

FISHERY INFORMATION PACKET FOR THE BERING SEA COMMERCIAL SNOW
CRAB FISHERY, 2002

by

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ABSTRACT

This fishery management plan provides a brief overview of the snow crab *Chionoecetes opilio* fishery which occurs in the Bering Sea District of Tanner Crab Registration Area J. An area description, brief historic fishery review, and summary of current management practices and policies are included and should provide fishers and members of industry a better understanding of how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) intends to manage the snow crab fishery in this area. Supplemental information is provided on gear requirements, registration, stand down provisions, inseason reporting, onboard observer program and harvest strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Snow crab landings in the Bering Sea were first documented as bycatch in the Tanner crab *Chionoecetes bairdi* fishery in 1977/78 season, when a total of 1.7 million pounds were harvested. Since then the fishery developed into the largest crab fishery in the nation, with annual harvests exceeding 300 million pounds in some years (Table 1). In 1999, the Bering Sea snow crab stock declined significantly in abundance and was declared overfished. In 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted a harvest strategy aimed at rebuilding the stock and preventing overfishing.

Description of Registration Area and Statistical Areas

The snow crab fishery occurs in the Bering Sea District of Tanner Crab Registration Area J and includes all waters of the Bering Sea north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef at 54°36' N lat., and east of the U.S.-Russia Convention Line of 1867, as described in 5 AAC 35.500 DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRATION AREA J on page 186 of the 2000-2002 Commercial Shellfish Fishing Regulations booklet (CSRB). The Bering Sea District is divided into the Eastern and Western Subdistricts at 173° W long. (Figure 1).

The district is divided into statistical areas for catch reporting purposes. Each statistical area encompasses one degree of longitude by one half degree of latitude (Figure 2). All commercial removals of snow crabs (including deadloss) are reported to ADF&G, at the time of landing, on fish tickets, in reference to these statistical areas.

Historic Fishery Perspective

Snow crab landings were first documented in the 1977/78 season. ADF&G initiated guideline harvest levels (GHL) for snow crabs in 1981 using data collected during the 1980 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey. In 1981, the GHL range was 39.5 - 91.0 million pounds and the commercial harvest was 52.7 million pounds. For the next three years the commercial harvest was below 30 million pounds. The harvest increased annually to a peak of 328.6 million pounds in 1991. Subsequent to the record harvest in 1991, stocks declined and by 1996 the harvest was 65.7 million pounds. During 1997 and 1998, the GHL increased. In 1998, the commercial harvest reached 243.3 million pounds, and for the first time a portion of the GHL was set aside for harvest by Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups.

In 1999, the estimate of large male crabs declined by 17% from the prior year's survey, resulting in a general fishery GHL of 186.2 million pounds. The estimate for large male crabs declined an additional 63% in 2000. With the surveyed stock at 60% of the minimum stock size threshold (one-half the long term average mature biomass), the department reduced the exploitation rate on four inch and larger male snow crabs from 58% to 22%, consistent with the NMFS guidelines for stock rebuilding (Restrepo 1998). This reduction in exploitation rate resulted in a GHL of 28.5 million pounds for the 2000 season. Of this total, 2.1 million pounds (7.5%) were allocated to the CDQ fishery, resulting in a 26.4 million pound GHL for the 2000 general fishery. The harvest in 2001 was 30.8 million pounds.

REGULATIONS

Area J is a nonexclusive registration area. A Tanner crab vessel registered for a nonexclusive registration area may not be used to take Tanner crabs in a superexclusive registration area but may register to fish in other nonexclusive registration areas during the same registration year as provided in 5 AAC 35.005 REGISTRATION AREAS ESTABLISHED (c) on page 164 of the CSRB.

Regulations that apply to the Bering Sea snow crab fishery begin in Title 5, Chapter 35 of the Alaska Administrative Code (ACC) on page 164 of the CSRB (ADF&G 2000). Some of the most frequently utilized regulations are summarized below. This section does not include all regulations pertaining to the Bering Sea District. Fishers may obtain a copy of the CSRB (light blue in color for the 2000-2002 cycle) from any ADF&G office. For additional information on the Bering Sea snow crab fishery, contact the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak.

Fishing Season

The annual regulatory opening for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery is noon on January 15 as specified in 5 AAC 35.510 FISHING SEASONS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J (6)(C) beginning on page 191 of the CSRB. The fishery is closed by emergency order when the GHL is achieved or when stock status indicators, such as poor fishery performance or excessive catch of undersized male or female crabs, indicate a closure is warranted to protect the long term health of the stock. The biological closure date for this fishery is May 15.

Pot Limits and Legal Gear

In the Bering Sea District, vessels participating in the snow crab fishery that are in excess of 125 feet overall length are limited to 250 pots while vessels 125 feet and under are limited to 200 pots as required by 5 AAC 35.525 LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA J (c)(4) on page 195 of the CSRB. Unlike the Bristol Bay red king crab *Paralithodes camtschatica* fishery, these pot limits are not adjusted based on the GHL, or altered by the number of vessels registered for the fishery.

Each pot in a vessel's legal complement of gear must have an identification tag on the main or trailer buoy as specified in 5 AAC 35.526 TANNER CRAB POT MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J on page 196 of the CSRB. Buoy tags are available at the Dutch Harbor and Kodiak ADF&G offices for \$2.00 each. As part of the total allowable number of pots, vessels are allowed to fish a maximum of 20 groundfish pots to capture bait. Pots used for bait fishing must conform to the regulations in 5 AAC 35.525 LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA J (d) on page 195 and 196 of the CSRB. These pots must also be tagged with ADF&G issued buoy tags. Legal crabs captured in groundfish bait pots may be retained. All pots must be tagged at the time of tank inspection and remain tagged throughout the fishery. The vessel operator is responsible for all tagged gear and ensuring that tags are affixed to gear in a way to minimize tag loss.

Pots that have lost tags should be placed on deck or set back into the water with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured open. Fishers should immediately report the exact location of any pot which has lost the ADF&G issued buoy tag to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (FWP). Pots that are no longer tagged cannot be fished. Lost tags should be replaced as soon as possible. Buoy tags lost during the season may be replaced according to provisions of 5 AAC 35.526 TANNER CRAB POT MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J (b) on page 196 of the CSRB. Replacement tags are only issued if the vessel operator and three crewmembers submit sworn affidavits in person at the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor, describing how tags were lost and listing the number of each lost tag. To facilitate tag replacement for the Bering Sea snow crab fishery, ADF&G staff in the Pribilof Islands will, when available, accept and forward the required tag affidavits to the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor for processing. It remains the responsibility of the vessel operator to make arrangements for payment, purchase and shipment of tags from Dutch Harbor.

Legal snow crab pots can be no more than 10 ft long by 10 ft wide by 42 inches high, with rigid tunnel eye openings that individually are no more than 3 inches in one dimension with tunnel eye perimeters that individually are more than 36 inches, or pots that are no more than 10 ft long by 10 ft wide by 42 inches high and that taper inward from the base to a top that consists of one horizontal opening of any size. A more complete description of legal gear for the fishery is provided in 5 AAC 35.525 LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA J on page 195 of the CSRB. In addition, all pots used to take snow crabs in Tanner crab Registration Area J must be fitted with at least eight escape rings having an inside diameter of no less than four inches placed within one mesh measurement from the bottom of the pot, with four escape rings on each of two sides of a four-sided pot, and if the pot has no escape rings as specified in this paragraph, then one-half of one side of a four-sided pot must have a side panel composed of not less than five and one-quarter inch stretched mesh webbing. All Tanner crab pots must also be equipped with a biodegradable escape mechanism which is at least 18 inches in length, laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100 percent cotton twine, no larger than 30 thread and located within six inches of the bottom of the pot as described in 5 AAC 39.145 ESCAPE MECHANISM FOR SHELLFISH AND BOTTOM FISH POTS on page 44 of the CSRB.

Preseason Registration, Registration and Tank Inspections

In order to determine the number of observers needed and to determine which catcher vessels will carry an observer, vessels intending to participate in the Bering Sea snow crab fishery must file a preseason registration form with ADF&G in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak as specified in 5 AAC 35.506 AREA J REGISTRATION (e)(1) on page 188 of the CSRB. The preseason registration form must be imprinted with a 2001 or 2002 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission T91Q or T09Q interim use permit card prior to submission to ADF&G. Preseason vessel registrations may be submitted to ADF&G in Dutch Harbor or Kodiak, by fax, mail, or in person. The preseason registration deadline for the 2002 Bering Sea snow crab fishery is 5:00 PM December 24, 2001. A web site has been established for vessel operators and agents to verify receipt of preseason vessel registrations by ADF&G. The web site is available for the 2002 Bering Sea snow crab fishery. ADF&G will post names of vessels which file preseason registrations on the web site, usually within two days of receipt. All vessel operators or agents are urged to verify the vessel preseason registration. If a vessel name fails to appear on the web

site list within several days after submission of a preseason registration, the vessel operator or agent should contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor immediately. The ADF&G web site for verification of vessel preseason registration for the 2002 Bering Sea snow crab fishery is http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/shellfish/crabs/02opilio_reg.pdf

In addition to vessel registration requirements with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) listed under 5 AAC 39.120 REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS on page 30 of the CSRFB, a vessel used to take snow crabs in the Bering Sea District must first obtain a registration certificate from ADF&G as specified in 5 AAC 35.020 TANNER CRAB AREA REGISTRATION on page 165 of the CSRFB. . In order for a registration to be valid, a vessel must first have all holds and/or live tanks inspected by a department representative as specified in 5 AAC 35.030 INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS on page 166 of the CSRFB. Tank inspections are required to ensure that vessels are not in possession of crabs prior to the start of a fishery. Vessels intending to participate in the Bering Sea snow crab fishery are required to register and have their holds inspected, beginning 48 hours prior to the start of the season, in Dutch Harbor, Akutan, King Cove, or False Pass. ADF&G also provides staff for tank inspections in Saint Paul harbor 24 hours prior to the start of the season.

To facilitate and speed the tank inspection and registration process, the department utilizes a “quick registration” procedure. Department staff in all tank inspection ports inspect live tanks and gear on vessels up to seven days prior to the 48-hour tank inspection period. If all gear on a vessel at the time of the pre-tank inspection complies with gear requirements and no live crabs are onboard, a pre-tank inspection certificate is issued to the operator of the vessel. Leaving port or placing gear on the vessel that is not in compliance with Bering Sea District gear requirements invalidates the pre-tank inspection certificate and the vessel is required to receive another tank inspection during the 48-hour tank inspection window. At any time during the 48-hour tank inspection window, operators of vessels that have received a pre-tank and gear inspection may proceed with pre-tank certificate, vessel registration form and Bering Sea District Tanner crab interim use card to pre-designated quick registration locations to have the registration validated. Quick registration signing locations are announced during pre-tank inspections. Once a vessel registration has been validated, that vessel may proceed to the fishing grounds.

Operation of Other Gear and Stand Down Provisions

A person or vessel that operates commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots, during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial snow crab fishery in the Bering Sea, may not participate in the commercial snow crab fishery. A person or vessel that participates in the commercial snow crab fishery in the Bering Sea may not operate commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the Bering Sea District during the 14 days after the close of the snow crab fishery.

A vessel or person may operate other commercial pots in a the Bering Sea District after putting Tanner crab pots in storage. Storage specifications are listed in 5 AAC 35.052 TANNER CRAB GEAR STORAGE REQUIREMENTS (CSRFB page 169) and 5 AAC 35.527 TANNER CRAB POT STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA J (4) (CSRFB page 197). Vessels may participate in other commercial pot fisheries after invalidating the Tanner crab registration by contacting, in person, a local representative of ADF&G, unless the registration is already invalidated under 5 AAC 35.020 (k) (CSRFB page 165), Regulations which address the

operation of other pot gear in the Bering Sea District before and after the snow crab fishery are contained in 5 AAC 35.053. OPERATION OF OTHER POT GEAR on page 170 of the CSRB.

Landing Requirements

For a fishing vessel in the Eastern Subdistrict of the Bering Sea District, the landing deadline is 24 hours following the fishery closure, except that an owner, or the owner's agent, of a vessel delivering to Adak, King Cove, or ports east of King Cove, may request additional time to deliver Tanner crabs by contacting a representative of the ADF&G office in Dutch Harbor within 24 hours of the closure. A reasonable amount of additional time will be provided to allow the vessel to proceed directly to the processing location. From the Western Subdistrict of the Bering Sea the landing deadline is 72 hours if delivery is made to a floating or shore based processor in Dutch Harbor or Akutan. If delivering to Adak, King Cove, or ports east of King Cove, the same procedure must be followed as required for the Eastern Subdistrict of the Bering Sea. The landing deadline for vessels delivering to a floating or shore based processor in the Pribilof Islands is 24 hours following the fishery closure from both the Eastern and Western Subdistricts. Additional information concerning landing requirements for vessels fishing for Tanner crabs in the Bering Sea can be found in 5 AAC 35.556 LANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR AREA J on page 199 of the CSRB.

Vessels desiring to place pot gear at a dry storage facility en route to a landing destination east of King Cove may make special arrangements with ADF&G at the time the vessel requests additional transit time and checks out of the Bering Sea District. In addition to vessel location, number of crabs on board, processing destination and estimated time of arrival, the vessel operator will also be required to provide the estimated time of arrival and departure from the dry storage facility.

Pot Storage Requirements

To legally store pots in the water, all doors must be secured open with all bait and bait containers removed from the pot. In the Bering Sea District, pots may be stored in waters of the Eastern Subdistrict north of 57° N. lat., south of 58° N. lat., east of 166° W. long., and west of 164° W. long., from January 1 through December 31. Pots may also be stored in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for ten days following the closure of the commercial snow crab fishery. In waters around the Pribilof Islands shoreward of the 25-fathom isobath, pots may be stored only from September 1 through May 31. Pots may also be stored in the waters around the Pribilof Islands at any depth within five nautical miles from the shoreline of St. Paul or St. George Islands, or in waters that are not more than 35 fathoms deep for 14 days before the scheduled opening date, and for 14 days after the closure of the snow crab season. Additional provisions of these regulations can be found in 5 AAC 35.527 TANNER CRAB POT STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION J starting on page 197 of the CSRB .

Legal Size Limit

Male snow crabs and male hybrid Tanner crabs conforming to the identification criteria described in 5 AAC 35.521 IDENTIFICATION OF BERING SEA TANNER CRAB (b) (CSRB page 195) must be 3.1 inches or greater in shell width to be retained. This is measured at the widest point of the carapace. All female and undersize male crabs must be immediately returned unharmed to the sea, as outlined in 5 AAC 35.065 FEMALE AND UNDERSIZE TANNER CRAB on page 172 of the CSRB.

Onboard Observer Program

In addition to the pay-as-you-go mandatory observer coverage on at-sea processors, regulations implemented by the BOF in 1999 allow for placement of observers on catcher vessels. The department will be placing observers on approximately 10 percent of the catcher vessels in the Bering Sea snow crab fishery. The cost of these observers will be paid with funds generated by cost recovery fishing for Bristol Bay red king crabs. Vessels will be selected at random after the pre-season registration deadline. Selected vessels will be notified within several days of the pre-season registration deadline. Observers will not be placed on vessels less than 75 feet overall length. For additional information on the observer program, contact Mary Schwenzfeier. (listed in Appendix A).

HARVEST STRATEGY

The current harvest strategy for Bering Sea snow crabs requires a minimum spawning biomass of 230.4 million pounds and a guideline harvest level of at least 25 million pounds for a commercial fishery to occur. The harvest strategy also contains exploitation rates ranging from 8.4 to 22.5 percent of the mature male biomass, based on the total estimated spawning biomass as determined from the annual NMFS Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey. Specifics of the Bering Sea snow crab harvest strategy are described in 5 AAC 35.517 BERING SEA C. *OPILIO* TANNER CRAB HARVEST STRATEGY on page 194 of the CSRB.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER CATCH REPORTING

Prior to the 2000 season, the Bering Sea snow crab fishery was managed using weekly processor production reports. These reports were augmented by fishery performance data provided by observers onboard catcher processors and floating processors. Due to recent small GHLS, management of the fishery is now based on voluntary catch reports from fishers. These reports, sent each 24 hours by means of marine satellite telex or SSB radio, are processed daily by ADF&G in Dutch Harbor. Vessel operators report number of pots hauled and number of legal crabs harvested for a pre-established 24 hour period. Inseason management allows the fishery manager to base decisions on actual, real-time fishery performance and weather conditions.

The 2002 snow crab fishery will be managed inseason, based on daily reports from fishers. Operators of all validly registered vessels are encouraged to participate in voluntary catch reporting and may enlist and receive reporting instructions and materials at the time of tag purchase, registration and/or tank inspection. Inseason information will be used to monitor the daily harvest and to calculate daily catch rates used to project the date and time of the fishery closure. Advance notice for the fishery closure will be based upon actual and anticipated harvest rates. ADF&G will provide as much advance notice of a closure as possible, however, the fishery could close on as little as 24 hours advance notice. The closure will be announced on SSB radio frequency 4125 MHz, faxed and electronically mailed to the department's distribution list.

In some years, sea ice moves south and covers major portions of productive fishing areas in the Bering Sea. To achieve vessel, gear, and biological conservation objectives, as provided in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan and to promote the safety of human life at sea as specified in National Standard 10 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, ADF&G could close areas where sea ice is a concern until conditions improve. In response to closure of an area due to sea ice, ADF&G has developed criteria to open or reopen the affected areas as follows:

1. The opening or reopening will occur, on a specified date, based on consultation with fishers and industry on after the leading ice edge has retreated to a specified location;
2. ADF&G will review, on a weekly basis, the position of the ice edge and provide adequate notice of a reopening;
3. Other criteria for opening or reopening as deemed necessary for orderly fisheries management.

ADF&G may also temporarily delay the opening of the Bering Sea snow crab fishery if weather and sea conditions exist which could hamper the ability of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to initiate and conduct search and rescue (SAR) operations for vessels which have become disabled or need emergency assistance while attempting to reach the fishing grounds. In the week prior to the scheduled fishery opening, staff from ADF&G, the National Weather Service and the USCG will confer and review daily wind and sea conditions, and the USCG SAR commander will determine if conditions allow for SAR operations. Weather delays will only be considered for fishery openings and will be implemented prior to tank inspections and reevaluated each 24 hours. Updates on fishery opening delays due to weather will be issued by department news release and announced on SSB radio frequency 4125 MHz, faxed and electronically mailed to the department's distribution list.

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 2002 FISHERY

Results of the NMFS 2001 trawl survey of the Eastern Bering Sea provide an estimated total mature snow crab biomass (TMB) of 571 million pounds, which is above both the minimum stock size threshold of 460.8 million pounds and fishery threshold of 230.4 million pounds. The 2001 survey estimate represents an increase from the 2000 TMB estimate of 473 million pounds. The increase in TMB was primarily due to an increase in the biomass of mature-size males,

while abundance increases observed in 2000 were mainly due to increases in female biomass detected in a limited number of survey stations. Mature male biomass increased from 186 million pounds in 2000 to 302 million pounds in 2001, thus males compose greater than 50% of the TMB. Given 2001 abundance estimates and harvest strategy requirements, a 16.875% exploitation rate was applied to the mature male biomass. This calculated GHL constituted a harvest of more than 50% of the estimated exploitable legal male abundance and thus, according to harvest strategy requirements was adjusted downward. Adjusting the calculated GHL to not exceed 50% of the exploitable legal male biomass resulted in a 2002 Bering Sea snow crab GHL of 30.82 million pounds an increase from the 2001 GHL of 27.3 million pounds. Of this total, 2.31 million pounds have been allocated to the CDQ fishery and the remaining 28.51 million pounds will be available to the general fishery.

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Contacts for ADF&G in Dutch Harbor are Forrest R. Bowers, Area Management Biologist; Mike Cavin, Fishery Biologist and Mary Schwenzfeier, Shellfish Observer Program Coordinator. The ADF&G phone number in Dutch Harbor is (907) 581-1239, and the fax number is (907) 581-1572.

Department contacts in Kodiak are Wayne Donaldson, Regional Shellfish/Groundfish Management Biologist; Dave Jackson, Kodiak Island/Alaska Peninsula Area Shellfish/ Groundfish Management Biologist; and Mike Ruccio, Assistant Area Shellfish/Groundfish Biologist. The ADF&G phone number in Kodiak is (907) 486-1840, and the fax number is (907) 486-1824.

A complete listing of contact persons by agency and location is listed in Appendix A.

LITERATURE CITED

ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). Commercial Shellfish Fishing Regulations, 2000-2002 edition. Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.

Restrepo, V.R., G.G. Thompson, P.M. Mace, W.L. Gabriel, L.L. Low, A.D. MacCall, R.D. Methot, J.E. Powers, B.L. Taylor, P.R. Wade, and J.F. Witzig. 1998. Technical Guidance On the Use of Precautionary Approaches to Implementing National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-F/SPO.

Table 1. Bering Sea District snow crab commercial harvest data, 1978/79-2001.

Year	GHL ^a	Number of			Harvest ^{b,c}	Pots Pulled	CPUE ^d	Deadloss ^e
		Vessels	Landings	Crab ^b				
1978/79		102	490	22,118,498	32,187,039	190,746	116	759,137
1979/80		134	597	25,286,777	39,572,668	255,102	99	228,345
1981	39.5-91.0	153	867	34,415,322	52,750,034	435,742	79	2,269,979
1982	16.0-22.0	122	803	24,089,562	29,355,374	469,091	51	1,092,655
1983 ^e	15.8	109	461	23,853,647	26,128,410	287,127	83	1,324,466
1984 ^e	49.0	52	367	24,009,935	26,813,074	173,591	138	798,795
1985 ^e	98.0	75	718	52,903,246	65,998,875	372,045	142	1,064,184
1986 ^e	57.0	88	992	76,499,123	97,984,539	543,744	141	1,378,533
1987 ^e	56.4	103	1,038	81,307,659	101,903,388	616,113	132	978,449
1988 ^e	110.7	171	1,285	105,716,337	135,354,637	776,907	136	3,260,020
1989 ^e	132.0	168	1,341	112,618,881	149,455,848	663,442	170	1,844,682
1990 ^e	139.8	189	1,565	128,977,638	161,821,350	911,613	141	1,796,664
1991 ^e	315.0	220	2,788	265,123,960	328,647,269	1,391,583	191	3,464,036
1992	333.0	250	2,763	227,376,582	315,302,034	1,281,796	177	2,325,852
1993	207.2	254	1,836	169,558,842	230,787,000	971,046	175	1,573,952
1994	105.8	273	1,293	114,779,014	149,775,765	716,524	160	1,799,323
1995	55.7	253	869	60,611,411	75,252,677	506,802	117	1,287,169
1996	50.7	234	766	52,912,823	65,712,797	520,651	102	1,333,014
1997	117.0	226	1,127	99,975,539	119,543,024	754,140	133	2,351,555
1998 ^f	225.9	229	1,767	186,543,734	243,341,381	891,268	207	2,893,945
1999 ^f	186.2	241	1,630	143,296,568	184,529,821	899,043	158	1,828,313
2000 ^f	26.4	229	287	23,265,802	30,774,838	170,064	137	338,057
2001 ^f	25.3	207	293	17,185,523	23,382,046	176,930	97	429,884

^aGuideline harvest level in millions of pounds.

^bDeadloss included.

^cIn Pounds.

^dDefined as catch of legal crabs per pot pull.

^ePartial district and subdistrict closures.

^fGeneral fishery only.

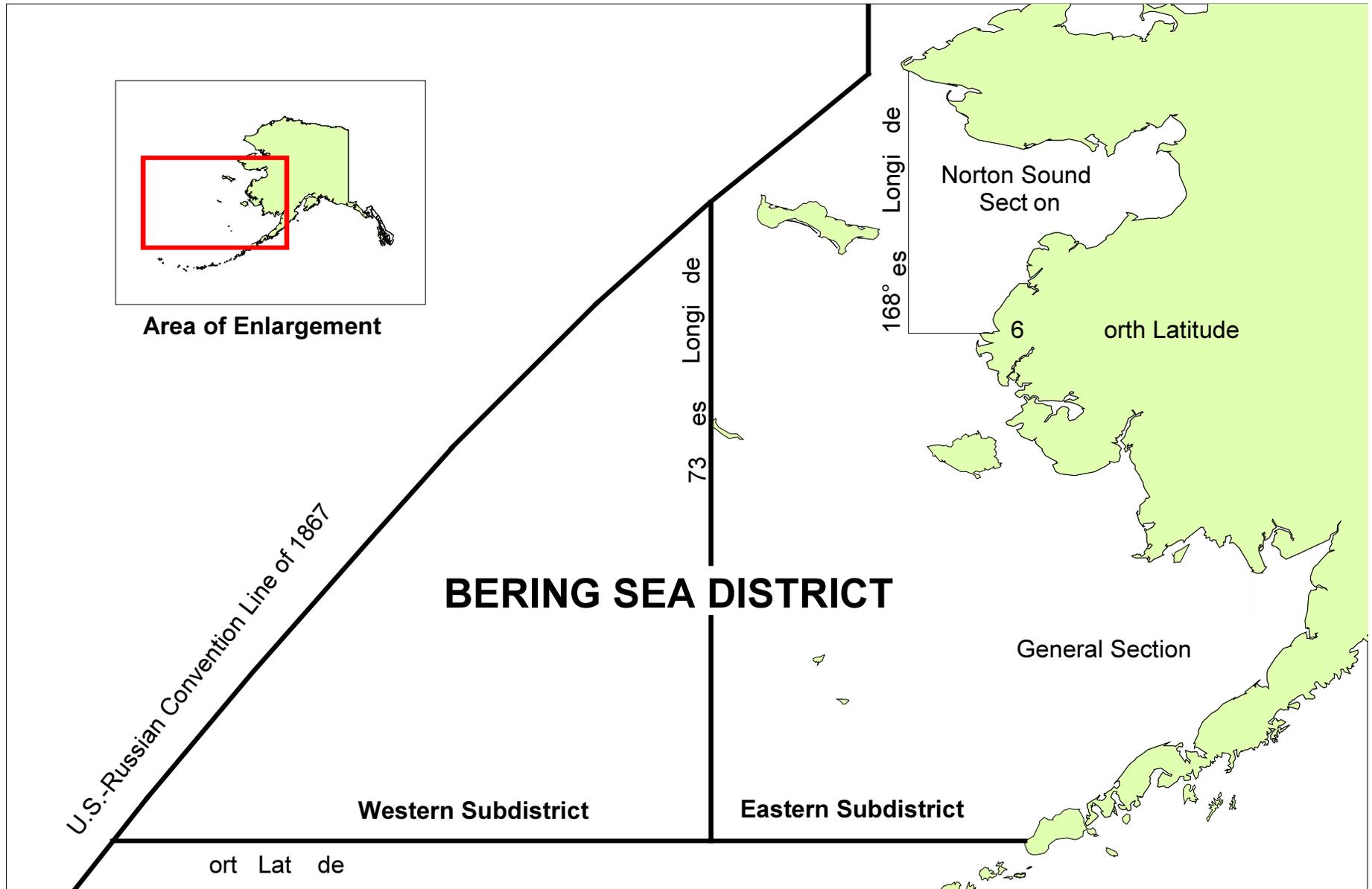


Figure 1. Subdistricts and sections of the Bering Sea District of Tanner crab Registration Area J.

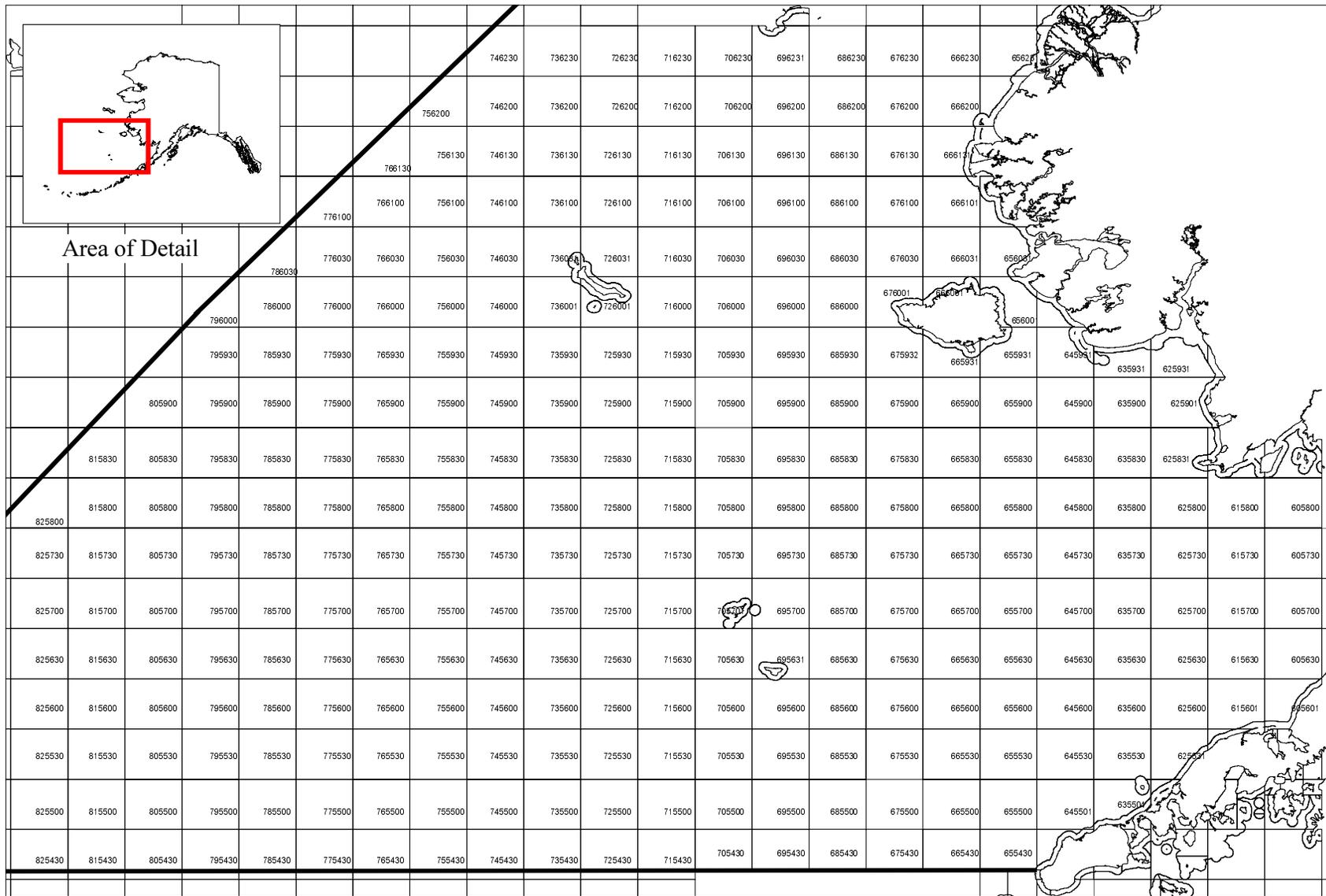


Figure 2. Statistical areas of the Bering Sea District of Tanner crab Registration Area J.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. List of contact persons, by agency and location.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Web site: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region4/finfish/grndfish/grndhom4.htm>

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