Annual Management Report for Shellfish Fisheries in the Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands Management Area, 2017/2018

by
Ethan Nichols
and
Janis Shaishnikoff
Miranda Westphal
Symbols and Abbreviations
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weights and measures (metric)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF TABLES</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION I: BERING SEA SHELLFISH FISHERIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERING SEA TANNER CRAB MANAGEMENT DISTRICT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRISTOL BAY KING CRAB REGISTRATION AREA T</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bering Sea Scarlet King Crab</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pribilof District Golden King Crab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bering Sea Grooved Tanner Crab</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bering Sea Triangle Tanner Crab</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PENINSULA DISTRICT DUNGELNESS CRAB</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Area</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Area</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of Area</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Area</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Fishery</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dungeness Crab</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Fishery</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERING SEA MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH SPECIES</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Fisheries</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES CITED</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLES AND FIGURES</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION II: ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SHELLFISH FISHERIES</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING CRAB MANAGEMENT AREA</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Area</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018 Fishery East of 174°W Longitude</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Sampling</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018 Fishery West of 174°W Longitude</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Sampling</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTERN ALEUTIAN TANNER CRAB DISTRICT</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanner Crab</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Commercial Fishery</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBSISTENCE</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 King and Tanner Fishery</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEUTIAN DISTRICT DUNGENESS CRAB</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Fishery</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEUTIAN DISTRICT MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of District</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Fisheries</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Management and Stock Status</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES CITED</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLES AND FIGURES</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SECTION III: BERING SEA–ALEUTIAN ISLANDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA AND ADAK COMMUNITY ALLOCATION SHELLFISH FISHERIES ................................................................................................................. 92

Description of Area .......................................................................................................................................................... 92
Program Background .......................................................................................................................................................... 92
Current Fishery ................................................................................................................................................................. 93
TABLES ............................................................................................................................................................................. 95

LIST OF TABLES

Table Page
3. Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, 2017/2018. ................................. 18
5. Bristol Bay red king crab cost-recovery harvest data and charter length, 1990–2017. ............................ 20
7. Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1977–2017/2018. ... 24
13. Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, west of 166°W long, 2017/2018. ..................................................................................................................................................... 37
17. Bering Sea District commercial snow crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, 2017/2018. .... 44
25. Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest by statistical area east of 174°W long, 2017/2018. ........................................................................................................................................................ 77
29. Subsistence king and Tanner crab harvest from the Eastern Aleutian Islands, west of Scotch Cap Light and east of 168°W long, 1999–2017. ........................................................................................................ 84
30. Aleutian District Dungeness crab commercial fishery data, 1974–2017. .................................................. 85
32. Community Development Quota and Adak Community Allocation program percent allocation by fishery to each group, 2003–2017/2018. ................................................................. 96
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bristol Bay king crab commercial fishery Registration Area T.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort, and number of vessels, 1966–2017/2018</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bering Sea king crab commercial fishery Registration Area Q.</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Saint Matthew Island section blue king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort, and number of vessels, 1977–2017/2018</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery Registration Area J including subdistricts and sections.</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>North Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Dungeness crab Districts of Registration Area J</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Tanner crab and miscellaneous shellfish Districts of Registration Area J</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Aleutian Islands king crab commercial fishery Registration Area O</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort, and number of vessels, 1981/1982–2017/2018</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort, and number of vessels, 1981/1982–2017/2018</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab sections of Registration Area J</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABSTRACT
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) manages commercial and subsistence shellfish fisheries in the territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in the northern Pacific Ocean. This report presents details on commercial and subsistence invertebrate and shellfish fisheries harvest, participation, and value in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) areas, excluding king crab fisheries north of Cape Romanzof. In 2017/2018, red king crab, golden king crab, scarlet king crab, snow crab, Tanner crab, grooved Tanner crab, triangle Tanner crab, Dungeness crab, and giant Pacific octopus were taken in BSAI fisheries. Current fishery management practices, a summary of the most recent commercial fishery, and general stock status information are presented.

Key words: Red king crab *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, golden king crab *Lithodes aequispinus*, scarlet king crab *L. couesi*, snow crab *Chionoecetes opilio*, Tanner crab *C. bairdi*, Dungeness crab *Metacarcinus magister*, giant Pacific octopus *Enteroctopus dofleini*, blue king crab *P. platypus*, grooved Tanner crab *C. tanneri*, triangle Tanner crab *C. angulatus*, Community Development Quota, Crab Rationalization, Individual Fishing Quota, subsistence, guideline harvest level, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, North Peninsula, bycatch, confidential interviews, retained catch, species composition sample, size frequencies

INTRODUCTION
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) manages all commercial and subsistence invertebrate and shellfish fisheries occurring in the state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) and waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The Bering Sea (including Bristol Bay) comprises waters north of Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat) and west of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line of 1990, excluding the Norton Sound Section. The Aleutian Islands comprise waters west of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44.72′W long), east of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line of 1990, south of Cape Sarichef (58°36′N lat), to 171°W long westward, and south of a line from the latitude 55°30′N lat. Crab in the Bering Sea north of Cape Romanzof (61°49′N lat), including Norton Sound, are managed by ADF&G’s Nome office and are not included in this report. Waters of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) support the largest and most valuable commercial crab fisheries in Alaska.

The BSAI is divided into registration areas for king crab management, and districts for Tanner crab, Dungeness crab, and miscellaneous shellfish management. BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries in the EEZ are managed under a federal fisheries management plan (FMP) that establishes a cooperative management structure deferring king and Tanner crab management to the State of Alaska with federal oversight. Other crab and miscellaneous shellfish fisheries that occur in territorial waters are managed solely under state jurisdiction. Since 2005, most EEZ BSAI crab fisheries are managed under the federal crab rationalization program which resulted in consolidation of harvesting and processing sectors and substantially changed historical fishing practices.

Species commercially harvested during the 2017/2018 season in the BSAI include red king crab *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, golden king crab *Lithodes aequispinus*, scarlet king crab *L. couesi*, snow crab *Chionoecetes opilio*, Tanner crab *C. bairdi*, grooved Tanner crab *C. tanneri*, triangle Tanner crab *C. angulatus*, Dungeness crab *Metacarcinus magister*, and giant Pacific octopus *Enteroctopus dofleini*. Additionally, a fishery for weathervane scallop *Patinopecten caurinus* occurs in the BSAI which is summarized in a separate report: *Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the Weathervane Scallop Fishery off Alaska* (NPFMC 2017b). Historically, waters of the BSAI have supported commercial harvests of blue king crab *P. platypus*, green sea
urchins *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*, pandalid shrimp, hair crab *Erimacrus isenbeckii*, and several species of sea snails; however, fisheries for these species are currently either closed due to low abundance or not currently commercially prosecuted. For additional background on current BSAI shellfish fisheries and information on historical fisheries not covered in this report, refer to *Annual management report for shellfish fisheries of the Bering Sea–Aleutian Islands Management Area, 2015/16.* (Leon et al. 2017).

In 2017/2018, 71 catcher vessels, 2 catcher processors, and 9 shorebased processors were involved in harvesting and processing shellfish in the BSAI. Shellfish landings totaled approximately 33.9 million pounds.
SECTION I: BERING SEA SHELLFISH FISHERIES

BRISTOL BAY KING CRAB REGISTRATION AREA T

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

Bristol Bay king crab Registration Area T includes all waters north of Cape Sarichef (54°36′ N lat), south of Cape Newenham (58°39′ N lat), and east of 168°W long (Figure 1).

BRISTOL BAY RED KING CRAB

2017/2018 Fishery

The 2017/2018 Bristol Bay red king crab (BBR) fishery opened October 15 with a combined Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 6,601,000 pounds (Table 1). TAC was allocated by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as 90% IFQ (5,940,900 pounds) and 10% CDQ (660,100 pounds) with all six of the CDQ groups participating in the harvest of the CDQ allocation. Sixty-one vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 6,600,922 pounds, of which 0.4% was deadloss. Despite the regulatory fishing season running through January 15, 99% of the harvest occurred by mid-November, with the last delivery on January 6 (Tables 2 and 3). On average, vessels were active in the fishery for 17 days. Harvesters were paid an initial average exvessel price of $8.33 per pound. Total exvessel fishery value was estimated to be $54,792,098 (Table 2).

Total effort for the 2017/2018 fishery was 48,242 pot lifts. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 20 legal crab per pot, below the post-rationalization (2005/2006–2016/2017) average CPUE of 27 (Table 1, Figure 2). Harvest was distributed across 16 ADF&G statistical reporting areas with the highest concentration of harvest (39%) occurring in ADF&G statistical area 615630, northwest of Port Moller (Table 4).

BBR cost recovery was conducted by ADF&G in 2017 with 219,509 pounds (32,621 legal male crab) harvested. The 29-day charter occurred from October 1 to October 9, October 11 to October 23, and November 2 to November 8 (Table 5).

Port Sampling

During the 2017/2018 BBR fishery, ADF&G personnel sampled red king crab from vessels at shorebased processors in Akutan, Dutch Harbor, King Cove, and Kodiak. Biological data collected on landed red king crab consisted of carapace length, shell condition, and average weight. Confidential interviews, supplemented by daily fishing log records, were conducted with vessel operators to acquire detailed information regarding statistical reporting areas fished, effort, and fishery performance. Data was collected by ADF&G port samplers from 100 of the 142 total landings (IFQ and CDQ) during the 2017/2018 BBR fishery. Average weight of sampled crab was 6.8 pounds while average carapace length was 156 mm (Table 1).
Stock Status
The 2017 NMFS trawl survey of Bristol Bay was conducted in June. Red king crab were caught in 72 of the 136 survey stations within the Bristol Bay management district, with most mature males concentrated in the central and southern sections.

Based on 2017 NMFS trawl survey data, immature male biomass increased 8%, mature male biomass decreased 9%, legal male biomass decreased 7%, and mature female biomass decreased 21%, relative to the 2016 trawl survey estimates. Estimated immature male biomass of 4.9 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 24.8 million pounds, estimated mature male biomass of 18.4 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 42.1 million pounds, estimated legal male biomass of 45.9 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 63.4 million pounds, and estimated mature female biomass of 58.3 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 73.6 million pounds (Lang et al. 2017).

Data from the NMFS trawl survey is incorporated into the length-based analysis (LBA) model with model estimates used by the BBR regulatory harvest strategy to determine the fishery TAC. LBA model results indicated an effective spawning biomass of 39.8 million pounds; therefore, an exploitation rate of 12.5% was applied to mature male red king crab for a 2017 TAC of 6.601 million pounds. The harvest strategy is found in 5 AAC 34.816 Bristol Bay red king crab harvest strategy.

Further information on BBR stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).

BERING SEA KING CRAB REGISTRATION AREA Q
DESCRIPTION OF AREA
The Bering Sea king crab Registration Area Q southern boundary is a line from 54°36′N lat, 168°W long, to 54°36′N lat, 171°W long, to 55°30′N lat, 171°W long, to 55°30′N lat, 173°30′E long. The northern boundary is the latitude of Point Hope (68°21′N lat). The eastern boundary is a line from 54°36′N lat, 168°W long, to 58°39′N lat, 168°W long, to Cape Newenham (58°39′N lat). The western boundary is the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990 (Figure 3). Area Q is divided into two districts: the Pribilof District, which includes waters south of Cape Newenham; and the Northern District, which includes all waters north of Cape Newenham. The Northern District is subdivided into three sections. The Saint Matthew Island Section includes waters north of Cape Newenham and south of Cape Romanzof (61°49′N lat). The Norton Sound Section includes all waters north of Cape Romanzof, and south of 66°N lat. The Kotzebue Sound Section encompasses all remaining waters of the district. The Norton Sound Section and Kotzebue Sound Section are not addressed in this report.

SAINT MATTHEW ISLAND SECTION BLUE KING CRAB
2017/2018 Fishery
The 2017/2018 Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab fishery was closed due to the 2017 NMFS trawl survey model-survey estimate of mature male abundance being below the regulatory threshold for opening a fishery (Tables 6 and 7, Figure 4).
Stock Status

The 2017 NMFS trawl survey of Saint Matthew Island was conducted in July. Blue king crab were caught in 13 of the 56 survey stations within the Saint Matthew Island Section of the Northern District, with most mature males concentrated south of the island.

Based on 2017 NMFS trawl survey data, immature male biomass decreased 76%, mature male biomass decreased 13%, legal male biomass decreased 42%, and mature female biomass decreased 100%, relative to the 2016 trawl survey estimates. Estimated immature male biomass of 0.27 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 2.3 million pounds, estimated mature male biomass of 4.3 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 7.0 million pounds, estimated legal male biomass of 2.9 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 6.2 million pounds, and estimated mature female biomass of 0 pounds was below the 20-year average of 0.26 million pounds (Lang et al. 2017).

ADF&G conducted triennial pot surveys in the Saint Matthew Island Section from 1995 to 2013, with a focus on the nearshore waters with bottom topography unsuitable to trawl surveys. From 2013 to 2017, in response to a request for more detailed information from the stock assessment authors, the survey was conducted on an annual basis. Results from the 2017 pot survey showed continued low abundance in the stock.

Further information on Saint Matthew Island blue king crab stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).

PRIBILOF DISTRICT GOLDEN KING CRAB

2017 Fishery

The 2017 Pribilof District golden king crab fishery had a GHL of 130,000 pounds and was open January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. Two vessels participated in the fishery. Harvest information is confidential (Tables 8 and 9).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

The golden king crab fishery is managed using a guideline harvest level (GHL) based on long-term average harvest. In 2012, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) established a total-catch overfishing level (OFL) of 200,000 pounds. The 2012 OFL used the relationship of bycatch mortality to retained catch in the Pribilof District golden king crab fishery from 2001–2010 (NPFMC 2011).

An acceptable biological catch of 180,000 pounds was also set in 2012, by applying a 10% buffer on the Tier 5 harvest control rule OFL (NPFMC 2011). For 2015, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) was reduced to 150,000 pounds by employing a 25% buffer on the OFL to account for uncertainty associated with limited stock condition data (NPFMC 2014). The GHL is established by reducing the ABC to account for bycatch mortality of golden king crab in other fisheries.

Stock biomass of golden king crab in the Pribilof Canyon area has been estimated using area-swept extrapolations applied to NMFS slope trawl survey data. Biomass estimates of golden king crab from the slope survey are highly uncertain and, although not currently used in fishery management, are still considered relevant to discussions of stock status. Survey data suggest biomass of golden king crab in the Pribilof Canyon area is variable. There was no NMFS Bering Sea slope survey.
conducted in 2017. Results of the 2016 NMFS Bering Sea slope survey show an estimated biomass of 2.89 million pounds (Hoff 2016).

Further information on Pribilof District golden king crab stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).

BERING SEA SCARLET KING CRAB

2017 Fishery

One vessel harvested scarlet king crab in the Bering Sea during 2017. Harvest was restricted to incidental harvest during Bering Sea golden king crab and grooved Tanner crab fisheries. Harvest information is confidential (Table 10).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

In 2007, NMFS amended the FMP and removed Bering Sea scarlet king crab, which transferred sole jurisdiction for the fishery to the state (NPFMC 2007). Onboard observers have been required on most vessels that targeted deepwater crab species since 1994 and have collected information detailing the size and sex composition of the retained and non-retained scarlet king crab and bycatch species. This information is useful when developing management measures for deepwater crab stocks; however, there is currently no harvest strategy.

Stock biomass of scarlet crab in the Bering Sea has been estimated using area-swept methods applied to NMFS upper continental slope trawl survey data (Hoff 2016). Although biomass estimates of scarlet king crab from the slope survey are available, they are highly uncertain and not currently used in fishery management. There was no NMFS Bering Sea slope survey conducted in 2017. Results of the 2016 NMFS Bering Sea slope survey show an estimated biomass of 0.97 million pounds (Hoff 2016).

BERING SEA TANNER CRAB MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The Bering Sea District of Tanner crab Registration Area J includes all waters north of Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat). The district is divided into the Eastern and Western Subdistricts at 173°W long. The Eastern Subdistrict is further divided into two sections: the Norton Sound Section north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof (61°49′N lat) and east of 168°W long, and the General Section south and west of the Norton Sound Section (Figure 5).

BERING SEA TANNER CRAB

The Bering Sea Tanner crab stock is managed as two separate fisheries, east and west of 166°W long, with a separate TAC set for each fishery.

2017/2018 Fishery East of 166°W Longitude

The 2017/2018 Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery east of 166°W long (EBT) was closed (Tables 11 and 12, Figure 6). Results from the 2017 NMFS trawl survey showed that the mature male biomass estimate east of 166°W long was below the regulatory threshold required to open the fishery; mature male biomass must be at or above 100 percent of the 1982–2016 average. The
harvest strategy is found in 5 AAC 35.508 *Bering Sea District C. bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategy*.

In March of 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulation to allow 35% incidental retention of Bering Sea snow crab in the EBT fishery (5 AAC 35.506(j) *Area J Registration*); incidental retention of Bering Sea snow crab in the EBT fishery was previously prohibited.

**Stock Status**

The 2017 NMFS trawl survey of the eastern Bering Sea was conducted in June and July. Tanner crab were caught in 96 of the 120 survey stations east of 166°W long, with most mature males concentrated in the southwest section of Bristol Bay (Lang et al. 2017).

Based on 2017 NMFS trawl survey estimates east of 166°W long, immature male biomass decreased 35%, mature male biomass increased 5%, legal male biomass increased 10%, and mature female biomass increased 39%, relative to the 2016 trawl survey estimates. Estimated immature male biomass of 10.1 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 21.2 million pounds, estimated mature male biomass of 42.7 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 34.1 million pounds, estimated legal male biomass of 34.6 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 26.8 million pounds, and estimated mature female biomass of 4.4 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 8.1 million pounds (Lang et al. 2017).

Further information on Tanner crab stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 *Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions* (NPFMC 2017a).

**2017/2018 Fishery West of 166°W Longitude**

The 2017/2018 Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery west of 166°W long (WBT) opened October 15 with a combined IFQ and CDQ TAC of 2,500,200 pounds (Table 11). TAC was allocated by NMFS as 90% IFQ (2,250,180 pounds) and 10% CDQ (250,020 pounds) with all six of the CDQ groups participating in the harvest of the CDQ allocation. Thirty-four vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 2,496,734 pounds, of which 0.6% was deadloss. Harvest occurred throughout the season, with the last delivery on March 29 (Tables 12 and 13). On average, vessels were active in the fishery for 20 days. Harvesters were paid an initial average exvessel price of $3.27 per pound. Total exvessel fishery value was estimated to be $8,102,596 (Table 12).

Total effort for the 2017/2018 fishery was 29,903 pot lifts. CPUE was 45 legal crab per pot, the highest CPUE since rationalization and well above the post-rationalization (2005/2006–2016/2017) average CPUE of 14 (Table 11, Figure 6). Harvest was distributed across 29 ADF&G statistical reporting areas with the highest concentration of harvest (73%) occurring in ADF&G statistical area 715700, west of Saint Paul Island (Table 14).

In March of 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulation to allow 35% incidental retention of Bering Sea snow crab in the WBT fishery (5 AAC 35.506(j) *Area J Registration*); incidental retention of Bering Sea snow crab in the WBT fishery was previously allowed at 5%.

**Port Sampling**

During the 2017/2018 WBT fishery, ADF&G personnel sampled Tanner crab from vessels at shorebased processors in Akutan, Dutch Harbor, King Cove, and Saint Paul. Biological data collected on landed Tanner crab consisted of carapace width, shell condition, and average weight.
Confidential interviews, supplemented by daily fishing log records, were conducted with vessel operators to acquire detailed information regarding statistical reporting areas fished, effort, and fishery performance. Data was collected by ADF&G port samplers from 47 of the 91 total landings (IFQ and CDQ) during the 2017/2018 WBT fishery. Average weight of sampled crab was 1.9 pounds while average carapace width was 139 mm (Table 11).

Stock Status

The 2017 NMFS trawl survey of the eastern Bering Sea was conducted in June and July. Tanner crab were caught in 101 of the 255 survey stations west of 166°W long, with most mature males concentrated around the Pribilof Islands (Lang et al. 2017).

Based on 2017 NMFS trawl survey estimates west of 166°W long, immature male biomass decreased 34%, mature male biomass decreased 10%, legal male biomass increased 18%, and mature female biomass decreased 17%, relative to the 2016 trawl survey estimates. Estimated immature male biomass of 11.9 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 29.0 million pounds, estimated mature male biomass of 53.5 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 43.3 million pounds, estimated legal male biomass of 46.9 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 35.7 million pounds, and estimated mature female biomass of 11.1 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 10.7 million pounds (Lang et al. 2017).

Further information on Tanner crab stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).

BERING SEA SNOW CRAB

2017/2018 Fishery

The 2017/2018 Bering Sea snow crab (BSS) fishery opened October 15 with a combined IFQ and CDQ TAC of 18,961,000 pounds (Table 15). TAC was allocated by NMFS as 90% IFQ (17,064,900 pounds) and 10% CDQ (1,896,100 pounds) with all six of the CDQ groups participating in the harvest of the CDQ allocation. Sixty-three vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 18,963,473 pounds, of which 0.9% was deadloss. Despite the regulatory fishing season running through May 31, most of the harvest occurred in January and February, with the last delivery on April 16 (Tables 16 and 17). On average, vessels were active in the fishery for 40 days. Harvesters were paid an initial average exvessel price of $3.00 per pound, the highest BSS exvessel price since the inception of the fishery. Total exvessel fishery value was estimated to be $56,464,897 (Table 16).

Total effort for the 2017/2018 fishery was 118,034 pot lifts. CPUE was 133 legal crab per pot, the lowest CPUE since rationalization and well below the post-rationalization (2005/2006–2016/2017) average CPUE of 230 (Table 15, Figure 7). Harvest was distributed across 58 ADF&G statistical reporting areas with the highest concentration of harvest (17%) occurring in ADF&G statistical area 755930, southwest of Saint Matthew Island (Table 18).

In March of 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulation moving the easternmost boundary of the BSS fishery from 166°W long to 165°W long (5 AAC 35.510(f)(2) Fishing Seasons for Registration Area J). Given that this created an overlap in the BSS and EBT fisheries between 166° and 165°W long, regulation was also adopted to allow 5% incidental retention of Tanner crab in the BSS fishery east of 166°W (5 AAC 35.506(i)(1) Area J Registration).
Port Sampling

During the 2017/2018 Bering Sea snow crab fishery, ADF&G personnel sampled snow crab from vessels at shore-based processors in Akutan, Dutch Harbor, King Cove, and Saint Paul. Biological data collected on landed snow crab consisted of carapace width, shell condition, and average weight. Confidential interviews, supplemented by daily fishing log records, were conducted with vessel operators to acquire detailed information regarding statistical reporting areas fished, effort, and fishery performance. Data was collected by ADF&G port samplers from 163 of the 261 total landings (IFQ and CDQ) during the 2017/2018 Bering Sea snow crab fishery. Average weight of sampled crab was 1.2 pounds while average carapace width was 108 mm (Table 15).

Stock Status

The 2017 NMFS trawl survey of the eastern Bering Sea was conducted in June and July. Snow crab were caught in 223 of the 375 survey stations of the eastern Bering Sea survey area, with mature males distributed throughout the survey area in waters deeper than 50 meters (Lang et al. 2017).

Based on 2017 NMFS trawl survey estimates, immature male biomass increased 82%, mature male biomass decreased 2%, legal male biomass increased 1%, and mature female biomass increased 99%, relative to the 2016 trawl survey estimates. Estimated immature male biomass of 416.3 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 260.5 million pounds, estimated mature male biomass of 64.7 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 183.7 million pounds, estimated legal male biomass of 115.2 million pounds was below the 20-year average of 278.8 million pounds, and estimated mature female biomass of 228.0 million pounds was above the 20-year average of 168.8 million pounds (Lang et al. 2017).

Further information on snow crab stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).

BERING SEA GROOVED TANNER CRAB

2017 Fishery

One vessel harvested grooved Tanner crab in the Bering Sea during 2017. Harvest information is confidential (Table 19).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

In 2007, NMFS amended the FMP and removed Bering Sea grooved Tanner crab, which transferred sole jurisdiction for the fishery to the state (NPFMC 2007). Onboard observers have been required on most vessels that targeted deepwater crab species since 1994 and have collected information detailing the size and sex composition of the retained and non-retained grooved Tanner crab and bycatch species. This information is useful when developing management measures for deepwater crab stocks; however, there is currently no harvest strategy.

Stock biomass of grooved Tanner crab in the Bering Sea has been estimated using area-swept methods applied to NMFS upper continental slope trawl survey data (Hoff 2016). Although biomass estimates of grooved Tanner crab from the slope survey are available, they are highly uncertain and not currently used in fishery management. There was no NMFS Bering Sea slope
survey conducted in 2017. Results of the 2016 NMFS Bering Sea slope survey show an estimated biomass of 3.81 million pounds in the eastern Bering Sea (Hoff 2016).

**BERING SEA TRIANGLE TANNER CRAB**

**2017 Fishery**

One vessel harvested triangle Tanner crab in the Bering Sea during 2017. Harvest was restricted to incidental harvest during Bering Sea golden king crab and grooved Tanner crab fisheries. Harvest information is confidential (Table 20).

**Fishery Management and Stock Status**

Triangle Tanner crab are currently managed as bycatch only to other nonrationalized fisheries. Stock biomass of triangle Tanner crab in the Bering Sea has been estimated using area-swept methods applied to NMFS upper continental slope trawl survey data (Hoff 2016). Although biomass estimates of triangle Tanner crab from the slope survey are available, they are highly uncertain and not currently used in fishery management. There was no NMFS Bering Sea slope survey conducted in 2017. Results of the 2016 NMFS Bering Sea slope survey show an estimated biomass of 13.5 million pounds in the eastern Bering Sea (Hoff 2016).

In December 2007, NMFS amended the FMP and removed Bering Sea triangle Tanner crab, which provided the state of Alaska with sole jurisdiction over the fishery (NPFMC 2007).

**NORTH PENINSULA DISTRICT DUNGENESS CRAB**

**DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT**

The North Peninsula District for Dungeness crab includes all waters of Registration Area J north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef at 54°36′N lat (Figure 8).

**DUNGENESS CRAB**

**2017 Fishery**

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened May 1, 2017. One vessel registered for the 2017 season. Harvest information is confidential (Table 21).

**Fishery Management and Stock Status**

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery is managed using 3-S management (size, sex, and season). Only male Dungeness crab 6.5 inches (165 mm) or greater in carapace width may be retained from 12:00 noon May 1 to 11:59 p.m. October 18. No stock assessment is available and limited biological and fishery data have been collected through dockside sampling.

**BERING SEA MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH SPECIES**

**DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT**

The Bering Sea District of Registration Area J for miscellaneous shellfish includes all waters north of the latitude of Cape Sarichef at 54°36′N lat and east of the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990 (Figure 9).
**2017 Fisheries**

**Octopus**

In 2017, harvest from state waters was 1,150 pounds from 4 vessels and 7 landings. Harvest from state and federal waters combined was 106,883 pounds from 119 vessels and 427 landings. All reported harvest was incidental to groundfish fisheries. Average exvessel price based on landed weight of octopus in 2017 was $0.35 per pound (Table 22).

**Fishery Management and Stock Status**

Octopus are considered a shellfish species under State of Alaska regulation. Limited directed fishing within state waters may occur under the authority of a commissioner’s permit; however, octopus are primarily retained as bycatch during state and federal groundfish fisheries. Currently, vessels may retain incidentally caught octopus up to 20% of the weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard. Most octopus are retained as bycatch in Pacific cod pot gear fisheries.

Incidental harvest of octopus in the Bering Sea is dominated by giant Pacific octopus, *Enteroctopus dofleini*, although at least nine other species of octopus are known to occur in the Bering Sea. Results from the 2017 NMFS Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey estimate octopus (all species) biomass at 7.5 million pounds with 53% of the estimate comprised of *E. dofleini*. The 2017 octopus (all species) biomass estimate decreased 55% relative to the 2016 estimate and is below the 5-year average (2012–2016) of 8.6 million pounds. Biomass estimates for octopus in the Bering Sea are highly variable and general knowledge of the stock is limited (Ormseth et al. 2018).

Further information on octopus stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2018 *Assessment of the Octopus Stock Complex in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands* (Ormseth et al. 2018).
REFERENCES CITED


TABLES AND FIGURES
Table 1.—Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest data, 1966–2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>GHL/TAC(^{a,b})</th>
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<th>Deadloss(^{a})</th>
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<td>296</td>
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<td>118,227</td>
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<tr>
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<td>161</td>
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<tr>
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<td>30,050</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>1,157,364</td>
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Table 1.—Page 3 of 3.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>GHL/TAC&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUE&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Weight&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Length&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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</thead>
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<td>8,600,476</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>1,242,705</td>
<td>45,927</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>155</td>
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<td>152</td>
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<td>182,833</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>152</td>
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<td>48,008</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>153</td>
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<td>41,120</td>
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<td>1,253,967</td>
<td>33,126</td>
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<td>154</td>
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<td>6,600,922</td>
<td>24,880</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>964,593</td>
<td>48,242</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>156</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.

<sup>b</sup> Guideline harvest level (GHL), total allowable catch (TAC) began in 2005/2006.

<sup>c</sup> Deadloss included.

<sup>d</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.

<sup>e</sup> Inseason revision to 4.7 million pounds.

<sup>f</sup> Includes American Fisheries Act (AFA) harvest data.

<sup>g</sup> Total GHL announced prior to general fishery opening, CDQ GHL adjusted based on general fishery harvest.

<sup>h</sup> Retained catch.

<sup>i</sup> Carapace length in millimeters.

<sup>j</sup> Crab Rationalization begins.

<sup>Note:</sup> NA = not available
Table 2.–Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1980–2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Exvessel(^a)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$115,280,816</td>
<td>09/10/80</td>
<td>10/20/80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>09/10/81</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
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<td>$9,261,594</td>
<td>09/10/82</td>
<td>10/10/82</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Commercial Fishery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$48,070,777</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$102,198,044</td>
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<td>11/13/90</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$51,174,672</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>$41,323,471</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$64,750,431</td>
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<td>11/10/93</td>
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<td>1994–1995</td>
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<td>11/05/97</td>
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<td>11/6/98(^b)</td>
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<td>10/18/01(^b)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10/15/02</td>
<td>10/18/02(^b)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10/20/03(^b)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10/15/04</td>
<td>10/18/04(^b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005/2006(^c)</td>
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<td>$70,086,741</td>
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<td>01/15/06</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>01/15/12</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>01/15/13</td>
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<td>01/15/14</td>
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<td>01/15/18</td>
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\(^a\) Average price per pound.
\(^b\) CDQ fishery opened after general fishery.
\(^c\) Crab Rationalization begins.
Table 3.–Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, 2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Harvest(^{a,b})</th>
<th>Deadloss(^a)</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Harvest</td>
<td>Deadloss</td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
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<tr>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>423,403</td>
<td>984</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-6</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>24,880</td>
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</table>

Note: CF = Confidential
\(^a\) In pounds.
\(^b\) Deadloss included.
\(^c\) Number of retained crab per pot lift.
\(^d\) Retained catch.
Table 4.—Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by statistical area, 2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical area</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Weight&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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</thead>
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<td>32</td>
<td>19,086</td>
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<tr>
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<td>107</td>
<td>263,027</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>5,796</td>
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<td>4,058</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,430</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,600,922</td>
<td>24,880</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>964,593</td>
<td>48,242</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>c</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>d</sup> Retained catch.
<sup>e</sup> Combination of statistical areas (4) in which landings were made by fewer than three vessels.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Weight&lt;sup&gt;a,g&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Charter Length</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>80,701</td>
<td>24,540</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Weight&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>c</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>d</sup> Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands shellfish research program cost recovery.
<sup>e</sup> Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands shellfish research and observer program cost recovery.
<sup>f</sup> Includes 1,222 pounds harvested in the Pribilof District.
<sup>g</sup> Retained catch.
Table 6.—Saint Matthew Island Section blue king commercial fishery harvest data, 1977–2017/2018.

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<th>Season</th>
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<th>Harvest$^{a,c}$</th>
<th>Deadloss$^a$</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Length$^{c,g}$</th>
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<td>Vessels</td>
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<td>Crab$^c$</td>
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<th>Number of Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab$^c$</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average CPUE$^d$</th>
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Note: NA = not available, CF = confidential

$^a$ In pounds.
$^b$ Guideline harvest level (GHL), total allowable catch (TAC) began in 2005/06.
$^c$ Deadloss included.
$^d$ Number of legal crab per pot lift.
$^e$ Carapace length in millimeters.
$^f$ Crab Rationalization begins.
$^g$ Retained catch.
Table 7.—Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1977–2017/2018.

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Note: CF = confidential
\(^a\) Average price per pound.
\(^b\) Crab rationalization begins.

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<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<th>Average</th>
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Table 8.–Page 2 of 2.

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<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Number of</th>
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No Commercial Fishing Effort

Note: CF = confidential, NA = not available.

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.

<sup>b</sup> Guideline harvest level (GHL).

<sup>c</sup> Deadloss included.

<sup>d</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.

<sup>e</sup> Carapace length in millimeters.

<sup>f</sup> Retained catch.

<sup>g</sup> Includes harvest from one vessel that was incorrectly landed using a T91Q CFEC permit card.
Table 9.–Pribilof District golden king crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1991–2017.

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Note: CF = confidential.

a Average price per pound.
Table 10.—Bering Sea scarlet king crab commercial fishery harvest data, 1995–2017.

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<th>Harvest(^{a,b})</th>
<th>Deadloss(^a)</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab(^b)</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Number of Crab per Pot Lift</th>
<th>Average CPUE(^c)</th>
<th>Average Weight(^{a,f})</th>
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Note: CF = confidential.

\(^a\) In pounds.
\(^b\) Deadloss included.
\(^c\) Number of legal crab per pot lift.
\(^d\) Average price per pound.
\(^e\) Restricted to incidental harvest during Bering Sea golden king crab and grooved Tanner crab fisheries.
\(^f\) Retained catch.
\(^g\) Includes harvest from one vessel that was incorrectly landed using a T91Q CFEC permit card.
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<td>East of 166°W</td>
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<td>1,830,031</td>
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<td>TOTAL(^k)</td>
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<td>41 113</td>
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<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
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<td>13,704,427</td>
<td>156,709</td>
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<td>202</td>
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<td>West of 166°W</td>
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<td>8,378,816</td>
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<td>19,642,378</td>
<td>172,733</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>449</td>
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<td>11,263,562</td>
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<td>8,396,000</td>
<td>8,378,816</td>
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<td>19,668,000</td>
<td>19,642,378</td>
<td>172,733</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>449</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: NA = not available.

a From 1974/1975 through 1984/1985, Bering Sea Tanner crab subdistricts were: Southeastern, Pribilof, and Northern (includes the Norton Sound and General Sections). From 1987/88 through 1992/1993 harvest subdistricts were divided east and west of 173°W long. From 1993/1994 through 1996/1997 fishery east of 168°W long is concurrent with the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery and the fishery from 163°W long to 173°W long is a directed Tanner crab fishery. From 2005/06 to current the fishery is divided east and west of 166°W long, and harvest east of 163°W long is only allowed as incidental catch during the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.

b In pounds.


d Deadloss included.

e Number of legal crab per pot lift.

f Initial GHL announcement was 39.2 million pounds, GHL was later adjusted to 38.1 million pounds.

g GHL for waters east of 163°W long.

h GHL for waters west of 163°W long.
i Harvest concurrent with the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery was estimated to be well below the GHL and minimal harvest was thought to have occurred west of 163°W long, therefore the GHL was adjusted to 16.1 million pounds for the directed Tanner crab fishery from 163°to 173°W long.

j Carapace width in millimeters.

k Bering Sea District totals include limited tanner crab harvest incidental to the Bering Sea Snow and Bristol Bay Red King crab fisheries. Includes incidental harvest, participation, and effort.

l Retained catch.

m Crab Rationalization begins.
Table 12.—Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1974–2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Exvessel$^a$</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Location/Comments</th>
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<td>06/15/75</td>
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<td>07/15/76</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>04/24/90</td>
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<td>$6,309,202</td>
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<td>163° to 166°W long</td>
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<table>
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<th>Value</th>
<th>Season length</th>
<th>Location/Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2015/2016</td>
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<td>10/15/15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>No Commercial Fishery</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>No Commercial Fishery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3.27</td>
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<td>10/15/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^a Average price per pound.  
^b Concurrent with Bristol Bay red king crab fishery.  
^c Crab Rationalization begins.  
^d Directed fishery open between 163° and 166°W long. Incidental harvest allowed in entire area east of 166°W long during Bristol Bay red king crab fishery; however, no incidental harvest allowed when the directed fishery is closed.
Table 13.–Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, west of 166°W long, 2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Pots lifted</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>366,322</td>
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<td>CF</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb-24</td>
<td>80,028</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-17</td>
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<td>202</td>
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<td>Mar-24</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
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</table>

| Total       | 2,496,734 | 16,212 | 34 | 91 | 1,340,230 | 29,903 | 45 | 1.9 |

*Note:* CF = Confidential  
<sup>a</sup> In pounds.  
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.  
<sup>c</sup> Number of retained crab per pot lift.  
<sup>d</sup> Retained catch.
Table 14.—Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by statistical area, west of 166°W long, 2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical area</th>
<th>Harvest(^a,b)</th>
<th>Deadloss(^a)</th>
<th>Number of Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab(^b)</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average CPUE(^c)</th>
<th>Average Weight(^d)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>665600</td>
<td>77,791</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>44,349</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>273</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>675600</td>
<td>66,296</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>38,837</td>
<td>1,510</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>17,188</td>
<td>1,180</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,998</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>454</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39,024</td>
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<td>375</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>58,812</td>
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<tr>
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<td>58</td>
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<tr>
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<td>321</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>112</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25,525</td>
<td>2,616</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,496,734</td>
<td>16,212</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1,340,230</td>
<td>29,903</td>
<td>45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^{a}\) In pounds.
\(^{b}\) Deadloss included.
\(^{c}\) Number of legal crab per pot lift.
\(^{d}\) Retained catch.
\(^{e}\) Combination of statistical areas (17) in which landings were made by fewer than three vessels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>GHL/TAC (^{a,b})</th>
<th>Harvest (^{c})</th>
<th>Deadloss (^{b})</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>Crab</td>
<td>Pots lifted</td>
<td>CPUE (^{d})</td>
<td>Weight (^{b,j})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>- 1,716,124</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,267,546</td>
<td>13,247</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- 32,187,039</td>
<td>759,137</td>
<td></td>
<td>102</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>22,118,498</td>
<td>190,746</td>
<td>116</td>
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<td>39.5–91 million</td>
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<td>2,269,979</td>
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<td>867</td>
<td>34,415,322</td>
<td>435,742</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>16–22 million</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>803</td>
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<td>469,091</td>
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<td>26,128,410</td>
<td>1,324,466</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>23,853,647</td>
<td>287,127</td>
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<td>367</td>
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<td>1,064,184</td>
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<td>718</td>
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<td>372,045</td>
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<td>542,346</td>
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<td>978,449</td>
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<td>3,242,478</td>
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<td>112,704,215</td>
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<td>161,656,405</td>
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<td>1,563</td>
<td>128,859,645</td>
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<td>265,124,637</td>
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-continued-
<table>
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<th>Season</th>
<th>GHL/TAC&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;b,c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
</tr>
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<td>32,633,210</td>
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<td>219</td>
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<td>2005/2006&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>88,830,652</td>
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<td>53,983,286</td>
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<td>18,963,473</td>
<td>172,569</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>261</td>
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</table>

<sup>Note:</sup> NA = not available.

<sup>a</sup> Guideline harvest level (GHL), total allowable catch (TAC) beginning in 2005/2006.
<sup>b</sup> In pounds.
<sup>c</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>d</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>e</sup> Total harvest includes 30,919 pounds taken from an unidentified statistical area.
<sup>f</sup> Includes 181,457 pounds illegally taken in Russian waters.
<sup>g</sup> Carapace width in millimeters.
<sup>h</sup> Crab Rationalization begins.
<sup>i</sup> Retained catch.
Table 16.–Bering Sea District snow crab commercial fishery value and season dates, 1980–2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Exvessel(^a)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Opened</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Location/Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>08/15/80</td>
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<td>Bering Sea District state closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>09/03/80</td>
<td>09/01/80</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>Bering Sea District federal closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$0.27</td>
<td>$13,629,615</td>
<td>01/15/81</td>
<td>08/01/81</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>08/01/82</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Bering Sea District closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$9,425,499</td>
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<td>05/22/83</td>
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<td>Bering Sea District closure south of 57°30′N lat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>08/01/83</td>
<td>168</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bering Sea District closure north of 57°30′N lat</td>
</tr>
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<td>02/15/84</td>
<td>08/01/84</td>
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<td>Bering Sea District closure south of 58°N lat</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>08/22/84</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bering Sea District closure north of 58°N lat to allow for an orderly start to king crab season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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* Average price per pound.
* Crab rationalization begins.
Table 17.–Bering Sea District commercial snow crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by week, 2017/2018.

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<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Harvest(^b)</th>
<th>Deadloss(^a)</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab(^b)</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUE(^c)</th>
<th>Weight(^a,d)</th>
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Total 18,963,473 172,569 63 261 15,695,007 118,034 133 1.2

Note: CF = Confidential
\(^a\) In pounds.
\(^b\) Deadloss included.
\(^c\) Number of legal crab per pot lift.
\(^d\) Retained catch.
Table 18.—Bering Sea District commercial snow crab commercial fishery harvest and effort by statistical area, 2017/2018.

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<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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Table 18.–Page 2 of 2.

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<th>Harvest$^{a,b}$</th>
<th>Deadloss$^a$</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab$^b$</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUE$^c$</th>
<th>Weight$^{a,e}$</th>
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$^a$ In pounds.

$^b$ Deadloss included.

$^c$ Number of legal crab per pot lift.

$^d$ Combination of statistical areas (28) in which landings were made by fewer than three vessels.

$^e$ Retained catch.
Table 19.—Bering Sea District grooved Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest data, 1992–2017.

<table>
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<th>Season</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<td></td>
<td>CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Weight&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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Note: CF = confidential.

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>c</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>d</sup> Average price per pound.
<sup>ab</sup> Retained catch.
Table 20.—Bering Sea District triangle Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest data, 1995–2017.

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<th>Value</th>
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**Note:** CF = confidential.

- $^a$ In pounds.
- $^b$ Deadloss included.
- $^c$ Number of legal crab per pot lift.
- $^d$ Average price per pound.
- $^e$ Restricted to incidental harvest during Bering Sea golden king crab and grooved Tanner crab fisheries.
- $^f$ Retained catch.
Table 21.—North Peninsula District commercial Dungeness crab fishery data, 1992–2017.

<table>
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<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average Weight&lt;sup&gt;a,e&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Average Exvessel&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Table 21.—Page 2 of 2.

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<th>Deadlossa</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crabb</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>CPUEc</th>
<th>Weighta,e</th>
<th>Exvesseld</th>
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</table>

*Note:* CF = confidential.

a In pounds.
b Deadloss included.
c Number of legal crab per pot lift.
d Average price per pound.
e Retained catch.
Table 22.–Bering Sea commercial octopus incidental harvest, 1995–2017.

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Note: CF = confidential, NA = not available.

*a  Includes discards.

*b  Average price per pound, based on landed weight.
Figure 1.—Bristol Bay king crab commercial fishery Registration Area T.
Figure 2.—Bristol Bay red king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1966–2017/2018.
Figure 3.–Bering Sea king crab commercial fishery Registration Area Q.
Figure 4.–Saint Matthew Island section blue king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1977–2017/2018.
Figure 5.–Bering Sea District Tanner crab commercial fishery Registration Area J including subdistricts and sections.
Figure 6.–Bering Sea Tanner crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1974/1975–2017/2018.
Figure 7.—Bering Sea Snow crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1977/1978–2017/2018.
Figure 8.–North Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Dungeness crab Districts of Registration Area J.
Figure 9.–Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Tanner crab and miscellaneous shellfish Districts of Registration Area J.
SECTION II: ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SHELLFISH FISHERIES

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING CRAB MANAGEMENT AREA

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The Aleutian Islands king crab Registration Area O eastern boundary is the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44.72′W long), the northern boundary is a line from Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat) to 171°W long, north to 55°30′N lat, and the western boundary the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990 (Figure 10).

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB

The Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) stock is managed as two separate fisheries, east and west of 174°W long, with a separate TAC set for each fishery.

2017/2018 Fishery East of 174°W Longitude

The 2017/2018 Aleutian Islands Golden king crab fishery east of 174°W long (EAG) opened August 1 with a combined IFQ and CDQ TAC of 3,310,000 pounds (Table 23). TAC was allocated by NMFS as 90% IFQ (2,979,000 pounds) and 10% CDQ (331,000 pounds) with four of the six CDQ groups participating in the harvest of the CDQ allocation. Four vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 3,308,185 pounds, of which 1.6% was deadloss. Harvest occurred throughout the season, with the last delivery on March 25 (Table 24). Harvest by statistical week is largely confidential and therefore not shown in tables. On average, vessels were active in the fishery for 100 days. Harvesters were paid an initial average price of $3.59 per pound. Total exvessel fishery value was estimated to be $11,691,725 (Table 24).

Total effort for the 2017/2018 fishery was 24,617 pot lifts. CPUE was 31 legal crab per pot, equal to the post-rationalization (2005/2006–2016/2017) average CPUE of 31 (Table 23, Figure 11). Harvest was distributed across 24 ADF&G statistical reporting areas with the highest concentration of harvest (21%) occurring in ADF&G statistical area 705232, around the Islands of Four Mountains (Table 25).

EAG cost recovery was conducted by ADF&G in 2017 with 156,244 pounds (34,490 legal male crab) harvested. The 12-day charter occurred from September 5 to September 16 (Table 26).

Port Sampling

During the 2017/2018 EAG fishery, ADF&G personnel and onboard observers sampled golden king crab from vessels at shore-based processors in Akutan and Dutch Harbor. Biological data collected on landed golden king crab consisted of carapace length, shell condition, and average weight. Confidential interviews, supplemented by daily fishing log records, were conducted with vessel operators to acquire detailed information regarding statistical reporting areas fished, effort, and fishery performance. Data was collected by ADF&G port samplers and onboard observers.
from 26 of the 40 total landings (IFQ and CDQ) during the 2017/2018 EAG fishery. Average weight of sampled crab was 4.3 pounds while average carapace length was 150 mm (Table 23).

2017/2018 Fishery West of 174°W Longitude

The 2017/2018 Aleutian Islands Golden king crab fishery west of 174°W long (WAG) opened August 1 with a combined IFQ and CDQ TAC of 2,235,000 pounds (Table 23). TAC was allocated by NMFS as 90% IFQ (2,011,500 pounds) and 10% ACA (223,500 pounds). Three vessels participated in the fishery and harvested 2,234,723 pounds, of which 2.6% was deadloss. Harvest occurred throughout the season, with the last delivery on February 9 (Table 24). Harvest by statistical week is confidential and therefore not shown in tables. On average, vessels were active in the fishery for 163 days. Harvesters were paid an initial average price of $3.67 per pound. Total exvessel fishery value was estimated to be $7,997,779 (Table 24).

Total effort for the 2017/2018 fishery was 30,885 pot lifts. CPUE was 17 legal crab per pot, below the post-rationalization (2005/06–2016/17) average CPUE of 19 (Table 23, Figure 12). Harvest was distributed across 57 ADF&G statistical reporting areas; harvest by statistical area is confidential and therefore not shown in tables.

Port Sampling

During the 2017/2018 WAG fishery, ADF&G personnel and onboard observers sampled golden king crab from vessels at shorebased processors in Adak, Akutan, and Dutch Harbor. Biological data collected on landed golden king crab consisted of carapace length, shell condition, and average weight. Confidential interviews, supplemented by daily fishing log records, were conducted with vessel operators to acquire detailed information regarding statistical reporting areas fished, effort, and fishery performance. Data was collected by ADF&G port samplers and onboard observers from 24 of the 41 total landings (IFQ and CDQ) during the 2017/2018 WAG fishery. Average weight of sampled crab was 4.3 pounds while average carapace length was 150 mm (Table 23).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

The AIGKC fishery is managed under a constant-catch harvest strategy with TAC fixed in regulation both east and west of 174°W long (5 AAC 34.612). Only a small portion of the area in which golden king crab are commercially harvested has been surveyed. In 2014, methods testing for an industry cooperative in-fishery survey began. ADF&G personnel are deployed on eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishing vessels and survey pots are sampled on the first pull of the season. Survey efforts are funded by test-fishery funds. The in-fishery survey is still being tested with the goal that the data will be informative to the developing stock assessment model.

A stock assessment model is currently under development for Aleutian Islands golden king crab. When completed, this model could be used to generate estimates of abundance and other fishery parameters (M. S. M. Siddeek, Biometrician, ADF&G, Juneau, personal communication).

Further information on AIGKC stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2017 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions (NPFMC 2017a).
EASTERN ALEUTIAN TANNER CRAB DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The Eastern Aleutian District (EAD) for Tanner crab encompasses all waters of Registration Area J between the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44′W long), west to 172°W long, and south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat; Figure 13).

TANNER CRAB

2017 Commercial Fishery

The 2017 EAD commercial Tanner crab fishery was closed. The minimum mature male abundance thresholds necessary for a commercial fishery were not met in the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay or Akutan Bay Sections. The Makushin/Skan Bay Section exceeded the minimum mature male abundance threshold, but the calculated GHL was well below the minimum GHL of 35,000 pounds required to open the fishery (Tables 27 and 28).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

The EAD Tanner crab fishery has a total of 300 pots allowed in the fishery with no more than 50 pots per vessel; pots may be operated only from 8:00 a.m. until 5:59 p.m. Vessel length is restricted to 58 feet overall or less in the Unalaska Section. In the remainder of the EAD, vessel length is restricted to 58 feet overall or less when the GHL for Tanner crab is 1,000,000 pounds or less. The EAD Tanner crab fishery was not included in the crab rationalization program and remains an open access fishery. The harvest strategy is found in 5 AAC 35.509 Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab harvest strategy.

In August 2017, Akutan Bay, Unalaska/Kalekta Bay, and Makushin/Skan Bay were surveyed with trawl gear using the ADF&G R/V Resolution (Spalinger and Knutson 2018). Total estimated abundance was 10.1 million crab, a 272% increase from 2.7 million crab in 2016. The legal male abundance estimate of 0.129 million crab represents an increase of 215% from 0.041 million crab in 2016 but is well below the trawl survey time series average of 0.274 million crab (1990–2015). In 2017, the most notable increase in abundance from the 2016 survey was seen in the Unalaska/Kalekta Bay Section where the estimate of total crab abundance increased 376%.

SUBSISTENCE

2017 King and Tanner Fishery

In 2017, ADF&G issued 205 subsistence permits, of which 99, or 48%, were returned. The returned permits account for a reported harvest of 1,395 Tanner crab and 29 red king crab (Table 29). Harvest of Tanner crab ranged from 0 to 379 crab per permit holder and harvest of red king crab ranged from 0 to 10 crab per permit holder. Subsistence effort was primarily focused in Unalaska Bay. King and Tanner crab harvested in the EAD were taken with pot gear, though some users reported taking crab using SCUBA gear.
ALEUTIAN DISTRICT DUNGENESS CRAB

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The Aleutian District for Dungeness crab includes all waters of Registration Area J west of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44′W long), south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°35.89′N lat), and east of the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990 (Figure 8).

2017 FISHERY

No vessels registered to fish for Dungeness crab in the Aleutian Islands during 2017 (Table 30).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

The Aleutian Islands Dungeness crab fishery is managed using 3-S management (size, sex, and season). Only male Dungeness crab 6.5 inches (165 mm) or greater in carapace width may be retained in the Aleutian District from 12:00 noon May 1 to 11:59 p.m. October 31. No stock assessment is available and limited biological and fishery data have been collected through dockside sampling. Stock status of Dungeness crab in the Aleutian Islands is unknown, but the resource is believed to be limited by availability of suitable habitat.

ALEUTIAN DISTRICT MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The Aleutian Islands District of miscellaneous shellfish Registration Area J includes all waters south of the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat), west of the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44′W long), and east of the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990 (Figure 9).

2017 FISHERIES

Octopus

In 2017, harvest from state waters was 114,445 pounds from 15 vessels and 124 landings. Harvest from state and federal waters combined was 171,380 pounds from 86 vessels and 350 landings. All reported harvest was incidental to groundfish fisheries. Average exvessel value based on landed weight of octopus in 2017 was $0.30 per pound (Table 31).

Fishery Management and Stock Status

Octopus are considered a shellfish species under State of Alaska regulation. Limited directed fishing within state waters may occur under the authority of a commissioner’s permit; however, octopus are primarily retained as bycatch during state and federal groundfish fisheries. Currently, vessels may retain incidentally caught octopus up to 20% of the weight of the target groundfish species or halibut onboard. Most octopus are retained as bycatch in Pacific pot gear cod fisheries. Incidental harvest of octopus in the Aleutian Islands is dominated by giant Pacific octopus, *Enteroctopus dofleini*, although at least six other species of octopus are known to occur in the Aleutian Islands. There was no NMFS Aleutian Islands trawl survey conducted in 2017. Results from the 2016 NMFS Aleutian Islands trawl survey estimate octopus (all species) biomass at 8.5 million pounds with 98% of the estimate comprised of *E. dofleini*. Biomass estimates for...
octopus in the Aleutian Islands are highly variable and general knowledge of the stock is limited (Ormseth et al. 2018).

Further information on octopus stock status and federal overfishing levels may be found in the 2018 *Assessment of the Octopus Stock Complex in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands* (Ormseth et al. 2018).

**REFERENCES CITED**


TABLES AND FIGURES

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<td>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;b,c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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Note: CF = confidential, NA = not available.

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Guideline harvest level (GHL), total allowable catch (TAC) from 2005/2006 forward.
<sup>c</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>d</sup> Many vessels fished both east and west of 174°W long, thus total number of vessels reflects the entire Aleutian Islands.
<sup>e</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>f</sup> Carapace length in millimeters.
<sup>g</sup> Crab Rationalization begins.
<sup>h</sup> Retained catch.

<table>
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Table 24.—Page 2 of 3.

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Table 24.–Page 3 of 3.

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Note: CF = confidential.
<sup>a</sup> Average price per pound.
<sup>b</sup> Crab rationalization begins.
Table 25.—Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest by statistical area east of 174°W long, 2017/2018.

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<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>CPUE&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Weight&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>c</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>d</sup> Retained catch.
<sup>e</sup> Combination of statistical areas (19) in which landings were made by fewer than three vessels.

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<th>Deadloss(^a)</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Landings</th>
<th>Crab(^b)</th>
<th>Pots lifted</th>
<th>Average CPUE(^c)</th>
<th>Weight(^d)</th>
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\(^a\) In pounds
\(^b\) Deadloss included.
\(^c\) Number of legal crab per pot lift.
\(^d\) Retained catch.
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<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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Note: NA = not available, CF = confidential

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.

<sup>b</sup> Guideline harvest level (GHL).

<sup>c</sup> Deadloss included beginning 1980.

<sup>d</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.

<sup>e</sup> January/February survey (fish ticket harvest code 15, exploratory shellfish harvest).

<sup>f</sup> Vessel(s) participated in multiple sections.

<sup>g</sup> Retained catch.

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### Table 28.–Page 2 of 2.

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*Note: NA = not available, CF = confidential.*

a Average price per pound.
Table 29.–Subsistence king and Tanner crab harvest from the Eastern Aleutian Islands, west of Scotch Cap Light and east of 168ºW long, 1999–2017.

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<td>Number</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>1,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999–2017 Average</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>2,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a Reported harvest, in number of crab, from waters surrounding Unalaska Island.

b Includes permits issued for both shellfish and salmon.
Table 30.—Aleutian District Dungeness crab commercial fishery data, 1974–2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Harvest$^{a,b}$</th>
<th>Deadloss$^a$</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>Crab$^b$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>60,517</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976–1977</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982/83</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983/84</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984/85</td>
<td>91,739</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985/86</td>
<td>17,830</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986/87</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987/88</td>
<td>26,627</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988/89</td>
<td>22,915</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989/90</td>
<td>11,124</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990/91</td>
<td>17,482</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991/92</td>
<td>7,412</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992/93</td>
<td>5,649</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993/94</td>
<td>7,531</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994/95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995/96</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996/97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997/98</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-continued-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Harvest&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Deadloss&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
<td>Crab&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001/2002</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002/2003</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/2006</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: CF = confidential. NA = not available

<sup>a</sup> In pounds.
<sup>b</sup> Deadloss included.
<sup>c</sup> Number of legal crab per pot lift.
<sup>d</sup> Average price per pound.
<sup>e</sup> Harvested from a dock.
<sup>f</sup> Retained catch.
Table 31.—Aleutian Islands commercial octopus incidental harvest in groundfish fisheries, 1996–2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>State waters</th>
<th>State and federal waters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vessels</td>
<td>Landings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Includes discards.

<sup>b</sup> Average price per pound, based on landed weight.

<sup>c</sup> Includes directed octopus harvest from Commissioner's permit fishery.
Figure 10.—Aleutian Islands king crab commercial fishery Registration Area O.
Figure 11.–Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1981/1982–2017/2018.
Figure 12.—Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab commercial fishery harvest, catch per unit effort (CPUE; number legal males per pot), and number of vessels, 1981/1982–2017/2018.
Figure 13.—Eastern Aleutian District Tanner crab sections of Registration Area J.
SECTION III: BERING SEA–ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA AND ADAK
COMMUNITY ALLOCATION SHELLFISH FISHERIES

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

Bering Sea Community Development Quota (CDQ) crab fisheries occur within the state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi) north of Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat), south of Cape Prince of Wales (65°49′N lat), and east of the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990, including waters of Bristol Bay. For CDQ crab fisheries, managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Dutch Harbor office, Cape Romanzof (61°49′N lat) is the northern boundary (Figures 1, 3, and 5).

Aleutian Islands CDQ and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) crab fisheries encompass state waters of Alaska (0–3 nmi) and waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; 3–200 nmi). The CDQ crab fisheries eastern boundary is the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44′W long), the northern boundary from Cape Sarichef (54°36′N lat) to 171°W long, then north to 55°30′N lat, and the western boundary the United States–Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1990. The ACA fishery occurs west of 174°W long (Figure 10).

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted regulations for BSAI king and Tanner crab CDQ fisheries in 1997, and the first CDQ crab fisheries took place in 1998. With the implementation of crab rationalization in 2005, the BOF adopted regulations to implement changes to the CDQ management program (5 AAC 39.690), including the addition of Aleutian Islands crab fisheries to the CDQ crab program. ADF&G manages the CDQ crab fisheries with federal oversight.

Sixty-five western Alaska coastal communities aligned into six CDQ organizations, collectively referred to as CDQ groups. The groups are as follows: Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA), Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association (CBSFA), Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF), Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA).

CDQ groups are nonprofit entities, which may have for-profit subsidiaries. Use of CDQ funds vary widely between groups but often include fishing-related investments, scholarships, training, employment services, and other projects which are intended to benefit the communities and regions the CDQ groups represent. Some groups purchase equity in fishing vessels that harvest crab in both CDQ and individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries.

Each of the six CDQ groups participates in at least one CDQ fishery every year, although each group does not necessarily have an allocation for each fishery (Table 32). Groups may choose not to participate or transfer their allocation to another group. This report addresses all CDQ crab
fisheries histories and allocations except the Norton Sound CDQ red king crab fishery, which is managed by ADF&G’s Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region.

In conjunction with the changes to the CDQ program during crab rationalization, the BOF adopted regulations for an Adak Community Allocation (ACA) Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. The program was established to benefit the community of Adak, who formed the Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC). ACDC is a nonprofit entity that represents the community of Adak and has a board of directors elected by the residents of Adak. The ACA crab allocation is not a CDQ fishery, as Adak is not a CDQ community. ACDC must submit a comprehensive plan to the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development on the intended use of the ACA funds derived from harvesting the ACA golden king crab. The funds are intended for fisheries-related purposes and other projects to benefit the community of Adak.

The ACA is set at 10% of the TAC of the Western Aleutian Islands (west of 174°W long) golden king crab fishery. This fishery opened for the first time in August 2005.

**CURRENT FISHERY**

CDQ groups are required to submit preseason fishery plans to ADF&G prior to each CDQ crab fishery. Fishery plans include information such as participating vessels and their contact information, intended delivery locations, and the group’s allocation including quota transfers to other CDQ entities. Almost all CDQ harvest is taken concurrently with IFQ harvest. Fishermen generally use the same gear to harvest IFQ and CDQ crab.
Table 32.—Community Development Quota (CDQ) and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) program percent allocation by fishery to each group, 2003–2017/2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishery</th>
<th>APICDA</th>
<th>BBEDC</th>
<th>CBSFA</th>
<th>CVRF</th>
<th>NSEDC</th>
<th>YDFDA</th>
<th>ACDC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Bay Red King Crab</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pribilof Red &amp; Blue King Crab</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Matthew Blue King Crab</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton Sound Red King Crab</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bering Sea Tanner Crab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bering Sea Snow Crab</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleutian Islands Red King Crab (west of 179°W long)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (east of 174°W long)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (west of 174°W long)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*APICDA (Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association).
BBEDC (Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation).
CBSFA (Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association).
CVRF (Coastal Villages Region Fund).
NSEDC (Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation).
YDFDA (Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association).
ACDC (Adak Community Development Corporation).

* Aleutian Islands red king crab west of 179°W long and Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab east of 174°W long were not part of the CDQ program until the initiation of Crab Rationalization in the 2005/2006 season.