



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

Fisheries

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

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

The 2021/22 Aleutian Islands (AI) commercial golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2021. The total allowable catch (TAC) for this stock is 5.93 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W longitude (Figure 1). For the 2021/22 fishing year the eastern TAC is 3.61 million pounds and the western TAC is 2.32 million pounds, a 10% decline overall from 2020/21. Ten percent of the eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery and ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. In the eastern area, all of the CDQ has been harvested and 98% of the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) has been harvested by three vessels (Figure 1). Harvest in the western area is confidential. Both areas close by regulation on April 30, 2022.

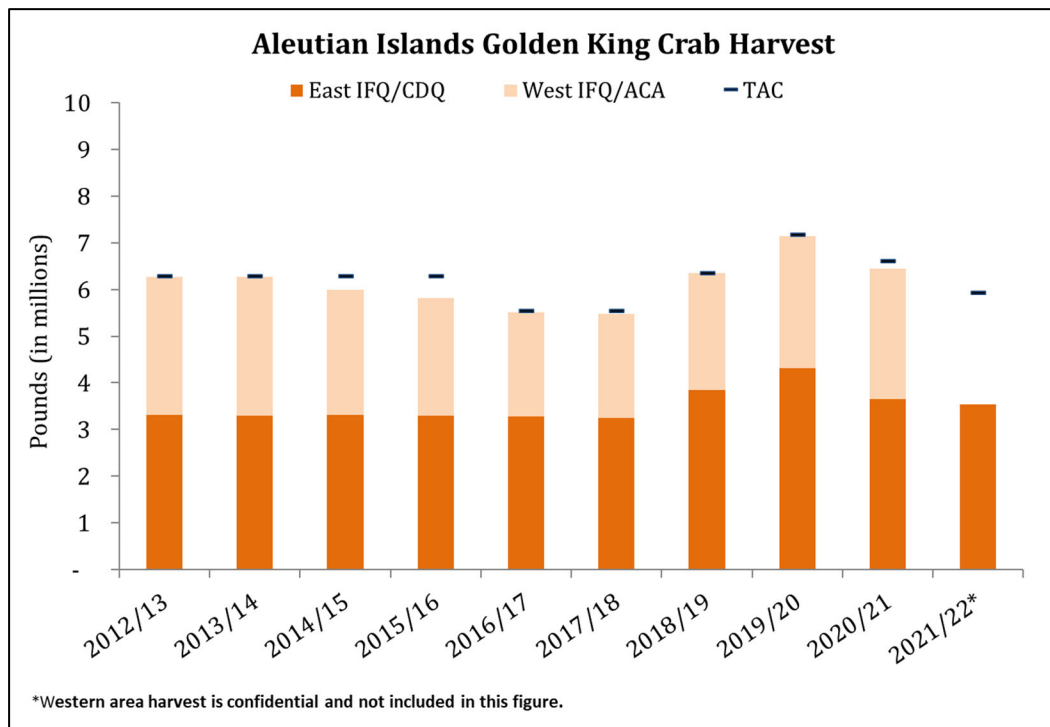


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab

The 2021/22 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in the western area (West of 166° W longitude) on October 15, 2021, with a TAC of 1.1 million pounds with ten percent, 110,000 pounds, allocated to the CDQ fishery. The 2021/22 TAC is 53% lower than in 2020/21. To date, 143,500 pounds have been harvested by six vessels in the IFQ fishery and harvest in the CDQ fishery is confidential (Figure 2). The eastern area remains closed.

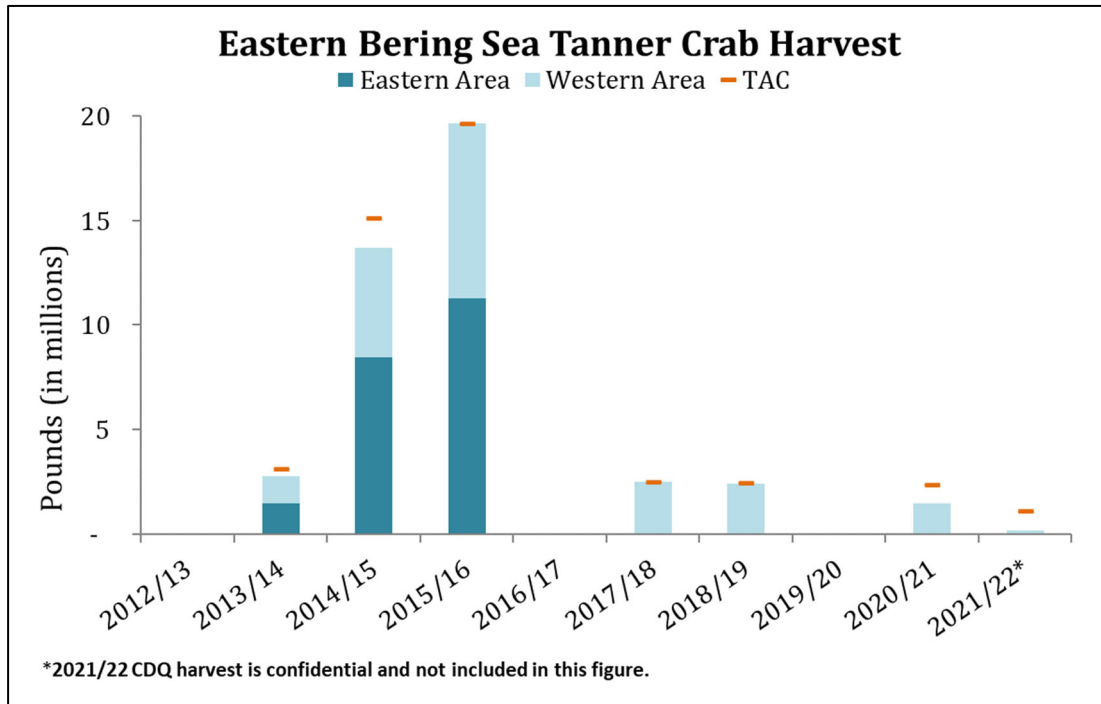


Figure 2. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2021 and will remain open through May 15, 2022 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W and 173° W longitude) and through May 31, 2022 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W longitude). The 2021/22 snow crab TAC is 5,600,000 pounds, an 88% reduction from the 2020/21 TAC of 45 million pounds. Ten percent of the Bering Sea snow crab TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery. To date, eight vessels have harvested 582,169 pounds in the IFQ fishery and CDQ harvest is confidential (Figure 3). Reports from the fishing grounds indicate that sea ice and heavy freezing spray have been limiting fishing operations.

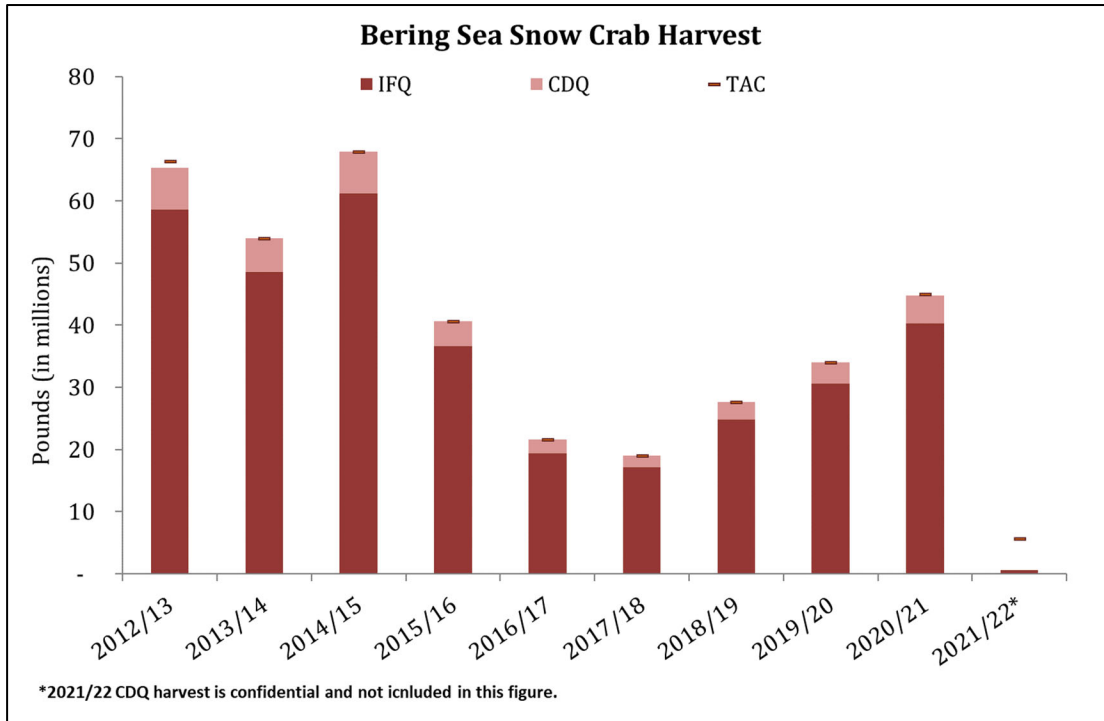


Figure 3. Bering Sea snow crab harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22 seasons.

Scallop

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2021. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2021/22 season is 345,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 68,000 pound increase from the 2020/21 cumulative GHL (Table 1). To date 286,105 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested (Figure 4).

Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2021/22.

2021/22 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest and Crab Bycatch Levels				
Registration Area	District/Management Unit	GHL (pounds of shucked meat)	Bycatch Limits (number of crab)	
			Tanner Crab	King Crab
Yakutat		145,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	8,000	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2021/22 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	30,000	18,000	25
	Shelikof District	80,000	40,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	21,000	25
	Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Semidi Islands District ¹	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight ¹	7,500	4,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	3,750	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	5,000	3,750	10
Bering Sea		7,500	18,750	100
			<i>C. opilio & hybrids</i>	
			11,250	

¹ Commissioner's Permit required to harvest scallops in these areas.

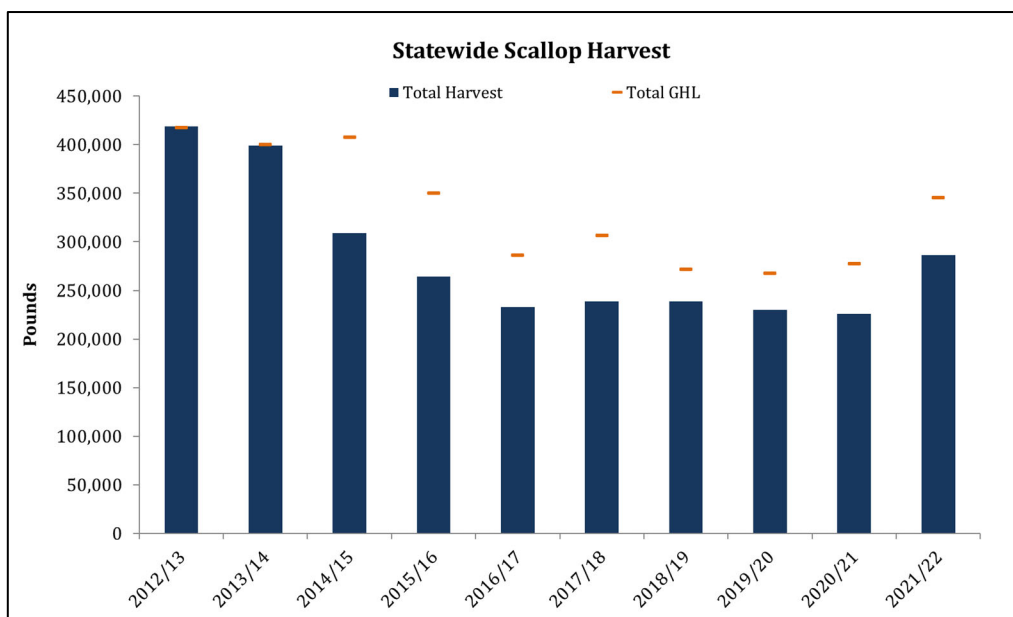


Figure 4. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest and TAC, 2012/13 – 2021/22.

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. 2022 GHLs and are as follows:

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2022 GHL (pounds)	2022 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	257,693	117
			Longline	1,460,259	662
Chignik	CGOA - 25%	8.75%	Jig	381,021	173
			Pot	3,429,189	1,555
Kodiak	CGOA - 25%	12.50%	Jig	2,721,579	1,234
			Pot	2,721,579	1,234
Cook Inlet	CGOA - 25%	3.75%	Jig	244,945	111
			Pot	1,388,019	630
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 30%		Jig	986,316	447
			Pot	5,589,124	2,535
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 10%		Jig	100,000	45
			Pot	37,196,000	16,872
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict*	Aleutian Islands - 39%		All	15,000,000	6,804

*AI Subdistrict GHL is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Upcoming meetings:

- Due to Covid concerns, the Southeast and January Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting was postponed from January to March 10-22, 2022, and moved from Ketchikan to Anchorage. The written public [comment](#) period for this meeting has been extended to February 22.

Proposals that may be of interest to the Council include:

PROPOSAL 215. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, align opening and closing of the state waters sablefish fishing season with the federal sablefish fishing season.

PROPOSAL 216. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, extend the sablefish fishing season from November 15 to December 15.

PROPOSAL 218. Require vessels to register with ADF&G prior to participating in the non-exclusive Pacific cod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. This proposal would assist with scheduling staff for port sampling landings to collect biological information such as length, weight, sex, and age that are used to inform stock health and resulting management decisions.

PROPOSAL 219. Clarify lawful gear for rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska to allow rockfish retention in pot gear. Allowing retention of all rockfish in pot gear will provide the department with better catch information and reduce wastage, which occurs when rockfish are discarded at sea. This proposal is supplemental to proposal 222 which would require full retention of rockfish by CFEC permit holders in groundfish and halibut fisheries.

PROPOSAL 222. In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, require CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut using hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear retain and land all rockfish. Black, dark, and blue rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) are managed by the State of Alaska in both state and federal waters, and current regulations require full retention of these rockfish only. This proposal mirrors federal rockfish retention requirements to provide better estimates of rockfish catch, reduce waste and incentives to discard, and maintain consistency between state and federal fisheries management.

PROPOSAL 232. Create a new spiny dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska.

- The Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound Shrimp meeting has been postponed to March 26 – April 7 in Anchorage. The written public [comment](#) period for this meeting has been extended to March 10.

PROPOSAL 274. Increase minimum training requirements needed to qualify as a scallop onboard observer trainee by requiring applicants to have a valid crab observer certification or if an applicant with a valid crab observer certification is unavailable, a NMFS North Pacific Observer Program certification. This proposal is intended to assist with recruiting and retaining observers in the scallop fishery which is small and has unique timing relative to other observed fisheries.

PROPOSAL 275. Extend the observer certification expiration period from 12 months to 18 months. This proposal could assist in retaining observers during unpredictable and short fishing seasons by providing additional flexibility to deploy observers.