



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL February 2026

Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands crab fisheries: The overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) are set by the Council and ADF&G sets the total allowable catch (TAC) or guideline harvest level (GHL) so that total removals do not exceed the ABC.

Aleutian Islands golden king crab: The 2025/26 Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opened on August 1, 2025, for the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ), and Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. All fisheries close by regulation on April 30, 2026.

The 2025/26 season Aleutian Islands golden king crab TAC is 4.19 million pounds, apportioned east and west of 174° west longitude (Figure 1). The Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (EAG) TAC is 3.32 million pounds, and the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG) TAC is 0.87 million pounds. Ten percent of the EAG TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery and ten percent of the WAG TAC is allocated to the ACA fishery. Individual area harvest is confidential but across both areas, total harvest is 3.5 million pounds by four vessels, and one vessel remains active in the fishery.

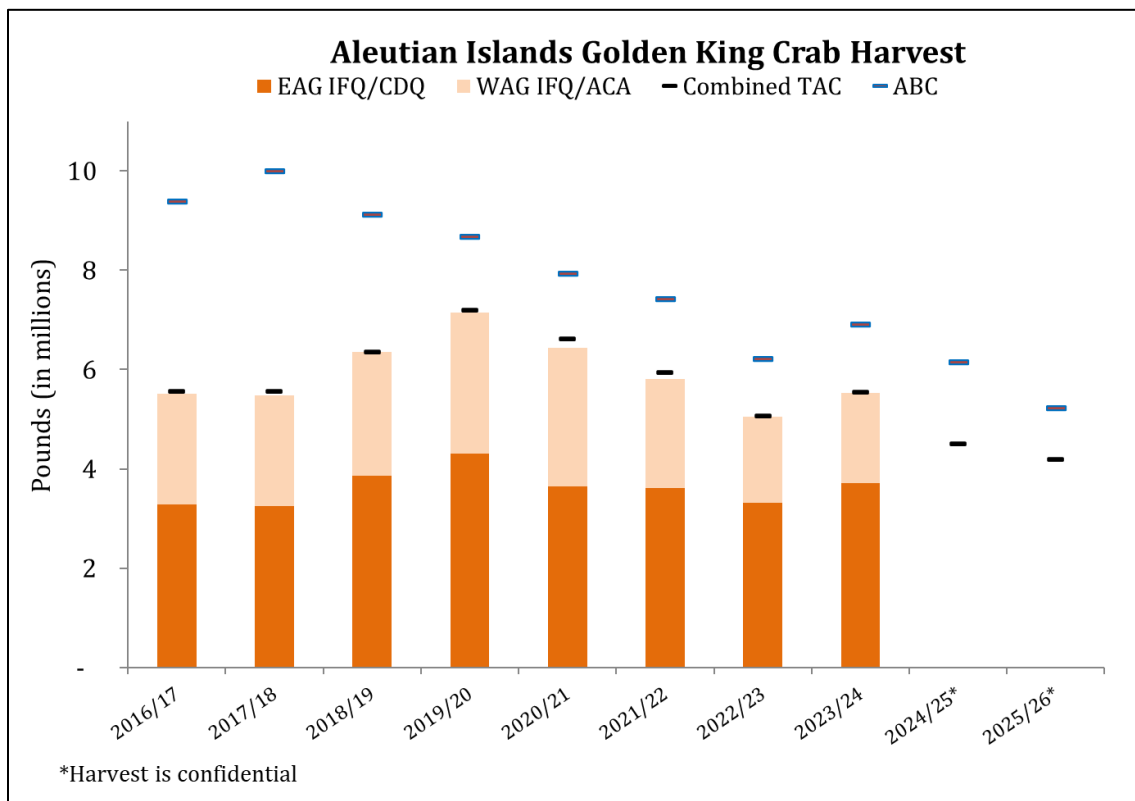


Figure 1. Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest by area, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

New regulations adopted at the March 2025 Board of Fisheries meeting established an open-access commercial fishery for golden king crab in state waters east of 169° W long. The GHL for the state-waters fishery is 50,000 pounds and the season opened on September 1, 2025. Pot vessels must be 58

feet or less in overall length to participate in the fishery. The fishery has a maximum pot limit of 400 pots and based on the number of vessels registered for the fishery, each vessel may use no more than 90 pots. One vessel participated in the fishery and limited harvest occurred.

Norton Sound Red King Crab: The department set the 2026 Norton Sound red king crab harvest at 8.4% of the estimated legal male biomass yielding a total GHF of 268,000 pounds (Figure 2). The CDQ fishery is allocated 7.5% of the GHF or 20,100 pounds. The GHF for the winter commercial fishery is 8% of the total GHF or 21,440 pounds.

The 2026 winter commercial fishery opens on February 1 and closes when the GHF is achieved or by regulation on April 30. Any remaining winter GHF may be rolled over to the summer season which opens on June 15.

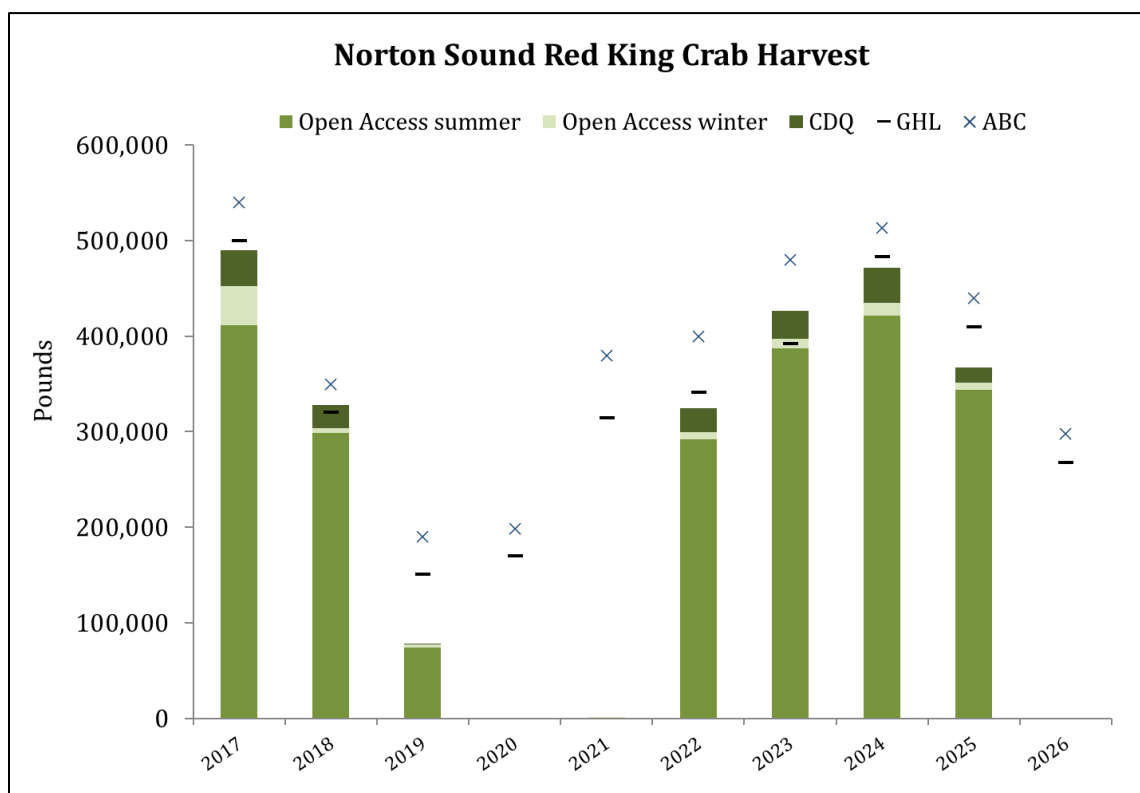


Figure 2. Norton Sound red king crab harvest by fishery, 2017-2026 seasons.

Bristol Bay red king crab: The 2025/26 Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on October 15, with a TAC of 2.68 million pounds (Figure 3). Ten percent of the TAC is allocated to the CDQ fishery or 267,996 pounds. Thirty-seven vessels participated this season, up from 21 in 2024/25. The fleet harvested 100% of the CDQ allocation and 99% of the IFQ allocation. Catch rates this season averaged 29 crab per pot, similar to the 2024/25 season average catch rate of 30 crab per pot.

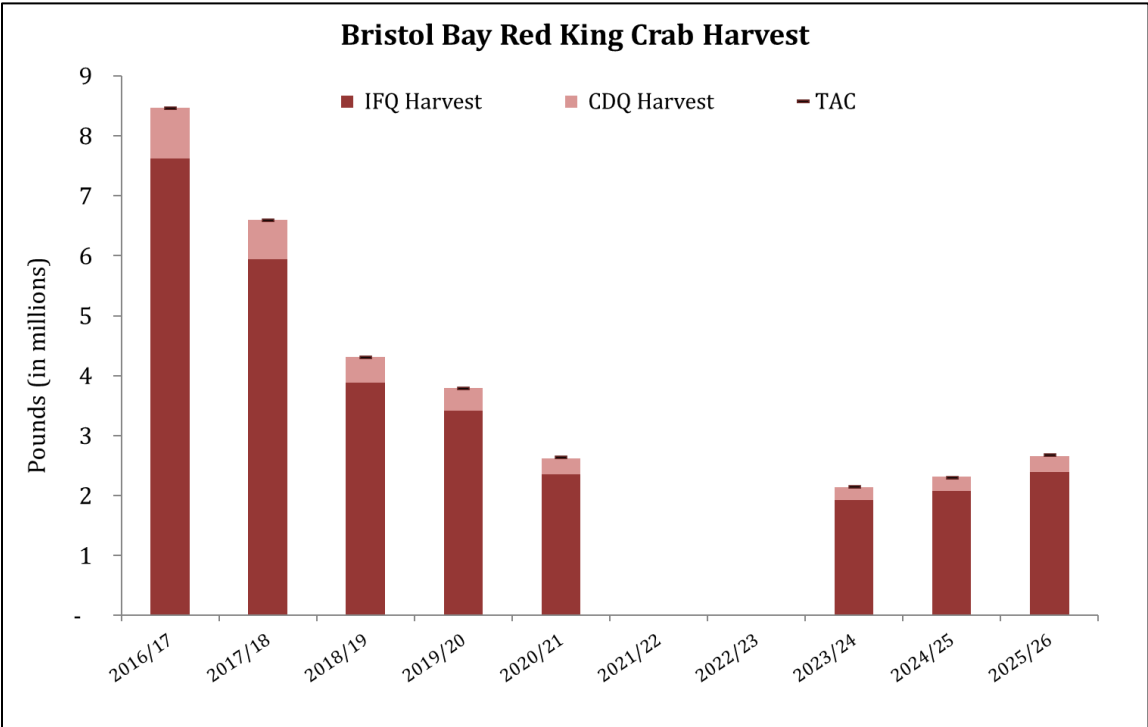


Figure 3. Bristol Bay red king crab harvest, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Bering Sea Tanner crab: The 2025/26 Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery opened in both the western area, west of 166° W longitude, and eastern area, between 166° W longitude and 163° W longitude, on October 15. The TAC in the western area is 10.12 million pounds and the TAC in the eastern area is 1.13 million pounds; 10% of the TAC in each area is allocated to the CDQ fishery. Through January 23, vessels harvested 58% of the eastern TAC and 38% of the western TAC (Figure 4). The fishery closes by regulation on March 31.

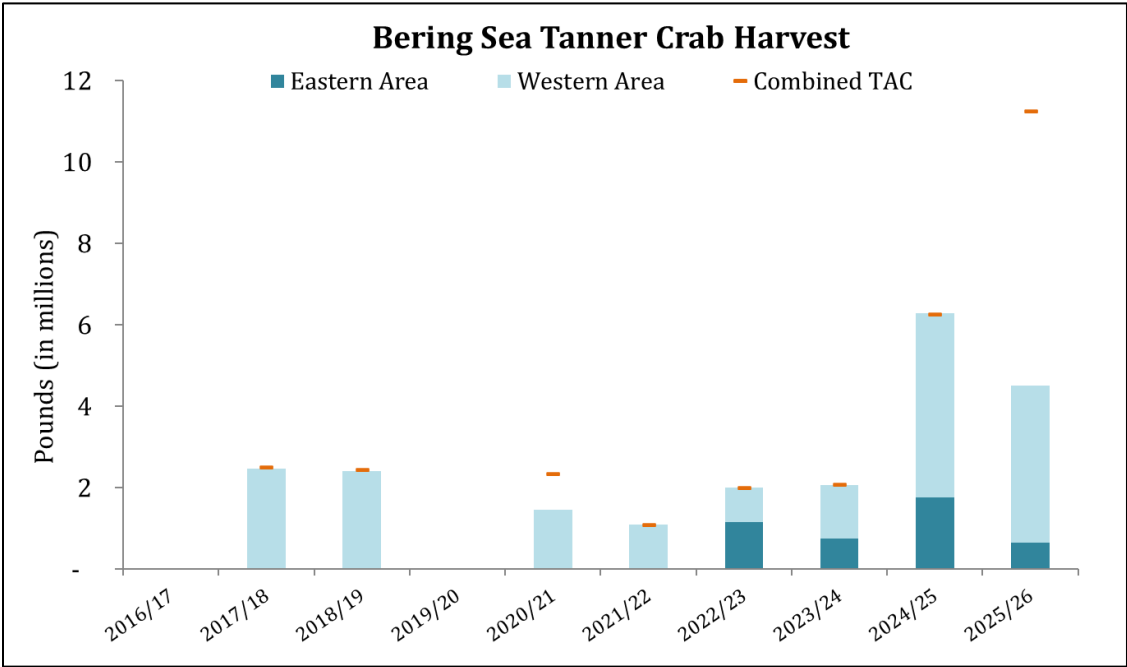


Figure 4. Bering Sea Tanner crab harvest by area, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Eastern Bering Sea snow crab: The 2025/26 Eastern Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened on October 15 with a TAC of 9.3 million pounds (Figure 5). Ten vessels are currently registered and limited landings have occurred.

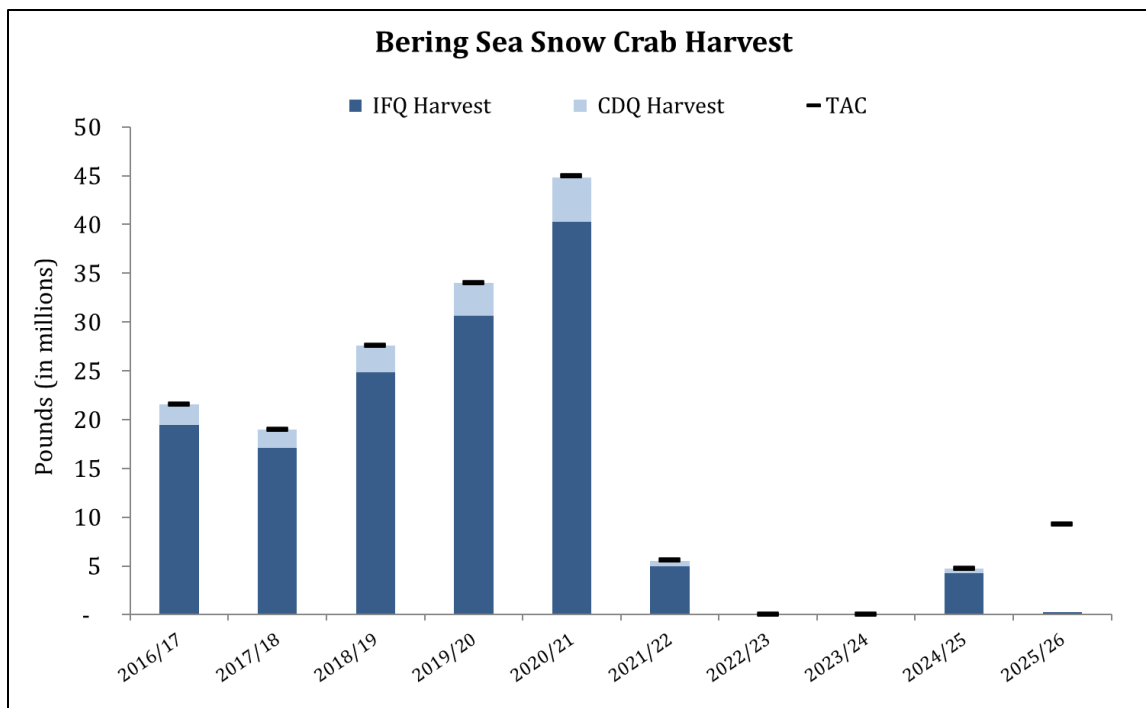


Figure 6. Eastern Bering sea snow crab harvest, 2016/17-2025/26 seasons.

Pollock: The state-waters directed pollock fishery occurs in Prince William Sound (PWS) and opened on January 20 with a GHL of 7.3 million pounds. Vessels must adhere to trip limits of 300,000 pounds of pollock, logbooks are required for every trip, and there is mandatory retention of all rockfish, salmon, and pollock. Total bycatch is limited to 5% or less of the total pollock harvested. The bycatch allowance is apportioned into three species groups: rockfish (0.5% or 36,600 pounds), salmon (0.04% or 739 fish), and other species (4.46% or 327,000 pounds). The Inside District is divided into three sections: Hinchinbrook, Knight Island, and Bainbridge with rockfish and salmon harvest from any section restricted to 60% of the fishery bycatch cap.

The Hinchinbrook Section closed on January 26 due to reaching the 60% rockfish section cap of 22,000 pounds. Pollock fishing remains open in the Bainbridge and Knight Island Sections.

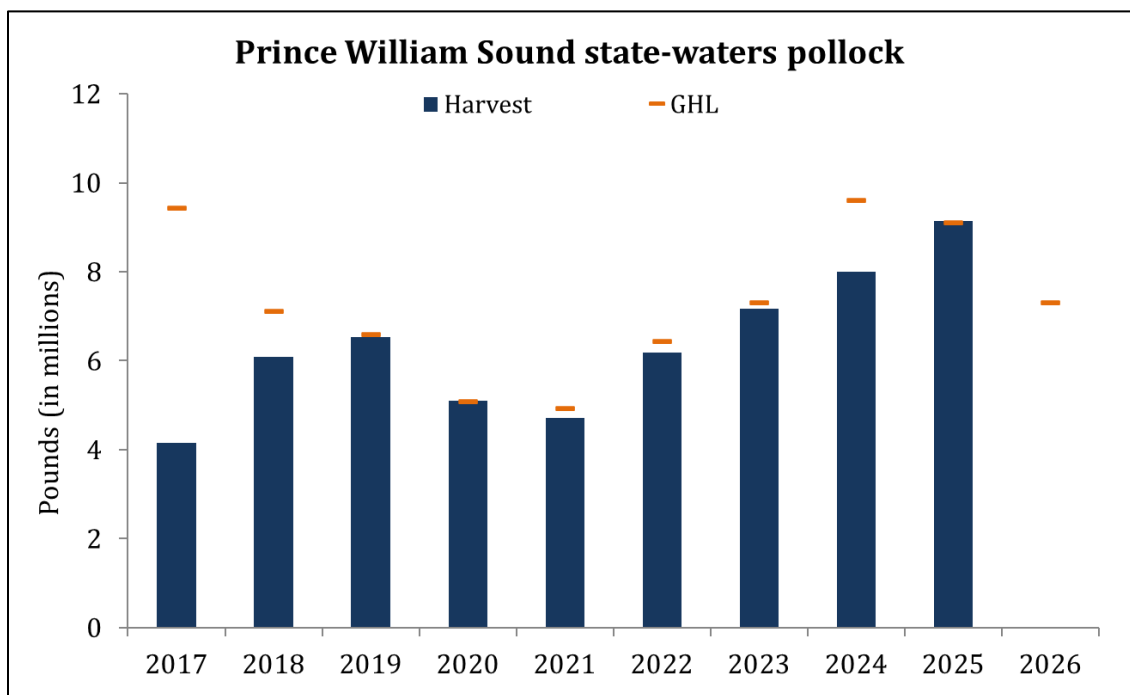


Figure 7. Prince William Sound pollock harvest and GHL, 2017-2026.

Pacific cod: State-water Pacific cod fisheries are established in PWS, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Areas. State regulations establish the GHLs as a percentage of the Pacific cod area ABCs (Table 1). ADF&G will issue Advisory Announcements with updated GHLs if the Council recommends revised federal catch limits based on the GOA Pacific cod stock assessment.

Table 1. Guideline harvest levels for the state-water Pacific cod fisheries by gear and area, 2026.

State Water Pacific Cod GHL and Harvest					
State Management Area	ABC and GHL percentage in regulation		Gear	2026 GHL (pounds)	2026 GHL (mt)
Prince William Sound	EGOA - 25%		Jig/Pot	833,000	378
			Longline	682,000	309
Chignik	CGOA - 25%	8.75%	Jig	371,588	169
Pot			3,344,293	1,517	
Kodiak		12.50%	Jig	2,654,201	1,204
			Pot	2,654,201	1,204
Cook Inlet		3.75%	Jig	237,737	108
			Pot	1,354,000	614
South Alaska Peninsula	WGOA - 35%		Jig	946,997	430
			Pot	5,366,316	2,434
Dutch Harbor Subdistrict	Bering Sea - 13%		Jig	100,000	45
Pot			40,559,000	18,397	
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict	Aleutian Islands - 31%		All	8,866,000	4,022

*AI Subdistrict GHL is capped at 15 million pounds (6,804 mt)

Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik finfish [meeting](#), February 18-24, 2026, Anchorage. Deadline for pre-meeting comments is February 3, 2026.

Statewide finfish and supplemental issues [meeting](#), March 17-20, 2026, Anchorage. The deadline for pre-meeting comments is March 2, 2026.

PROPOSAL 11: Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W longitude.

PROPOSAL 163: Define all trawl gear operated inside state waters as non-pelagic and develop new performance and monitoring standards to allow state-waters pelagic trawling to occur on a case-by-case basis.

PROPOSAL 164: Establish bottom contact monitoring requirements for pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 165: Establish salmon excluder requirements for all pelagic trawl gear operated inside state waters.

PROPOSAL 166: Amend statewide definition of a mechanical jigging machine.

PROPOSAL 167: Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear.

PROPOSAL 168: Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery.

PROPOSAL 169: Create a definition of groundfish coil spring or 'slinky pot'.

PROPOSAL 186: Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity with drift gillnet gear in the Central District of the Cook Inlet Area.