



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report includes those for salmon, scallop, crab and Pacific cod.

**Salmon Troll Fishery**

The Southeast Alaska general summer troll fishery opened on July 1, 2014. The summer fishery targets the majority of the annual Treaty Chinook salmon quota in one or more open periods during the July 1 – September 30 timeframe. During the summer season, most waters of the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat area are open to commercial trolling, including outer coastal waters in the EEZ, excluding those waters described in 5 AAC 29.150.

Total catch from the first retention period was 198,945 Chinook salmon and 196,714 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon. Harvest from the second retention period was 55,820 Chinook salmon and 54,181 of those fish were estimated to be Treaty Chinook salmon.

Fish ticket reports indicate that in 2014, 23% of the summer Chinook salmon harvest and 2% of the summer Coho salmon harvest occurred in the EEZ.

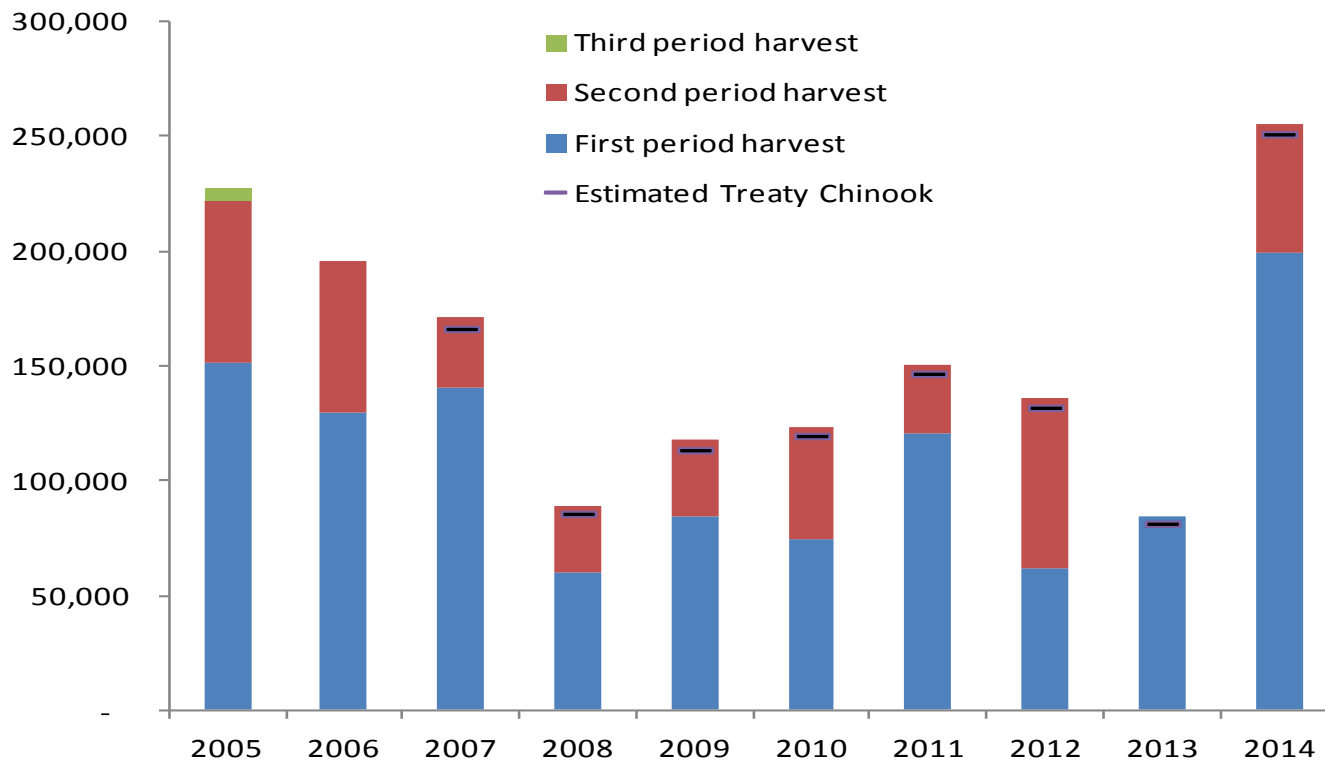


Figure 1. Chinook salmon harvest in the Southeast Alaska summer troll fishery, 2005 – 2014.

## Scallops

Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2014. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2014/15 season is 407,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 2% increase from the 2013/14 cumulative GHL. The Prince William Sound (East Kayak Island) and the Cook Inlet Area Kamishak District will remain closed for the 2014/15 season due to declining trends in survey abundance and biomass.

Effort is similar to past seasons with the F/V Polar Sea replacing the Arctic Hunter. Total harvest to date is just over 240,000 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in the Shelikof and Northeast Districts of the Kodiak management area and in the Dutch Harbor management area.

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2014/15.

Registration Area	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)		
		Tanner Crab	King Crab	
YAKUTAT	Area D	120,000	N/A	N/A
	District 16	25,000	N/A	N/A
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND (East Kayak)	<i>Closed for the 2014/15 season</i>			
COOK INLET	<i>Closed for the 2014/15 season</i>			
KODIAK	Northeast District	55,000	256,466	25
	Shelikof District	105,000	42,144	50
	Southwest District <sup>1</sup>	25,000	12,000	50
	Semidi District <sup>1</sup>	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
ALASKA	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	<i>monitored inseason</i>	
PENINSULA	Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	15,000	12,000	50
DUTCH HARBOR		5,000	5,000	10
BERING SEA		50,000	260,000	500

<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

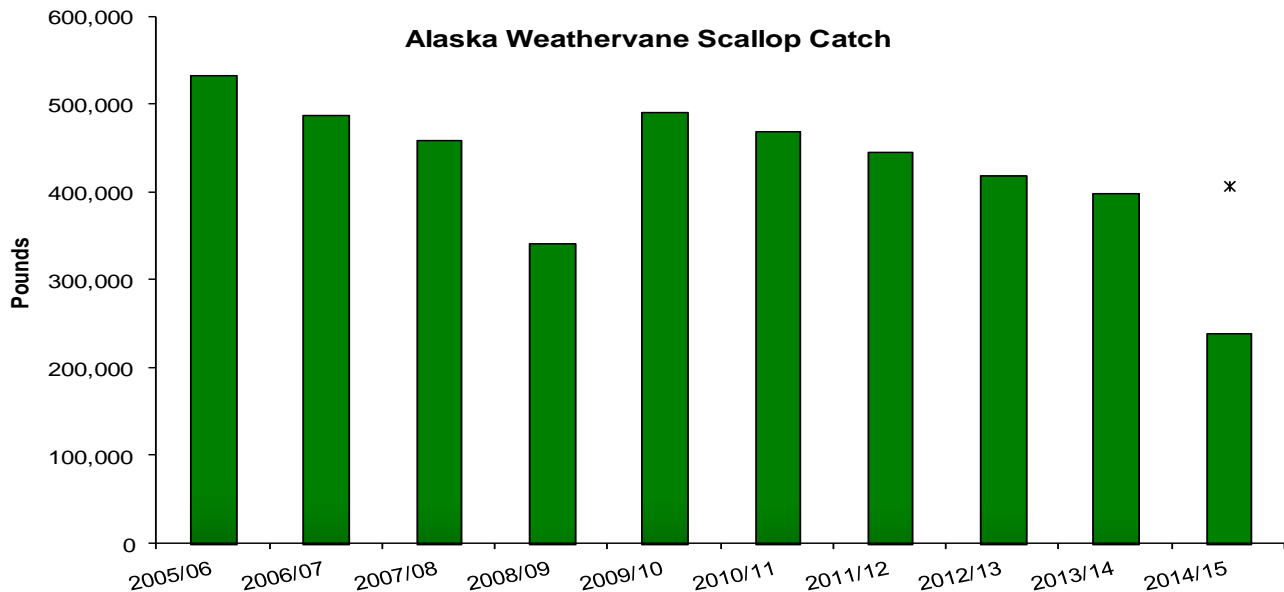


Figure 2. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

### Norton Sound red king crab

The 2014 Norton Sound red king crab summer open access and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries opened on June 25, 2014 with a total GHL of 382,800 pounds. The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5 percent of the quota and the remaining 354,090 pounds were allocated to the open access fishery. Catch rates improved from the previous year, average catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 13 crabs per pot. The Norton Sound season lasted 40 days (compared to 74 in 2013), closing on August 2, 2014. Thirty-five permit holders harvested 102% (360,860 pounds) of the open access quota and 17 permit holders harvested 98% (28,148 pounds) of the CDQ quota. The average price paid (including CDQ catch) was \$5.12 per pound, the fourth highest amount ever paid. The exvessel value of the fishery was \$1.96 million.

### Norton Sound open access and CDQ summer fishery

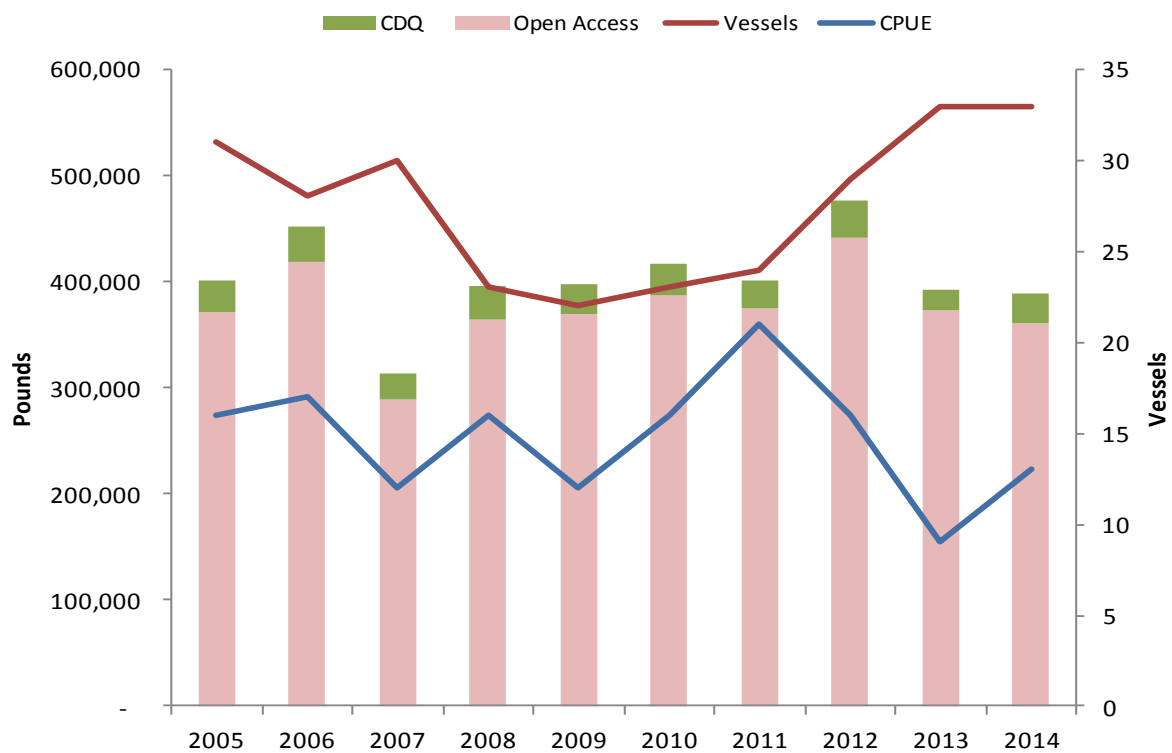


Figure 3. Norton Sound red king crab harvest, 2005 – 2014.

### Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2014/15 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2014. The total allowable catch (TAC) is set at 6.29 million pounds by regulation and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 3.31 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.98 million pounds. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the CDQ (eastern) and Adak Community Allocation (ACA-western) fisheries. Three vessels are currently participating in the

eastern area and harvest to date is 1.9 million pounds. Two vessels are fishing in the western area and harvest remains confidential.

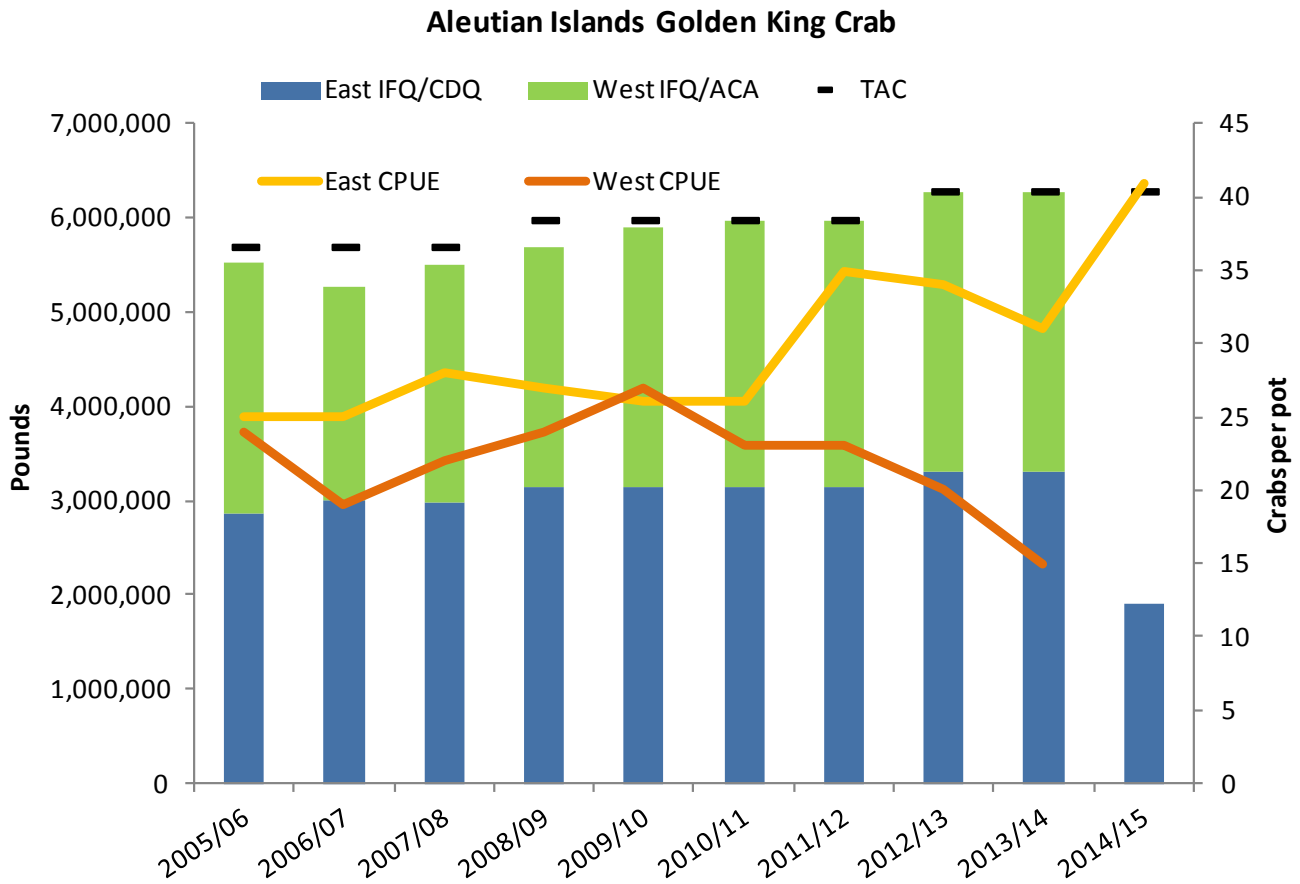


Figure 4. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

#### Bristol Bay red king crab

The 2014/15 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will open October 15, 2014. The total TAC is 9.986 million pounds, a 16% increase from the 2013/14 TAC. Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to CDQ quota and the remaining 8.987 million pounds is allocated to the IFQ fishery.

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery will not open in waters enclosed by 167° W longitude to 168° W longitude and 57°30' N latitude to 58°30' N latitude (ADF&G statistical areas 675730 and 675800) to protect Pribilof blue king crab.

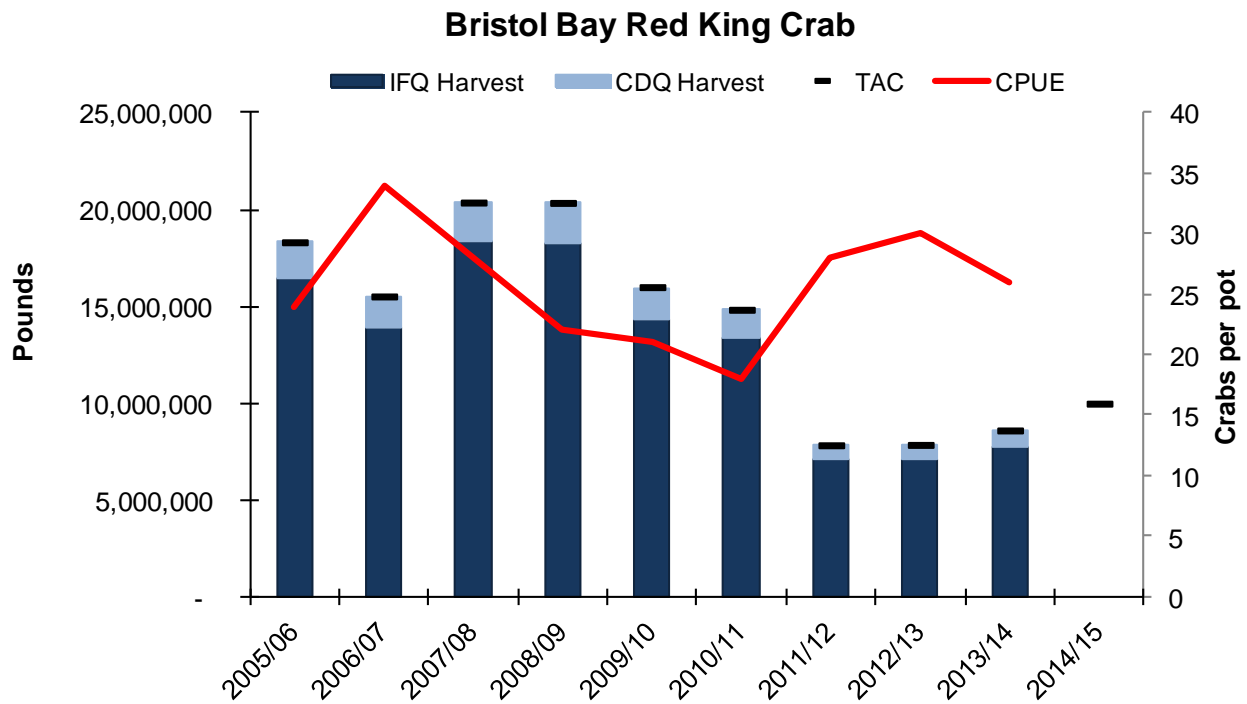


Figure 5. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, TAC level, and catch per pot lift (CPUE), 2005/06 – 2014/15.

### Bering Sea Tanner Crab

Bering Sea District Tanner crab is managed east and west of 166° W long, with a separate TAC for each area. Biomass estimates of mature male Tanner crab east and west of 166° W long are above the long-term average. The TACs are apportioned as follows:

	East of 166° W long (EBT)	West of 166° W long (WBT)
Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)	7,632,000 pounds	5,962,500 pounds
Community Development Quota (CDQ)	848,000 pounds	662,500 pounds
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,480,000 pounds</b>	<b>6,625,000 pounds</b>

The EBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters from 163° to 166° W long. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered vessel for Bristol Bay red king crab.

The WBT directed fishery will open in Bering Sea District waters west of 166° W long. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may also be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. In the directed Tanner crab fishery west of 166° W long, snow crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of Tanner crab onboard a vessel registered for the WBT fishery. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both WBT and EBT fisheries.

To protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock, the WBT fishery will not open in waters enclosed by connecting the following coordinates: 56°30' N lat, 170° W long; 57° N lat, 171° W long; 58° N lat,

171° W long; 58° N lat, 168° W long; 58°30' N lat, 168° W long; 58°30' N lat, 167° W long; 57°30' N lat, 167° W long; 57°30' N lat, 168° W long; 57° N lat, 168° W long; 56°30' N lat, 169° W long; 56°30' N lat, 170° W long. The associated closed ADF&G statistical areas are: 675800, 675730, 685730, 695730, 705730, 705701, 705703, 695701, 695700, 685700, 695631, 695632, the northeast half of 705630, and the northwest half of 685630. A map of closed areas will be provided at the time of registration.

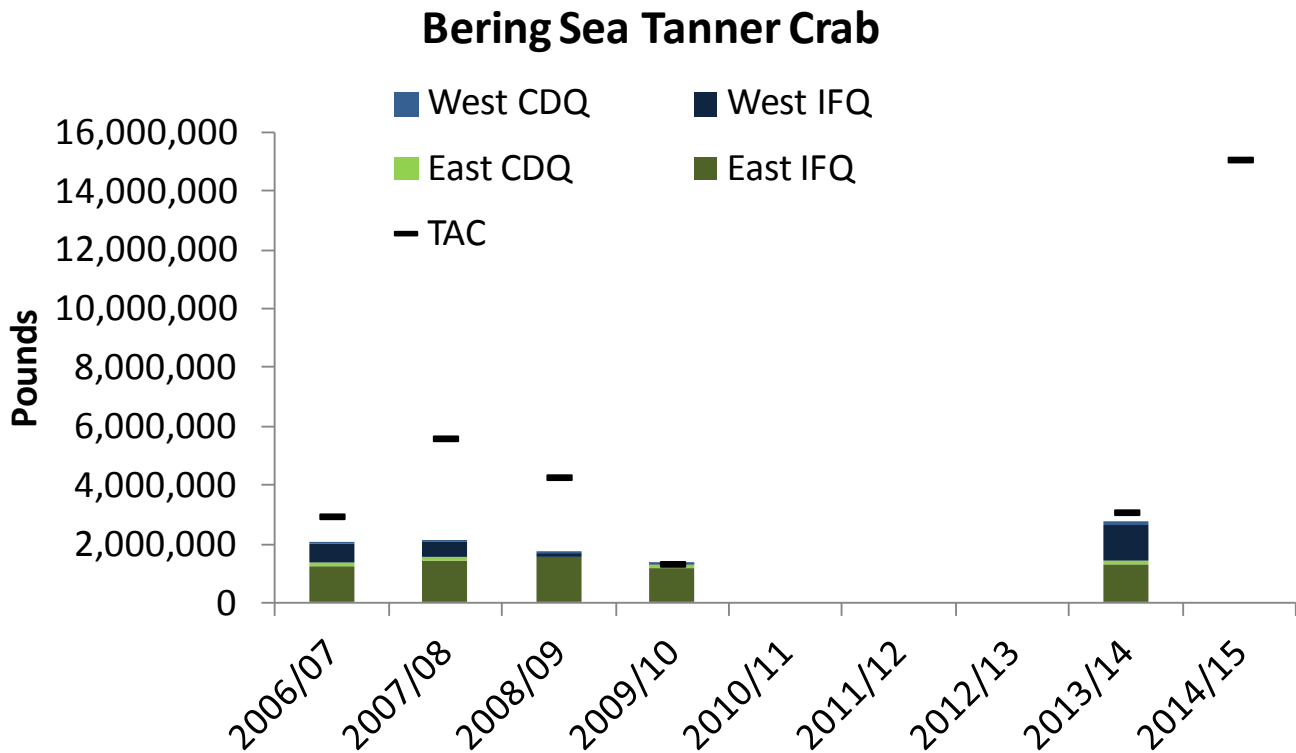


Figure 6. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC level, 2006/07 – 2014/15.

**St. Matthew Island blue king crab**

The 2014/15 St. Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery will open on October 15, 2014 with a total TAC of 655,000 pounds. Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and the remaining 589,500 pounds is allocated to the IFQ fishery.

Fishermen are reminded that all state waters surrounding St. Matthew, Hall, and Pinnacle Islands are closed to commercial fishing.

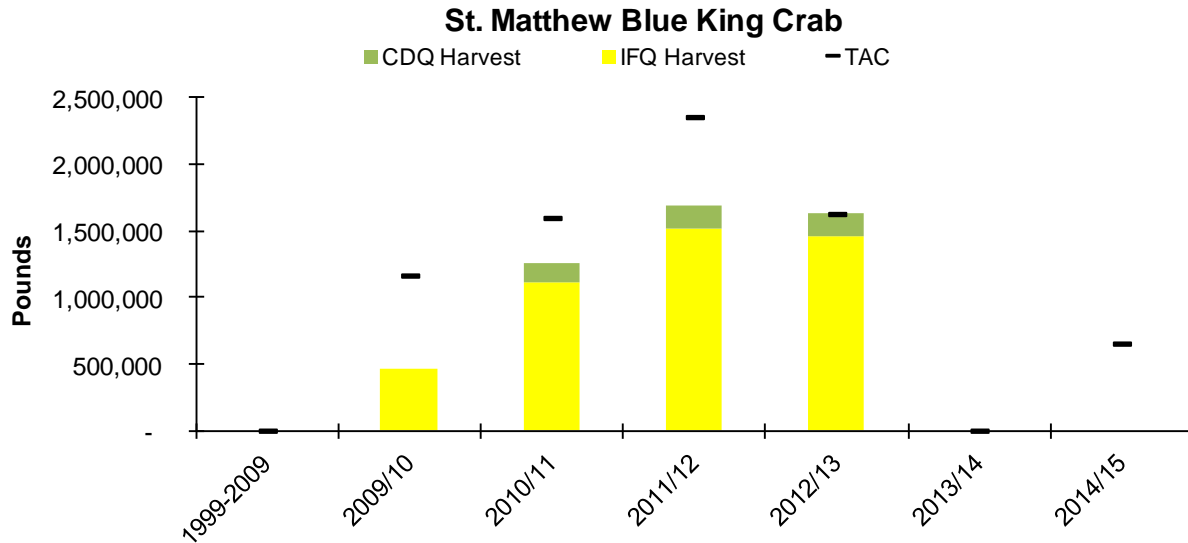


Figure 7. St. Matthew Island blue king crab harvest, TAC level, and catch per pot lift (CPUE), 1999 – 2014/15.

**Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab**

Pribilof District blue king crab must meet a minimum threshold of 13.2 million pounds of total mature biomass (TMB) in two consecutive years for the fishery to open. Both the 2013 and 2014 estimates of TMB are well below this threshold; therefore, the fishery will remain closed.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding precision of Pribilof District red king crab abundance estimates. Given the high uncertainty surrounding the red king crab abundance estimate and high potential for blue king crab bycatch mortality during a red king crab fishery, the Pribilof District red king crab fishery will remain closed.

**Westward Region Pacific Cod**

**Chignik Pacific Cod**

The 2014 Chignik Area state-waters pot season closed March 19, 2014 when the GHL for pot gear was achieved. Through July 31, 2014 minimal state-waters Pacific cod jig harvest occurred. The 2014 Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL for jig gear is 1,024,322 pounds.

Effective August 15, pot or jig gear could be used to harvest the remaining Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL; minimal effort and harvest occurred. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season closed to vessels using pot gear on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 and immediately reopened for the parallel Pacific cod pot season. The Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod season for vessels using jig gear will remain open until December 31, 2014, or unless closed earlier by emergency order.

**Kodiak Pacific Cod**

The state-waters pot fishery in the Kodiak area opened on February 20 and closed on March 19, 2014 with a total harvest of 7.5 million pounds by twenty-seven vessels. The state-waters jig fishery opened on March 15, 2014 concurrent with the federal jig sector fishery in federal waters and remains open. Total jig harvest to date is 3.2 million pounds (44% of GHL) by seventy-six vessels.

### **Dutch Harbor Pacific Cod**

The 2014 Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod GHL was set at 17.86 million pounds and is calculated as 3 percent of the combined BS and AI Pacific cod ABCs. The DHS opened on February 11, 2014, and closed on September 1, 2014. The fishery is open to vessels ≤58' using pot gear (60 pot limit) and the DHS is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. Total harvest was 17.67 million pounds (99% of GHL) by sixteen vessels.

### **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Board may consider out-of-cycle proposals through an Agenda Change Request (ACR) and state regulations (5 AAC 39.999) define the guidelines by which an ACR may be accepted. The Board considers ACRs at its first meeting in the fall (Work Session: October 15–16, 2014, in Juneau); if an ACR is accepted it is scheduled during a future meeting this cycle.

The Board received five ACRs this year for Bering Sea crab fisheries; three for Bering Sea Tanner crab and two for Norton Sound red king crab.

**ACR 1** – Reduce the size of exploitable legal male Tanner crab, from 5.5 inches to 5 inches carapace width, for purposes of calculating total allowable catch in waters east of 166° W longitude in the Bering Sea District (5 AAC 35.508 (g)(5)).

**ACR 2** – Change the *C. bairdi* Tanner crab regulatory fishing season closure date from March 31 to May 15 in waters west of 166° W longitude of the Bering Sea District (5 AAC 35.510 (f)(1)).

**ACR 3** – Increase the allowable level of incidental harvest of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab allowed while directed fishing for Bristol Bay red king crab east of 166° W longitude from the current level of 5%, up to the amount of *C. bairdi* individual fishing quota held by the vessel operator (5 AAC 35.506 (i)(2)).

**ACR 4** – Develop a guideline harvest level for the Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial fishery (5 AAC 34.915. (a)(1)).

**ACR 5** – Change the duration of the Norton Sound winter through-the-ice commercial king crab fishing season to be open by emergency order on or after January 15 and close April 30, unless extended by emergency order (5 AAC 34.910(d)(2)).

Two ACRs address Pacific cod allocations; one for the South Alaska Peninsula and one for Dutch Harbor.



**ACR 24** – Increase the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30% to 50% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (5 AAC 28.577 (h)(1)).

**ACR 25** – Increase the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 3% to 6% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (5 AAC 28.648 (e)(1)).

The Work Session agenda also includes a report from the GOA state-waters pollock workgroup, which met on Monday, October 6, 2014.