

**Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Onboard
Observer Program Methods**

by

Adam Messmer

Gretchen Bishop

Julie Bednarski

Chris Siddon

and

Andrew Olson

November 2010

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the *Système International d'Unités* (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are recorded in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Weights and measures (metric) | | General | | Measures (fisheries) | |
| centimeter | cm | Alaska Administrative Code | AAC | fork length | FL |
| deciliter | dL | all commonly accepted abbreviations | e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc. | mid-eye-to-fork | MEF |
| gram | g | all commonly accepted professional titles | e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc. | mid-eye-to-tail-fork | METF |
| hectare | ha | at | @ | standard length | SL |
| kilogram | kg | compass directions: | | total length | TL |
| kilometer | km | east | E | | |
| liter | L | north | N | Mathematics, statistics | |
| meter | m | south | S | <i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i> | |
| milliliter | mL | west | W | alternate hypothesis | H _A |
| millimeter | mm | copyright | © | base of natural logarithm | <i>e</i> |
| | | corporate suffixes: | | catch per unit effort | CPUE |
| Weights and measures (English) | | Company | Co. | coefficient of variation | CV |
| cubic feet per second | ft ³ /s | Corporation | Corp. | common test statistics | (F, t, χ^2 , etc.) |
| foot | ft | Incorporated | Inc. | confidence interval | CI |
| gallon | gal | Limited | Ltd. | correlation coefficient (multiple) | R |
| inch | in | District of Columbia | D.C. | correlation coefficient (simple) | r |
| mile | mi | et alii (and others) | et al. | covariance | cov |
| nautical mile | nmi | et cetera (and so forth) | etc. | degree (angular) | ° |
| ounce | oz | exempli gratia (for example) | e.g. | degrees of freedom | df |
| pound | lb | Federal Information Code | FIC | expected value | <i>E</i> |
| quart | qt | id est (that is) | i.e. | greater than | > |
| yard | yd | latitude or longitude | lat. or long. | greater than or equal to | ≥ |
| | | monetary symbols (U.S.) | \$, ¢ | harvest per unit effort | HPUE |
| Time and temperature | | months (tables and figures): first three letters | Jan, ..., Dec | less than | < |
| day | d | registered trademark | ® | less than or equal to | ≤ |
| degrees Celsius | °C | trademark | ™ | logarithm (natural) | ln |
| degrees Fahrenheit | °F | United States (adjective) | U.S. | logarithm (base 10) | log |
| degrees kelvin | K | United States of America (noun) | USA | logarithm (specify base) | log ₂ , etc. |
| hour | h | U.S.C. | United States Code | minute (angular) | ' |
| minute | min | U.S. state | use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA) | not significant | NS |
| second | s | | | null hypothesis | H ₀ |
| Physics and chemistry | | | | percent | % |
| all atomic symbols | | | | probability | P |
| alternating current | AC | | | probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true) | α |
| ampere | A | | | probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false) | β |
| calorie | cal | | | second (angular) | " |
| direct current | DC | | | standard deviation | SD |
| hertz | Hz | | | standard error | SE |
| horsepower | hp | | | variance | |
| hydrogen ion activity (negative log of) | pH | | | population | Var |
| parts per million | ppm | | | sample | var |
| parts per thousand | ppt, ‰ | | | | |
| volts | V | | | | |
| watts | W | | | | |

REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1J10-17

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA GOLDEN KING CRAB ONBOARD OBSERVER
PROGRAM METHODS**

By

Adam Messmer
Gretchen Bishop
Julie Bednarski
Chris Siddon
and
Andrew Olson

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Douglas

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries, Publications Section
802 3rd, Douglas, Alaska, 99824-0020

November 2010

The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 and was redefined in 2007 to meet the Division of Commercial Fisheries regional need for publishing and archiving information such as project operational plans, area management plans, budgetary information, staff comments and opinions to Board of Fisheries proposals, interim or preliminary data and grant agency reports, special meeting or minor workshop results and other regional information not generally reported elsewhere. Reports in this series may contain raw data and preliminary results. Reports in this series receive varying degrees of regional, biometric and editorial review; information in this series may be subsequently finalized and published in a different department reporting series or in the formal literature. Please contact the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries if in doubt of the level of review or preliminary nature of the data reported. Regional Information Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet at: <http://www.sf.adfg.ak.us/statewide/divreports/html/intersearch.cfm>.

*Adam Messmer
Gretchen Bishop
Julie Bednarski
Chris Siddon
And
Andrew Olson*

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries,
802 3rd Street, Douglas, AK 99824
USA*

This document should be cited as:

Messmer, A., G. Bishop, J. Bednarski, Siddon, C., and A. Olson. 2010. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Onboard Observer Program Methods. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regional Information Report 1J10-17, Douglas, Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:

(VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact:

ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage AK 99518 (907)267-2375.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| table of contents..... | i |
| LIST OF TABLES | i |
| LIST OF FIGURES..... | ii |
| LIST OF APPENDICES | ii |
| ABSTRACT | 1 |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| OBJECTIVES | 2 |
| METHODS..... | 2 |
| Sample Size Analysis | 2 |
| Observer Program..... | 3 |
| Data Collection..... | 3 |
| Sampling Design..... | 4 |
| Safety Procedures | 5 |
| REFERENCES CITED | 6 |
| TABLES AND FIGURES..... | 7 |

LIST OF TABLES

| Table | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Table 1.–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the prerecruit size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/09 using a standardized effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 7 |
| Table 2.–Location and sublocation codes for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program. | 7 |
| Table 3.–Description of debris, substrate, pot condition, type, dimensions, escape device, and bait codes for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program. Pot weight is also recorded, but is of continuous data type..... | 8 |
| Table 4.–Probability of a male golden king crab in Southeast Alaska being of legal carapace width or larger, by carapace length. Sample size = 17,870. A 95% confidence interval was used for analysis. Bold text indicates that 50% of crab of this size are legal. | 9 |
| Table 5.–Shell age criteria for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program (Donaldson and Byersdorfer 2005). | 10 |
| Table 6.–Leg loss codes in use for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program. | 10 |
| Table 7.–Parasite condition codes used for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program. | 11 |
| Table 8.–Reproductive condition codes used in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program (Donaldson and Byersdorfer 2005). | 11 |
| Table 9.–Safety requirements for vessels. | 12 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| Figure | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Figure 1.–Management area boundaries for the golden king crab fishery in Northern Southeast Alaska..... | 13 |
| Figure 2.–Management area boundaries for the golden king crab fishery in Southern Southeast Alaska..... | 14 |
| Figure 3.–Standard procedure to measure chela height on golden king crabs. The measurement is always taken in the notch between the two large spines on the dorsal edge of the chela. (Jewett et al. 1985). | 15 |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| Appendix | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Appendix A.1–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the immature female size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/09 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 17 |
| Appendix A.2–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the mature female size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 17 |
| Appendix A.3–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the juvenile size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 17 |
| Appendix A.4–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the recruit size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 18 |
| Appendix A.5–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 1 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 18 |
| Appendix A.6–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 2 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 18 |
| Appendix A.7–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 3 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 18 |
| Appendix A.8–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 4 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 19 |
| Appendix A.9–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 5 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 19 |
| Appendix A.10–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 6 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$ | 19 |
| | |
| Appendix B.1–Skipper set log..... | 21 |
| Appendix B. 2–Crab survey specimen form..... | 22 |
| Appendix B. 3–Crab pot set form..... | 23 |
| Appendix B. 4–Incidental species form..... | 24 |
| Appendix B.5–Chela height tally form..... | 25 |

ABSTRACT

Management of golden king crabs in Southeast Alaska is based on a triennial review of fishery-dependent data. Golden king crabs are fished using large pots at the extreme depths (up to 350 fathoms) of Southeast Alaska. The fishery begins between February 10 and 17 each year. Areas with the largest guideline harvest levels, GHGs, have generally closed by emergency order by mid April and areas with smaller GHGs can remain open until December. The fishery is sampled both dockside and onboard commercial fishing vessels. Dockside sampling provides information on recruit and postrecruit crabs only, while the observer program supplies data on female and sublegal crabs, the fine scale distribution of golden king crabs, bycatch, and details on fishing methods such as soak time and gear configuration. In order to obtain information on females and sublegal crabs, observers close escape rings on up to 50 pots per trip; however, they sample pots with both open and closed escape rings. Carapace length is measured and shell age, leg condition, and presence of parasites are visually assessed for all commercially important crab species; for female crabs, clutch fullness, and development and condition of eggs are determined as well. Chela height is measured for a subsample of male crabs sampled. For each pot sampled, location, depth, soak time, debris, substrate, bycatch count by species, pot condition, pot type, pot dimensions and weight, escape device, and bait are recorded.

Key words: golden king crabs, *Lithodes aequispinus*, stock assessment, observer program, management, Southeast Alaska

INTRODUCTION

Golden king crabs, *Lithodes aequispinus*, (GKC) are found in deep waters, between 100 and 350 fathoms (182–640 m) of northern Southeast Alaska. Important fishing grounds are located at the confluences of Icy Strait, Lynn Canal, and Chatham Strait; of Chatham Strait and western portions of Frederick Sound, and of Stephens Passage and Frederick Sound (Figures 1 and 2). Fishing conditions in the golden king crab fishery are very demanding, because the grounds are exposed to adverse weather conditions, located in great depths, and subject to strong tidal exchanges and heavy currents (Hebert et al. 2005, 2008, 2008).

Harvest of GKC in Southeast Alaska averaged 0.58 million lb for 1999/2000–2008/09 seasons. Management measures in effect for the fishery include seven separate management areas, each with their own guideline harvest range (GHR) and a season start between February 10 and 17 with closure by emergency order when guideline harvest levels (GHGs) are achieved in each management area. In addition there is a gear limit of 100 pots per vessel, and harvest is restricted to male crabs only, with the minimum legal carapace width (CW) of 7 inches (178 mm) (Hebert et al. 2005).

The biology of golden king crabs is poorly understood, but they are thought to have a 24-month reproductive cycle (Otto and Cumiskey 1985), asynchronous timing of mating and molting (McBride et al. 1982; Otto 1984a; Sloan 1985), and large yolk-rich eggs with low fecundity—about 30,000 per female crab (Jewett et al. 1985). Male golden king crabs in Southeast Alaska are thought to become sexually mature at a size of about 118 mm carapace length (CL) (Koeneman and Buchanan 1985; Otto 1984a). Extrapolating the juvenile growth data of Paul and Paul (2001) forward, this size is approximately 8 years of age. Golden king crabs in Southeast Alaska enter the fishery at 178 mm CW, which corresponds to about 151 mm CL. This is based on the length-width relationship of $Y = 44.336 + 0.8875X$ where X is carapace length in mm, and Y is carapace width in mm, provided by Koeneman and Buchanan (1985). Adult male molt increment is probably the only parameter that has been well-described for this species in Southeast

Alaska, where it is estimated as 16.4 mm CL (Koeneman and Buchanan 1985). Using this molt increment, the legal size is between two and three molts from the mature size. Since molt frequency is only slightly more than 12 months at this size this means that male golden king crabs in Southeast Alaska have in excess of two years to contribute to the reproductive potential of the population before they begin to be exploited at about 10.5 years of age. To reach the maximum observed size of 215 mm CL from the legal size of 151 mm CL would require 4 molts. Since the molt frequency begins to decline at sexual maturity, it is likely to take well in excess of four years to reach this maximum size. Using a molt frequency of 48 months, the maximum age would be approximately 18.5 years of age.

The lack of a fishery-independent stock assessment program for this species has been the driving force for the implementation of an onboard observer program. The observer program provides information on prerecruits and females, as well as life history information specific to golden king crabs in Southeast Alaska. Stock assessment for GKC consists of a triennial evaluation of fishery (fish ticket and logbook) and sampling (onboard and dockside) information and stock status is determined as a result of this evaluation. Based on stock status, guideline harvest levels, within the regulatory guideline harvest range, are recommended and targeted inseason by fishery managers.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program are to:

1. Describe the size and sex composition of golden king crab captured in a legal crab pot.
2. Describe the size and sex composition of golden king crab captured in a crab pot with the escape rings closed.
3. Describe the bycatch species composition in the golden king crab fishery.
4. Describe fishing methods common in the golden king crab fishery, including bait, gear, and soak times.
5. Describe the commercial fishing grounds within each management area.
6. Describe ontogenetic depth distribution of golden king crab.
7. Describe any periodicity in golden king crab life history.
8. Obtain data on chela height allometry for golden king crab to define Southeast Alaska, and management area-specific size at maturity.

The purpose of this report is to describe the need for, objectives of, and methods used in the golden king crab onboard observer program in Southeast Alaska.

METHODS

SAMPLE SIZE ANALYSIS

A standardized power of analysis test was used on accumulated observer data to determine the appropriate sample size needed to detect changes in GKC catch per unit effort (CPUE). This reduces the likelihood of a type II error, which could falsely conclude that there is no difference in CPUE as a function of year, when in fact there was a significant difference. It also allows for the determination of whether the study is feasible given the logistical and financial constraints that limit sample size (Mills 2007). This test was calculated using 80% power (probability of obtaining a significant result), α

0.05 (significance level), Δ (effect size), and the standard deviation, σ , from the mean CPUE of the number of crab/pot of recruit classes by year and by location (Appendix A) (Kraemer and Theimann 1987). The effect size is standardized at $\delta=0.2$ using the following equation, $d = \frac{\Delta}{\sigma}$.

This equation shows that each management area sampled has the same sample size required to detect a difference in CPUE, therefore allowing each management area to be statistically compared. Results indicate that 100 pots should be sampled during each management area and year in order to detect a change of X mm CL in the XX recruit class (Table 1).

OBSERVER PROGRAM

Data Collection

Alaska Department of Fish and Game employees are placed onboard volunteer vessels during the commercial fishery to sample crabs caught in pots with open and closed escape rings. These volunteer vessels are authorized by the department to close escape rings or stretch mesh in up to 50 of their legal limit of 100 pots. Vessels delay discard of female and sublegal male crabs while observers are onboard to allow for sampling. Live, non-legal crabs are returned to the water unharmed after sampling, and legal-sized crabs are returned to the vessel's crew for storage in live tanks prior to being off loaded to a tender or fish processor.

The annual sampling goal is six trips, preferably from different management areas. Each trip is a minimum of five sampling days in length. Within a sampling day, golden king crabs from at least ten pots with escape rings closed (closed pots) and ten with escape rings open (open pots) are sampled and a minimum of 35 male chelae heights are measured. For each sampled pot, at least 50 golden king crabs are sampled, if available, and pot configuration, substrate and bycatch are documented. During each trip 100 pots are be sampled.

Every 2nd pot set has its escape rings, or 7-inch stretch mesh escape panels, sewn closed, either at the time of first setting—if the observer is aboard from the beginning of the season—or immediately prior to the observer boarding the vessel. In the latter case, the skipper is asked to systematically set every 2nd pot with escape rings closed, to ignore escape ring status in selecting pot locations, and to record buoy tag number and time and date of setting for each pot on a “Skipper Set Log” data sheet (Appendix B1).

Four tidbits are deployed at the beginning of each trip, evenly spaced throughout the gear. Tidbits are placed on closed pots and are retrieved 2 to 3 days before the end of the trip to ensure recovery of all devices. Tidbits are placed in an area of the pot in which it will not get broken when stacking pots on board the vessel. Tidbits are launched using Boxcar (yellow tidbits) and Hoboware (orange tidbits) software and temperature is record in Centigrade at 1-hour intervals.

Sampled pots are selected in a systematic fashion with a random start point. Open pots are selected for sampling prior to their reaching the deck and without the skipper's knowledge that a given pot will be sampled. Sampling closed pots has priority over open

pots and all closed pots are sampled when possible. The biodegradable twine on the closed pots is checked with each lift.

When a pre-selected pot comes up empty of any commercially important crab species it is nonetheless recorded as a sample although there will be no crab survey specimen data. To avoid confusion, a data entry of "EMPTY NO CRAB" is recorded on the "Crab Survey Specimen Form" data sheet and also in the comments section of the "Crab Pot Set Form" data sheet (Appendices B2 and B3).

As each pot is pulled, pot tag number (recorded in place of buoy number), pull time and date, location in latitude and longitude accurate to 0.001 decimal minutes, and depth in fathoms and a gear description which includes pot type, approximate dimensions, weight and escape device, and bait type, are recorded on the "Crab Pot Set Form." Set time is obtained later from the skipper set log. Header information includes year, trip number, location and sublocation, and recorder name (Table 2).

Sampling Design

For each sampled pot, all bycatch species are identified, counted and recorded on the "Incidental Species Form" (Appendix B4). Bycatch is defined as any animal besides commercially important crab species (i.e. red and golden king crabs, Tanner crab, and Dungeness crab). In addition to bycatch, any non-living or plant debris or substrate observed clinging to a pot and the pot's condition are also recorded on this form (Table 3).

Ideally, crabs are subsampled at a rate adjusted to allow 50–100 crabs to be measured in each pot and crabs to be processed quickly enough for an open pot to be sampled between closed pots. Crabs are sorted by species and sex before subsampling, so that subsample rates that are reflective of the relative abundance of each species and sex. A higher rate of subsampling may be necessary when environmental conditions are harsh (i.e. freezing spray and rough seas) to avoid long handling times that could significantly increase crab mortality.

All commercially important crab species are sampled during onboard observing; however, golden king crabs are sampled at the highest rate and catch of other crab species is minimal for most areas. The standard measurement for king crab is biological carapace length (Donaldson and Byersdorfer 2005) and male golden king crabs between 144 and 170 mm CL are also measured, using a 7-in diameter measuring stick to determine whether or not they are of legal carapace width (Table 4). Tanner crab are measured for carapace width (Jadamec et al. 1999) and Dungeness crab for shoulder width (the smallest measure immediately anterior to the 10th anterolateral spine). The first 10 male golden king crab sampled from each pot, or 50 crab per day, are measured for chela height—the greatest height of the right chela excluding spines accurate to 1.0 mm (Figure 3). Shell age (Table 5) and leg loss (Table 6) are also determined. The abdominal flaps of king crabs are checked for presence of externa or scars resulting from parasitism by the rhizocephalan barnacle *Briarosacchus* (Table 7). With the skipper's approval, crabs with a parasite present are to be removed and placed in a ziploc bag labeled with the trip number, location, pot number, and crab number (from the data sheet). These samples are to be placed in the freezer hold of the observer boat and brought back where a muscle tissue sample will be preserved in ethanol for further analysis. Female crabs are examined

for clutch fullness in 10% increments and, egg condition, and development determined according to the criteria in (Table 8). This individual crab specimen data is recorded on the “Crab Survey Specimen Form” (Appendix B2).

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Call-ins to the observer coordinator or the shellfish research project leader are conducted three times weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to maintain good communication with the observer and to provide information for inseason management of the fishery. State of Alaska Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #III-740 “Boating Safety” is followed at all times while onboard fishing vessels and strict criteria are applied in the choice of which vessels are chosen to support observers. These criteria are listed in Table 9. In addition, observers are supplied with safety equipment which includes an immersion suit, float coat, and a first aid kit. All observers participating in the program have completed an Alaska Marine Safety Education Association training course.

REFERENCES CITED

- Donaldson, W. E., and S. Byersdorfer. 2005. Biological Field Techniques for Lithodid Crabs, Volume AK-SG-05-03. University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, 76 pp.
- Hebert, K., G. H. Bishop, J. M. Rumble, and A. Tingley. 2005. Report to the Board of Fisheries, 2005 Shellfish Fisheries; Region I: Southeast Alaska - Yakutat. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Regional Information Report #1J05-02. 125 pp.
- Hebert, K., Davidson, W., Stratman, J., Bush, K., Bishop, G.H., Siddon, C., Bednarski, J., Messmer, A., and Wood, K., 2008. Report to the Board of Fisheries, 2009 Shellfish Fisheries; Region I: Southeast Alaska - Yakutat. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, pp. 116
- Jadamec, L. S., W. E. Donaldson, and P. Cullenberg. 1999. Biological Field Techniques for *Chionoecetes* crabs, University of Alaska Sea Grant College Program #AK-SG-99-02. 80 pp.
- Jewett, S. C., N. A. Sloan, and D. A. Somerton. 1985. Size at sexual maturity and fecundity of the fjord-dwelling golden king crab *Lithodes aequispina* Benedict from northern British Columbia. *Journal of Crustacean Biology* 5(3):377-385.
- Koeneman, T. M., and D. V. Buchanan. 1985. Growth of the golden king crab, *Lithodes aequispina*, in southeast Alaskan waters. Pages 281-297, *In: Proceedings of the International King Crab Symposium*, Volume Report No. 85-12. University of Alaska, Sea Grant, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Kraemer, H. C., and S. Theimann. 1987. How Many Subjects?: Statistical Power Analysis in Research. Sage Publications, California, Newbury Park. 22-25 pp.
- McBride, J., D. Fraser, and J. Reeves. 1982. Information on the Distribution and Biology of the Golden (Brown) King Crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NWAFC Processed Report #82-02, Seattle, Washington. 22 pp.
- Mills, L. S. 2007. Conservation of Wildlife Populations: Demography, Genetics, and Management. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, Massachusetts 28-29 pp.
- Otto, R. S. 1984. A Summary of Data on the Size at Maturity and Reproductive Biology of Golden King Crab with Proposed Size Limits. National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division, Anchorage, Alaska. 20 pp.
- Otto, R. S., and P. A. Cummiskey. 1985. Observations on the reproductive biology of the golden king crab (*Lithodes aequispinus*) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Pages 123-136, *In: Proceedings of the International King Crab Symposium*, Volume AK-SG-85-12. University of Alaska Sea Grant.
- Sloan, N. A. 1985. Life history characteristics of fjord-dwelling golden king crabs *Lithodes aequispina*. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 22:219-228.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.—Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the prerecruit size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/09 using a standardized effect size of $\delta = 0.2$.

| Location | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| East Central* | 1.08073432 | 1.839428 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | 1.41571649 | 0.8594104 | 100 |
| Northern | 0.1784897 | 0.2103986 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | 2.54990604 | 0.754881 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | 0.10104964 | 0.0655758 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | 0.38335704 | 0.2827608 | 100 |

*Note that East Central data is from 2007/08, since no sampling occurred in 2008/09.

Table 2.—Location and sublocation codes for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program.

| Location/ Management Area | Location code | Sublocation | Sublocation code | Sublocation areas |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| East Central | 1 | | | |
| Mid-Chatham Strait | 2 | | | |
| Northern | 3 | | | |
| Southern | 4 | Deer Is/N Ernest | 1 | 107-10 |
| | | Emerald Bay/S | 2 | 107-20 |
| | | Rocky | 3 | 106-20 |
| | | Steamer Bay | 4 | 106-30 |
| Lower Chatham | 5 | | | |
| Icy Strait | 6 | | | |
| North Stephens Passage | 7 | | | |
| Misc. Golden King | 8 | | | |

Table 3.—Description of debris, substrate, pot condition, type, dimensions, escape device, and bait codes for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program. Pot weight is also recorded, but is of continuous data type.

| | Debris | Substrate | Pot condition | Pot type | Pot dimensions | Escape device | Bait |
|----|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 0 | | Unknown | | | | | |
| 1 | Lg. Brn. kelp | Mud | Normal | Pyramid | 4' dia. | None/closed rings | No bait |
| 2 | Mussels | Mud/gravel | Not baited | Cone | 5–5' 11" dia. | King (4, 6 ¼-inch rings) | Jar & hanging |
| 3 | Shells | Mud/clay | Lost | Square | 6–6' 11" dia. | King (9-inch stretch mesh) | Jar only |
| 4 | Woody debris | Mud/shell | Door open | Dungeness | 7–7' 11" dia. | Tanner (4, 4 ¾-inch rings) | Hanging only |
| 5 | Hair kelp | Mud/soft | Broken webbing | | 7x7 | Tanner (7-inch stretch mesh) | |
| 6 | Barnacles | Mud/hard | Upside down | | 8x8 | Dungeness (2, 4 ⅜-inch rings) | |
| 7 | Sponges | Clay | Collapsed tunnel | | 9x9 | | |
| 8 | | Sand | Not on bottom | | | | |
| 9 | | Gravel | Pot open/broken | | | | |
| 10 | | Boulder | Lost pot contents | | | | |
| 11 | | Cobble | | | | | |
| 12 | | Rock | | | | | |
| 13 | | Hard | | | | | |
| 14 | | Soft | | | | | |
| 15 | | Shell | | | | | |
| 16 | | Coral | | | | | |
| 17 | | Mixed | | | | | |
| 18 | | Silt | | | | | |
| 19 | | Barnacle | | | | | |
| 20 | | Mussels | | | | | |

Table 4.—Probability of a male golden king crab in Southeast Alaska being of legal carapace width or larger, by carapace length. Sample size = 17,870. A 95% confidence interval was used for analysis. Bold text indicates that 50% of crab of this size are legal.

| Probability of legal | Predicted carapace length | Lower limit | Upper limit |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0.01 | 143.5 | 142.9 | 144.0 |
| 0.05 | 148.2 | 147.8 | 148.5 |
| 0.10 | 150.3 | 150.0 | 150.6 |
| 0.20 | 152.7 | 152.4 | 152.9 |
| 0.30 | 154.2 | 154.0 | 154.4 |
| 0.40 | 155.5 | 155.3 | 155.7 |
| 0.50 | 156.6 | 156.5 | 156.8 |
| 0.60 | 157.8 | 157.6 | 158.0 |
| 0.70 | 159.1 | 158.9 | 159.3 |
| 0.80 | 160.6 | 160.4 | 160.8 |
| 0.90 | 162.9 | 162.7 | 163.2 |
| 0.95 | 165.1 | 164.8 | 165.4 |
| 0.99 | 169.8 | 169.4 | 170.3 |

Table 5.–Shell age criteria for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program (Donaldson and Byersdorfer 2005).

| Code, category | Shell age | Description |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| 1, soft | 0–2 weeks | Shells very soft and flaccid, lose shape when out of water. Similar in texture to wet leather. Lack of careful handling will cause shell to lose shape. |
| 2, light | 2–8 weeks | Shiny ventral surface of coxa and exoskeleton. Few or no scratches, pits or epibionts presents. Dactyls and spines sharp with no wear present. Legs easily compressed when pinched because legs contain little muscle tissue. Merus flexible and does not crack when bent. Chela depressible. |
| 3, new | 2–20 months | Coxa and ventral surface of exoskeleton dull. Legs mostly full of muscle tissue, eri not easily compressed by pinching and will crack if bent. Spines and dactyls may show slight wear. |
| 4, old | 21–36 months | Skip molts. Distal portion of ventral coxa partially or totally covered with grown scratching. Legs full of muscle tissue, meri not easily compressed. Epifauna almost always present. |
| 5, very old | >36 months | Double skip molts. Distal portion of ventral coxa densely covered with dark scratching. Legs full of muscle tissue, meri not easily compressed when pinched. Tips of dactyls worn, rounded and dark. Carapace frequently covered with fouling organism to greater extent than with old-shell crabs. |

Table 6.–Leg loss codes in use for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program.

| Code | Criteria |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | No legs missing or regenerated |
| 2 | 1 leg missing or regenerated |
| 3 | 2 or more legs missing or regenerated |
| 4 | Carapace damage |
| 5 | Combination of conditions |

Table 7.–Parasite condition codes used for the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program.

| Code | Parasite |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | None |
| 2 | Briariosacchus, single scar |
| 3 | Briariosacchus, double scar |
| 4 | Briariosacchus, single externa |
| 5 | Briariosacchus, double externa |
| 6 | Bitter crab, <i>Hematodinium</i> |
| 7 | Microsporidian |
| 8 | Nemertean worms |

Table 8.–Reproductive condition codes used in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab onboard observer program (Donaldson and Byersdorfer 2005).

| Code | Clutch condition | Egg Development |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Normal | Eyed eggs |
| 2 | <20% dead eggs in the clutch | Uneyed eggs |
| 3 | >20% dead eggs in the clutch | No eggs |
| 4 | Barren with silky setae | |
| 5 | Barren with matted setae and empty egg cases | |

Table 9.–Safety requirements for vessels.

| |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) USCG approved first-aid kit.(2) USCG approved vessel EPIRB.(3) USCG approved fire-fighting equipment of the size, type and quantity required for the size and type of the vessel chartered.(4) USCG approved life raft(s). The rated capacity of each raft must be adequate to accommodate all personnel aboard the vessel; this includes the vessel captain and crew, and one (1) ADF&G crew.(5) USCG approved survival suits of appropriate sizes are required for all personnel aboard the vessel, including the vessel captain and crew and the ADF&G crew. The State will supply survival suits for the ADF&G crew. <p>The vessel captain will obey all USCG, State and other applicable regulations, rules, and statutes pertaining to the safe and legal operation of the vessel.</p> <p>The captain must provide a safety orientation briefing to all vessel and ADF&G crew prior to departure from port. Both the vessel crew and ADF&G crew must have general instructions regarding the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The location and operation of lifesaving and emergency equipment.(2) Operation of assigned equipment.(3) Instructions for making a distress call.(4) What to do in the event of a person overboard.(5) What to do in the event of a fire.(6) What to do in the event of flooding.(7) What to do if an ‘abandon ship’ order is issued. |
| <p>Sleeping space to accommodate one (1) ADF&G personnel, in addition to sleeping space for the vessel captain and crew. Each sleeping space used by ADF&G personnel must be at least twenty-six (26) inches in width at the shoulders and seventy-seven (77) inches long.</p> |
| <p>Vessel length of not less than forty eight (48) feet. Length will be determined by measuring the length overall from the foremost part of the hull to the aftermost part of the hull, excluding bowsprits, rudders, accessory brackets and similar fittings and attachments.</p> |

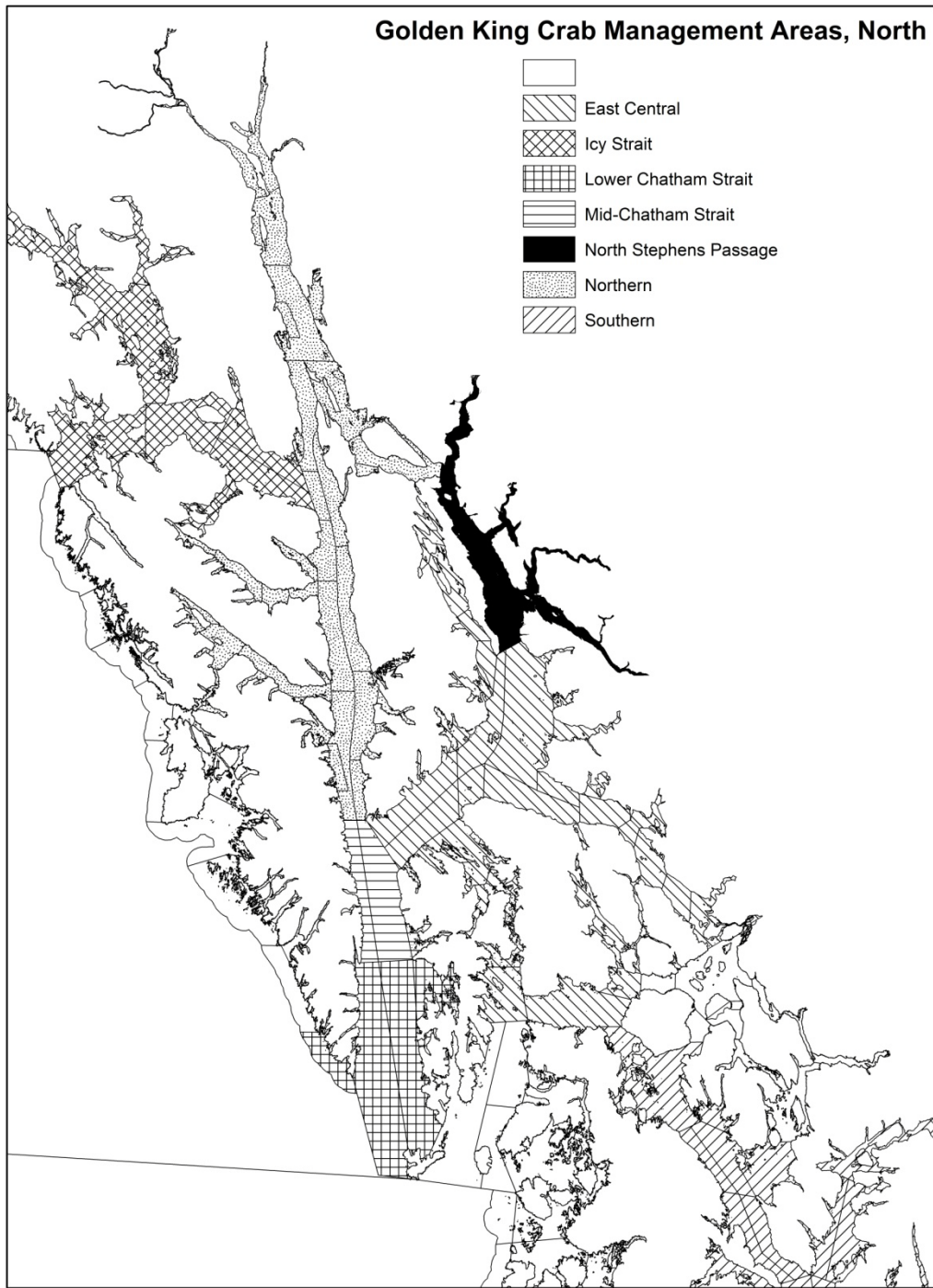


Figure 1.—Management area boundaries for the golden king crab fishery in Northern Southeast Alaska.

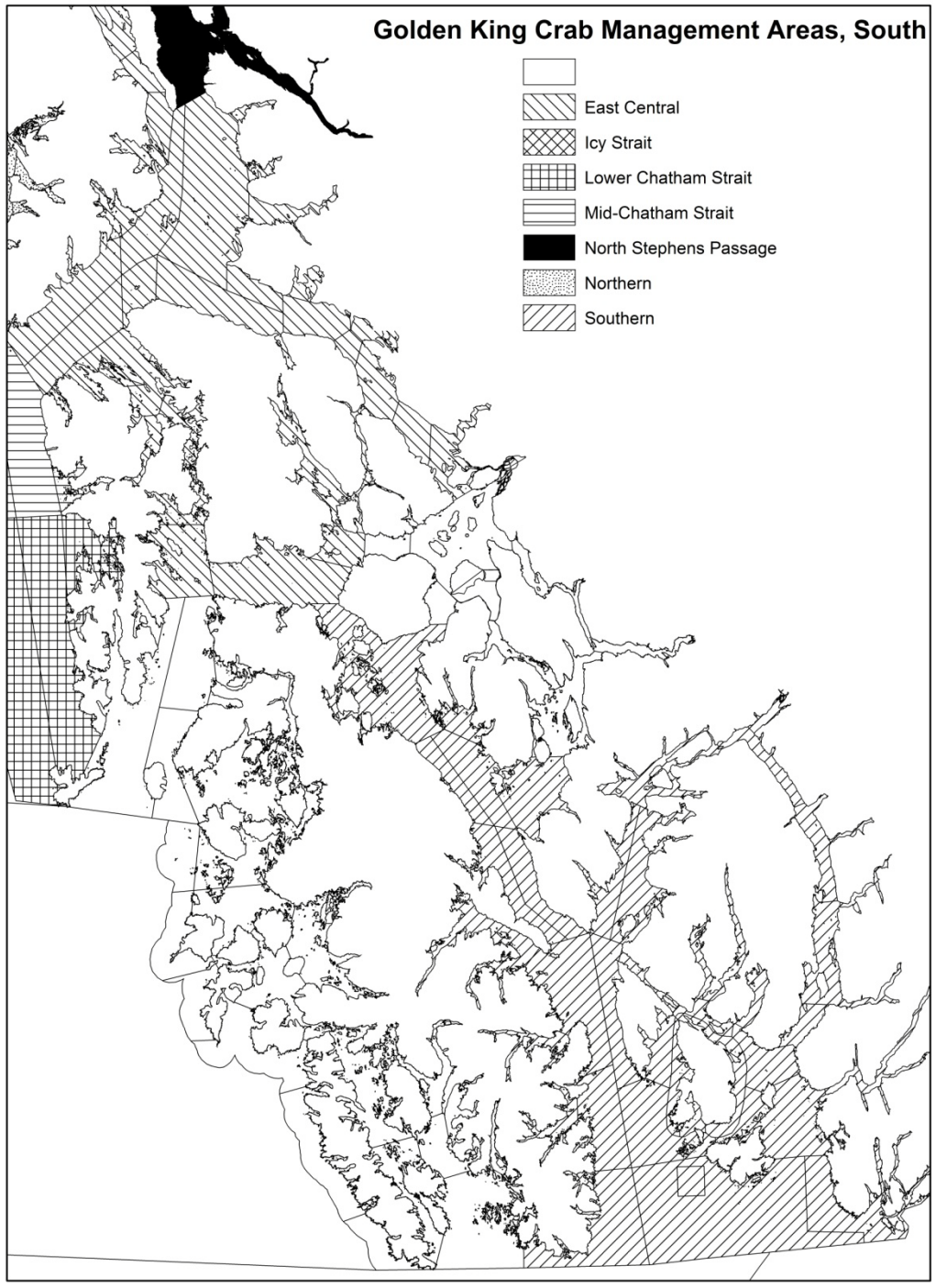


Figure 2.—Management area boundaries for the golden king crab fishery in Southern Southeast Alaska.

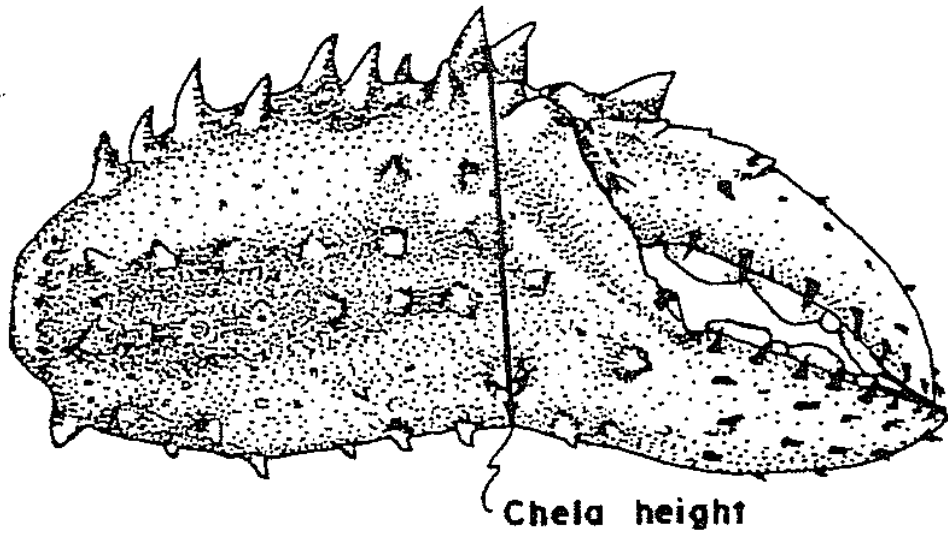


Figure 3.—Standard procedure to measure chela height on golden king crabs. The measurement is always taken in the notch between the two large spines on the dorsal edge of the chela. (Jewett et al. 1985).

APPENDIX A. ADDITIONAL POWER ANALYSIS RESULTS

Appendix A.1–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the immature female size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/09 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$.

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | Immature Female | 0.08089934 | 0.0414618 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | Immature Female | 0.16307139 | 0.147373 | 100 |
| Northern | Immature Female | 0 | | |
| Lower Chatham | Immature Female | 0.08907383 | 0.0927412 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | Immature Female | 0 | | |
| North Stephens Pass | Immature Female | 0.02631579 | 0.0188166 | 100 |

Appendix A.2–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the mature female size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | Mature Female | 0.4660066 | 3.188594 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | Mature Female | 5.16111967 | 2.36509 | 100 |
| Northern | Mature Female | 1.03146453 | 0.4531298 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | Mature Female | 1.0394094 | 0.889162 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | Mature Female | 0.26365416 | 0.2195542 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | Mature Female | 0.42816501 | 1.051345 | 100 |

Appendix A.3–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the juvenile size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | Juvenile | 0.04476273 | 1.9667032 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | Juvenile | 0.62085259 | 0.7377152 | 100 |
| Northern | Juvenile | 0.04405034 | 0.063345 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | Juvenile | 0.49777181 | 0.2486396 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | Juvenile | 0.0122754 | 0.0281614 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | Juvenile | 0.00995733 | 0.1048766 | 100 |

Appendix A.4–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the recruit size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | Recruit | 4.27727 | 0.8956134 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | Recruit | 2.98669748 | 0.7995582 | 100 |
| Northern | Recruit | 1.13415332 | 1.8273162 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | Recruit | 2.43973154 | 0.5738506 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | Recruit | 0.51325387 | 0.2046498 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | Recruit | 1.0455192 | 0.456391 | 100 |

Appendix A.5–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 1 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR1 | 0.63642739 | 0.4925164 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | PR1 | 1.01566513 | 0.4228236 | 100 |
| Northern | PR1 | 0.49284897 | 0.431738 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | PR1 | 0.19414765 | 0.1060584 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | PR1 | 0.56662716 | 0.3372392 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | PR1 | 0.7517781 | 0.5376286 | 100 |

Appendix A.6–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 2 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR2 | 0.3654703 | 0.2205112 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | PR2 | 0.01869543 | 0.1742648 | 100 |
| Northern | PR2 | 1.80091533 | 2.99994 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | PR2 | 0.00128859 | 0.0170866 | 100 |
| Icy Strait | PR2 | 0.37697919 | 0.3157778 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | PR2 | 0.58677098 | 0.4023906 | 100 |

Appendix A.7–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 3 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR3 | 0.0865099 | 0.0869532 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | PR3 | 0.05521315 | 0.0761716 | 100 |
| Northern | PR3 | 1.20022883 | 1.8686614 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | PR3 | 0 | | |
| Icy Strait | PR3 | 0.40277531 | 0.153424 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | PR3 | 1.21692745 | 0.3565468 | 100 |

Appendix A.8–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 4 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR4 | 0.000540005 | 0.0144426 | 100 |
| Mid-Chatham | PR4 | 0.00606061 | 0.014334 | 100 |
| Northern | PR4 | 0.13043478 | 0.1145778 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | PR4 | 0 | | |
| Icy Strait | PR4 | 0.03896104 | 0.0279146 | 100 |
| North Stephens Pass | PR4 | 0.56899004 | 0.2065298 | 100 |

Appendix A.9–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 5 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR5 | 0 | | |
| Mid-Chatham | PR5 | 0 | | |
| Northern | PR5 | 0.326087 | 0.0263654 | 100 |
| Lower Chatham | PR5 | 0 | | |
| Icy Strait | PR5 | 0 | | |
| North Stephens Pass | PR5 | 0.13513514 | 0.0778078 | 100 |

Appendix A.10–Sample size of pots per trip needed to detect a significant change in the post recruit 6 size class of GKC CPUE for 2008/2009 using standardize effect size of $\delta = 0.2$

| Location | Recruit Class | Diff. Mean | Standard Effect Size d=0.2 | 80% Power |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| East Central | PR6 | 0 | | |
| Mid-Chatham | PR6 | 0.0030303 | 0.0101512 | 100 |
| Northern | PR6 | 0 | | |
| Lower Chatham | PR6 | 0 | | |
| Icy Strait | PR6 | 0 | | |
| North Stephens Pass | PR6 | 0 | | |

APPENDIX B. FORMS

Appendix B. 2–Crab survey specimen form.

CRAB SURVEY SPECIMEN

Date ____ / ____ / ____ Page ____ of ____

Year ____ Project _____ Trip # ____ Recorder _____

Location Code ____ Location Name _____ Pot # (Order) ____ Buoy # ____

| Specimen # | Subsample Rate | 910 Dung 921 RKC 922 BKC 923 GKC 931 Bairdi | Sex | Size (mm) | Weight (gms) | Legal Size | Shell Condition | Blackmat = Present | Female Data | | | Tag Number | Tag Code | Comments | |
|------------|----------------|---|-----|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Eggs | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Percent | Development Condition | Parasite Leg Condition | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appendix B.5–Chela height tally form.

Golden King Crab Chela Height Size Category Tally Sheet

Instructions: This tally sheet can be used to track the number of male GKC of each size category to be sampled. Throughout the day, collect chela height for carapace length categories listed below.

Golden King Crab male Chela Heights

| Carapace size | <100 | 100-110 | 111-120 | 121-130 | 131-140 | 141-150 | >151 |
|---------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Sample date | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |