



**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 scallop, crab, and Pacific cod.

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 (185 mt) of shucked meats. The fishery closes by regulation on February 15, 2015; no more effort is expected this season and preliminary total harvest is 307,472 pounds of shucked meats (76% of combined GHLs).

Alaska Weathervane Scallop Catch

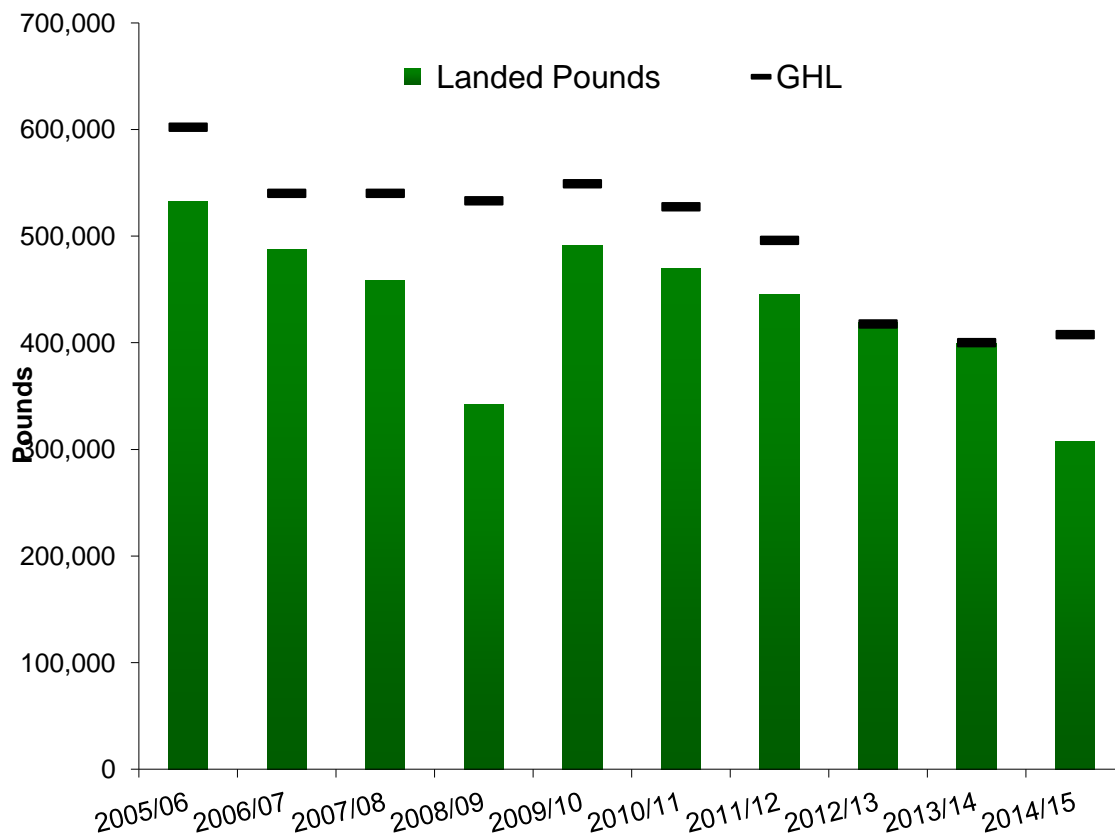


Figure 1. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab. The BSAI crab FMP establishes a State/Federal cooperative management regime that defers crab management to the State of Alaska with Federal oversight. The SSC establishes the overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) level. The State establishes the total allowable catch level (TAC) and manages the fisheries inseason. During the 2014/15 season, fisheries opened for golden king crab in the Aleutian Islands, blue king crab near St. Matthew Island, red king crab in Bristol Bay, as well as snow (*opilio*) and Tanner (*bairdi*) crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the community development quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2014/15 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 15, 2014. The TAC is set at 6.29 million pounds (2,853 mt) 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. Fishing in the eastern area concluded in mid-November upon achievement of the TAC; two vessels are fishing in the western area and harvest remains confidential.

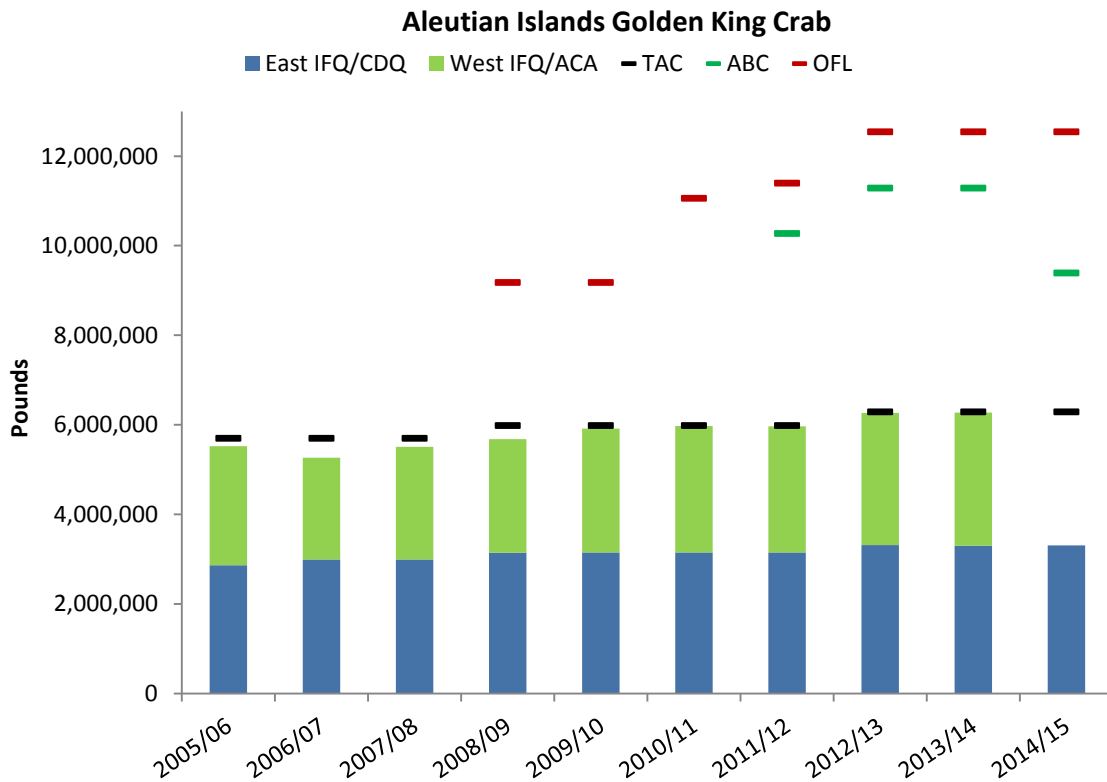


Figure 2. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, ABC, and OFL levels, 2005/06 – 2014/15.

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. 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
Total	8,480,000 pounds (3,846mt)	6,625,000 pounds (3,005 mt)

The Tanner crab fishery opened on October 15, 2014, and closes by regulation on March 31, 2015. East of 166° W long, Tanner crab may be retained up to five percent of the weight of red king crab onboard a registered vessel for Bristol Bay red king crab. West of 166° W long, Tanner crab IFQ or CDQ may be retained up to five percent of the weight of snow crab onboard a vessel registered for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. Fishermen may not be concurrently registered for both WBT and EBT fisheries.

A total of 7,868,400 million pounds (93% of TAC) has been harvested in the eastern district by 42 vessels; one vessel is currently active in the directed fishery. In the western district, 28 vessels have harvested a total of 1,456,700 pounds (22% of TAC) of Tanner crab; eight vessels are currently active in the directed fishery. Catch rates are similar in both the eastern and western districts at 56 and 45 crabs per pot, respectively.

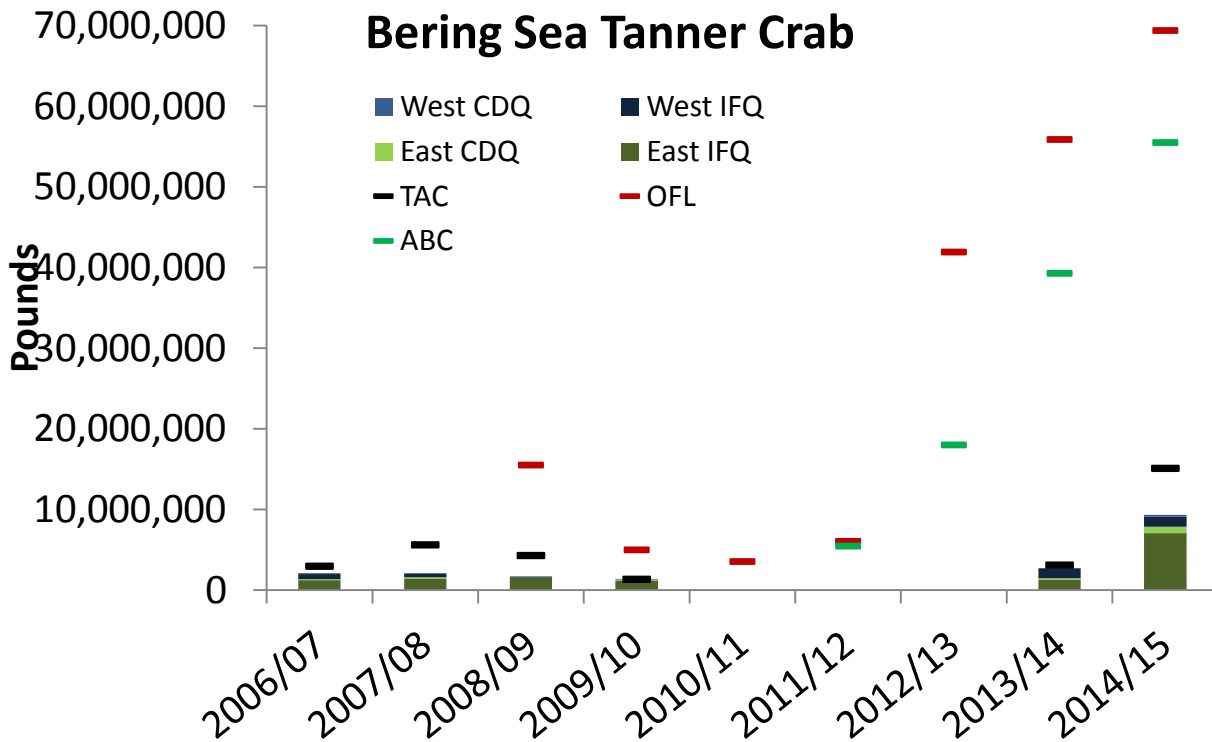


Figure 3. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC, ABC, and OFL levels, 2006/07 – 2014/15.

Bering Sea snow crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2014 and will remain open through May 15, 2015 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2015 in the Western Subdistrict. The 2014/15 snow crab TAC is 67.95 million pounds. Catch through Friday, January 30 was 22.65 million pounds (33% of TAC). Forty vessels are currently registered and average catch is 224 crabs per pot.

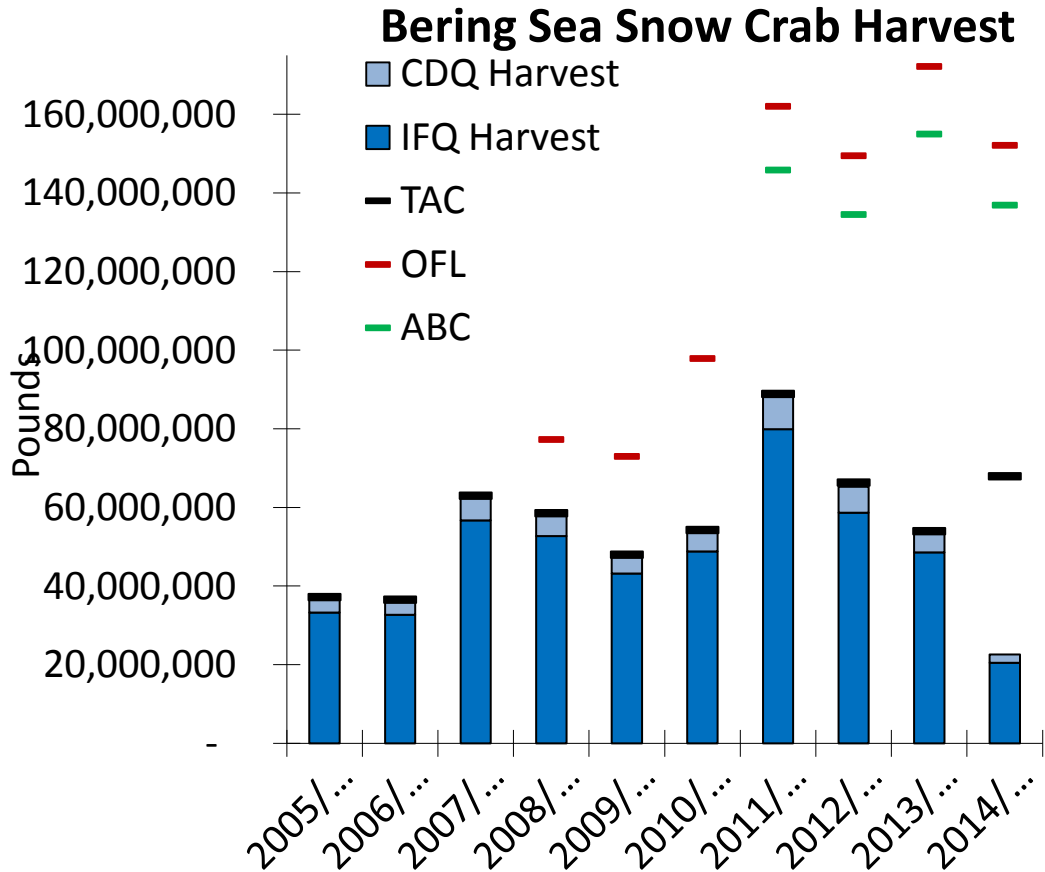


Figure 4. Bering Sea snow crab harvest and TAC, ABC, and OFL levels, 2005/06 – 2014/15

Pacific Cod. State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in the Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) are calculated as a percentage of area ABCs as follows:

Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC	GHL (Mlbs)	State Management Area
EGOA	25%	1.559	Prince William Sound
CGOA	25%	11.829	Chignik
		16.898	Kodiak
		5.070	Cook Inlet
WGOA	30%	25.597	South Alaska Peninsula
Combined BS and AI	3%	18.029	Dutch Harbor Subarea
Combined BS and AI	3%	18.029	Aleutian Islands west of 170° W long

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Proposals 268 – 270 have been scheduled for the March 17 – 20, 2015 meeting in Anchorage.

Proposal 268: 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)).

Proposal 269: Develop a guideline harvest level for the Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial fishery (5 AAC 34.915. (a)(1)).

Proposal 270: 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)).

GOA Pollock workgroup: The pollock workgroup will meet on February 18, 2015 in Anchorage. Agenda and meeting documents are posted and will be updated on the GOA Pollock workgroup webpage: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cgoapollockworkgroup.main>