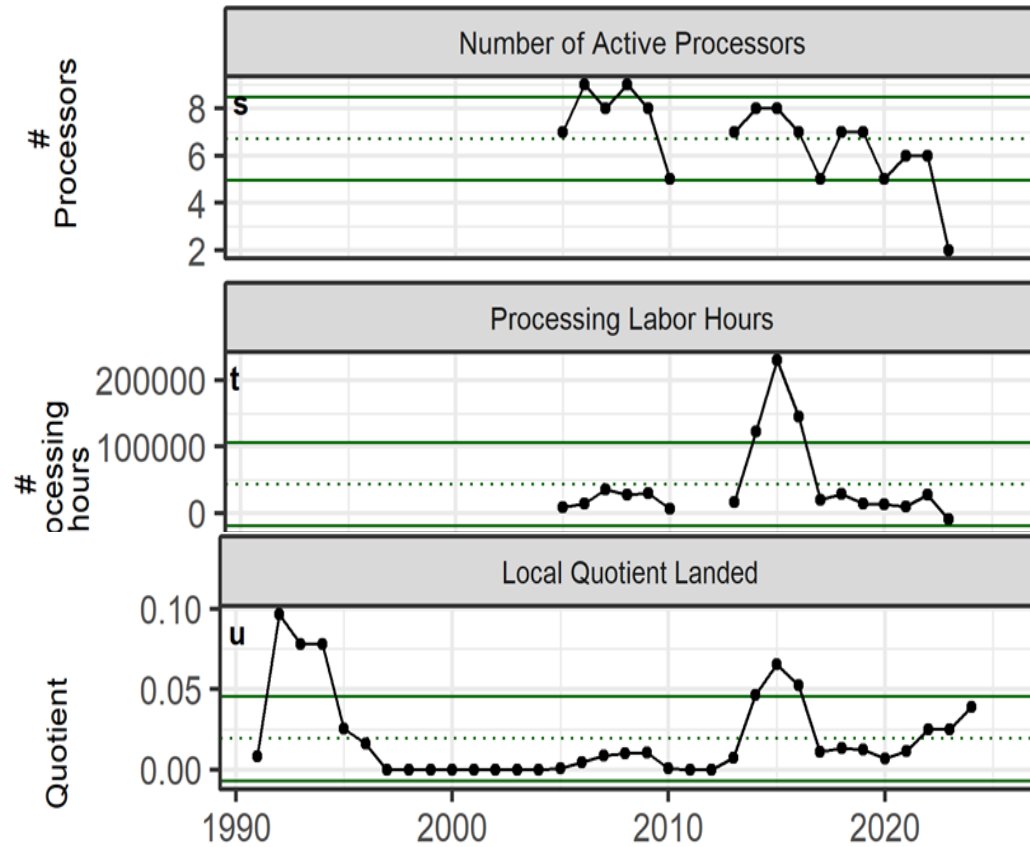
Fishery-informed Indicators – Tanner Crab



Economic Performance Indicators – Tanner Crab



Community Indicators – Tanner Crab



ESP Considerations - Socioeconomic Summary

- Marginally reduced fleet, increased potlifts
 - Center of gravity of fishing shifted toward E/W boundary
 - Both E/W fisheries are fully utilized
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- Ex-vessel value and price (2023) are below long-term average, but trending upward
 - Ex-vessel revenue share and lease cost share of Tanner crab landings for participating vessels are historically high
 - Active processing plants declined to two (2023) – historical and critical low

ESP Considerations - Socioeconomic Content

- Ongoing need for structure and guidance from SSC and Council for socioeconomic content in ESPs
- Loss of EDR data and analytical capacity – need for prioritization of information needs for decision support



Questions?