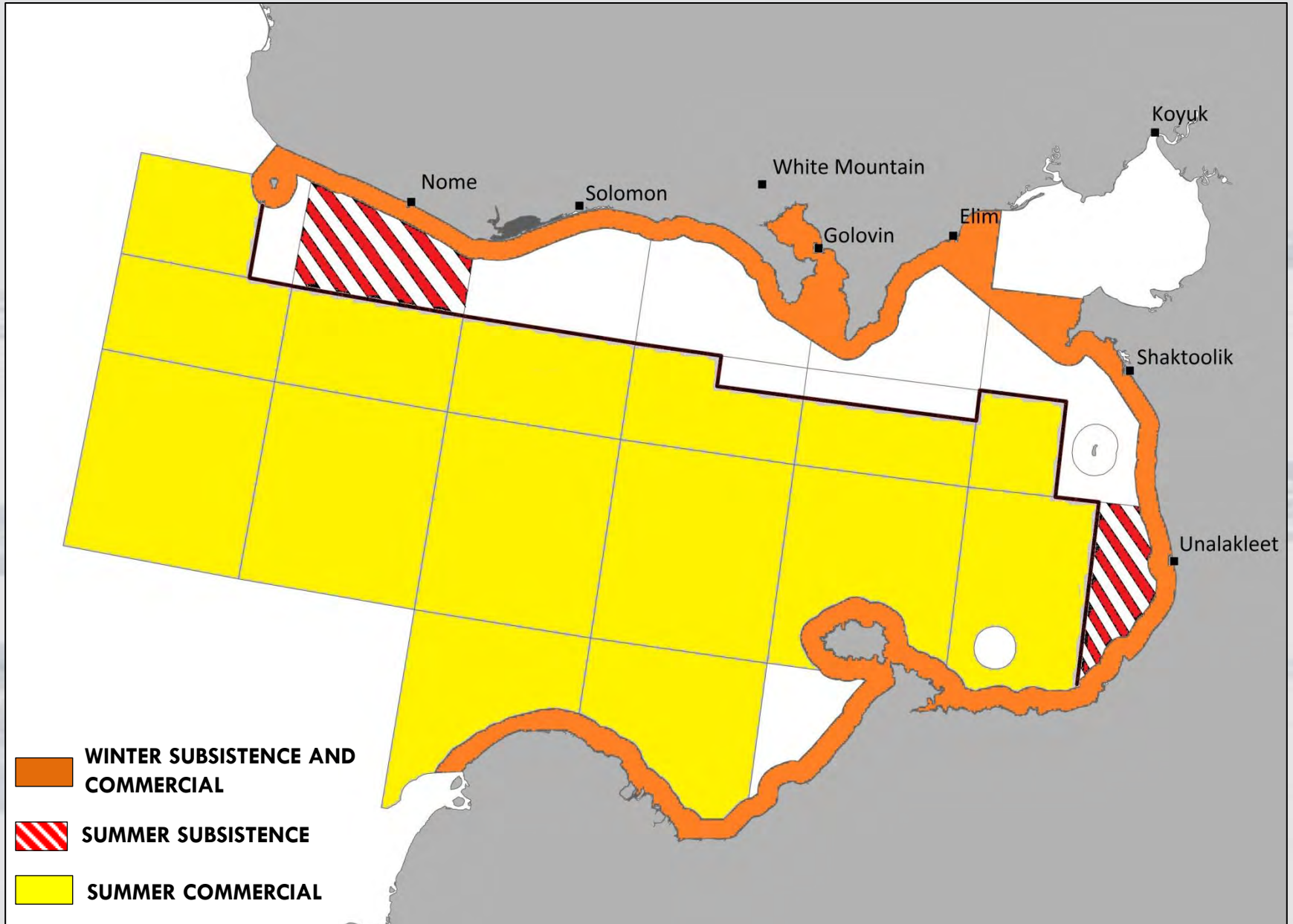


NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB FISHERIES



**Presented by Scott Kent and Justin Leon
A Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
March, 2015
RC 3, Tab 2**

NORTON SOUND CRAB FISHERIES



SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES

Photo by Steve Ivanoff



Historically used handlines. Switch to pot gear in late 1970s.

Open year round to residents.

Winter and summer subsistence crabbing permits required.

Photo by Steve Ivanoff

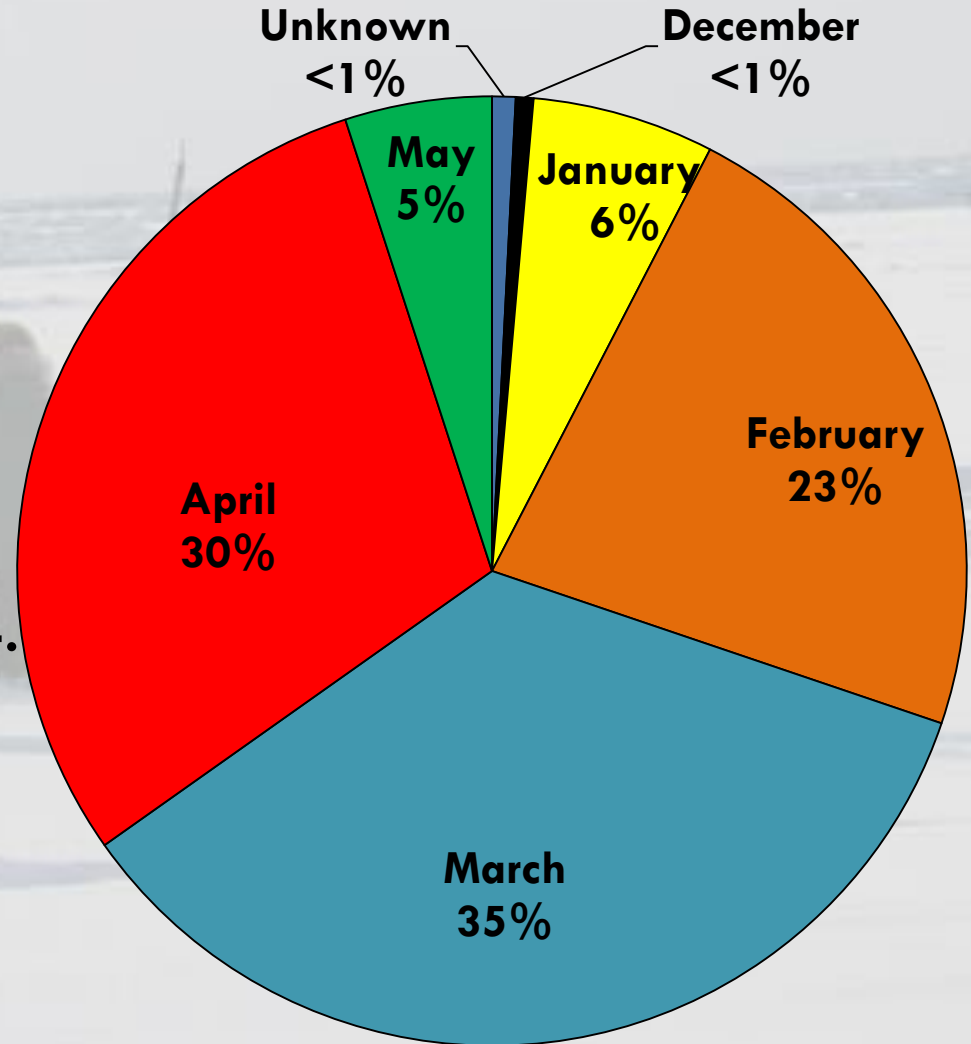


Photo by Steve Ivanoff



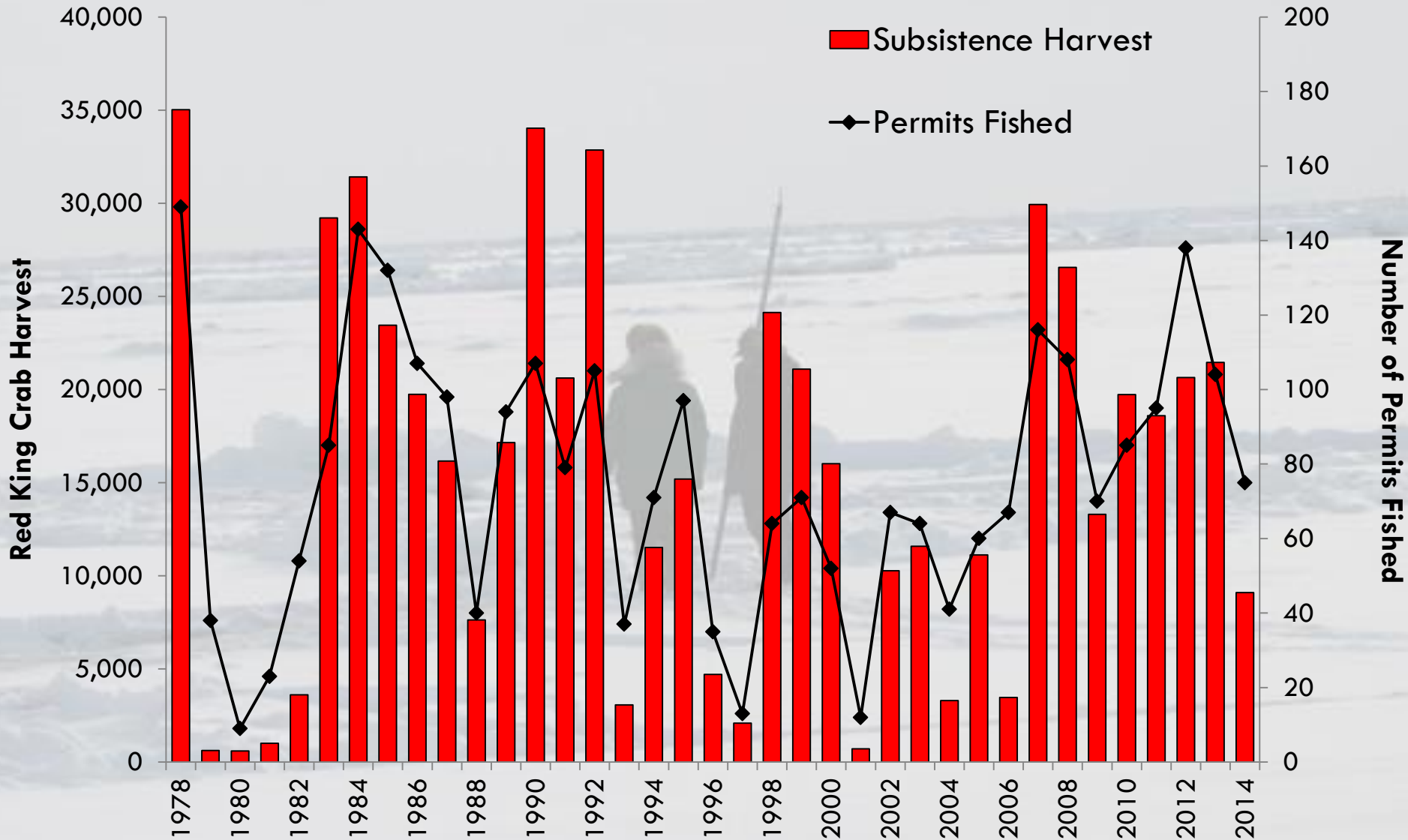
SUBSISTENCE HARVEST PATTERNS

Ice conditions, nearshore crab distribution and abundance determine success.

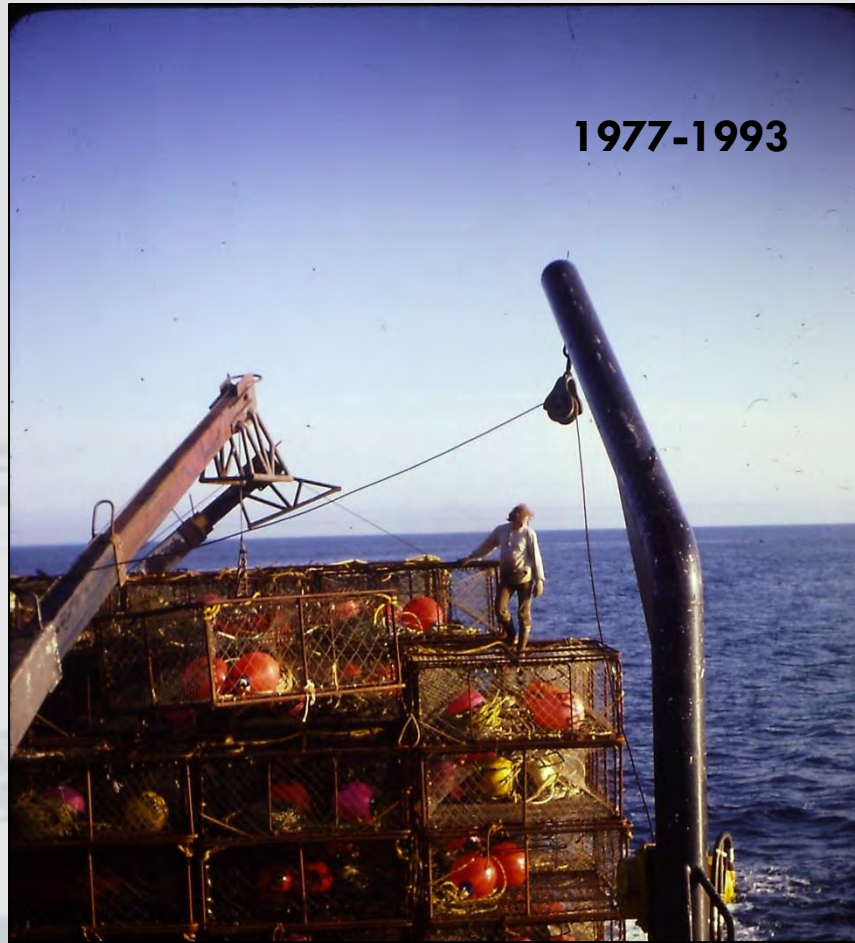


Average percentage of Norton Sound winter subsistence red king crab harvest by month, 2010-2014.

SUBSISTENCE HARVEST AND EFFORT



SUMMER COMMERCIAL FISHERY OVERVIEW



1977-1993

Limited to 40 pots.

Monitored intensively in season.

Season dates June 15-Sept. 3.

Began in 1977.

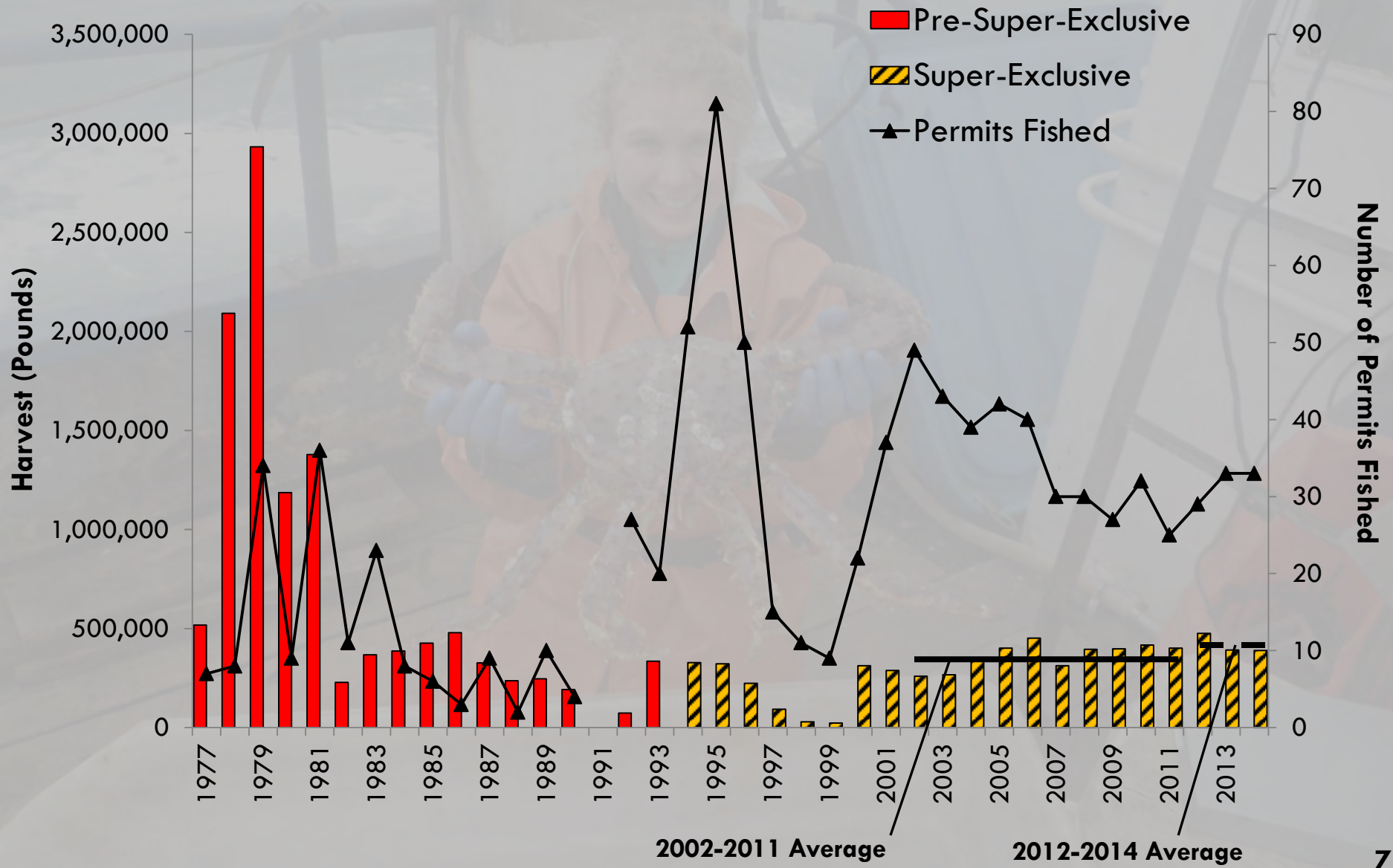
Shift from large vessels to small vessels.

Length-based model used to project biomass. Harvest strategy and guideline harvest levels.

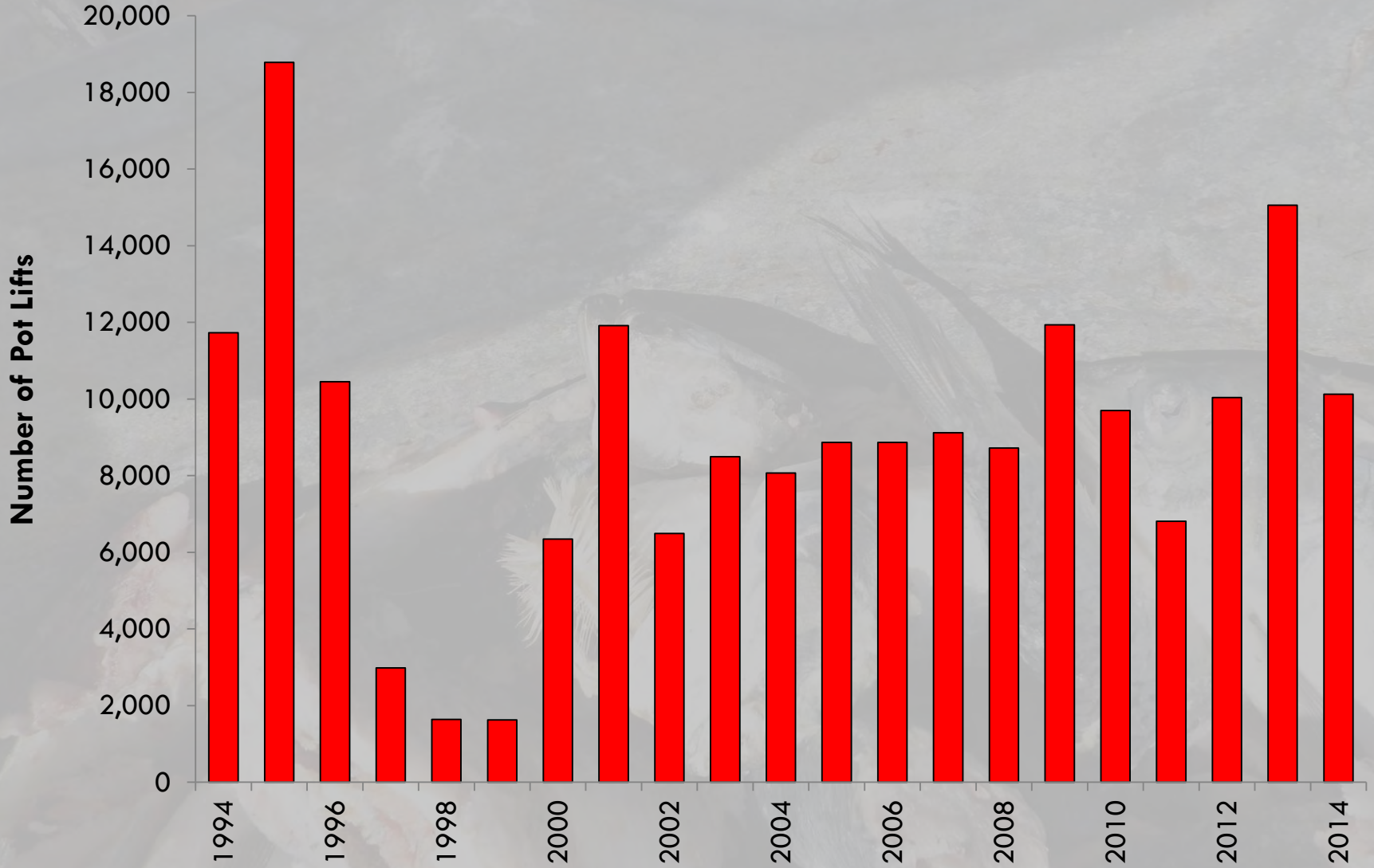


1994-Present

SUMMER COMMERCIAL FISHERY HARVEST TRENDS



SUMMER EFFORT (SUPER-EXCLUSIVE YEARS)



WINTER COMMERCIAL FISHERY

Began in 1978.

Season dates are November 15-May 15 by regulation.

Through the ice only. Pots and handlines are legal gear.

No pot limits or guideline harvest level, or harvest strategy.

Harvest deducted from ABC after season to determine amount available for summer GHL.

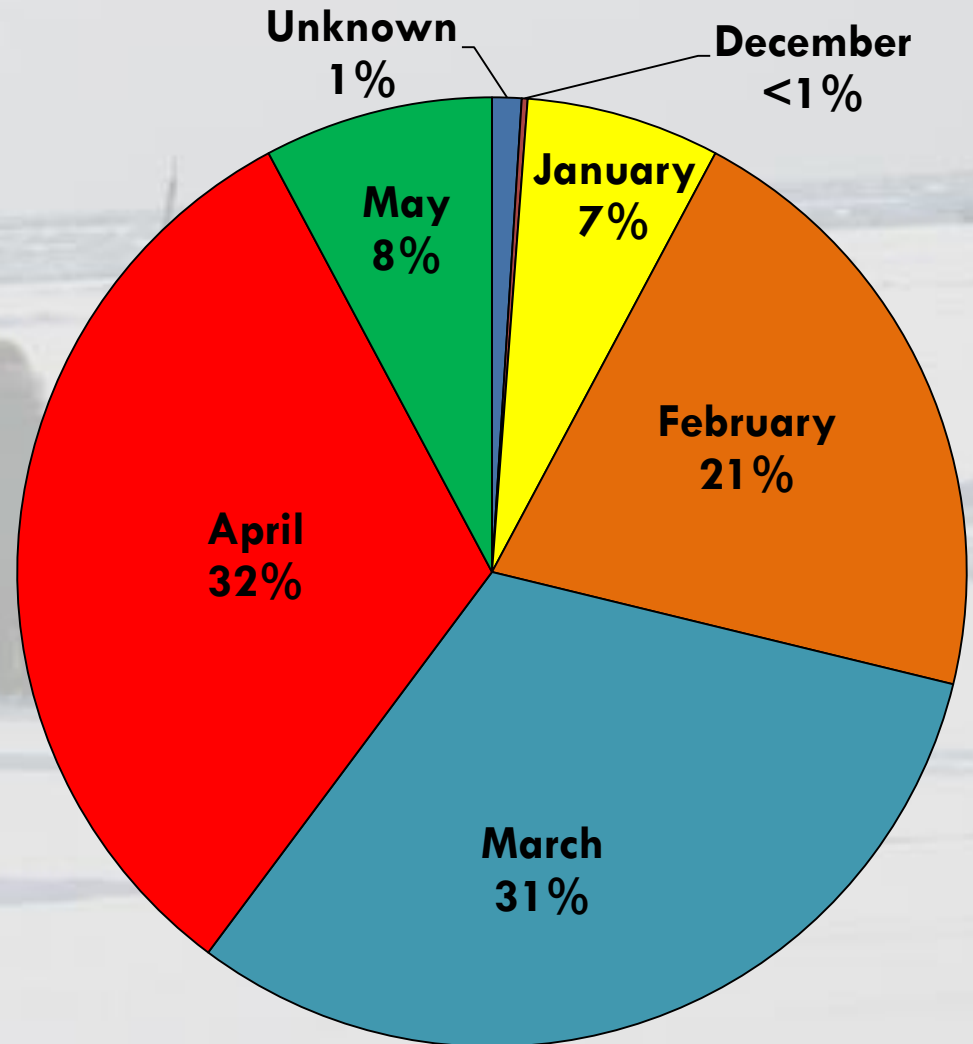
High pot losses in unstable ice years.

Photo by Johnnie Noyakuk

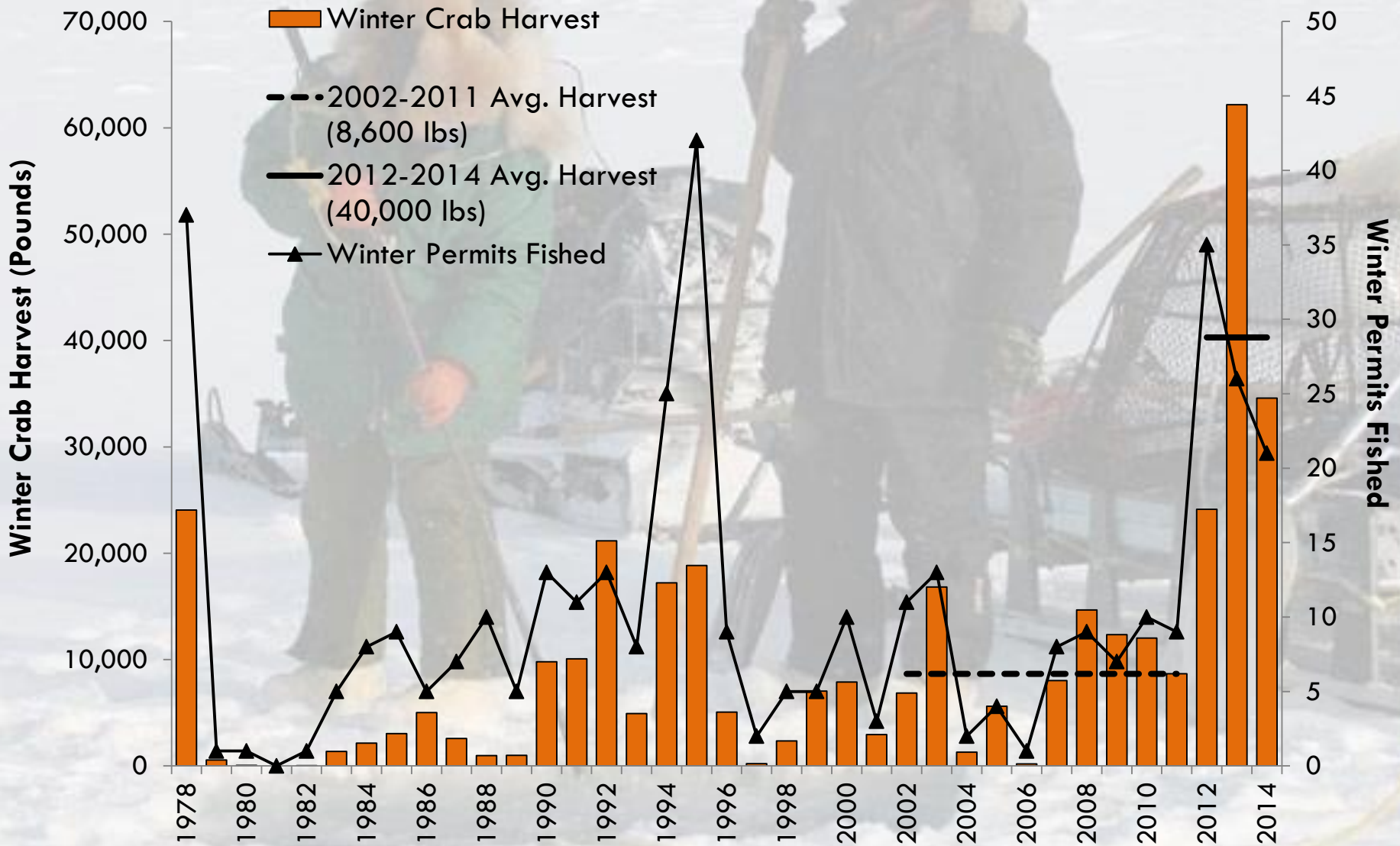


WINTER COMMERCIAL FISHERY HARVEST TRENDS

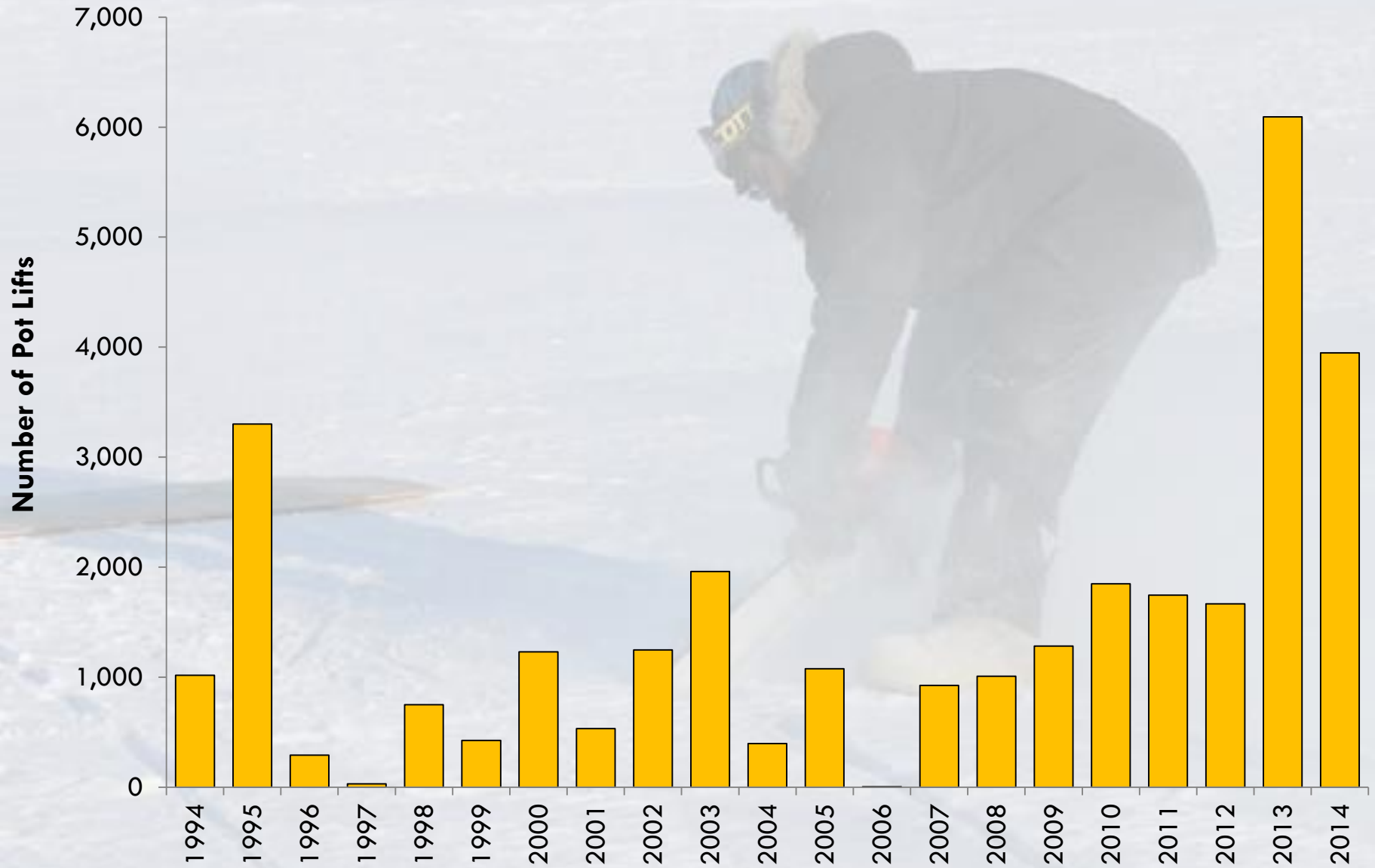
Average percentage of Norton Sound winter commercial red king crab harvest by month, 2010-2014.



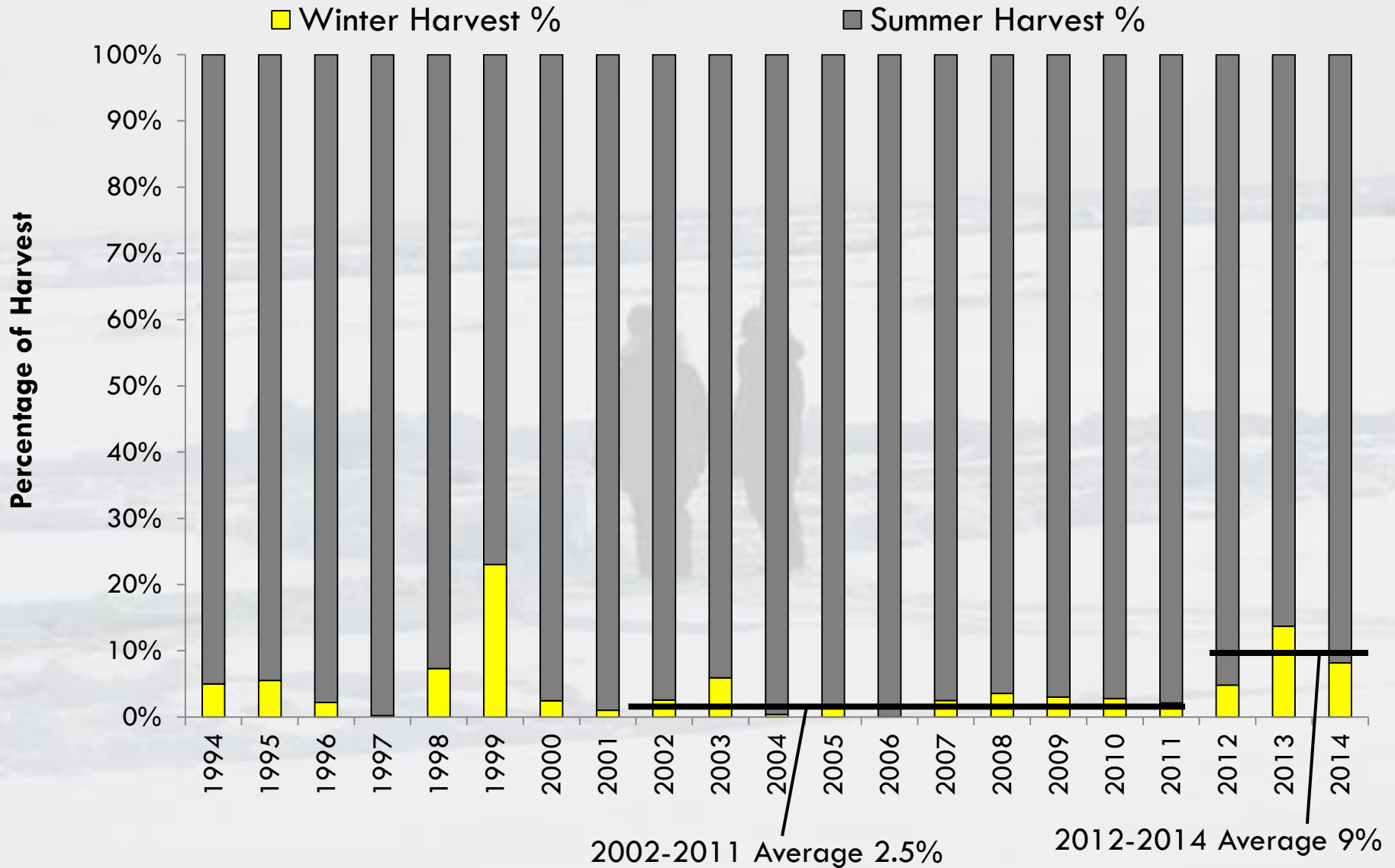
WINTER COMMERCIAL FISHERY HARVEST TRENDS



WINTER FISHERY EFFORT

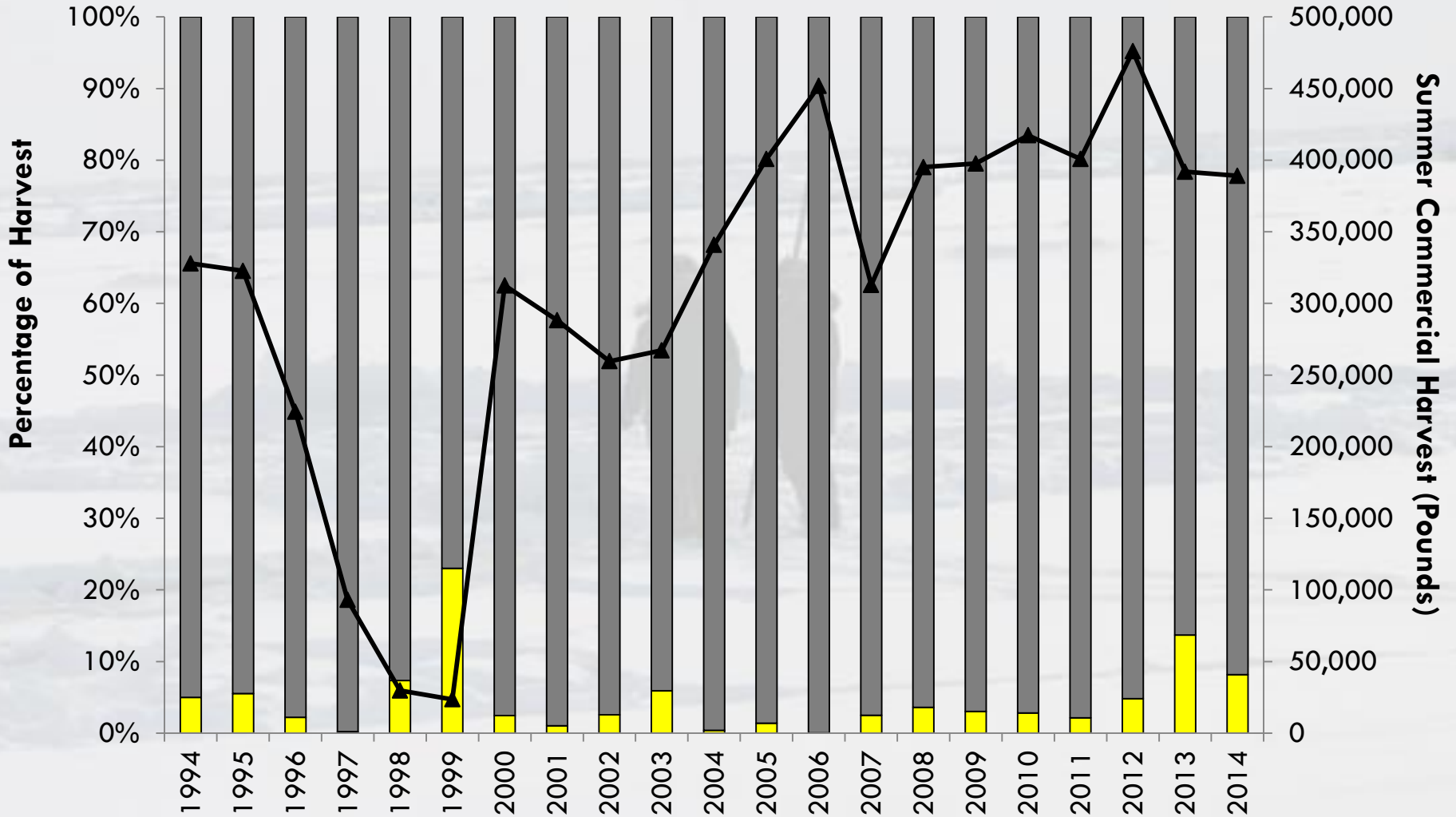


SUMMER & WINTER HARVEST CONTRIBUTIONS

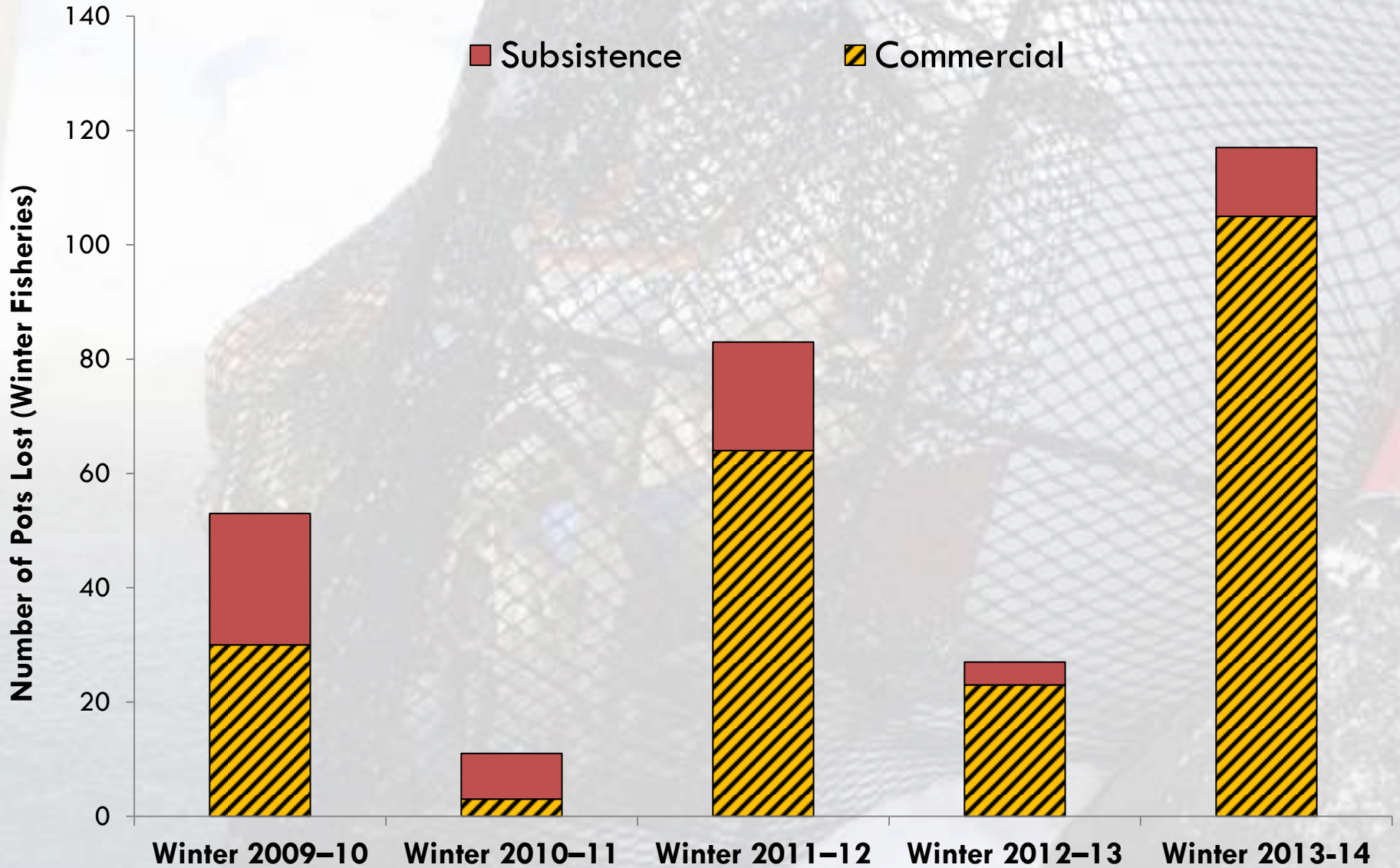


SUMMER & WINTER HARVEST CONTRIBUTIONS

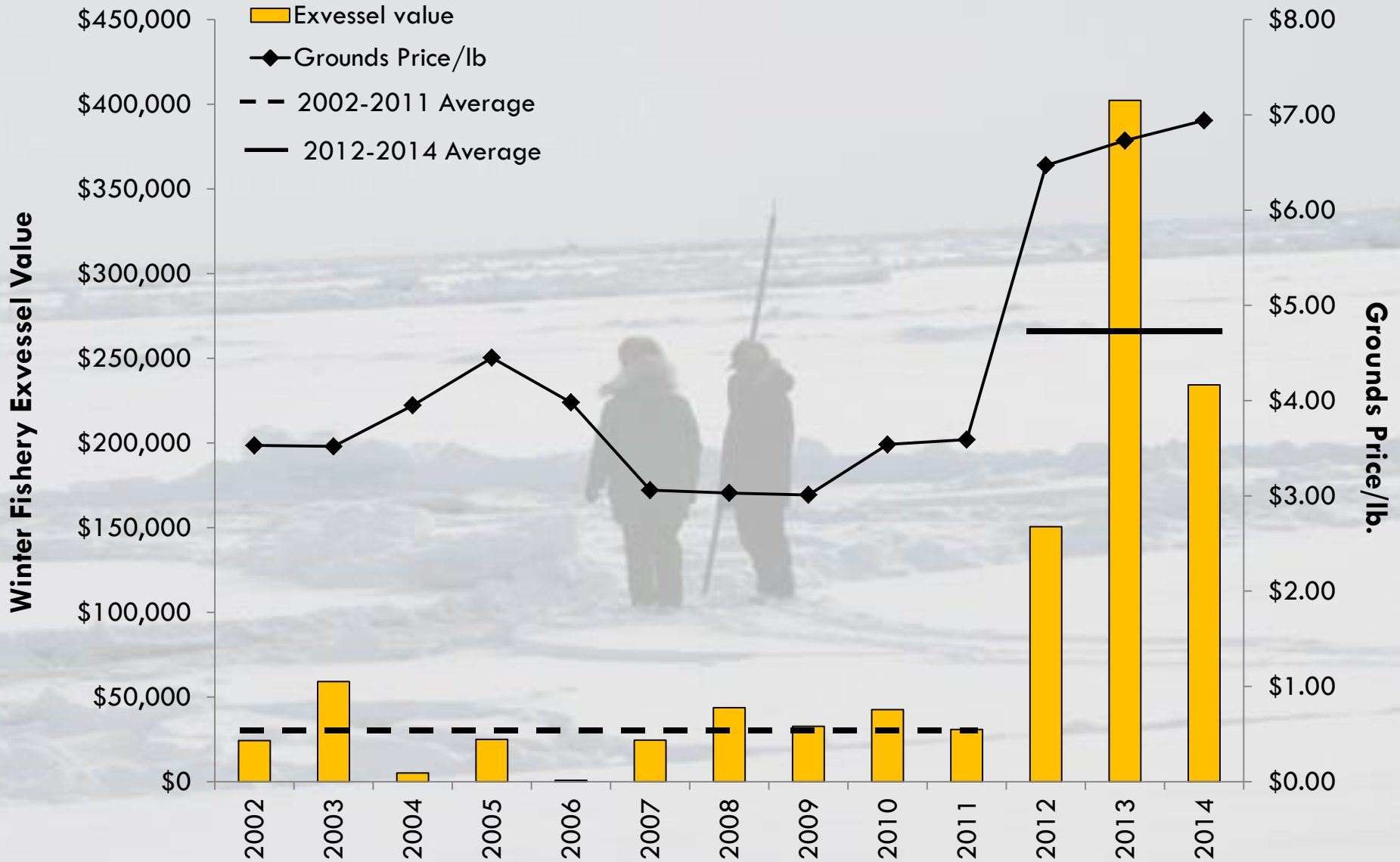
■ Winter Harvest %
 ■ Summer Harvest %
▲ Summer Harvest lbs.



WINTER FISHERY POT LOSSES



WINTER FISHERY CHANGES



PROPOSALS AND MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS



Proposals to modify winter season dates and include winter fishery in red king crab GHL seek an orderly fishery in alignment with new NPFMC schedule for determining ABC and OFL.

Changing fishing season dates may help reduce winter pot losses.

Proposed new season dates may modestly reduce winter harvest.

Winter commercial fishery will require more inseason monitoring.

QUESTIONS?

