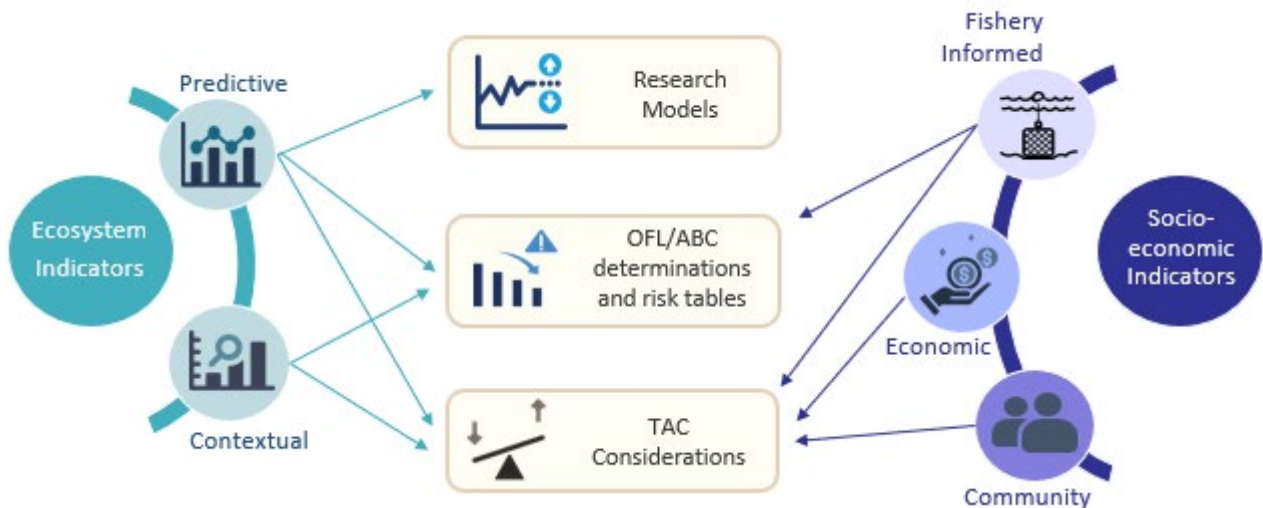




Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab

2026 Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP) Report Card



Ecosystem Considerations



Predictive

- Juvenile snow crab **energetic condition** remains **elevated** in 2026, suggesting high survival due to elevated energetic stores.
- Juvenile snow crab **occupied temperatures** were **< 0°C** in 2026 and the spatial extent of bottom waters $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ was near average, indicating **conditions suitable for high survival, recruitment and stock recovery**.
- Spring **sea ice extent increased substantially** in 2026 and is above the time series mean. High sea ice coverage promotes greater flux of primary production to the benthos and supports elevated energetic condition in juvenile snow crab.



Contextual

- Record-high mature female abundance in 2026 resulted in a **strongly female-skewed operational sex ratio** (85 mature females to one >95mm large male), although only ~3% of mature females with empty clutches suggests **high reproductive potential**
- Bitter crab **disease** and **Pacific cod predation** remained **below average** in 2026
- Mature male snow crab **center of abundance and area occupied** remain **near average** in 2026 despite relatively cold summer temperatures
- The **male size at 50% maturity** remains **near average** in 2026, although this indicator has been trending down for the past three decades.

Socioeconomic Considerations



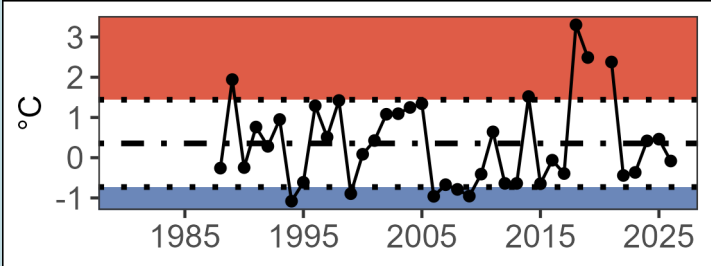
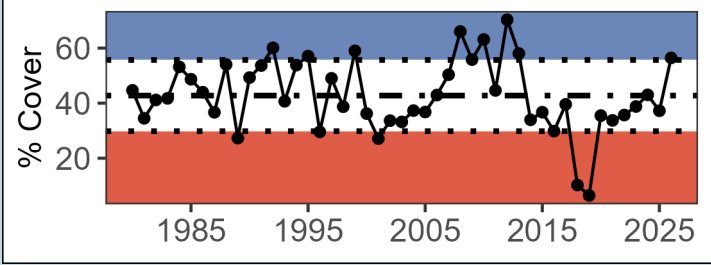
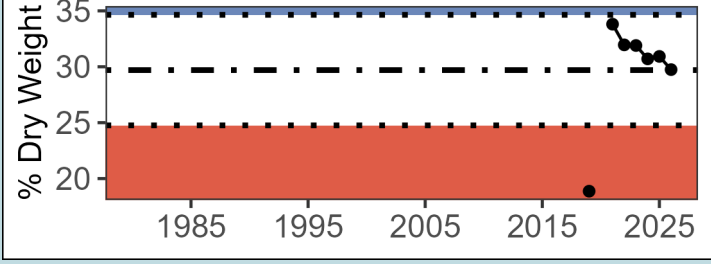
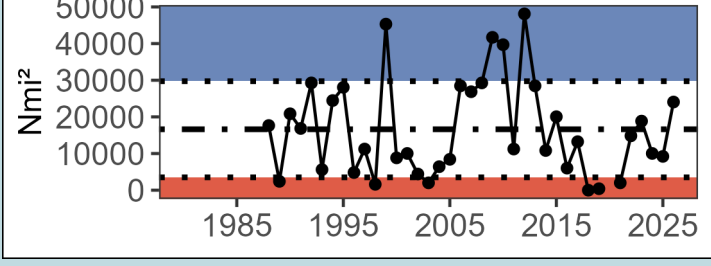
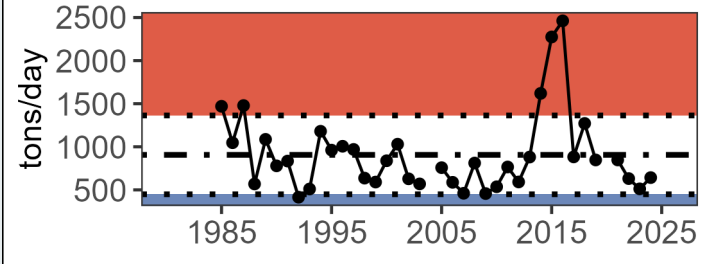
Fishery Informed

- Fishery **CPUE** and **total effort** in the fishery remain **below average**.
- Fishing during the 2025/26 season **shifted substantially to the southeast**, which is consistent with ~60% of skippers reporting that weather/sea ice, high sorting and fuel costs motivated this change in behavior.
- ~50% of skippers reported a **>10% increase in perceived abundance** of industry-preferred males relative to the previous open season, and 47% of skippers noted **slightly more to a lot more hybrid crab** than the previous season.



Snow Crab ESP Report Card

Ecosystem Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
 Juvenile Snow Crab Temperature of Occupancy	Near long-term mean 	
Spring Sea Ice Extent	Above long-term mean 	
Juvenile Snow Crab Energetic Condition	Near long-term mean 	
Cold Pool Extent ($\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Near long-term mean 	
 Pacific Cod Consumption	Near long-term mean 	

Most recent year indicator status indicates *good conditions*, *average conditions*, or *poor conditions* for the stock



Snow Crab ESP Report Card



Ecosystem Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
Male Snow Crab Size at Maturity	Near long-term mean 	
Male Snow Crab Area Occupied	Near long-term mean 	
Male Snow Crab Center of Abundance	Near long-term mean 	
Female Snow Crab Reproductive Failure	Near long-term mean 	
Snow Crab Operational Sex Ratio	Above long-term mean 	

Most recent year indicator status indicates *good conditions*, *average conditions*, or *poor conditions* for the stock



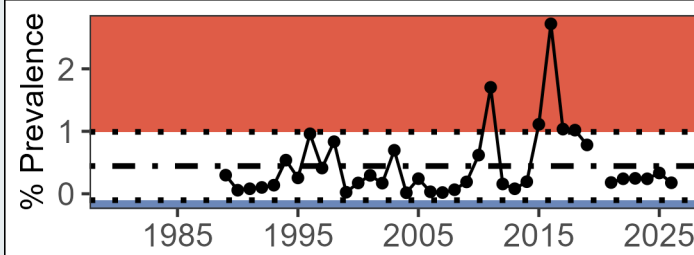
Contextual



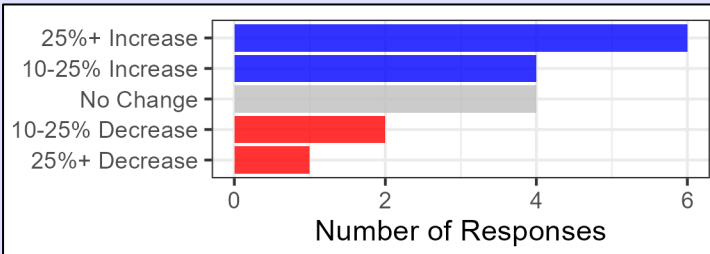
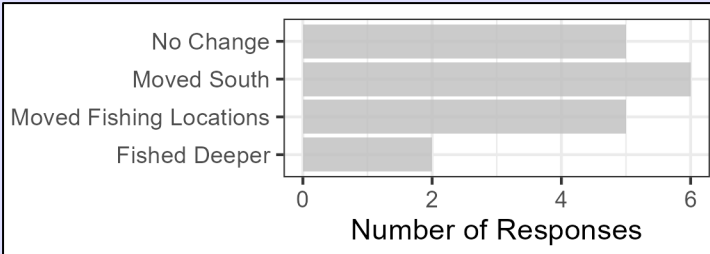
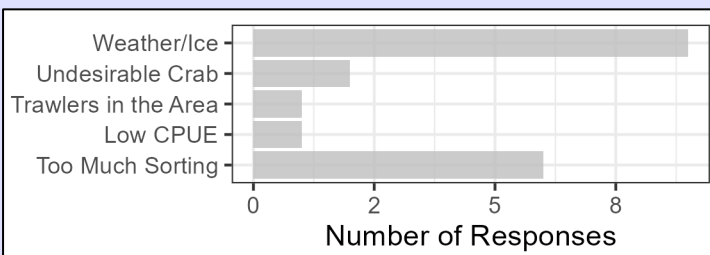
Snow Crab ESP Report Card



Ecosystem Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
 Juvenile Snow Crab Disease Prevalence	Near long-term mean 	

Socioeconomic Indicators

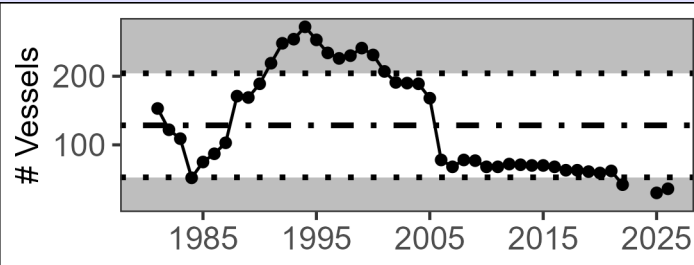
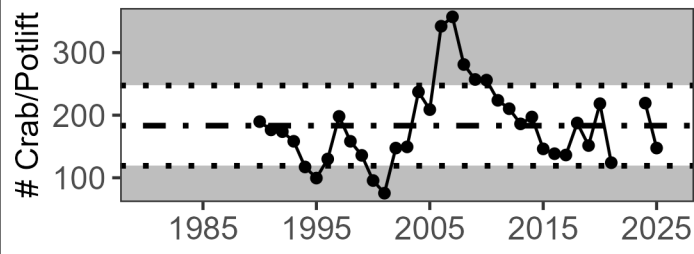
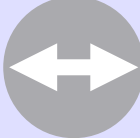
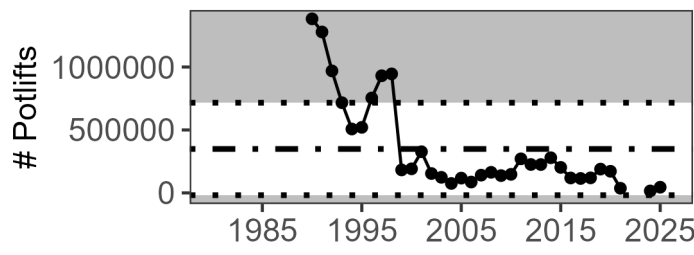
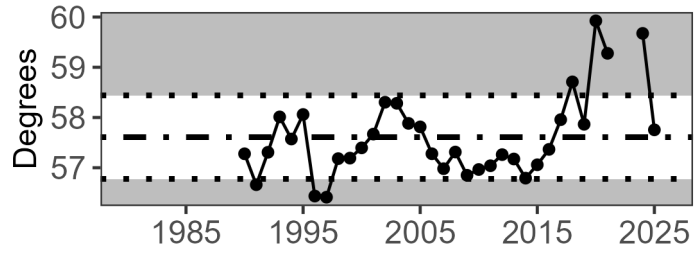
Indicator	Status	Trend
 Skipper Survey: Perceived Abundance of Industry Preferred Males	Increase in perceived abundance 	
Skipper Survey: Changes in Fishing Behavior	Change in area fished 	
Skipper Survey: Motivation for Changes in Fishing Behavior	Weather challenges and more sorting 	

Most recent year indicator status indicates *good conditions*, *average conditions*, or *poor conditions* for the stock



Snow Crab ESP Report Card

Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
 Fishery Informed Number of Active Vessels	Below long-term average 	
Fishery CPUE	Near long-term average 	
Fishery Total Potlifts	Near long-term average 	
Centroid of Fishery	Near long-term average 	
Annual Incidental Catch	Near long-term average 	