

Cook Inlet Commercial and Noncommercial Tanner and King Crab Fisheries



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This oral report can be found in RC 3; Tab 3

Presentation Outline

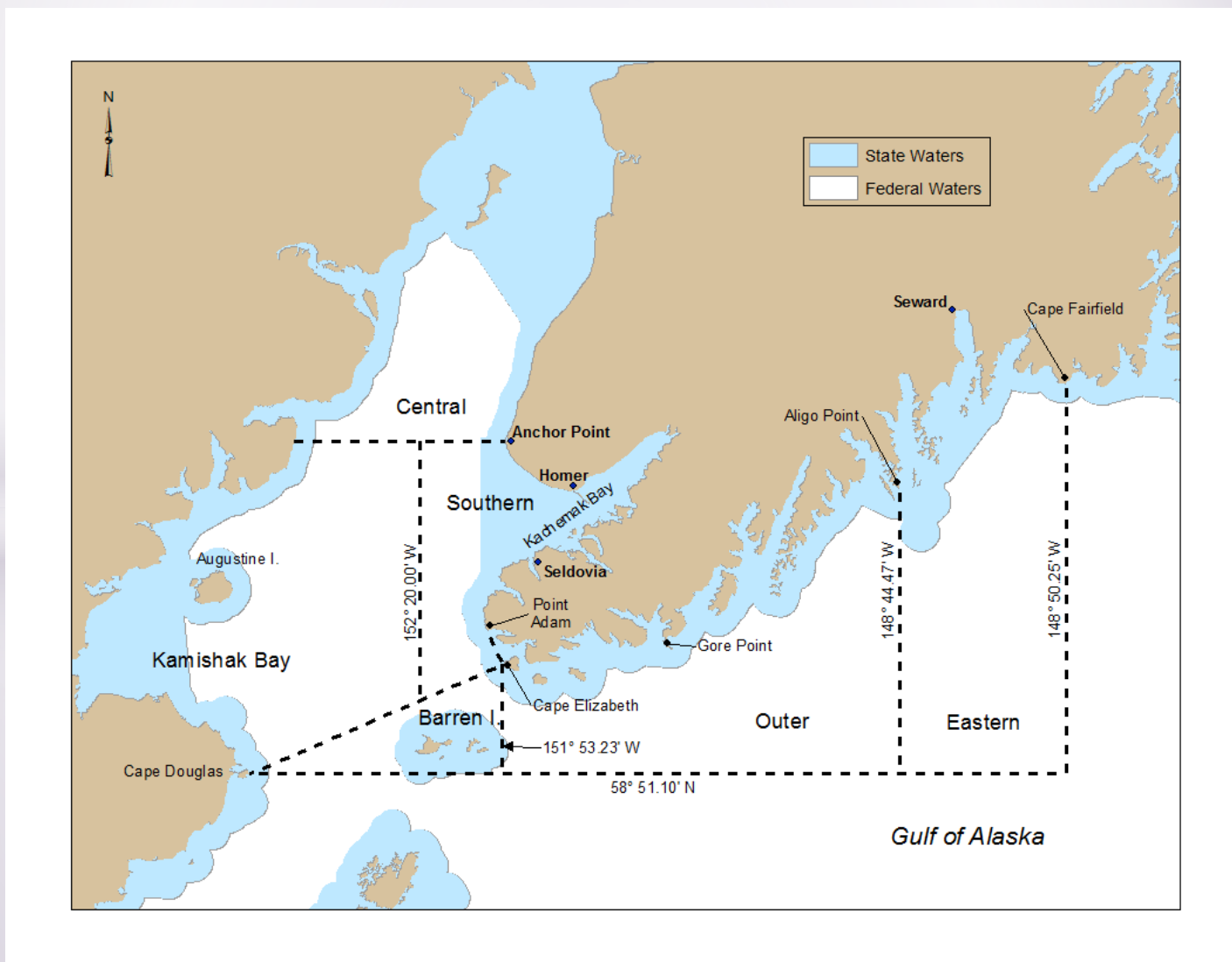
- **Tanner Crab**
 - Commercial Fisheries
 - Area description
 - Harvest and effort by District
 - Noncommercial Fisheries
 - Area description
 - Regulations
 - Definitions of user groups
 - Harvest and effort by area

- **King crab**
 - Commercial Fisheries harvest
 - Noncommercial Fisheries

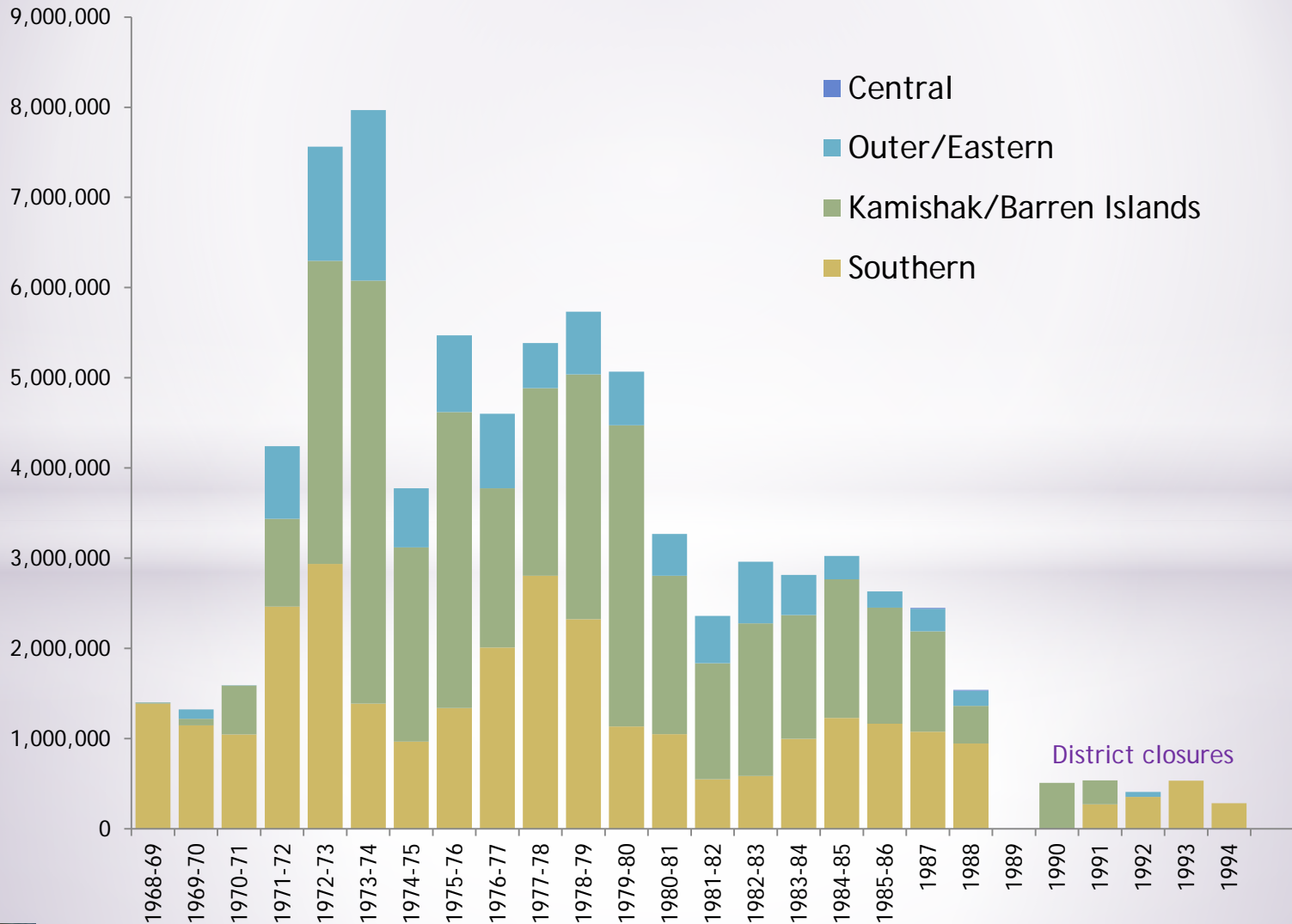
- **Board of Fisheries Proposals**



Cook Inlet Commercial Shellfish Management Districts



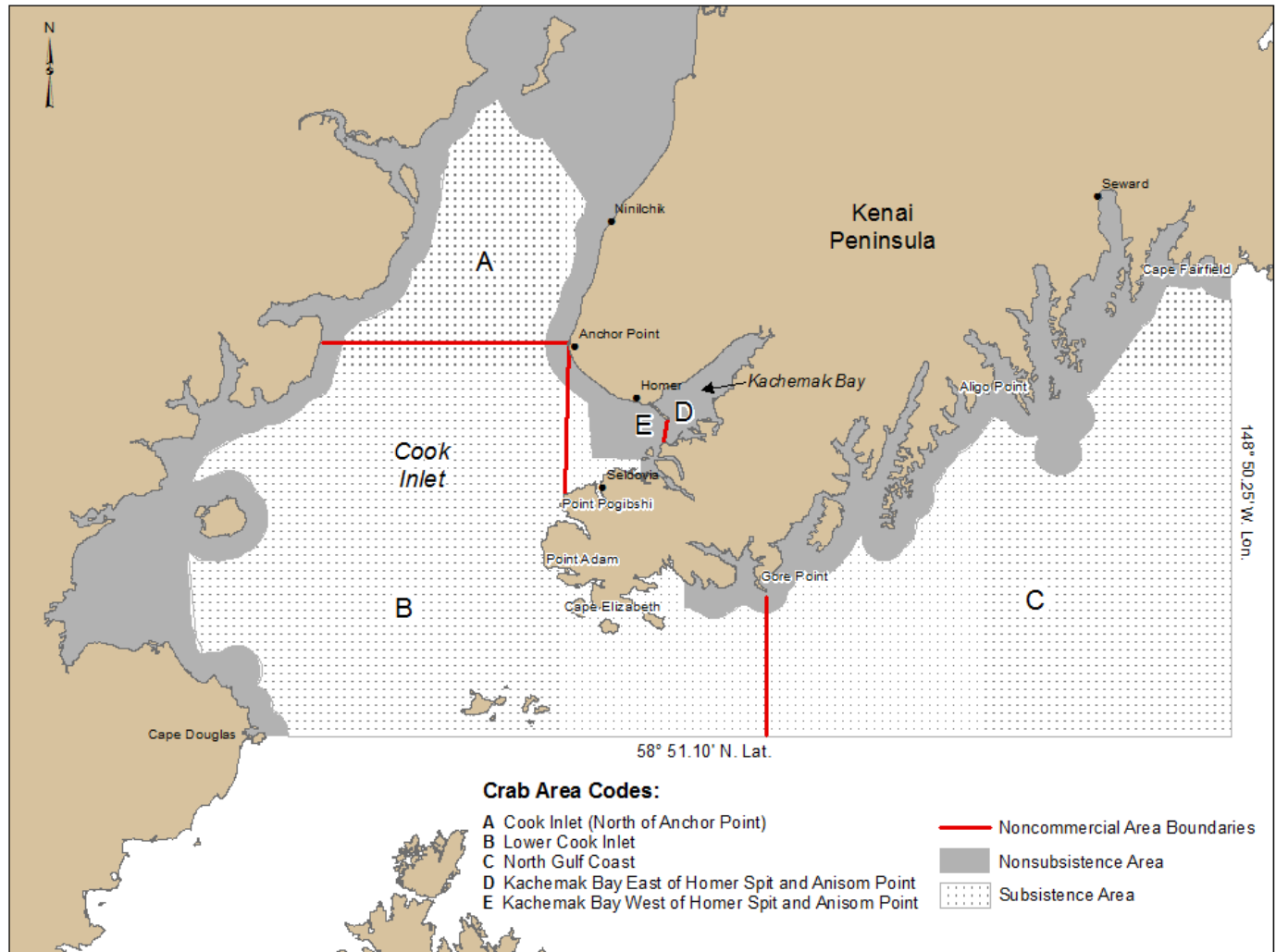
Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Commercial Harvest by District



1995 to Present - All Districts closed



Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Noncommercial Management Areas



Noncommercial Fishery User Groups

- **Subsistence**
 - Alaskan Residents Only
 - No Sport Fishing License Required

- **Personal Use**
 - Alaskan Residents Only
 - Requires Sport Fishing License

- **Sport**
 - Residents & Non-Residents
 - Requires Sport Fishing License



Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy for Cook Inlet Management Area (H) Commercial Fishery

- Establishes legal male abundance thresholds for Tanner crab fisheries in Southern, Kamishak, and Barren Islands Districts of Cook Inlet.
- Legal male abundance estimates are developed from the large mesh trawl survey in Kachemak Bay.
- Southern District
 - Commercial fishery harvest rate based on legal male abundance thresholds
 - Legal males $> 500,000$



Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy for Cook Inlet Management Area (H) Noncommercial Fisheries

Noncommercial fisheries are to be closed in the Kachemak Bay (Areas D and E) when:

1. The five-year average stock abundance from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is less than 100,000 legal male Tanner crab;
2. Estimated stock abundance of legal male Tanner crab from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey is less than 100,000 legal male Tanner crab for three consecutive years; or
3. Estimated stock abundance of legal Tanner crab is less than 50,000 legal male Tanner crab in any given year.



Cook Inlet Noncommercial Tanner Crab Fishery Regulations

- Permit Required
- Bag limit is 5 male Tanner crab
- Minimum size limit is 5 ½ inches carapace width
- Seasons
 - Areas D & E (Kachemak Bay)
 - July 15 - December 31
 - January 15 - March 15
 - Areas A, B, & C
 - July 15 - March 15



Cook Inlet Noncommercial Tanner Crab Fishery Regulations (cont'd)

- Gear (personal use and sport)
 - Two pots per person, two pots per vessel
 - except Area C: six pots per vessel (two per person).
 - Biodegradable escape mechanism
 - Two escape rings 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter.
- Gear (subsistence)
 - pots, ring nets, dip nets, diving gear, hooked or hookless hand lines, and by hand



Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Noncommercial Fishery Harvest from Permits

Season	Area A-C		Area D-E		Total	Released			Total
	Harvest	Effort	Harvest	Effort	Harvest	Females	Sublegal Males	Legal Males	Released
2008-09	832	271	16,185	4,783	17,173	21,199	31,195	6,946	59,340
2009-10	1,581	490	17,141	4,775	18,827	21,849	32,981	6,951	61,781
2010-11	685	242	12,676	4,296	13,745	7,454	19,486	5,717	32,657
2011-12 ^a	441	132	8,271	2,663	8,979	8,373	9,720	1,366	19,459
2012-13					closed				
2013-14					closed				

^a 2011-2012 season was closed early, after abundance estimates were below thresholds from the Kachemak Bay trawl survey



Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Noncommercial Fishery Harvest from Permits for Kachemak Bay, Areas D-E

Areas D-E, Kachemak Bay

Season	GHL	Harvest	% Harvest July-Aug (1.5 months)	% Harvest Sept-Mar (7 months)	% Total Harvest
2008-09	13,373	16,185	59%	41%	94%
2009-10	14,860	17,141	50%	50%	91%
2010-11	18,284	12,676	58%	42%	92%
Average	15,506	15,334	55%	45%	93%

Bag limit was reduced in 2010-11 from 5 to 4 crab



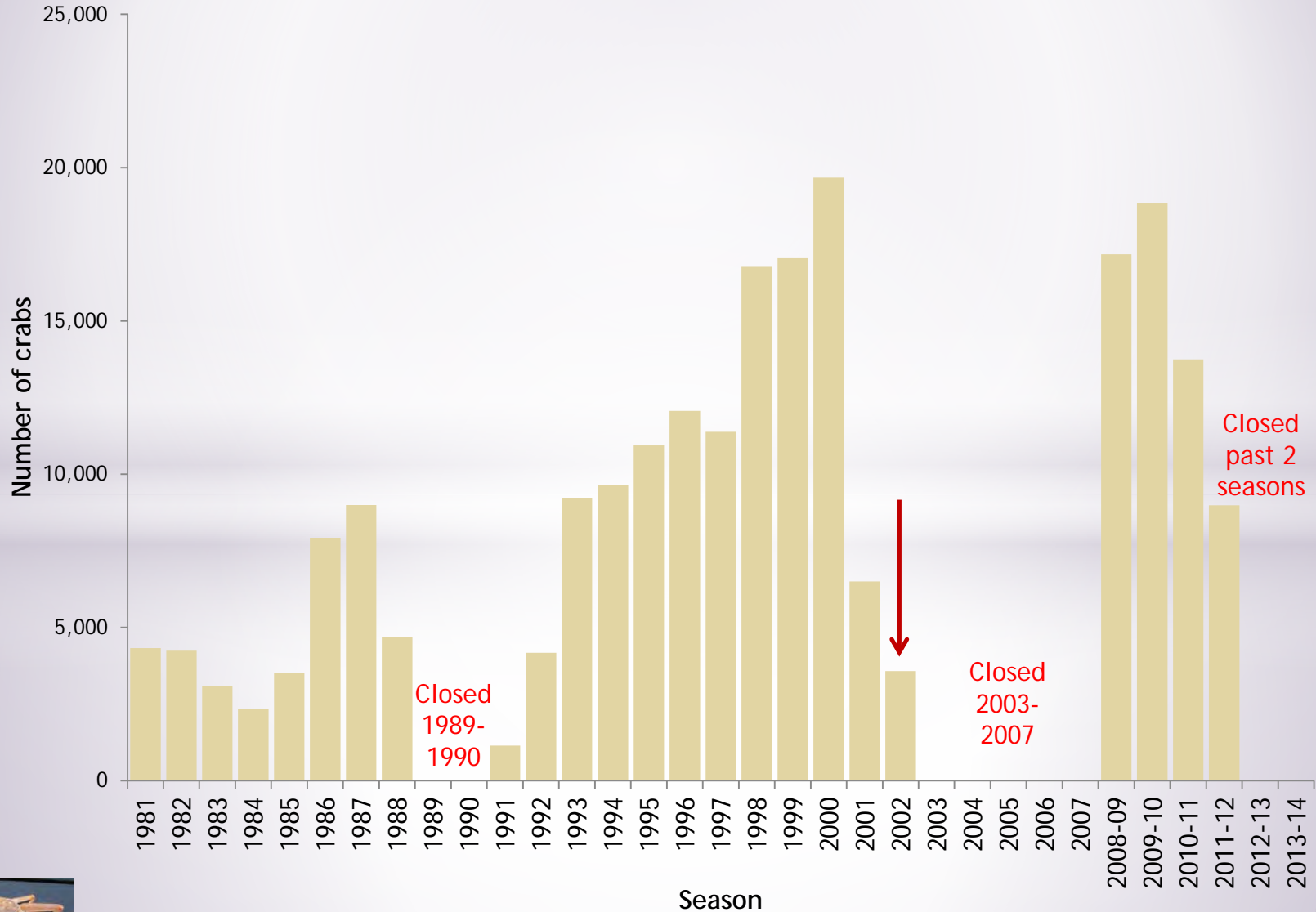
Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Noncommercial Fishery Harvest from Permits for Areas A-C

Areas A-C				
Season	GHL	Harvest	% Harvest July-Aug	% Harvest Sept-Mar
2008-09	16,212	832	77%	23%
2009-10	20,797	1,581	84%	16%
2010-11	28,984	685	67%	33%
Average	21,998	1,033	76%	24%

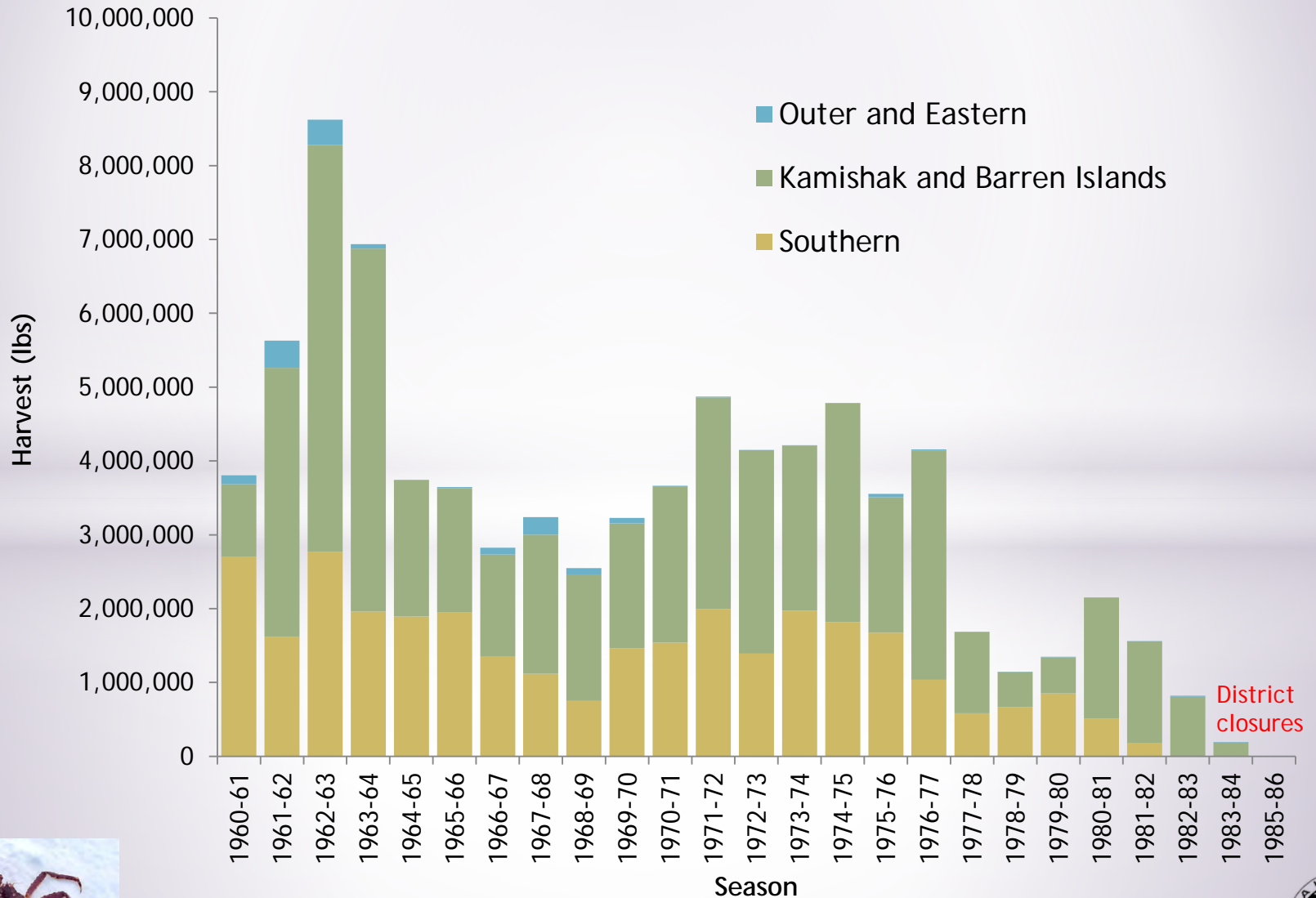


Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Noncommercial Fishery

Harvest Statewide Harvest Survey and Permit



Cook Inlet King Crab Commercial Fisheries Harvest by District



1985-86 to Present - All Districts closed



Cook Inlet Tanner Crab Proposals

Proposal 334 - Change the Tanner crab harvest strategy in Cook Inlet to use a three year average of legal male abundance to determine harvest thresholds

Proposal 335 - Change the season dates of the noncommercial Tanner crab fishery in Kachemak Bay

Proposal 336 - Create a sport only Tanner crab fishery in Kachemak Bay and change the season dates (reducing the total season length)



Questions?

