



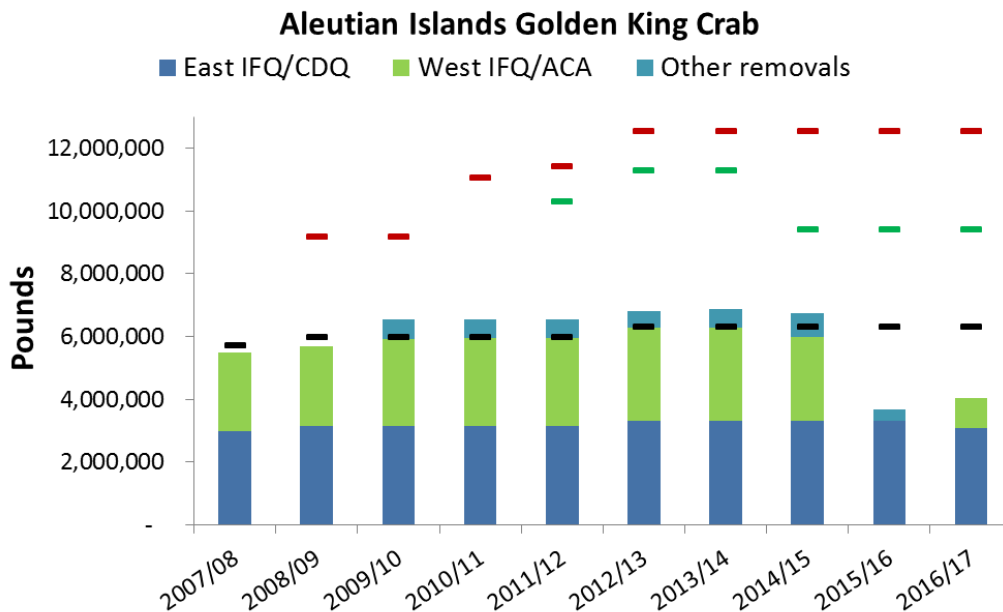
**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last Council report includes those for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab.

Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands crab. During the 2016/17 season, fisheries opened for Aleutian Islands golden king crab, Bristol Bay red king crab and Eastern 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 2016/17 Area O (Aleutian Islands) golden king crab fishery opened August 1, 2016. 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 both the eastern and western areas is ongoing. In the east area, three vessels have harvested 3.08 million pounds, or about 93% of the TAC. In the west area, three vessels have harvested 0.955 million pounds, or about 43% of the TAC. Catch rates were higher in the east area, at 31 crabs per pot compared to 15 crabs per pot in the west area.



Bristol Bay red king crab

The 2016/17 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened October 15, 2016 with a TAC of 8.469 million pounds. All vessels have checked out of the fishery and total catch is 8.466 million pounds. Sixty-six vessels participated this season and the average catch rate was 37 crabs per pot (up from 33 crabs per pot in 2015). Average weight also increased this year to 6.75 pounds per crab. This fishery closes by regulation on January 15, 2017.

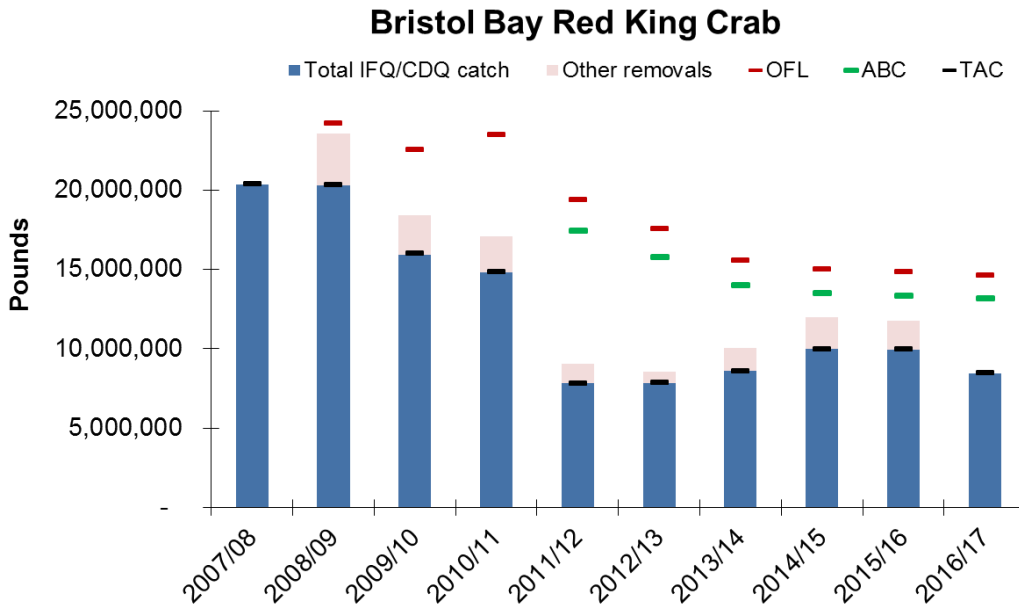


Figure 2. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, TAC level, OFL, and ABC; 2007/08 – 2016/17 seasons.

Bering Sea snow crab

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15, 2016 and will remain open through May 15, 2017 in the Eastern Subdistrict (between 166° W long. and 173° W long.) and through May 31, 2017 in the Western Subdistrict (west of 173° W long.). The 2016/17 snow crab TAC is 21.57 mlbs. No directed fishing has occurred this season; however, fishing is expected to begin in late December or early January.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider one Bering Sea crab proposal at its upcoming meeting in Kodiak (January 10-13). **The comment deadline is December 27, 2016.** Comments can also be submitted at the meeting.

- Proposal 278 – Amend the Bering Sea District Tanner crab harvest strategy to remove the mature female Tanner crab biomass threshold for opening the fishery and remove provisions allowing a harvest in waters east of 166° W. long., (5 AAC 35.508).