

2025/26 Stock Status Determination for Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

Tyler Jackson
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, tyler.jackson@alaska.gov

August 2026

Summary

The full assessment of Aleutian Islands golden king crab (AIGKC) was conducted in May 2026 (Jackson 2026). Directed fisheries were completed at the time of the assessment, but groundfish bycatch fisheries were ongoing. This document updates the full assessment with final stock status determination for the 2025/26 crab year (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) relative to completed estimates of fishing mortality and associated biological reference points. The May 2025 assessment determined the overfishing limit (OFL) for 2025/26 season to be 3.166 t (6.980 million lb) with an acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 2.3744 t (5.234 million lb). Completed total fishery removals for the 2025/26 season were 2,040 t (4.498 million lb), consisting of 1,943 t (4.284 million lb) retained catch, 61.38 t (0.135 million lb) discard mortality in the directed fishery, and 36.22 t (0.080 million lb) bycatch mortality in groundfish fisheries. Since total fishery-related mortality was less than the OFL for 2025/26, **overfishing did not occur**.

The following two tables update the management performance tables presented in the May 2026 SAFE Report with completed fishery estimates of retained and total catch for 2025/26

Status and catch specifications for models EAG and WAG combined. Model 26.0a was used for 2025/26 reference points.

1000 t

Year	MSST	Biomass		Retained		Total	
		(MMB _{mat})	TAC	Catch	Catch	OFL	ABC
2022/23	5.832	13.600	2.291	2.369	2.612	3.761	2.821
2023/24	5.772	12.716	2.508	2.578	2.765	4.182	3.137
2024/25	5.632	11.087	2.214	2.287	2.426	3.725	2.794
2025/26	5.579	10.858	1.901	1.943	2.040	3.166	2.374
2026/27		10.670				3.493	2.620

Million lb

Year	MSST	Biomass		Retained		Total	
		(MMB _{mat})	TAC	Catch	Catch	OFL	ABC
2022/23	12.857	29.983	5.051	5.223	5.758	8.292	6.219
2023/24	12.725	28.034	5.530	5.684	6.096	9.220	6.916
2024/25	12.417	24.443	4.881	5.042	5.348	8.212	6.159
2025/26	12.300	23.938	4.191	4.284	4.498	6.980	5.234
2026/27		23.523				7.701	5.776

2022/23 refence points were estimated before the WAG fishery was completed.

2023/24 refence points were estimated before EAG and WAG fisheries were completed.

2025/26 refence points were estimated before EAG fishery was completed.

Literature

Jackson, T. 2026. Aleutian Islands golden king crab stock assessment 2026. North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, AK.