

# Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab Fishery

RC 028

Comments by Dick Tremaine, Siu Alaska Corporation

- **Biological differences from other crab species**

- Asynchronous molting
- Virtually indestructible in NMFS laboratory tests
- Appear to resist ocean acidification in NMFS tests

- **Value**

- \$25 million (approx.) ex-vessel value in 2013/14

- **Quota ownership**

- 10% of the harvesting quota in each area is owned by communities (CDQ and Adak)
- QS harvesting and processing quota has migrated to Alaskan ownership

	Harvesting QS		Processing QS	
	2005/6	2013/4	2005/6	2013/4
EAG	12%	30%	0%	8%
WAG	4%	61%	6%	47%

Note: 44% of WAG IFQ is CPO (combined harvesting and processing) now owned by Alaskans

- **Participation**

- Six vessels in 2012/13 of which 4 had significant Alaskan ownership
- All crab processed on shore in 2013

- **Fishing practices**

- All pots have more large mesh panels than required by regulation
- Pots are soaked for long periods allowing for *in situ* release of females and juveniles
- Informal delineation of fishing grounds allows for virtually no gear conflicts
- Fishing sites chosen to avoid sensitive benthic habitat
- Very small portion of habitat fished
- Harvest artificially capped with GHL beginning in 1996

- **Industry Contributions**

- Formed Aleutian King Crab Research Foundation in 2012, a 501c(6) non-profit
- Raised over \$200,000 from harvesters
- Procured twenty small mesh test fish pots for survey use by ADF&G
- Contracted world renowned biometric modeler to assist at Crab Plan Team meetings
- Provided accommodation on two fishing trips for ADF&G test pot samplers
- Retained consultants to work directly with ADF&G on in-season survey design
- Campaigned for ADF&G to receive test fishery receipts, \$300,000 in 2013/14
- Provided many crab to NFMS in Kodiak for research
- Submitted proposal to National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to digitize data collection