



**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 crab, scallops, and groundfish.

**Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab.** During the 2019/20 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab, and Bering Sea snow (*opilio*) crab. Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries; ten percent of the western Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is allocated to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab**

The 2019/20 Aleutian Islands commercial golden king crab fishery opened July 15, 2019. The total allowable catch (TAC) was set at 7.18 million pounds and is apportioned east and west of 174° W long; the eastern TAC is 4.31 million pounds (12% increase from 2018/19) and the western TAC is 2.87 million pounds (15% increase from 2019/20). Ten percent of each TAC is allocated to the CDQ (eastern) and Adak Community Allocation (western) fisheries. In the western area harvest to date is 2.02 million pounds and in the eastern area harvest to date is 3.9 million pounds.

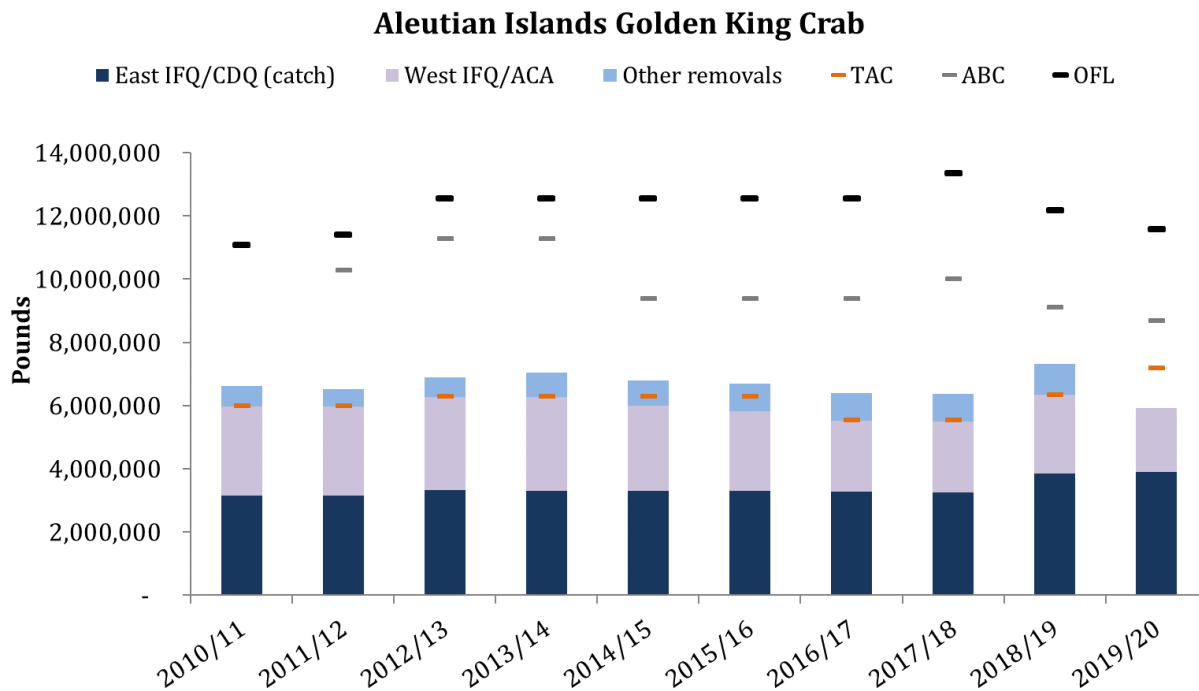


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, TAC, OFL, and ABC, 2010/11 - 2019/20.

### Bristol Bay Red King Crab

The 2019/20 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened October 15, 2019 with a TAC of 3.797 million pounds (12% decrease from the 2018/19 fishery). All vessels have checked out of the fishery for now, 99% of the IFQ TAC and 100% of the CDQ TAC has been harvested; total catch is 3.75 million pounds. Fifty-five vessels participated this season and the average catch rate was 16 crabs per pot (lower than the 2018/19 CPUE of 20). Average weight increased slightly this year to 7.14 pounds (up from 7.09 pounds in 2017/18). This fishery closes by regulation on January 15, 2020.

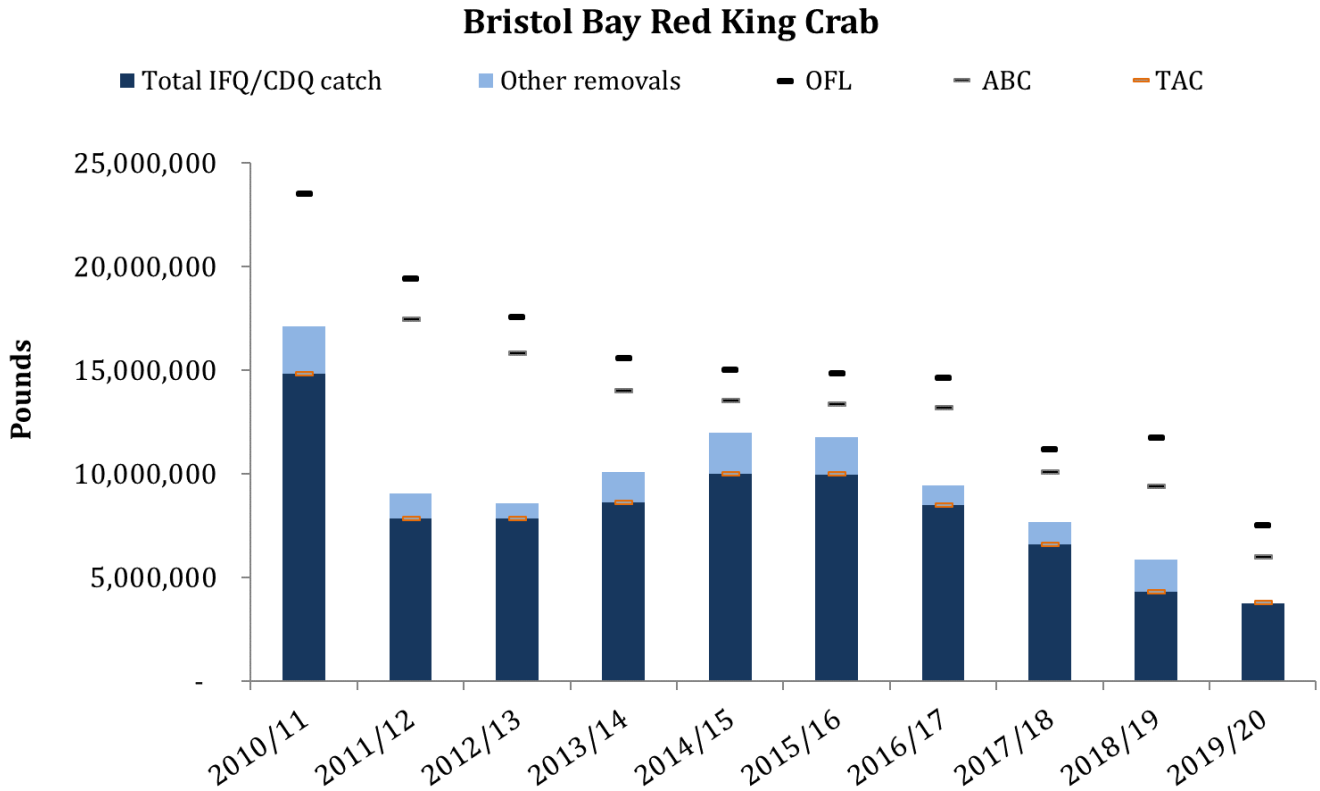


Figure 2. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2010/11 – 2019/20 seasons.

### Bering Sea Snow Crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2019 and will remain open through May 15, 2020 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2020 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2019/20 snow crab TAC is 34.581 million pounds (a 23% increase from 2018/19). No directed fishing has occurred this season; however, fishing is expected to begin in early January.

### Bering Sea Snow Crab Harvest

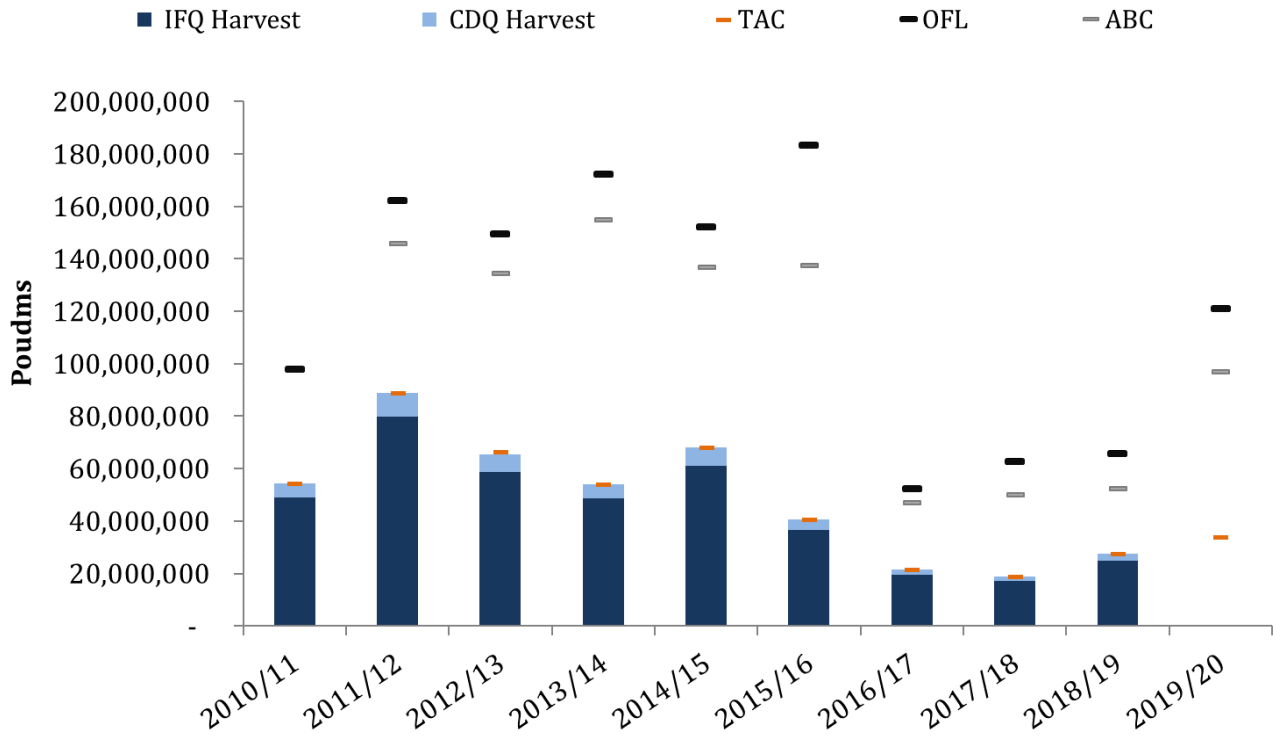


Figure 3. Bering Sea snow crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2010/11 - 2019/20 seasons.

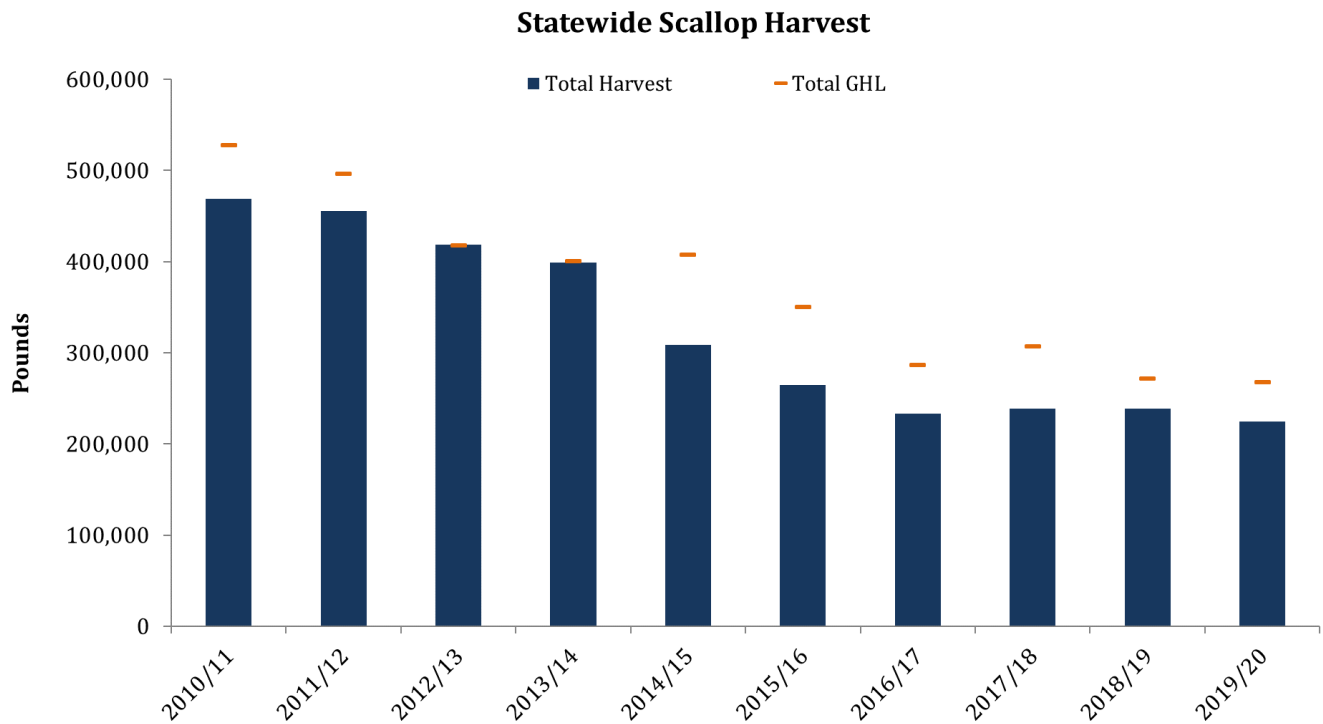
**Scallops.** Weathervane scallop fisheries in Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and the Bering Sea registration areas opened on July 1, 2019. The cumulative guideline harvest level (GHL) for the 2019/20 season is 267,500 pounds of shucked meats, a 3,800-pound decrease from the 2018/19 cumulative GHL.

Total harvest to date is approximately 224,800 pounds. Scallop fishing has closed in the Shelikof and Southwest districts of the Kodiak Area, and in the Unimak Bight district of the Alaska Peninsula Area. The scallop fishery closes by regulation on February 15, 2020.

2019/20 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		155,000	N/A	N/A
Prince William Sound	East Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2019/20 season</i>	N/A	N/A
	West Kayak Subsection	<i>Closed for the 2019/20 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Cook Inlet	Kamishak Bay District	<i>Closed for the 2019/20 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Kodiak	Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Shelikof District	20,000	10,000	25
	Southwest District	35,000	17,500	25
	Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
	Semidi Islands District <sup>1</sup>	<i>Exploratory Area (Commissioner's Permit)</i>		
Alaska Peninsula	160° to 161° W. long	7,500	3,750	25
	Unimak Bight <sup>1</sup>	7,500	7,500	25
Dutch Harbor	Bering Sea waters	5,000	5,000	10
	Pacific Ocean waters	<i>Closed for the 2019/20 season</i>	N/A	N/A
Bering Sea		7,500	65,000	500
			<i>C. opilio &amp; hybrids</i>	
			300,000	

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

**Table 1. Weathervane scallop guideline harvest level and bycatch limits, by area for 2019/20.**



**Figure 4. Statewide weathervane scallop harvest, 2010/11 - 2019/20.**

**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:

State Management Area	Pacific cod ABC	GHL as % of ABC		2019 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA	25%		425
Chignik	CGOA	25%	8.75%	671
Kodiak			12.5%	958
Cook Inlet			3.75%	288
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA	30%		2,290
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict pot gear	BS	8%		14,480
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict jig gear	BS			45
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	AI	31%		6,386

The GHLs were fully harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict, and the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict for pot gear. There has been no participation in the Kodiak jig fishery since May, so the fishery reopened to vessels using pot gear on October 12, 2019 and currently remains open with a few vessels participating. In the Chignik area, there was no participation in the jig fishery this year and the fishery reopened to pot gear on August 15, 2019. The Chignik fishery closed to both pot and jig gear by regulation on October 30, 2019. In the Prince William Sound area, the state-water season reopened to vessels using longline gear on October 3, 2019. In both the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet areas, the fisheries reopened to vessels using pot gear on October 12, 2019.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries considered out-of-cycle proposals and Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) at the October work session (October 23-24, 2019). At the work session the Board accepted a proposed ACR to designate the state-waters Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod fishery as an exclusive registration fishery and scheduled to take up the proposal at the Lower Cook Inlet meeting. The Board also appointed board member John Wood to replace Robert Ruffner on the Joint Protocol Committee.

The next Board of Fisheries meeting is for Lower Cook Inlet Finfish and will be held from December 10-13 in Seward. The Kodiak Finfish meeting will be held January 11-14, 2019 in Kodiak and public comments are due on December 27, 2019.

***Lower Cook Inlet Groundfish: December 10 – 13, 2019, in Seward***

**PROPOSAL 42** This proposal clarifies possession and landing requirements for the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Cook Inlet Area (ADF&G). Vessels may only be registered for one registration area at a time and cannot fish in adjacent registration areas during the same trip. This proposal seeks to clarify possession and landing requirements as a condition of registration for the Cook Inlet parallel Pacific cod fishery.

**PROPOSAL 278 – Designate the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod.** This proposal would change the state-waters Pacific cod fishery registration requirement from nonexclusive to exclusive. Exclusive designation prohibits vessels registered in another exclusive registration area from fishing in another exclusive registration area in the same calendar year. If the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict becomes an exclusive registration area, vessels that fish in other exclusive registration areas (Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, South Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound) would be prohibited from fishing in the AI Subdistrict in the same year.

***Kodiak Groundfish: January 11-14, 2020, in Kodiak***

**PROPOSAL 49** This proposal would create a Kodiak Area commercial sablefish season from September 1 through December 31 or until the quota is caught with a GHL established at 1% of the federal Central Gulf IFQ TAC.

**PROPOSAL 52** This proposal would increase the percentage of Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod ABC used to establish the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod GHL from 12.5% to 17.5% and allocate the additional GHL to the pot gear fishery.

**PROPOSAL 53** This proposal would add unharvested Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear quota to the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear GHL allocation the following calendar year.