



# 2023/24 BBRKC Industry Skipper Survey Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

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Crab Plan Team - January, 2024

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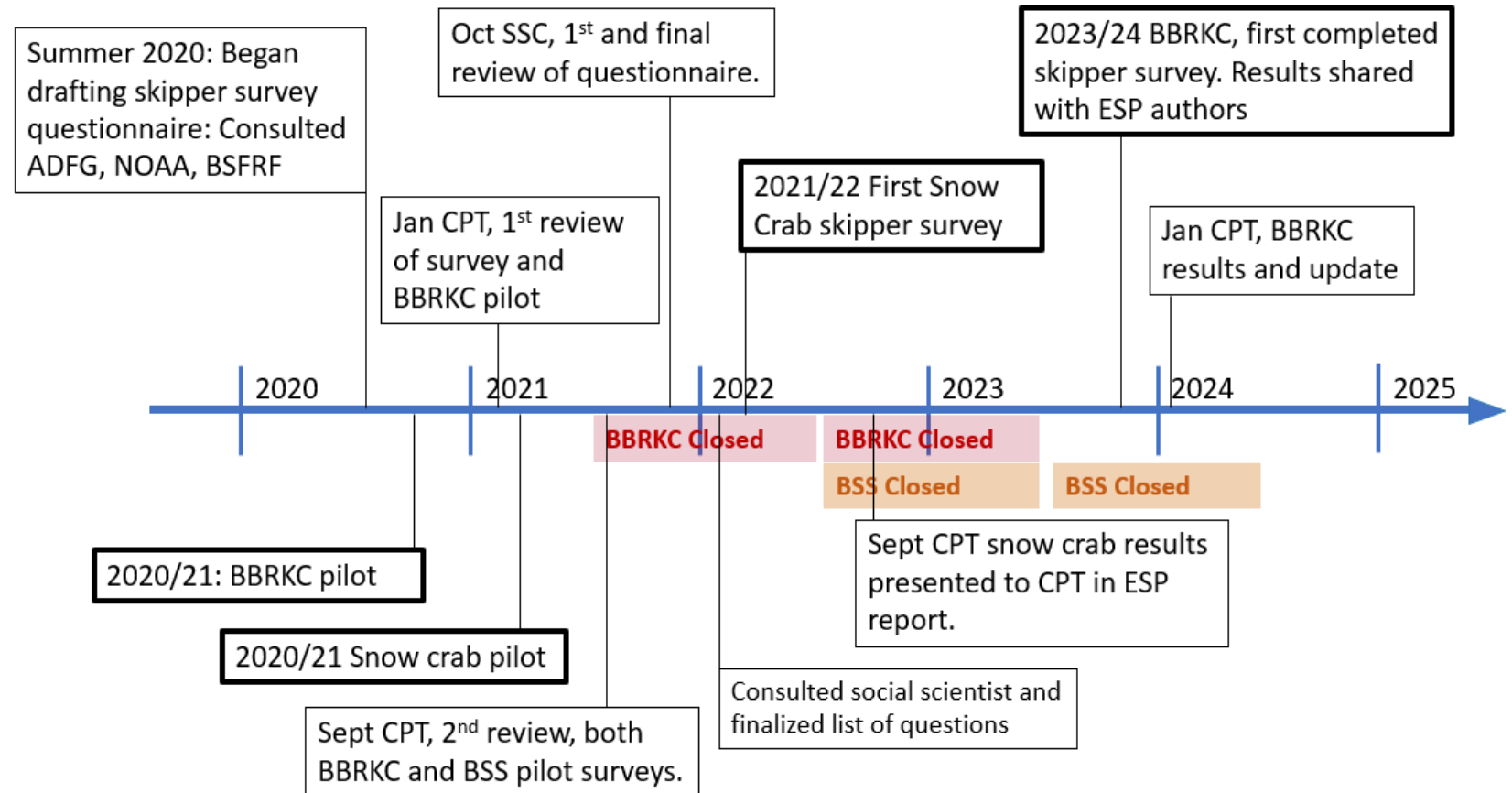
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# Where we Stand

- Timeline of survey

- BBRKC pilot
- CPT and SSC review
- BSS Pilot
- Social Scientist review
- BSS 1<sup>st</sup> Survey
  - BSS closures
- BBRKC closures
  - BBRKC 1st



# Context: Current Conditions

- BBRKC closed previous two years
- Smallest TAC on record
  - 2,150,000 lbs
- Fleet condensed but still large
  - (AIGKC for reference)
- Vessel packet – reduce discards
- 31 vessels fished
  - 13 completed survey





# Q1

- Based on your observations this red king crab season, how did the amount of **legal males** that you encountered during the fishery change in comparison to the last open RKC season?
  - a. Increased a lot (more than 25%)
  - b. Increased a little (10% to 25%)
  - c. About the same (within +/- 10%)
  - d. Decreased a little (10% to 25%)
  - e. Decreased a lot (more than 25%)
  - f. Other



# Q2

- During this red king crab season, what was the most significant change in fishing practices (if any) you made compared to the previous open RKC season?
  - a. Move fishing locations more frequently
  - b. Longer soak times
  - c. Increased communication with fleet
  - d. No significant changes
  - e. Other?



# Q3

- In response to your answer on question #2, what was the main reason for the change? (check all that apply)
  - a. Empty pots/low CPUE
  - b. Too much sorting or discarding (dirty shells, small males, females, etc.)
  - c. Run time/fuel costs
  - d. Trawlers in the area
  - e. No significant changes this season
  - f. Other





# Q4

- During this fishing season, the abundance of **small males** (i.e., pre-recruits) compared to the last open RKC season:
  - a. Increased a lot (more than 25%)
  - b. Increased a little (10% to 25%)
  - c. About the same (within +/- 10%)
  - d. Decreased a little (10% to 25%)
  - e. Decreased a lot (more than 25%)
  - f. Other



# Q5

- In response to your answer on question #4, did the change in abundance of small males encountered depend on any of the following?
  - a. General location where you were fishing
  - b. Soak time of pots
  - c. Temperature where you were fishing
  - d. No noticeable change
  - e. Other





# Q6

- Based on your observations this year, the number of **females** in your pots compared to the last open RKC season:
  - a. Increased a lot (more than 25%)
  - b. Increased a little (10% to 25%)
  - c. About the same (within +/- 10%)
  - d. Decreased a little (10% to 25%)
  - e. Decreased a lot (more than 25%)
  - f. Other



# Q7

- In response to your answer on question #6, did the change in abundance of females encountered depend on any of the following?
  - a. General location where you were fishing
  - b. Soak time of pots
  - c. Temperature where you were fishing
  - d. No noticeable change
  - e. Other



# Q8-10

8 - Do you think it would be feasible (in years of low quotas) to increase your pot soak times an additional 12-48 hours to help reduce regulatory discards (females and sublegal males)?

9 - During this season did you catch your quota quickly and have to rail dump or have another vessel clean your pots?

10 - During this season did you clean another vessel's pots?





# Q 11 - 15

11 - Other non-crab species caught in the fishery can help monitor bycatch trends to get an idea of predation or competition shifts, did you observe an increase of any of the following compared to last season?

12 - Did you encounter any tagged crab this season?

13 - Do you have suggested ideas towards additional research on fishing practices or gear performance that could help reduce regulatory discards within our fishery?

14 - While fishing, did you participate in the ABSC-formed WhatsApp group chat?

15 - Your input matters! Are there any additional observations, comments or concerns not addressed in the above questions that you feel should be taken into consideration?



# Next steps

- BBRKC & BSS
  - Dependent on open fisheries
- SE GKC
  - 2023 -> successful pilot
- AI GKC
  - 2024 hopeful
- Tanner crab?
  - Difficult fall/winter fishing, but hopeful





Questions?

