

Bycatch Overview in State managed Fisheries



Prepared for the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force
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February 11, 2022

State/Federal Jurisdiction

- State of Alaska: Territorial Sea (0 – 3 nautical miles)
- Federal government: Exclusive Economic Zone “EEZ” (3 – 200 nautical miles)
- International Pacific Halibut Commission: throughout Convention waters (0 -200 nm)



State/Federal Management Responsibilities

	North Pacific Fishery Management Council	National Marine Fisheries Service	Board of Fisheries & Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	International Pacific Halibut Commission
Groundfish (pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish, rockfish, etc.)	Allocation and conservation	Regulations and fishery management (3-200 nm)	State and parallel fishery management (0-3 nm); SE rockfish (DSR)	
Crabs (king, snow, Tanner crabs)	BSAI fisheries – Shared conservation and management	BSAI fisheries – Regulations	BSAI fisheries – Shared conservation and management. Full management in GOA and Southeast.	
Scallops	Conservation and License limits	License regulations	Conservation and management	
Halibut	Allocation and bycatch limits	Allocation regulations		Conservation and management
Salmon and Herring	Bycatch limits		Conservation and management	
Others shrimp, urchins, etc.)			Conservation and management	

State/Federal Coordination

- ADF&G Commissioner has a voting seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Council/Board of Fisheries Joint Protocol Agreement and Committee
- Board receives annual report on Council actions at October work session
- Council receives an ADF&G report at each meeting
- Ongoing Council/NMFS/ADF&G staff coordination



ADF&G Extended Jurisdiction Section

- EJ Program Manager (federal fisheries issues): *Karla Bush*
- Fishery Biologists: *Kendall Henry & <vacant>*
 - Support Commissioner's seat on the Council
 - Provide federal fisheries coordination with Board
 - Pacific cod
 - Scallops
 - Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab
 - Other issues as assigned (IPHC, fishery disasters, etc...)

State Groundfish fisheries

Target fisheries and gears used:

Pacific cod

- Pot
- Jig
- Longline

Rockfish

- Longline
- Jig

Sablefish

- Longline
- Pot

Pollock

- Pelagic trawl

Bycatch species not retained:

Pot fisheries

- Crab (Tanner)
- Rockfish

Longline fisheries

- Halibut
- Rockfish
- Skates
- Sharks
- Arrowtooth flounder

Pelagic trawl:

- Chinook salmon
- Herring



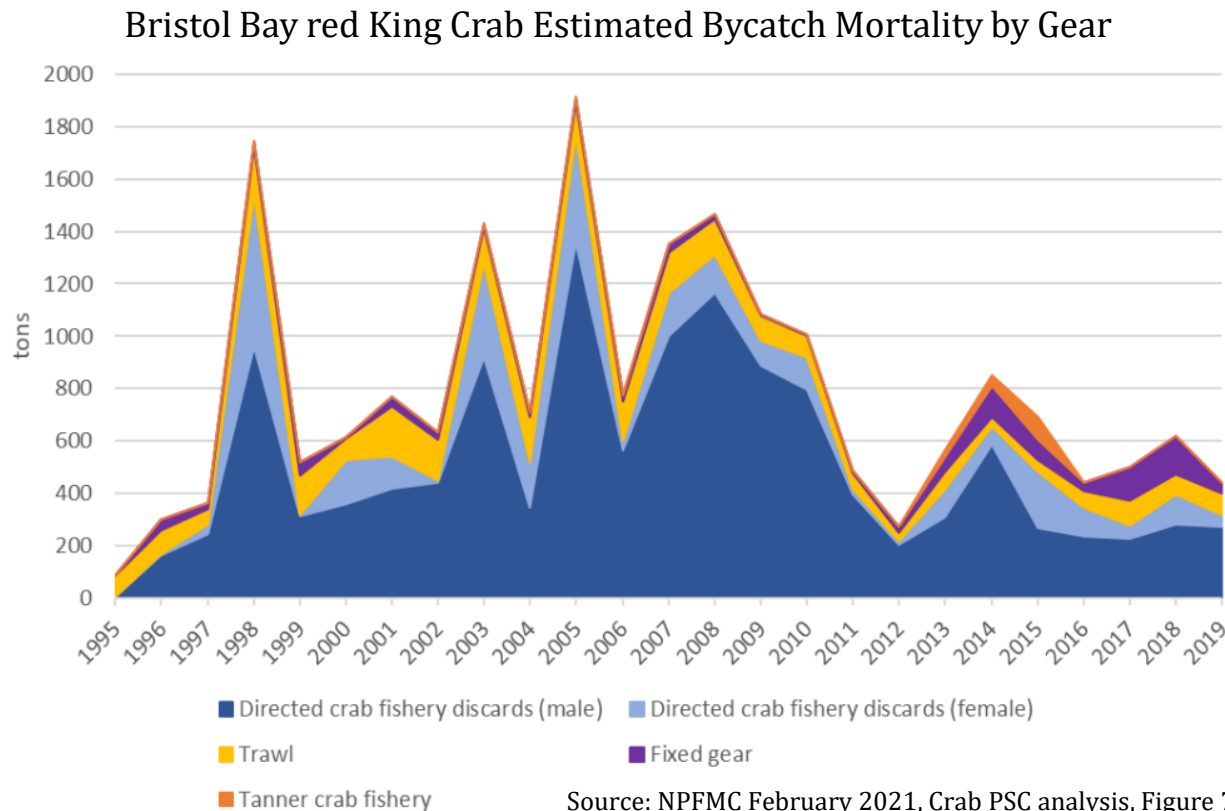
State Crab fisheries

Onboard observer program for most BSAI crab fisheries, none in Gulf of Alaska or Southeast Pacific cod and Pacific octopus are frequently caught and sold or used as bait.

Crab pots equipped with escape mechanisms for undersize and female crabs.

Directed crab fisheries are often the largest source of crab bycatch mortality.

- Undersize male or female crab
- Legal crab below market size or non-preferred shell condition



State Salmon fisheries

Groundfish bycatch primarily consists of Pacific cod, rockfish, sharks, and lingcod. Most Tenders/processors not equipped to take mixed deliveries of salmon and groundfish.

In Southeast troll fisheries, specific allocations of lingcod and bycatch allowances are specified in regulation.

BYCATCH SPECIES	BYCATCH ALLOWANCE
Lingcod ¹	100%, IBS, CSEO, NSEI, and SSEIW 50% EYKT 10% SSEOC 5%, NSEO Lingcod bycatch allowances also apply in federal waters.
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% in aggregate. DSR bycatch allowance also applies in federal waters, excluding IBS.
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest. Also applies in federal waters.
Other Rockfish	No limit on incidental harvest in state waters. 5% in aggregate in federal waters. In IBS federal waters, DSR are included as part of this "Other Rockfish" category when computing bycatch allowances.
Spiny Dogfish	35%.
Sablefish	0%, no retention.
Other Groundfish	No limit on incidental harvest.

State Scallop fishery

Crab bycatch is a primary concern. State sets annual crab bycatch limits that trigger closure of the scallop fishery in an area when reached.

Tanner and snow crab caught in scallop dredge tend to be very small <35mm

None of the crab bycatch limits were reached in 2021/22

Registration Area/District	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Crab bycatch limit (number of crab)	
		Tanner crab	King crab
Yakutat	145,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound			
East Kayak Subsection	Closed	-	-
West Kayak Subsection	8,000	NA	NA
Cook Inlet	Closed	-	-
Kodiak			
Northeast District	30,000	18,000	25
Shelikof District	80,000	40,000	25
Southwest District	35,000	21,000	25
Southeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Semidi District	<i>Exploratory area</i>	NA	NA
Alaska Peninsula			
long 160° W to 161° W	7,500	3,750	25
Unimak Bight ^a	7,500	4,500	25
Dutch Harbor			
Bering Sea Waters	5,000	3,750	10
Pacific Ocean Waters	5,000	3,750	10
Bristol Bay-Bering Sea	7,500	18,750	100
		<u><i>C. opilio</i> and hybrids</u>	
		11,250	



Questions?

