



Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Report

**Fishing Year 2007/08
July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008**



Crabbers and Catch

Photograph courtesy of B. Large

September 2008

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
Crab Rationalization Program Report
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NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region
Restricted Access Management (RAM)

September 2008

Purpose and Acknowledgments

This Crab Rationalization Program Report for Crab-Fishing Year 2007/08 provides a summary of the third year of Alaska's Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program (Program). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) requested this report on program activities, which includes application/appeals processing, quota issuance and distribution, arbitration, harvesting, processing, quota transfers, cost recovery fees, reporting, compliance monitoring, safety, community protection measures, and other Program features.

The report was developed by staff of the NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program, also a significant data provider. Other major contributors and data sources include (in alphabetic order) the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff and reports; NOAA Fisheries (Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Office of Administrative Appeals [OAA], Office of Law Enforcement [OLE], and Sustainable Fisheries Division); the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report (Crab SAFE) for the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions, September 2007; and the United States Coast Guard.

Although RAM staff compiled this report with the help of many contributors, data in this report primarily reflect RAM Program data and may differ slightly from other published materials.

Agency staff would like to acknowledge industry's continued outstanding support and cooperation in implementing and administering the Program.

Photography Credits

Photography is courtesy of NOAA Fisheries, ADF&G, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Cover photography is courtesy of B. Large, Alaska fisherman-photographer, whose at-sea photography was featured at *Alaska Positive 2008*, the statewide photography-as-art exhibition organized by the Alaska State Museum.

Notes on This Report

Confidentiality

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (P.L. 109-479), fishery information required to be submitted under Fishery Management Plans, including landings data, is confidential. NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-100 is the principal guidance for NOAA Fisheries employees on protocols for handling confidential data. To assure confidentiality, data must be structured or aggregated so that the identity of the submitter cannot be determined from the present release of the data or in combination with other releases. "Submitter" is applied in context for the specific data presented. Data provided by the State of Alaska may have another standard applied, as required by State statute and policy.

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Abbreviations

ACDC	Adak Community Development Corporation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
BSAI	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands
CDQ	Community Development Quota
CFVS	USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program
CMP	Catch Monitoring Plan
CPC	Catcher Processor Crew
CPO	Catcher Processor Owner
CR	Crab Rationalization
CVC	Catcher Vessel Crew
CVO	Catcher Vessel Owner
EDR	Economic Data Report
ECC	Eligible Crab Community
ECCO	Eligible Crab Community Organization
FCVP	Federal Crab Vessel Permit
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
IPQ	Individual Processing Quota
LLP	License Limitation Program
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NA	Not applicable (in tables)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service, also known as NOAA Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries Service	Also known as NMFS
OR	Official Record
PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
PQS	Processor Quota Share
QS	Quota Share (Harvesting)
RCR	Registered Crab Receiver
ROFR	Right of First Refusal
SAR	Search and Rescue
SCC	Safety Compliance Check
SFP	Stationary Floating Processor
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

CR Fisheries

BBR	Bristol Bay red king crab (<i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i>)
BSS	Bering Sea snow crab (<i>Chionoecetes opilio</i>)
BST	Bering Sea Tanner crab (<i>C. bairdi</i>)
EAG	Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab (<i>Lithodes aequispinus</i>)
EBT	Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab (<i>C. bairdi</i>)
PIK	Pribilof Islands red/blue king crab (<i>P. camtschaticus/P. platypus</i>)
SMB	St. Matthew Island blue king crab (<i>P. platypus</i>)
WAG	Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (<i>L. aequispinus</i>)
WAI	Western Aleutian Islands red king crab (<i>P. camtschaticus</i>)
WBT	West Bering Sea Tanner crab (<i>C. bairdi</i>)

Chapter 1 The 2007/08 Crab Rationalization Program

In January 2004 the U.S. Congress amended §313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–199, section 801) to mandate the Secretary of Commerce implement by regulation the Program as recommended by the Council. NOAA Fisheries published a final rule to implement the Program on March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10174). Crab fishing under the Program began when the first rationalized fisheries opened on August 15, 2005.

The Appendix contains an overview of the Program as originally implemented and a summary of significant changes over time.

Changes to the Crab Rationalization Program, 2007/08

NMFS made no changes to the regulations implementing the Crab Rationalization Program for the 2007/08 crab-fishing year.

Significant Events, Crab Year 2007/08

In the 2007/08 fishing year, no significant events occurred in the CR fisheries.

Detailed information about other changes (regulatory and FMP amendments and corrections) in the Crab Rationalization Program is on our website at the following address:

<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm>.



Juvenile Red King Crab

ADF&G

Chapter 2 CDQ and Adak Fisheries

CDQ Fishery

The CDQ Program was created by the Council in 1992 to provide western Alaska communities an opportunity to participate in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) fisheries that had been foreclosed to them because of the high capital investment needed to enter the fisheries. The Program includes all pre-existing CDQ crab allocations except for Norton Sound, created new CDQ allocations for the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab and the Western Aleutian Islands red king crab fisheries, and increased CDQ crab allocations to 10% of the TAC. CDQ fisheries are managed as commercial fisheries by the State under authority deferred to it under the FMP. The State has the following varied duties:

- ✓ establishes observer coverage and permitting requirements;
- ✓ establishes transfer provisions among the CDQ groups;
- ✓ monitors catch to determine when CDQ allocations have been reached; and
- ✓ enforces penalties associated with CDQ overages.

Under the Program, compliance monitoring is shared among the State, NOAA Fisheries, OLE, and the USCG. The USCG also provides critical search and rescue services.

Crab harvested under CDQ allocations (other than Norton Sound king crab) are subject to most Federal requirements that apply to all Program fisheries, including permitting, recordkeeping and reporting, a vessel monitoring system (VMS), and cost recovery fees.

Quota Share (QS) or IFQ are not needed. CDQ crab fishing is under an authorized CDQ Group's CDQ crab allocation, and all crab must be delivered to a Registered Crab Receiver (RCR). An RCR does not need IPQ to receive CDQ crab.

CDQ groups also may participate in the Program's IFQ/IPQ fisheries as holders of both QS and PQS. First, some CDQ groups were initial recipients of QS through LLP license holdings. In addition, CDQ groups may receive QS or PQS by transfer, subject to use caps.

CDQ Legislation and Program Changes

During 2006 and 2007 Congress substantially modified many aspects of the CDQ Program. Section 305 (i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act was amended on July 11, 2006 by the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act (Coast Guard Act) (Public Law 109-241) and again on January 12, 2007, by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-479). These changes included elements associated with CDQ allocations, program oversight, community eligibility, investment limitations, and fisheries management. This last element is associated with ensuring that the CDQ fisheries are not managed more restrictively than comparable IFQ fisheries or other fisheries managed with cooperatives. NMFS has not identified any Federal regulations governing the crab CDQ fishery that are more restrictive than those in effect for the crab IFQ fishery. Therefore, no changes are proposed to Federal regulations governing the crab CDQ fisheries as a result of the legislation.

One significant program change identified in the 2006 and 2007 Congressional legislation on the CDQ Program is the option for voluntary transfer of BSAI crab after landing and processing. For BSAI crab managed under the Crab Rationalization Program, all transfer of CDQ crab must be completed prior to a landing. Since Federal regulation does not govern the transfer of crab, the State of Alaska, Board of Fish has proposed changes to regulations to allow for postseason transfers of CDQ crab at 5 AAC 39.690(d)(6)(D). The regulations propose that any CDQ group that retains crab taken in excess of its allocation may have quota voluntarily transferred to them from another CDQ group with available crab CDQ no later than June 30 of the current allocation year. This will allow CDQ groups to avoid

enforcement actions associated with inseason crab CDQ overages, but still constrain the CDQ Program to its annual crab CDQ allocations.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show CDQ harvests and vessel participation. ADF&G is the source for data in both tables.

Table 2.1 Crab CDQ allocations and harvests, pre- and postrationalization*

Years ^a	Allocation harvest ^a	BBR	BSS ^a	BST	EAG ^b	EBT ^c	WBT ^c
2003	Allocation	1,167,040	2,120,637	Fishery Closed ^d	NA ^e	NA ^e	NA ^e
	Harvest	1,166,662	2,118,899				
2004	Allocation	1,135,326	1,782,081	Fishery Closed ^d			
	Harvest	1,133,013	1,772,222				
2005	Allocation	NA ^e	1,856,337	Fishery Closed ^d			
	Harvest		1,855,841				
Rationalized Fisheries							
2005/06	Allocation	1,832,900	3,718,400	162,000	300,000	Fishery Closed	BST Fishery
	Harvest	1,830,881	3,717,744	161,572	*		
2006/07	Allocation	1,552,700	3,656,600	NA ^e	300,000	187,500	109,400
	Harvest	1,552,135	3,655,780		*	135,458	86,952
2007/08	Allocation	2,038,300	6,303,400	NA ^e	300,000	344,500	217,600
	Harvest	2,038,285	6,303,306		300,000	163,596	56,520

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries) *PIK, SMB, and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during these years.

The asterisk (*) represents confidential data. State data are confidential if fewer than four entities participated.

^a The 2005 BSS fishery began before the program took effect, so there are two separate harvest and allocation data rows for BSS 2005 and BSS 2005/06 fisheries (first 2005 BSS fishery = Jan 27, 2005–March 23, 2005; second 2005/06 BSS fishery = Oct 15, 2005– May 31, 2006).

^b EAG and Adak were added to the CDQ Program fisheries in the 2005/06 rationalized fishing year.

^c Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^d “Fishery Closed” = no GHl or TAC assigned to fishery.

^e “NA” = not applicable. In the 2006/07 and 2007/08 seasons, the Bering Sea bairdi Tanner fisheries are managed as EBT and WBT (see table note c). The BBR fishery became a rationalized CDQ fishery in the 2005/06 fishing year.

Table 2.2 Number of vessels participating in CDQ and ACA crab fisheries, pre- and post-rationalization*

Years ^a	BBR	BSS ^a	EAG	BST ^b	EBT ^b	WAG ^c	WBT ^b
2003	13	10	0	Closed	Formerly BST Fishery	No WAG ACA fishery before 2005/06	Formerly BST Fishery
2004	12	10	0	Closed			
2005 ^a	NA ^d	9	NA ^d	NA ^d			
2005/06	13	15	3	6 ^e			
2006/07 ^c	13	12	3	NA ^{b,d}	4	*	8
2007/08	10	15	3	NA ^{b,d}	3	*	6

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries) *PIK, SMB, and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during this period.

^a The 2005 BSS fishery began before the program took effect, so there are two separate harvest and allocation data rows for BSS 2005 and BSS 2005/06 fisheries (first 2005 BSS fishery = Jan 27, 2005–March 23, 2005; second 2005/06 BSS fishery = Oct 15, 2005– May 31, 2006).

^b Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^c WAG is an Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery; 10% of WAG golden king crab TAC is allocated to Adak.

^d NA = not applicable. Bering Sea bairdi Tanner fisheries are managed as EBT and WBT (see table note b). BBR and EAG became CR fisheries in the 2005/06 fishing year.

^e During 2005/06, the Western district of the BST fishery was the only one open; the Eastern district was closed to fishing.

Adak Community Allocation

Fishery Facts, 2007/08

Oversight: State managed commercial fishery (under FMP)

Allocation: 10% of WAG golden king crab TAC

Allocation in pounds: 270,000

Harvest: Confidential

Number of Vessels Used: Confidential

Nonprofit representation: ACDC

Protections: “Cooling Off,” which ended after the second Program year.

Under the Program, the community of Adak receives an annual allocation of 10 percent of the TAC of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab (WAG). The WAG fishery allocation is in an amount almost equal to the unused resource (12%) during the qualifying period.

As the nonprofit entity representing the community, the Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC) receives the allocation. ACDC expects to use proceeds from the Adak crab allocation to contribute to the community boat harbor and fishery-related facilities. The State manages the fishery and provides an implementation review to the Council to ensure benefits derived from the allocation accrue to the community and achieve goals of the fisheries development plan.

The State has similar authority for this fishery as for the CDQ fisheries. For Adak crab, IFQ and IPQ are not required to harvest or receive Adak crab (respectively). Adak crab must be delivered to an RCR. Crab harvested under the Adak allocation is subject to State, OLE, and USCG compliance monitoring, including VMS and cost recovery fees.

Because of population size and number of individuals fishing and receiving crab, participation and harvest data for Adak remain confidential. From 2005/06 through 2007/08, crab harvested under this allocation was processed in Adak and Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.

Chapter 3 Quota Fisheries (IFQ and IPQ)

Under the Quota fisheries, applicants had a one-time closed period in which to apply for harvesting and processing QS. Holders of QS or PQS apply each year by August 1 for an annual allocation of IFQ or IPQ; As part of that application, IFQ holders can assign their allocation for each fishery to a cooperative. Only persons who were eligible and who applied in a timely manner were issued QS or PQS initially.

The Initial QS/PQS Application Process

Application Process

NOAA Fisheries required participants in the crab fisheries to submit applications to receive QS and PQS initially. The application period lasted 60 days and ended June 3, 2005.

To support QS and PQS eligibility determinations, RAM assembled an Official Record (OR), comprised of the best available State and Federal licensing, landing, processing, vessel ownership, and LLP permit information.

Application Processing

RAM received and processed applications from 544 distinct applicants for one or more types of quota in the eight original crab quota fisheries.

Applicants were free to dispute RAM's initial findings but had the burden of proof of their claims. RAM provided applicants written notice and a 30-day period in which to submit supporting evidence. At the end of the evidentiary period, claims that remained unsubstantiated were denied in an Initial Administrative Determination (IAD), and applicants received one 60-day opportunity to appeal unapproved claims to the Office of Administrative Appeals (OAA).

No disputed QS/PQS is issued until an applicant's due process rights are completely satisfied and Final Agency Action is taken on the claim.

Results of the Application Process

Of 544 initial applicants, 510 distinct persons have been issued some type of QS or PQS. Numbers of initial issues of QS/PQS change as appeals are adjudicated.

Twenty-six applications denied by RAM have been appealed to the OAA. To date, 18 cases related to eligibility for initial QS or PQS, and 8 related to other issues. Of the 26 appeals, 2 were dismissed, and, as of September 2008, OAA had published 14 Decisions. Table 3.1 shows the results of those Decisions.

Table 3.1 OAA CR Appeal Decisions

Appeals		
	Initial QS/PQS Eligibility^a	Other^b
Affirmed	10	5
Vacated	2	—
Dismissed	—	2
Pending	6	1

^a "Eligibility" means decisions based on eligibility for QS/PQS.

^b To date, "Other" includes one related to sideboard restrictions, five untimely annual IFQ/IPQ appeals, one exception for PQS/IPQ use requirements under the "Cooling Off" provision, and one region for PQS issued.

2007/08 Seasons, Caps, TACs, Pools, and Permits

Table 3.2 shows the 2007/08 crab-fishing season dates for each fishery.

Table 3.2 Crab-fishing seasons, 2007/08

BSAI crab fishery	Opening	Closing	Program fishery and allocation types
BBR	Oct 15, 2007	January 15, 2008	IFQ/CDQ
BSS	Oct 15, 2007	May 15, 2008 East Sub District May 31, 2008 West Sub District	IFQ/CDQ
EAG	Aug 15, 2007	May 15, 2008	IFQ/CDQ
EBT ^a	Oct 15, 2007	March 31, 2008	IFQ/CDQ
PIK	Closed		
SMB	Closed		
WAG	Aug 15, 2007	May 15, 2008	IFQ/Adak
WAI	Closed		
WBT ^a	Oct 15, 2007	March 31, 2008	IFQ / CDQ

^a Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

Use and Vessel Caps

To prevent excessive share consolidation or control, use caps limit the amount of QS/IFQ and PQS/IPQ a person may hold and use. The type of use cap that applies depends on the type of person that holds the quota. Most use caps are evaluated “individually and collectively,” which means that a portion of the quota held by a shareholder, partner, or other owner of a nonindividual quotaholder is counted for that owner, in proportion to his or her ownership in the quota-holding entity. In the case of Processor Quota, “affiliation” with other quotaholders is considered; 100 percent of all PQS holdings of affiliated persons are counted for the cap of each affiliated person. Vessel caps are meant to prevent overconsolidation of vessels while providing an exemption to encourage use of cooperatives.

Table 3.3 shows the number of pounds that could be harvested on a vessel, unless that vessel was used to harvest only crew or cooperative IFQ.

Table 3.3 Crab-year vessel IFQ caps, 2007/08

Crab QS fishery	Vessel use cap percent of harvesting IFQ TAC	Harvesting IFQ TAC in raw crab pounds	Vessel use cap in raw crab pounds
BBR	2%	18,344,700	366,894
BSS	2%	56,730,600	1,134,612
EBT ^a	2%	3,100,500	62,010
WBT ^a	2%	1,958,400	39,168
PIK ^b	4%	Closed	Closed
SMB ^b	4%	Closed	Closed
EAG	20%	2,700,000	540,000
WAG	20%	2,430,000	486,000
WAI ^b	20%	Closed	Closed

^a Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^b The State of Alaska closed these fisheries.

More information about annual use and vessel caps is available at the following website:

<http://www.alaskafisheries/sustainablefisheries/crab/rat/ram/0708vescaps.pdf>

QS/PQS Pools and TACs

The QS and PQS pools are the sums of all QS and PQS units issued for a fishery by sector (crew and owner harvester, or processor). To determine the annual awards of IFQ and IPQ to QS/PQS holders and to cooperatives, NOAA Fisheries first “fixes” the pools for the year. The computations require (a) the annual QS and PQS pools, (b) each person’s QS and PQS holdings and affiliation information, and (c) the TACs for the IFQ fisheries as established by the State. The basic IFQ computation formula for a fishery and IFQ type, unadjusted for affiliation or other limitations is:

$$[\text{QS units} / \text{QS Pool}] \times \text{TAC} = \text{Annual IFQ pounds}$$

The computation for IPQ is similar except only part of the TAC is used. Once used in IFQ/IPQ computations, an official computation of the QS or PQS pool does not change for that crab-fishing year.

Please note that while any data challenges and appeals remain unresolved, initial issuance of quota cannot be completed. Additional Initial issuance of QS/PQS that is delayed until after the date of annual computations will only affect future year QS/PQS pools and IFQ/IPQ issuance.

Tables 3.4 and 3.5, respectively, show units of QS and PQS pools and ratios by fishery in the third Program year. Fisheries with low crab stock abundances were closed.

Table 3.4 QS pools and ratios, 2007/08

Fishery	Owners (QS units)	Crew (QS units)	Ratios (QS units:IFQ pounds)
BBR	389,753,683	12,000,335	21.9122
BSS	977,012,029	30,207,664	17.7544
EAG	9,700,156	299,989	3.7038
EBT ^a	194,646,806	6,004,198	64.7157
PIK ^b	29,149,017	899,993	Closed
SMB ^b	29,402,475	900,007	Closed
WAG	38,800,000	1,200,058	16.4609
WAI ^b	58,201,414	1,800,045	Closed
WBT ^a	194,646,806	6,004,198	102.4566

^a Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^b The State of Alaska closed these fisheries.

Table 3.5 PQS pools and ratios, 2007/08

Fishery	PQS units	Ratios (QS units:IPQ pounds)
BBR ^{a,b} North	10,277,851	26.4888
BBR ^{a,b} South	370,615,657	24.8846
BSS ^{a,b} North	470,734,143	22.3374
BSS ^{a,b} South	531,432,868	22.1827
EAG	5,305,276	2.3651
EBT ^c	199,218,901	78.8962
PIK ^d	30,000,002	Closed
SMB ^d	29,999,998	Closed
WAG ^b	27,875,210	24.4352
WAI ^d	60,031,674	Closed
WBT ^c	199,218,901	124.9066

^a By direction of Congress, in 2006 NOAA Fisheries issued to one program participant “conditional” PQS units for BBR and BSS fisheries. This PQS will only be part of a pool and result in annual IPQ in years when the TACs exceed specific amounts.

^b For BBR and BSS fisheries, computing accurate, matching amounts of Class A CVO IFQ and IPQ within each region required using separately computed regional ratios of PQS:IPQ. These changes occurred too late for the WAG fishery, also regionalized as W/undesignated.

^c Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^d The State of Alaska closed these fisheries.

Annual Permits

NOAA Fisheries may issue annual permits for the Program only if a person has applied timely, satisfied his or her cost recovery fee and EDR requirements, if any, and if there are no other impediments to issuing the permits.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Individual Processing Quota (IPQ) Permits

IFQ and IPQ permits are generated annually, using the formula above (see QS pools and TACs) and adjusted for affiliation and other program requirements and restrictions. Examples of restrictions include persons who may not fish under the Program and persons who, by operation of law, received more QS or PQS than a cap would allow and for whom the additional quota is restricted and will not yield annual IFQ or IPQ.

A person who joins a crab-harvesting cooperative assigns his or her IFQ to the cooperative at the beginning of the crab-fishing year. In this case, all IFQ pounds appear on the annual IFQ permit issued to the cooperative. The cooperative member may receive IFQ by transfer during the year but must hold those pounds on his/her own IFQ permit.

IFQ permits are issued for a combination of harvesting sector, region, class, and fishery. IPQ permits are issued for combinations of region and right-of-first-refusal community. The cooling-off boundary area became irrelevant when that provision expired after the second Program year. Therefore, the number of

persons holding quota or annual IFQ/IPQ and not the number of permits issued indicates potential participation in a fishery.

Table 3.6 displays the numbers of persons who were issued and the numbers who used IFQ/IPQ permits in each Program year.

Table 3.6 Annual IFQ and IPQ permits issued and used over time at year-end

Type annual permit	Number of persons issued one or more IFQ/IPQ permits ^a			Number of IFQ/IPQ permit holders with IFQ landings			Percent of permit holders who used their permits		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
IFQ Crew	35	59	101	25	39	67	71	66	66
IFQ Owner	24	31	64	23	26	50	96	84	78
IPQ Processor	24	21	18	15	17	12	63	81	67

^a A cooperative receives an annual IFQ permit in lieu of the members who assigned their pounds to the cooperative. Therefore, a cooperative is counted as one person holding IFQ; members who assigned IFQ to cooperatives are not counted as IFQ permit holders.

Hired Master Permits. Cooperatives and nonindividual IFQ permit holders must hire a master to fish their IFQ. Individual persons may hire a master for owner permits but must fish crew permits themselves. Both Hired Masters and IFQ permit holders use a vessel on a given trip, and both may participate in the same landing. Hiring a master requires that the IFQ permit holder maintains at least a 10% interest in the vessel to be fished by the Hired Master; in the case of a cooperative, that requirement may be satisfied by any member. Hired Master permits are issued for each IFQ permit-vessel combination the Master will fish. For 2007/08, a total of 142 Hired Masters were authorized to fish, and 113 (79.6 percent) actually did so. Hired Masters participated in 824 (99.9 percent) of 825 total IFQ landings. Eight (8) IFQ permit holders of a total of 65 (12.3 percent) participated in 15 landings. By the end of the year, Hired Masters landed 99.87 percent of all IFQ crab landed.

Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) Permits. NOAA Fisheries requires an annual RCR permit for any person receiving unprocessed crab from the harvester, the owner/operator of a vessel that processes crab at sea, any person holding IPQ, and any person required to submit a departure report. For shoreside operations, an RCR permit is required for each shore facility.

RCR Fishery Facts, 2007/08

70 RCR Permits issued to 25 persons

34 (49%) RCR permits used by 20 (80%) persons

RCRs must report crab landings electronically using the eLandings system. (See a detailed description of eLandings in the Reporting Section.) For unprocessed crab delivered by catcher vessels, the landing must be reported within 6 hours of the end of the offload. During offloads RCRs attach a scale printout showing gross product weight to their report. For crab processed at sea, weekly reports are due by noon on Tuesday following the end of each reporting period. For comparison among crab-fishing years, in 2005/06, 55 RCR permits were issued to 22 persons and 17 persons (77 percent of RCR permit holders) used 29 RCR permits (53 percent). More RCR permits (63 to 24 persons; 66.7 percent used) were issued in the second than the first year, reflecting an increase in custom processing and the fact that IPQ may only be debited from a person's own account. During 2007/08 the increase in RCR permits and holders continued with 70 permits issued to 25 persons, but actual permit use declined to 48.6 percent, compared with last year's 66.7 percent permit use and the first Program year's 53 percent. This year's increase in RCR issuance reflects increased operational flexibility sought early in the year by processors. But the decrease in RCR permit use may be a remnant of transfers and permits requested for custom processing.

Table 3.7 displays by fishery RCR permit holders with IFQ landings, the numbers of landings, and pounds landed. For comparison, last year's data are in parentheses.

Table 3.7 Participating Registered Crab Receivers, 2006/07–2007/08

Registered Crab Receivers								
Fishery	Number of RCR permit holders with IFQ landings ^a		Number of landings ^b		Pounds landed ^c		Average pounds per permit holder	
BBR	17	(13)	246	(183)	18,324,046	(13,877,870)	1,077,885	(1,067,528)
BSS	17	(16)	459	(272)	56,722,400	(32,659,148)	3,336,612	(2,041,197)
EAG	4	(6)	36	(32)	2,690,377	(2,690,662)	672,594	(448,444)
EBT	8	(10)	58	(57)	1,439,435	(1,264,044)	179,929	(126,404)
WAG	4	(5)	34	(31)	2,246,040	(2,000,276)	561,510	(400,055)
WBT	8	(10)	44	(60)	467,136	(633,910)	58,392	(63,391)

^a A “landing” is a vessel offload.

^b Counts of RCRs and numbers of landings are not additive across fisheries.

^c Pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

Federal Crab Vessel Permit (FCVP). NOAA Fisheries requires an annual FCVP for owners of catcher vessels, vessels that harvest and process catch at sea (catcher processor vessels), and Stationary Floating Processor vessels used in the Program. A FCVP is issued for a vessel with endorsements for operation type(s). Operation Type endorsements are SFP (Stationary Floating Processor), CP (catcher/processor), and CV (catcher vessel). This permit has requirements for VMS and logbook reporting. In IFQ fisheries, 87 of 121 FCVPs issued for harvesting vessels had landings (72 percent), 84 of 115 CV-endorsed permits had landings (73 percent), and 5 of 6 CP-endorsed permits had landings (83 percent). Figure 3.1 illustrates that since the beginning of the rationalized crab fisheries, each fishing year RAM has issued fewer FCVPs, and vessel use during the last three rationalized years has declined.

FCVP Fishery Facts, 2007/08

128 FCVPs issued:

- 8 endorsed for SFP vessels
- 121 endorsed for harvesting vessels
 - (115 catcher vessels and 6 catcher/processors)
 - 87 (72 percent) harvesting vessels were used

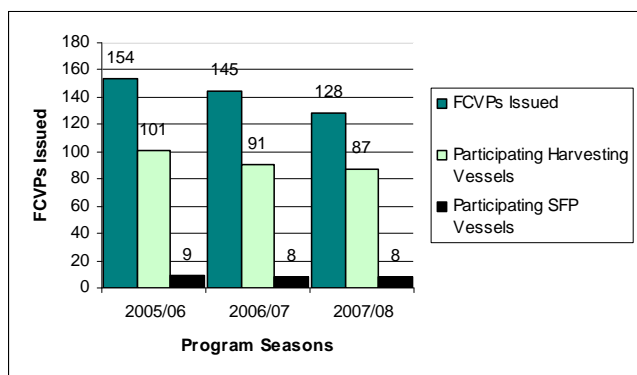


Figure 3.1 Number of FCVPs Issued and with Landings by Type, 2005/06–2007/08

Figure 3.2 illustrates a steady decrease of the number of FCVPs with landings within the BBR, BST, and EAG fisheries over time. Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). The number of FCVPs with landings in the BSS fishery decreased during 2006/07 but was the same in years one and three of the Program.

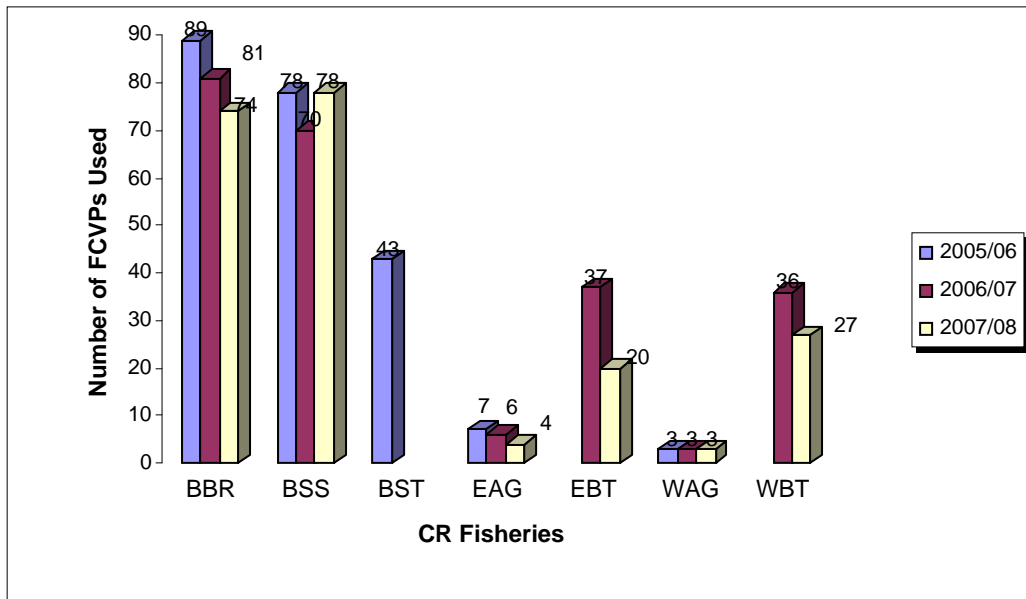


Figure 3.2 Numbers of FCVPs with Landings by Fishery, 2005/06–2007/08

Arbitration System

Arbitration Facts, 2007/08

Participants: QS/PQS and IFQ/IPQ holders

3 experts selected; 1 third-party data provider

3 Arbitration Organizations formed:

- 1 representing harvesters unaffiliated with processors;
- 1 for harvesters affiliated with processors; and
- 1 for processors

Reasons for two Arbitration Proceedings: To clarify the specific time for resolving price disputes if harvesters adopted a lengthy season approach to arbitration.

Results: Lengthy season selected. No arbitration proceedings to resolve price, delivery, or quality disputes during the season.

The Arbitration System (System) is a series of steps that harvesters and processors can use to negotiate delivery and price contracts. Most of the System is regulated through private contracts among QS/IFQ holders and PQS/IPQ holders through mandatory Arbitration Organizations (AOs). The System is designed to minimize antitrust risks for crab harvesters and processors.

Participants

Each year three groups of experts are hired: one to produce an annual market report (Market Analyst), one to determine a nonbinding price formula for negotiations (Formula Arbitrator), and

one or more experts to assist in mediation and contract negotiations (Contract Arbitrator). In addition, during the 2006/07 fishing year a third-party data provider offered information on matching Class A IFQ and IPQ shares.

Once these experts were selected, some IFQ and IPQ holders could use a series of negotiation approaches to resolve delivery and price conflicts. The negotiation approaches are limited to IFQ holders who do not also hold PQS/IPQ and who aren't affiliated with PQS/IPQ holders (Arbitration IFQ holders). These IFQ holders can negotiate with a single IPQ holder. Contracts with the experts must limit the sharing of information.

Fishery Year Comparisons

Compared with the 2005/06 fishing year, the second Program year's arbitration proceedings more than doubled (from two to five) and arbitration included the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery, along with the snow and Tanner crab fisheries. Although fewer experts and data providers were selected during 2006/07, the reasons for arbitration remained consistent with those in the 2005/06 year, and, again, contract arbitrators selected harvesters' offers. During 2007/08 in two arbitration proceedings, experts sought to clarify the specific timing when price disputes must be resolved if harvesters adopted a lengthy season approach to arbitration. However, these two proceedings did not result in arbitration to resolve price or other disputes.

Table 3.8 Arbitration proceedings, 2005/06–2007/08

Fishing Year	Number of Proceedings	Fishery	Issue	Outcome
2005/06	2	BSS, BST	Crab costs/ delivery terms	Contract arbitrators selected harvesters' offers
2006/07	5	BBR, BSS, EBT, WBT	Crab costs/ delivery terms	Contract arbitrators selected harvesters' offers
2007/08	2	Procedural: all fisheries	Clarify specific timing of price dispute resolutions	Lengthy season approach selected; no further arbitration to resolve price, quality, or other disputes

2007/08 Crab-Fishing Year

As required by regulations (50 CFR Parts 679 and 680), most IFQ and IPQ holders joined AOs. The AOs mutually selected the Market Analyst, Formula Arbitrator, and Contract Arbitrator. The Market Analyst and Formula Arbitrator roles were filled by the same person. In addition, the AOs selected a third-party data provider to disseminate information among IFQ and IPQ holders—one for the golden king crab fisheries and one for other crab fisheries.

During 2007/08 in two arbitration proceedings, experts sought to clarify the specific timing when price disputes must be resolved if harvesters adopted a lengthy season approach to the arbitration. However, these two proceedings did not result in arbitration to resolve price, delivery, or quality disputes.

Arbitration Approach and Outcomes

During the 2007/08 year, harvesters and processors agreed to use the lengthy season approach (*see* §680.20(h)) to initiate binding arbitration proceedings. Harvesters coordinated their negotiating approach through the Inter-Cooperatives Exchange, a cooperative formed under the guidelines of the Fishermen's Collective Marketing Act. Processors are required to negotiate with harvesters individually and cannot form cooperative negotiating bodies.

Issues and Concerns

As anticipated, harvesters and processors had numerous questions regarding the structure of the System, the contractual arrangements among the AOs, and the timing of binding arbitration proceedings. While the specific comments and questions varied, some of the key comments from the AOs and participants in the System are summarized below. This list is not exhaustive but addresses the suite of issues that industry participants addressed during the previous Council's 18-month review of the Program.

In addition, the Council formed a crab advisory committee to provide additional feedback on a range of issues in the Program, but specifically, on the System. The committee has presented their findings to the Council, and future regulatory action may be initiated.

Key Comments from Crab Advisory Committee

- Improve data for defining the historic division of revenues in the arbitration system. Currently, Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR) data provide the best data and have been used by the formula arbitrator to develop the price formula in the preseason. State representatives have reviewed the process for submission of COAR data and issues with reliability, including the inability to isolate data from a single fishery or region. Committee members expressed a general belief that historic ex-vessel prices could be reliably determined using data available to both sectors, which could be compared with public sources. In some instances bonuses and postseason adjustments might be missing from some sources, but reliable estimates of historic ex-vessel prices could be generated.
- The committee discussed harvesters' need for first wholesale price information from processors to allow for effective participation in the System and implementation of the arbitration standard. The committee generally agreed that the issue might be best addressed either through the AOs or through informal arrangements by industry, rather than through the Council process.
- Improve coordination with RAM to ensure that IFQ and IPQ transfers are timely and do not impede matching shares under the System.

In addition to these observations, during the 2006/07 year, Crab Advisory Committee recommended specific regulatory actions. The Council has initiated review of these suggestions.

- In the event that the AOs representing at least 50 percent of the PQS holders and at least 50 percent of the unaffiliated QS holders agree that a fishery is unlikely to open, neither a market report nor non-binding formula will be required for the fishery. Any such agreement will include provision for the production of the market report and non-binding formula, in the event that an opening is later announced for a fishery, specifying a timeline for the production of those reports.
- Under the current regulation, the market report and non-binding formula for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fisheries are required to be completed 50 days prior to the August 15 fishery opening. Under this timeline, data from the most recent fishing year are not available for use in development of those reports. The inability to use data from the most recent year could diminish the accuracy and quality of these reports. Postponing the due date of these reports to a later time in the preseason could allow for more complete and accurate reports that provide timely information to market participants.
- The current requirement that market reports be complete at least 50 days prior to the season prevents the inclusion of the most current and relevant pricing information in the report. In addition, the prohibition on supplements to the report prevents providing useful market information in season or after completion of the initial report. More timely and relevant market information to be used for price negotiations might be provided to participants in the fisheries if those participants are permitted to negotiate agreeable terms (including due dates) for the provision of a market report and supplements to suit their needs.
- AOs, arbitrators, market analysts, and the third party data provider should be granted immunity from lawsuits related to their acts in their respective capacities as AOs, arbitrators, market analysts, and the third party data provider. Any such immunity would not apply to breaches of contract, acts of malfeasance, or similar intentional misdeeds.

Chapter 4 Transfers

QS and PQS Transfers and Consolidation

Quota share and PQS were initially issued to qualifying U.S. individuals and companies or other nonindividual business entities.

Tables 4.1–4.3 show persons entering and leaving the fisheries. QS/PQS recipients of initial quota shares at the beginning of the Program are referred to as *initial issuees*; the broader term *quotaholders* denotes persons who obtained their quota holdings by any means—as initial issuees or by transfer. Over time, attrition of initial QS/PQS recipients and consolidation in total numbers of quotaholders is anticipated as quotaholders retire, rearrange business affairs for economic efficiency, move into other occupations, etc. Tables 4.1–4.2 show the beginning of consolidation in the number of harvesting and processing quotaholders. Table 4.1 illustrates attrition of initial issuees from each fishery and sector over time. First year changes were small, in large part due to liberal IFQ/IPQ leasing privileges. Table 4.2 shows changes in the number of quotaholders in fishery sectors over time. As initial issuees divest, new persons acquire QS/PQS. Overall, the number of distinct harvesting quotaholders decreased by fishery. Within fisheries, the number of CVC holders decreased, but holders of other types of QS remained the same.

Table 4.1 Numbers of initial issuees holding QS/PQS at end of each crab-fishing year^a

Fishery	Sector	Number of initial issuees ^a	Number of initial issuees year-end 2005/06	Number of initial issuees		Number of initial issuees	
				year-end 2006/07	year-end 2007/08	year-end 2006/07	year-end 2007/08
BBR	CPC	8	8	8	8		
	CVC	178	159	141	134		
	CPO	13	12	11	10		
	CVO	241	235	223	214		
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	424	397	365	347		
	Processor	17	15	15	14		
BSS	CPC	8	8	7	7		
	CVC	152	138	124	119		
	CPO	14	13	12	11		
	CVO	231	219	207	204		
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	388	361	331	321		
	Processor	20	18	17	16		
BST ^a				EBT ^a	WBT ^a	EBT ^a	WBT ^a
	CPC	15	15	15	15	15	15
	CVC	170	156	137	137	134	134
	CPO	14	13	12	12	11	11
	CVO	248	235	220	220	212	213
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	425	397	361	361	348	349
	Processor	23	22	20	20	19	19

Continued

Table 4.1 Continued

Fishery	Sector	Number of initial issuees ^a	Number of initial issuees year-end 2005/06	Number of initial issuees year-end 2006/07	Number of initial issuees year-end 2007/08
EAG	CVC	13	11	11	10
	CPO	2	2	2	1
	CVO	13	13	12	10
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	28	26	25	21
	<i>Processor</i>	9	7	7	7
PIK	CVC	40	40	39	39
	CPO	1	1	1	1
	CVO	111	109	107	103
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	147	144	141	137
	<i>Processor</i>	14	13	13	12
SMB	CVC	72	69	65	62
	CPO	5	5	5	5
	CVO	131	130	121	116
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	207	203	189	180
	<i>Processor</i>	12	11	10	9
WAG	CPC	2	2	2	2
	CVC	8	8	8	7
	CPO	2	2	2	1
	CVO	13	12	12	10
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	24	23	23	19
	<i>Processor</i>	9	9	9	7
WAI	CPC	1	1	1	1
	CVC	4	4	4	4
	CPO	2	2	2	2
	CVO	29	29	30	28
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	34	34	35	33
	<i>Processor</i>	9	8	8	6
Total unique persons holding QS/PQS		510	487	457	442

^aInitial issuees were issued QS/PQS under BST. Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). BST initial issue data are used for year-end 2005; however, EBT and WBT data are used for year-end 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Table 4.2 Numbers of all persons holding QS/PQS initially and at end of each crab-fishing year

Fishery	Sector	Number of initial issuees ^a	Number of quotaholders year-end 2005	Number of quotaholders		Number of quotaholders	
				year-end 2006	year-end 2007	year-end 2006	year-end 2007
BBR	CPC	8	8	8	8	8	8
	CVC	178	165	153	148	148	148
	CPO	13	12	12	13	13	13
	CVO	241	243	236	242	242	242
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	424	411	391	389	389	389
	<i>Processor</i>	17	16	17	17	17	17
BSS	CPC	8	8	7	7	7	7
	CVC	152	143	134	132	132	132
	CPO	14	13	13	14	14	14
	CVO	231	228	221	232	232	232
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	388	375	356	362	362	362
	<i>Processor</i>	20	19	20	20	20	20
BST				EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT
	CPC	15	15	15	15	15	15
	CVC	170	161	150	150	148	148
	CPO	14	13	13	13	14	14
	CVO	248	245	234	234	238	239
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	425	412	389	389	388	389
	<i>Processor</i>	23	23	23	23	22	22
EAG	CVC	13	11	11	11	11	11
	CPO	2	2	2	2	2	2
	CVO	13	14	13	13	13	13
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	28	27	26	26	26	26
	<i>Processor</i>	9	8	8	8	8	9

Continued

Table 4.2 Continued

Fishery	Sector	Number of initial issuees ^a	Number of quotaholders year-end 2005	Number of quotaholders year-end 2006	Number of quotaholders year-end 2007
PIK	CVC	40	40	39	39
	CPO	1	1	1	1
	CVO	111	113	112	117
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	147	148	146	151
	<i>Processor</i>	14	14	14	13
SMB	CVC	72	70	69	68
	CPO	5	5	5	5
	CVO	131	136	132	138
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	207	210	204	208
	<i>Processor</i>	12	12	12	11
WAG	CPC	2	2	2	2
	CVC	8	8	8	8
	CPO	2	2	3	3
	CVO	13	13	13	12
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	24	24	25	24
	<i>Processor</i>	9	9	9	9
WAI	CPC	1	1	1	1
	CVC	4	4	4	4
	CPO	2	2	2	2
	CVO	29	29	32	32
	<i>Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS</i>	34	34	37	37
	<i>Processor</i>	9	9	9	8
Total unique persons holding QS/PQS		510	509	494	503

^a Initial issuees were issued QS/PQS under BST. Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). BST initial issue data are used for year-end 2005; however, EBT and WBT data are used for year-end 2006/07 and 2007/08.

If qualified, new quotaholders can enter the Program by receiving quota in transfers. As a complement to Tables 4.1 and 4.2, Table 4.3 shows that almost an equal number of new persons entered as left each fishery and sector all three years. This was true even for fisheries that remained closed due to low stock abundance. Table 4.3 uses year-end data and therefore does not include persons who bought and sold QS/PQS of the same fishery/sector in the same year.

Table 4.3 New quotaholders entering the Program and initial issues^a holding no QS/PQS over time

Fishery	Number of new persons entering Program ^a who were not initial issues of any QS/PQS						Number of initial issues ^b holding no quota at year-end					
	First Year (2005/06)		Second Year (2006/07)		Third Year (2007/08)		First Year (2005/06)		Second Year (2006/07)		Third Year (2007/08)	
	Harvester QS	Processor PQS	Harvester QS	Processor PQS	Harvester QS	Processor PQS	Harvester QS	Processor PQS	Harvester QS	Processor PQS	Harvester QS	Processor PQS
BBR	14	1	26	2	42	3	19	0	47	1	58	2
BSS	14	1	25	3	41	4	14	0	38	1	47	2
BST	15	1	NA ^c		NA ^c		19	0	46	1	56	2
EAG	1	1	1	1	5	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
EBT ^c	NA ^c		28	3	40	3	NA ^c		NA ^c		NA ^c	
PIK	4	1	5	1	14	1	3	0	8	0	14	1
SMB	7	1	15	2	28	2	7	0	21	1	28	2
WAG	1	0	2	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	3	2
WAI	0	1	2	1	4	2	0	0	1	0	3	2
WBT ^c	NA ^c		28	3	40	3	NA ^c		NA ^c		NA ^c	
Total Unique Persons	19	3	32	5	55	6	22	1	51	2	65	3

^a “New persons entering Program” represent those entrants holding QS or PQS of a fishery at year-end who were not issued any type of QS or PQS initially.

^b For purposes of this table, “initial issue” represents the number of initial recipients of QS or PQS in each fishery at the beginning of the Program who no longer held QS or PQS of that fishery by the end of each year of the Program.

^c Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). “NA” denotes no IFQ was issued for fishery. Note that initial issues were issued QS/PQS in BST fishery, not the EBT and WBT fisheries.

Initial Quotaholder Summary

Figure 4.1 illustrates loss of initial issues from the Program, as they divest quota over time. Figure 4.2 demonstrates the increasing numbers of initial issues no longer holding any type of QS/PQS at year-end of each year of the Program. RAM expects these changes to continue as initial issues leave the fishery.

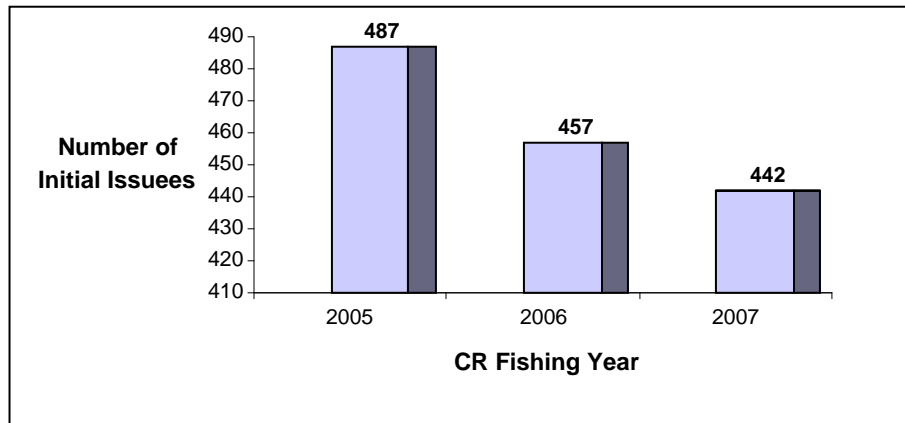


Figure 4.1 Number of Initial Issues Holding QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2007/08

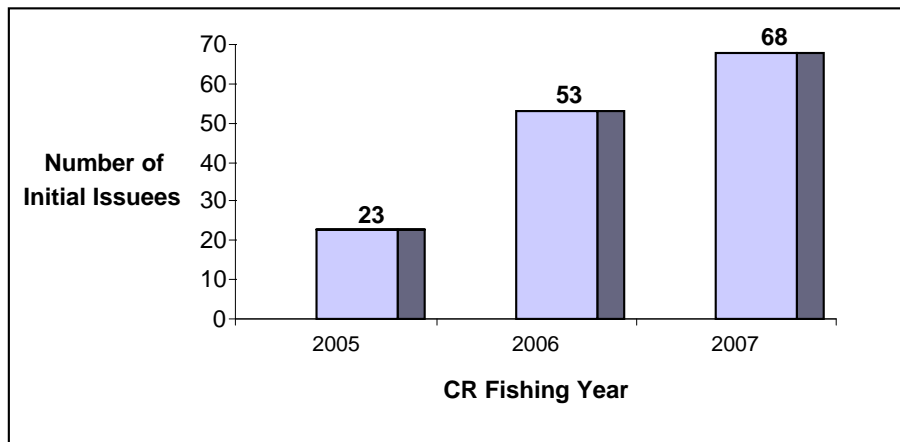


Figure 4.2 Number of Initial Issues Holding No QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2007/08

Quota and Allocation Transfers

Transfers may take the form of either permanent quota transfers (with or without annual IFQ/IPQ) or annual IFQ/IPQ leases. Annual assignment of IFQ to a cooperative is not a transfer. Eligibility to receive harvester QS/IFQ by transfer depends in part on the type of quota. To be eligible to receive QS or IFQ, a person must be a U.S. citizen, or a U.S. company or other nonindividual business entity. Owner QS may be received by initial QS recipients, by others who meet sea time requirements, and by CDQ groups and eligible crab community entities. Crew type QS/IFQ may be received by transfer only by individuals. If individuals are not initial quota recipients, they must meet sea time requirements, and all recipients of crew

QS/IFQ must demonstrate “recent participation” in the crab fisheries before each transfer. Transfer recipients of PQS and IPQ may be any person, whether or not a U.S. citizen.

Transfers can occur anytime of the fishing year, except from August 1 until the IFQ is issued for a fishery. NOAA Fisheries must approve all transfers, and approval is subject to the following additional criteria:

- Proposed receiver’s eligibility to receive quota;
- Use caps (including quota assigned to members of a receiving cooperative in intercooperative transfers);
- Community protection measures (for PQS/IPQ);
- Whether or not the parties to the transfer are cooperatives (cooperatives may only hold IFQ and may only engage in intercooperative transfers); and
- Date (Leasing of crew IFQ was only authorized until July 1, 2008; Owner IFQ until July 1, 2010).

Hardship Transfers

The Program also includes a hardship transfer provision. In the event of a hardship, a holder of CVC or CPC QS may lease the IFQ from QS for the term of the hardship. However, the holder of such QS may not lease the IFQ for more than two crab-fishing years total in any 10 crab-fishing year period. Such transfers are valid only during the crab-fishing year for which the IFQ permit is issued. The QS holder must reapply for any subsequent hardship transfers.

Tables 4.4 and 4.5 display numbers and types of transfers during 2007/08. Leases continued to be the dominant transfer type due to both liberal leasing provisions for processors and custom processing arrangements plus a requirement that an RCR can only debit its own IPQ accounts. Most leases were between cooperatives because member QS holders almost always joined one cooperative for all crab species and cooperatives used intercooperative transfers for market flexibility. Note that the same QS and IFQ units and pounds may have transferred multiple times within the crab year but are counted for each transfer.

Table 4.4 Transfers of harvesting QS and IFQ by fishery and transfer type in the 2007/08 fishing year

Fishery	Sector	QS/IFQ transfer types	Number of transfers	Number of unique transferors ^a	Number of unique transferees ^a	QS units transferred ^b	IFQ pounds transferred ^{b,c}
BBR	Crew	Cooperative lease	6	4	4	0	31,850
	Crew	Noncooperative lease	2	2	2	0	6,172
	Crew	QS	11	9	6	570,569	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	61	14	10	0	4,798,832
	Owner	Noncooperative lease	1	1	1	0	51,297
	Owner	QS	47	27	30	19,693,784	0
	Fishery Total			128	52	49	20,264,353
BSS	Crew	Cooperative lease	6	4	3	0	72,677
	Crew	Noncooperative lease	2	2	2	0	20,032
	Crew	QS	14	6	6	1,120,993	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	57	13	9	0	9,164,399
	Owner	Noncooperative lease	4	2	1	0	255,214
	Owner	QS	60	23	28	64,608,692	0
	Fishery Total			143	46	46	65,729,685
EAG	Crew	QS	2	2	2	35,191	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	10	5	2	0	2,496,175
	Owner	QS	6	3	4	3,814,505	0
	Fishery Total		18	10	8	3,849,696	2,496,175

Continued

Table 4.4 Continued

Fishery	Sector	QS/IFQ transfer types	Number of transfers	Number of unique transferors ^a	Number of unique transferees ^a	QS units transferred ^a	IFQ pounds transferred ^{b,c}
EBT*	Crew	Cooperative lease	21	10	6	0	36,667
	Crew	Noncooperative lease	2	2	2	0	1,249
	Crew	QS	6	5	4	231,509	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	66	15	7	0	3,671,814
	Owner	Noncooperative lease	2	2	1	0	23,754
	Owner	QS	29	20	24	10,959,371	0
	Fishery Total			126	44	38	11,190,880
PIK	Owner	QS	23	10	15	1,244,290	0
	Fishery Total		23	10	15	1,244,290	0
SMB	Crew	QS	7	4	3	48,781	0
	Owner	QS	38	13	19	2,627,212	0
	Fishery Total		45	17	22	2,675,993	0
WAG	Crew	Cooperative lease	1	1	1	0	8,729
	Crew	QS	2	1	1	74,001	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	10	4	2	0	571,070
	Owner	QS	9	3	3	4,979,256	0
	Fishery Total		22	8	6	5,053,257	579,799
WAI	Owner	QS	2	2	2	797,165	0
	Fishery Total		2	2	2	797,165	0
WBT*	Crew	Cooperative lease	16	8	5	0	17,733
	Crew	Noncooperative lease	1	1	1	0	282
	Crew	QS	6	5	4	231,509	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	48	15	8	0	905,177
	Owner	Noncooperative lease	2	2	1	0	15,004
	Owner	QS	30	21	25	11,281,357	0
	Fishery Total		103	44	39	11,512,866	938,196
All fishery totals		Cooperative leases	302	16	14	0	21,775,123
		Noncooperative leases	16	6	6	0	373,004
		QS	292	46	56	122,318,185	0
		All transfers and unique persons	610	68	75	122,318,185	22,148,127

* BST changed to EBT and WBT within year two of the Program but before issuance of annual IFQ for that year.

^a Total number of transferors and transferees are not additive across fisheries; the same unique person could be involved in multiple transfers. QS units and IFQ pounds could have transferred multiple times within the year.

^b QS may be transferred with or without annual IFQ.

^c Pounds are raw crab pounds.

Table 4.5 Transfers of processing PQS and IPQ by fishery and transfer type in the 2007/08 fishing year

Fishery	PQS/IPQ transfer type	Number transfers	Number unique transferors ^a	Number unique transferees ^a	PQS units	IPQ pounds ^{b,c}
BBR	Lease	8	6	5	0	4,415,037
	PQS	1	1	1	2,111,314	0
	Fishery Total	9	6	6	2,111,314	4,415,037
BSS	Lease	6	5	2	0	8,533,173
	PQS	1	1	1	1,187,339	0
	Fishery Total	7	5	3	1,187,339	8,533,173
EAG	Lease	6	4	3	0	769,462
	PQS	1	1	1	92,700	0
	Fishery Total	7	4	4	92,700	769,462
EBT*	Lease	5	5	2	0	587,924
	PQS	1	1	1	646,562	0
	Fishery Total	6	5	3	646,562	587,924
PIK	PQS	1	1	1	104,270	0
	Fishery Total	1	1	1	104,270	0
SMB	PQS	1	1	1	42,074	0
	Fishery Total	1	1	1	42,074	0
WAG	Lease	2	2	2	0	407,104
	PQS	3	2	2	2,269,884	0
	Fishery Total	5	4	3	2,269,884	407,104
WAI	PQS	2	2	2	3,404,827	0
	Fishery Total	2	2	2	3,404,827	0
WBT*	Lease	5	5	2	0	371,356
	PQS	1	1	1	646,562	0
	Fishery Total	6	5	3	646,562	371,356
Total all transfers	Total PQS transfers	12	2	2	10,505,532	0
	Total leases	32	11	8	0	15,084,056
	Total all PQS transfers	44	12	9	10,505,532	15,084,056

* BST changed to EBT and WBT within year two of the Program but before issuance of annual IPQ for that year.

^a Total number of transferors and transferees are not additive across fisheries; the same unique person could be involved in multiple transfers. PQS units and IPQ pounds could have transferred multiple times within the year.

^b QS may be transferred with or without annual IPQ.

^c Pounds are raw crab pounds.

Table 4.6 summarizes the numbers and types of transfers during all three Program years for processors and harvesters. While the numbers of permanent PQS transfers increased, leases of IPQ decreased. The number of permanent harvesting QS transfers increased dramatically as did intercooperative leases. Because over time an increasing proportion of harvesting IFQ has been assigned to cooperatives, the number of noncooperative leases declined to a fraction of those the first year.

Table 4.6 Number of transfers for all fisheries by year and type, 2005/06–2007/08

Type	Program Year One 2005/06	Program Year Two 2006/07	Program Year Three 2007/08
Harvesters			
Cooperative Lease	144	269	302
Noncooperative Lease	113	39	16
QS	199	329	292
Processors			
PQS Lease	40	39	32
PQS	7	7	12

Average Price Per Crab QS Unit for QS Transfers

Table 4.7 shows the estimated weighted average price per crab QS unit for priced QS transfers by year, fishery, and sector for the first three Program years. Data are based on reported total transaction prices (including fees), multiplied by the number of units—not on reported dollars per unit. This table omits confidential data.

Table 4.7 Estimated weighted average price per crab QS unit for priced QS transfers

Year*	Fishery	Sector	Total paid (\$ amount)	Total QS units transferred	Total pounds transferred	Number of transfers	Number of distinct transferors	Number of distinct transferees	Weighted average price per QS unit
2005/06	BBR	CVC	873,724	1,221,051	17,402	21	19	14	0.72
	BBR	CVO	3,991,160	7,139,909	94,298	14	6	10	0.56
	BSS	CVC	683,516	2,793,091	38,489	25	14	12	0.24
	BSS	CVO	9,653,848	24,619,413	164,664	22	9	12	0.39
	BST	CVC	77,627	400,790	1,007	14	13	11	0.19
	BST	CVO	1,523,445	5,203,128	6,588	10	8	9	0.29
2006/07*	BBR	CVC	774,159	1,130,330	1,744	24	20	17	0.68
	BBR	CVO	29,292,901	24,420,200	0	27	17	11	1.20
	BSS	CVC	543,372	2,864,463	2,536	35	17	15	0.19
	BSS	CVO	12,618,035	48,984,237	81,136	36	17	8	0.26
	BST	CVC	15,472	138,404	0	3	3	3	0.11
	EBT	CVC	18,987	394,012	188	17	14	14	0.05
	EBT	CVO	432,038	6,577,526	4,160	17	13	8	0.07
	SMB	CVC	7,019	40,323	0	4	3	3	0.17
	WBT	CVC	13,028	372,387	110	16	13	13	0.03
	WBT	CVO	699,338	8,511,781	2,427	22	18	9	0.08

Continued

Table 4.7 Continued

Year ^a	Fishery	Sector	Total paid (\$ amount)	Total QS units transferred	Total pounds transferred	Number of transfers	Number of distinct transferors	Number of distinct transferees	Weighted average price per QS unit
2007/08	BBR	CVC	343,034	525,490	0	10	8	5	0.65
	BBR	CVO	8,383,337	7,144,784	0	21	11	13	1.17
	BSS	CVC	213,042	821,969	0	12	5	5	0.26
	BSS	CVO	11,594,328	24,751,778	0	26	10	13	0.47
	EBT	CVC	13,308	178,143	0	5	4	3	0.07
	EBT	CVO	779,409	3,030,918	0	9	7	8	0.26
	SMB	CVO	306,914	876,903	0	10	3	4	0.35
	WBT	CVC	7,924	178,143	0	5	4	3	0.04
WBT	CVO	250,353	2,948,045	0	8	6	7	0.08	

^a BST changed to EBT and WBT within year two of the Program but before issuance of annual IFQ for that year.

Chapter 5 Vessel Effort and Landings

Vessel Effort

In 2004, before crab rationalization began, the Crab Capacity Reduction Program (Buyback Program) removed 25 vessels from the fleet. In 2005/06, 2006/07, and 2007/08, vessels used in the CDQ and Adak fisheries also participated in IFQ fisheries. Some fisheries remained closed, including WAI, PIK, and SMB. It is important to note, too, that the 2005 winter BSS fishery was open in January 2005, before implementation of the Program in August 2005; while the BSS fishery has opened October 15, the fishery is largely prosecuted in January.

Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1 show historical vessel participation in the Program fisheries. In Figure 5.1 the vertical line denotes implementation of the BSAI Crab Buyback (a Fishing Capacity Reduction Program). The “bairdi split” represents the State’s change in managing the BST fishery. Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries, the eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner, EBT and WBT, respectively. Figure 5.2 displays vessel participation values during the 2007/08 year compared with those in previous Program years. The precipitous decrease in vessels used in the crab fisheries reflects a number of factors, including removal of vessels for economic efficiency and extensive use of cooperatives. Refer to Table 5.1 and Figure 5.2 to review the number of vessels in each fishery over time.

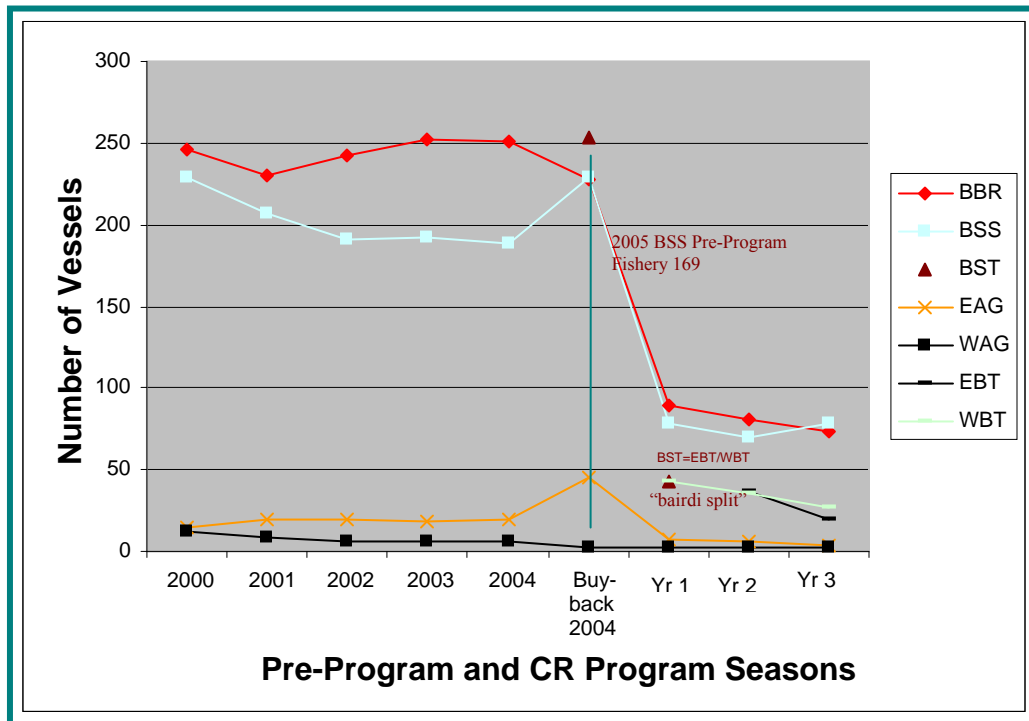


Figure 5.1 Vessel Participation in Pre-Program and Program Fisheries, 2000–2007/08

Table 5.1 Consolidation in vessel participation in the Program fisheries over time

Fishery ^a	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005 ^b	IFQ crab fisheries 2005/06 ^c	IFQ crab fisheries 2006/07 ^d	IFQ crab fisheries 2007/08 ^d
BBR	246	230	242	252	251		89	81	74
BSS	229	207	191	192	189	169 ^b	78	70	78
BST	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed		43	n/a	n/a
EAG	15	19	19	18	19		7	6	4
EBT ^d	formerly part of BST						Closed	37	20
WAG	12	9	6	6	6		3	3	3
WBT ^d	formerly part of BST						43 ^d	36	27
Distinct number of harvesting vessels fishing under the Program							101	91	87

(Source: Pre-Program data, ADF&G; Program data, RAM/NOAA Fisheries)

^a WAI, PIK, and SMB fisheries were closed throughout this period. However, from 2001 through 2004, the Petrel Bank area was open for surveys only. Fish sold from surveys support ADF&G survey cost recovery.

^b The 2005 calendar year BSS fishery occurred before the 2005/06 Program began.

^c All Adak and CDQ vessels participated in IFQ fisheries from 2005/06 through 2007/08.

^d Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). In the 2005/06 fishing year, the BST fishery was open only in the western area.

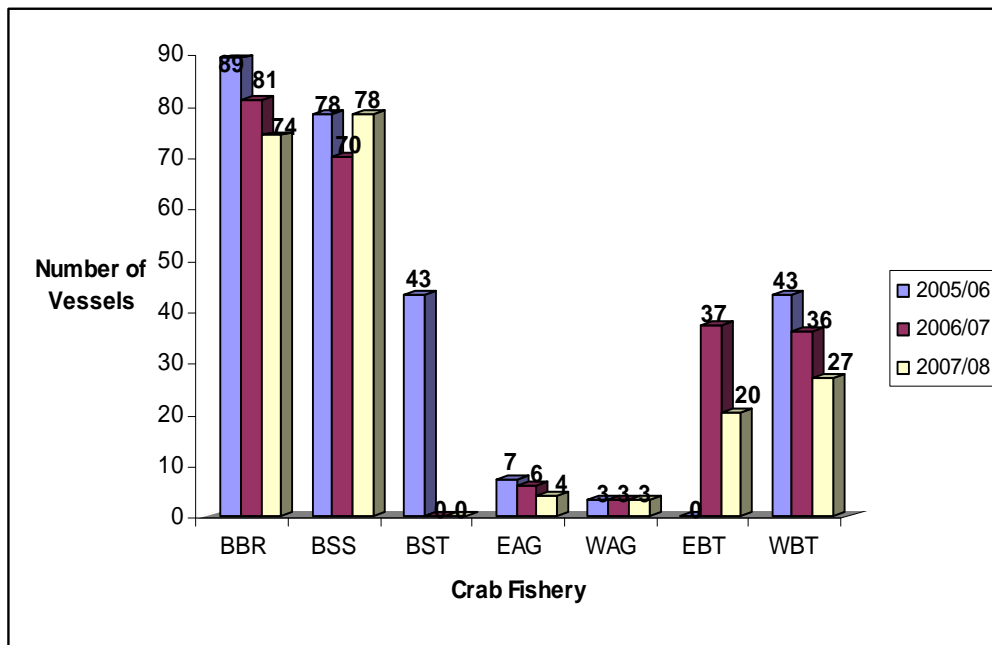


Figure 5.2 Vessel Participation in Program Fisheries, 2005/06–2007/08

Table 5.2 shows the amount of gear and average season-days used per vessel in the third Program year. During the first three Program years, the average number of pots pulled per vessel generally increased (except WAG and WBT), and sometimes almost doubled (EAG). Pots pulled in the WAG fishery decreased by approximately 1,000 since the first Program year. Season length changed minimally; RAM counts the entire first and last day of each season and, this season, added one day for the 2008 “leap” year. The BBR fishery was not affected by the addition of the February 29 leap day because the BBR season closed January 15, 2008. Despite relative consistency in lengths of seasons, during the 2007/08 season average days fished per vessel increased by five (BBR) and twelve days (BSS) and tripled in the east and west Tanner fisheries since the second Program year. Generally, the number of pots registered by fishery decreased, except in the EBT/WBT fisheries, in which pots increased from 545 in the BST to 3,102 in the combined EBT and WBT fisheries. Compared to previous Program years, during the 2007/08 season BSAI crab fishermen used less gear and expended more effort per vessel over more days.

Table 5.2 IFQ fishery effort by number of pots, vessels, days, and season length, 2005/06–2007/08

	Number of pots registered (fleet)			Average number of pots registered (vessel)			Total number of pots pulled ^a (fleet)			Average number of pots pulled (vessel)			Average days fished (vessel)			Season Length (days)		
	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year one	Year two	Year three
BBR	15,713	14,685	11,885	177	181	161	99,573	64,325	101,734	1,119	794	1,375	26	21	26	93	93	93
BSS	13,734	10,851	13,647	176	162	173	108,397	79,869	129,625	1,389	1,192	1,641	42	36	48	229	229	230
EAG	8,833	6,600	4,200	1,262	1,100	1,050	21,898	22,694	20,496	3,128	3,782	6,832	174	88	147	274	274	275
BST EBT ^{c,d}	545	3,320	3,102	136	175	107	29,693	26,487	30,691	691	646	1,535	Closed	20	69	168	168	169
WAG	4,900	4,500	4,800	1,633	1,500	1,600	27,503	23,839	25,287	9,168	7,946	8,129	174	88	87	274	274	275
BST WBT ^{c,d}	545	820	3,102	136	205	107	29,693	22,841	19,210	691	586	620	24	19	69	168	168	169

(Source: ADF&G)

^aPot pull data are for both incidental and directed fisheries.

^bEBT and WBT crab pot registration data reflect directed fishery only. Pots for Tanner fishery are not split E/W; total pots for combined E/W fisheries = 3,102.

^dBeginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). Year-one data is BST.

Season Length

One objective of the Program is to improve safety and market conditions by providing an extended season during which dedicated allocations can be harvested. As shown in Figure 5.3, harvesters in all 6 open fisheries used this opportunity to varying degrees. In each fishery, landings started after the fishing year began and landings continued over an extended time, with EBT's last landing 2 days after season closure and WAG's last landing 6 days after closure. Within these fisheries, there were 10 after-season landings. In the EBT fishery the number of days between the first and last landings was the highest percentage (98) of harvest days available. EAG showed the lowest percentage with 60 percent. In Figure 5.3, numbers represent days (either season length or days between first and last landings) and the percentage of season use in each IFQ crab fishery.

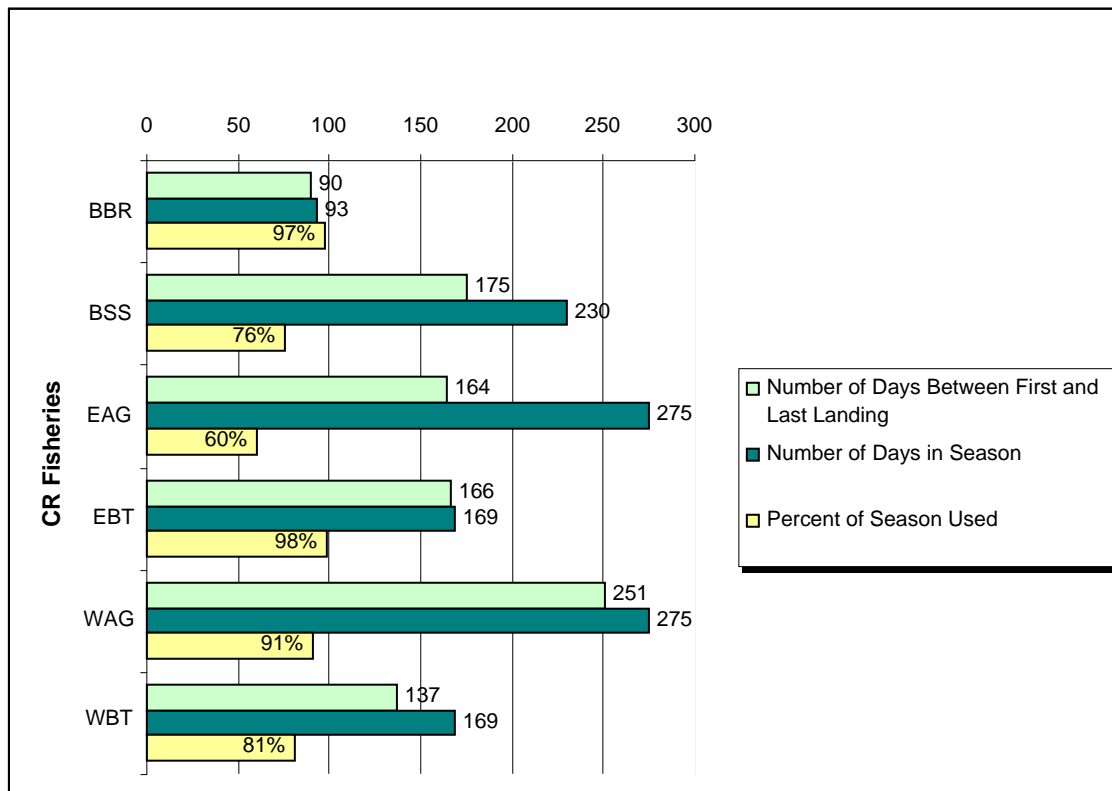


Figure 5.3 Comparison of Season Length with the Number of Days between First and Last Landing, 2007/08

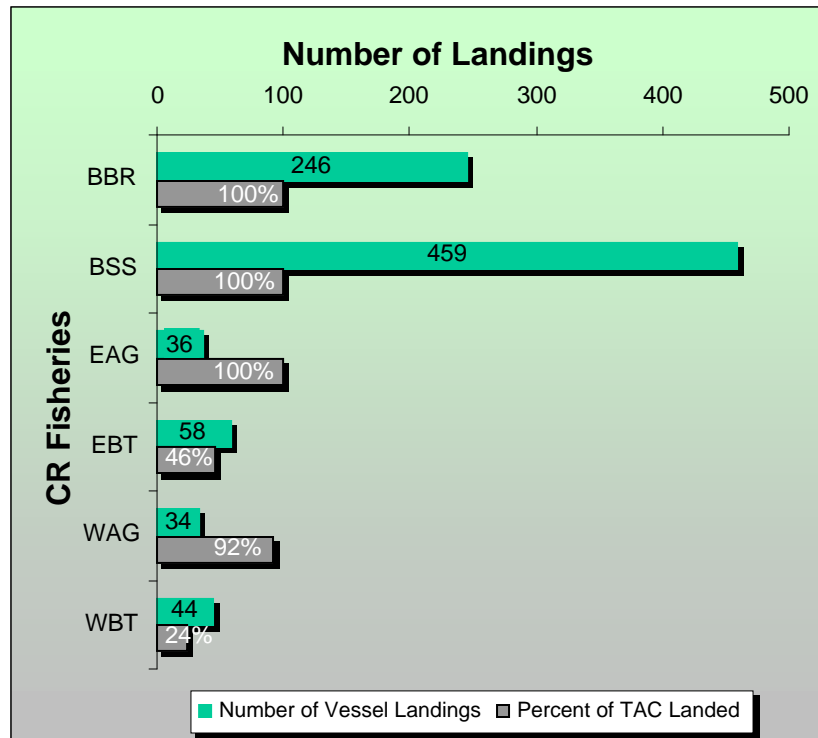


Figure 5.4 Vessel Landings and Percent of TAC Landed, 2007/08

How Much of the TAC Did Fisheries Harvest?

Figure 5.4 illustrates that during the 2007/08 fishing year, participants in the larger CR fisheries harvested the entire TACs. Throughout the Program the BBR fishery has consistently harvested more of its TAC, compared to any other CR fishery. Widening the gap between fish landed and TAC, the WBT fishery harvested under one-fourth of its TAC of approximately 1.5 million pounds, while EBT fishermen harvested below half their TAC. In Figure 5.4, percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Days with the Largest Landings, 2005/06–2007/08

On which days did fishermen land the most fish? The day with the most pounds landed for the BBR fishery was October 29 during all three Program years due to international marketing schedules. And the EAG fishery brought in the most fish on September 24 during the last two years. For the BST in 2006, the highest yield came on April 2—and earlier on March 5 for the EBT and WBT fisheries in 2007. Both the BSS and WAG fisheries’ largest landings came earlier nearly every year. This fishing year, however, the WAG’s heaviest landing was later by four months, with previous largest landings during Program years in mid September and October. During the 2007/08 year WAG’s largest landing date was not until February 12, 2008. The BSS fishery high-landing days ranged from March 19, 2006 to February 19, 2007—and earlier the third year, with the most fish landed February 5, 2008. Amid market demands, changes in weather, higher fuel prices, and other complex variables, in the larger fisheries BSAI fishermen seem fairly consistent in the timings of their largest landings, and some in the smaller fisheries achieve their largest landings earlier each year.

Allocations, Harvests, and Landings

When the last quota fishery (BSS West Sub District) closed on May 31, 2008, IFQ permit holders and their Hired Masters had reported a total of 824 vessel landings (offloads) for the crab-fishing year. IFQ permit holders and their 113 participating Hired Masters (79.6 percent of Hired Masters permitted) landed in excess of 91 percent of the TAC for all but the EBT and WBT crab fisheries. During the 2007/08 crab year, Hired Masters participated in 99.9 percent of offloads. Tables 5.3–5.6 show harvest by combinations of fishery, region, sector, and IFQ class. Some data are confidential and cannot be shown. For a brief discussion of confidentiality, please see “Notes on This Report” before the Table of Contents.

Table 5.3 Landings by fishery^{a,b}

Fishery	Number of IFQ permit-holders ^c	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of landings ^a	Landed pounds ^{a,b}	Sold pounds	Percent sold	Personal use pounds	Percent personal use	Deadloss pounds	Percent deadloss	IFQ pounds ^d available in fishery	Percent fishable pounds landed	Overage pounds ^e	Percent overage of total landed pounds ^e
BBR	27	17	246	18,324,046	18,162,149	99.10	33,784	0.18	131,968	0.72	18,334,699	99.94	3,855	0.02
BSS	25	17	459	56,722,400	56,225,161	99.11	6,478	0.01	500,081	0.88	56,730,595	99.99	9,320	0.02
EAG	4	4	36	2,690,377	2,669,310	99.22	20	0.00	21,047	0.78	2,699,969	99.64	0	0.00
EBT	10	8	58	1,439,435	1,423,727	98.91	74	0.01	15,634	1.09	3,100,505	46.43	0	0.00
WAG	3	4	34	2,246,040	2,225,415	98.97	0	0.00	23,181	1.03	2,430,005	92.43	2,556	0.11
WBT	8	8	44	467,136	461,946	98.89	1,124	0.24	4,066	0.87	1,958,404	23.85	0	0.00

^a Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^b Landing = vessel offload.

^c Number of permit holders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.

^d “IFQ pounds” is slightly different from TAC; some pounds were not issuable or amounts were rounded.

^e Overages are the amounts landed in excess of amounts authorized on IFQ permits.

Table 5.4 Landings by fishery and region^{a,b}

Fishery	Region ^c	Number of IFQ permit-holders ^d	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of landings	Landed pounds ^{a,b}	Sold pounds	Percent sold	Personal use pounds	Percent personal use	Deadloss pounds	Percent deadloss	IFQ pounds available in region ^e	Percent fishable pounds landed	Overage pounds ^f	Percent overage ^e of total landed pounds
BBR	N	11	7	23	430,939	425,984	98.85	0	0.00	4,955	1.15	431,120	99.96	0	0.00
	S	20	15	219	16,541,563	16,395,684	99.10	28,320	0.17	121,414	0.73	16,548,217	99.96	3,855	0.02
	U	21	13	70	1,351,544	1,340,481	99.18	5,464	0.40	5,599	0.41	1,355,362	97.72	0	0.00
BSS	N	19	15	222	23,411,235	23,208,477	99.13	6,300	0.03	197,683	0.84	23,415,342	99.98	1,225	0.01
	S	19	12	214	26,614,973	26,329,858	98.93	122	0.00	285,669	1.07	26,619,007	99.98	676	0.00
	U	22	13	93	6,696,192	6,686,826	99.75	56	0.00	16,729	0.25	6,696,246	100.00	7,419	0.11
EAG	S	3	3	29	2,486,533	2,466,015	99.17	20	0.00	20,498	0.82	2,492,311	99.77	0	0.00
	U	3	3	9	203,844	203,295	99.73	0	0.00	549	0.27	207,658	98.16	0	0.00
EBT ^c	U	10	8	58	1,439,435	1,423,727	98.91	74	0.01	15,634	1.09	3,100,505	46.43	0	0.00
WAG*	U/W	3	4	34	2,246,040	2,225,415	98.08	0	0.00	23,181	1.03	2,430,005	92.43	2,556	0.11
WBT ^c	U	8	8	44	467,136	461,946	98.89	1,124	0.24	4,066	0.87	1,958,404	23.85	0	0.00

*WAG regional data are confidential by region.

^a Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^b Landing = vessel offload.

^c IFQ regions are “N” = North, “S” = South, and “W” = West; “U” = no region designated. EBT and WBT are not designated regionally.

^d Number of permitholders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.

^e “IFQ pounds in region” is not the overall fishery TAC; it includes only the TAC available to each region.

^f Overages are the amounts landed in excess of amounts authorized on IFQ permits.

Table 5.5 IFQ landings by fishery and IFQ sector^{a,b}

Fishery	Sector	Number of IFQ permit-holders ^c	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of landings	Landed pounds ^{a,b}	Sold pounds	Percent sold	Personal use pounds	Percent personal use	Deadloss pounds	Percent deadloss	IFQ pounds available in sector ^d	Percent fishable pounds landed	Overage pounds ^e	Percent overage ^e of total landed pounds
BBR	CVC	21	10	50	525,238	515,371	98.12	5,396	1.03	4,471	0.85	528,407	99.40	0	0.00
	CPC	6	5	7	19,246	19,200	99.76	4	0.02	42	0.22	19,247	99.99	0	0.00
	CVO	20	15	229	16,972,502	16,821,668	99.09	28,320	0.17	126,369	0.74	16,979,337	99.96	3,855	0.02
	CPO	6	7	21	807,060	805,910	99.86	64	0.01	1,086	0.13	807,708	99.92	0	0.00
BSS	CVC	22	11	50	1,601,489	1,594,250	99.34	0	0.00	10,643	0.66	1,601,490	100.00	3,404	0.21
	CPC	6	5	6	99,921	99,859	99.94	0	0.00	62	0.06	99,922	100.00	0	0.00
	CVO	19	15	408	50,026,208	49,538,335	99.02	6,422	0.01	483,352	0.97	50,034,349	99.98	1,901	0.00
	CPO	4	9	44	4,994,782	4,992,717	99.88	56	0.00	6,024	0.12	4,994,834	100.00	4,015	0.08
EAG*	All Sectors	4	4	36	2,690,377	2,669,310	99.22	20	0.00	21,047	0.78	2,699,969	99.64	0	0.00
EBT	CVC	4	4	8	32,984	32,742	99.27	0	0.00	242	0.73	85,165	38.73	0	0.00
	CVO	9	7	50	1,332,812	1,317,672	98.86	74	0.01	15,066	1.13	2,805,644	47.50	0	0.00
	CPO	3	3	11	73,639	73,313	99.56	0	0.00	326	0.44	202,073	36.44	0	0.00
WAG*	All Sectors	3	4	34	2,246,040	2,225,415	98.97	0	0.00	23,181	1.03	2,430,005	92.43	2,556	0.11
WBT*	All Sectors	8	8	44	467,136	461,946	98.89	1,124	0.24	4,066	0.87	1,958,404	23.85	0	0.00

* EAG, WAG and WBT data are confidential by sector.

^a Landing pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^b Landing = vessel offload.

^c Number of permit-holders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.

^d "IFQ pounds available in sector" is not the overall fishery TAC; it includes only the TAC available to each sector.

^e Overages are the amounts landed in excess of amounts authorized on IFQ permits.

Table 5.6 Landings^a by fishery and IFQ class

Fishery	IFQ Class	Number of IFQ permit-holders ^b	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of landings	Landed pounds ^{a,c}	Sold pounds	Percent sold	Personal use pounds	Percent personal use	Deadloss pounds	Percent deadloss	IFQ pounds available in class ^d	Percent fishable pounds landed	Overage pounds ^e	Percent overage of total landed pounds
BBR	A	20	13	195	15,277,413	15,136,599	99.07	26,321	0.17	115,534	0.76	15,281,406	99.97	1,041	0.01
	B	18	12	67	1,695,089	1,685,069	99.24	1,999	0.12	10,835	0.64	1,697,931	99.83	2,814	0.17
	U ^f	21	13	70	1,351,544	1,340,481	99.18	5,464	0.40	5,599	0.41	1,355,362	99.72	0	0.00
BSS	A	19	11	355	45,025,445	44,572,742	98.99	6,422	0.01	447,354	0.99	45,030,918	99.99	1,073	0.00
	B	17	14	89	5,000,763	4,965,593	99.28	0	0.00	35,998	0.72	5,003,431	99.95	828	0.02
	U ^f	22	13	93	6,696,192	6,686,826	99.75	56	0.00	16,729	0.25	6,696,246	100.00	7,419	0.11
EAG	A	3	3	27	2,241,690	2,222,428	99.14	20	0.00	19,242	0.86	2,243,082	99.94	0	0.00
	B	3	3	6	244,843	243,587	99.49	0	0.00	1,256	0.51	249,229	98.24	0	0.00
	U ^f	3	3	9	203,844	203,295	99.73	0	0.00	549	0.27	207,658	98.16	0	0.00
EBT	A	9	6	43	1,186,228	1,172,219	98.82	30	0.00	13,979	1.18	2,525,080	46.98	0	0.00
	B	6	3	11	146,584	145,453	99.23	44	0.03	1,087	0.74	280,564	52.25	0	0.00
	U ^f	5	5	16	106,623	106,055	99.47	0	0.00	568	0.53	294,861	36.16	0	0.00
WAG*	All Classes	3	4	34	2,246,040	2,225,415	98.97	0	0.00	23,181	1.03	2,430,005	92.43	2,556	0.11
WBT	A	8	7	38	420,540	416,323	99.00	693	0.16	3,524	0.84	1,594,952	26.37	0	0.00
	B	4	4	5	26,022	25,634	98.51	0	0.00	388	1.49	177,211	14.68	0	0.00
	U ^f	5	4	5	20,574	19,989	97.16	431	2.09	154	0.75	186,241	11.05	0	0.00

* WAG data are confidential by class.

^a Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^b Landing = vessel offload.

^c Number of permit-holders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.

^d "IFQ pounds available in class" is not the overall fishery TAC; it includes only the TAC available to a class.

^e Overages are the amounts landed in excess of amounts authorized on IFQ permits.

^f IFQ class "U" = IFQ in CVC, CPC, and CPO sectors. Class "A" CVO IFQ must be delivered to RCRs with IPQ; class "B" CVO IFQ (like "U" IFQ) may be delivered to any RCR.

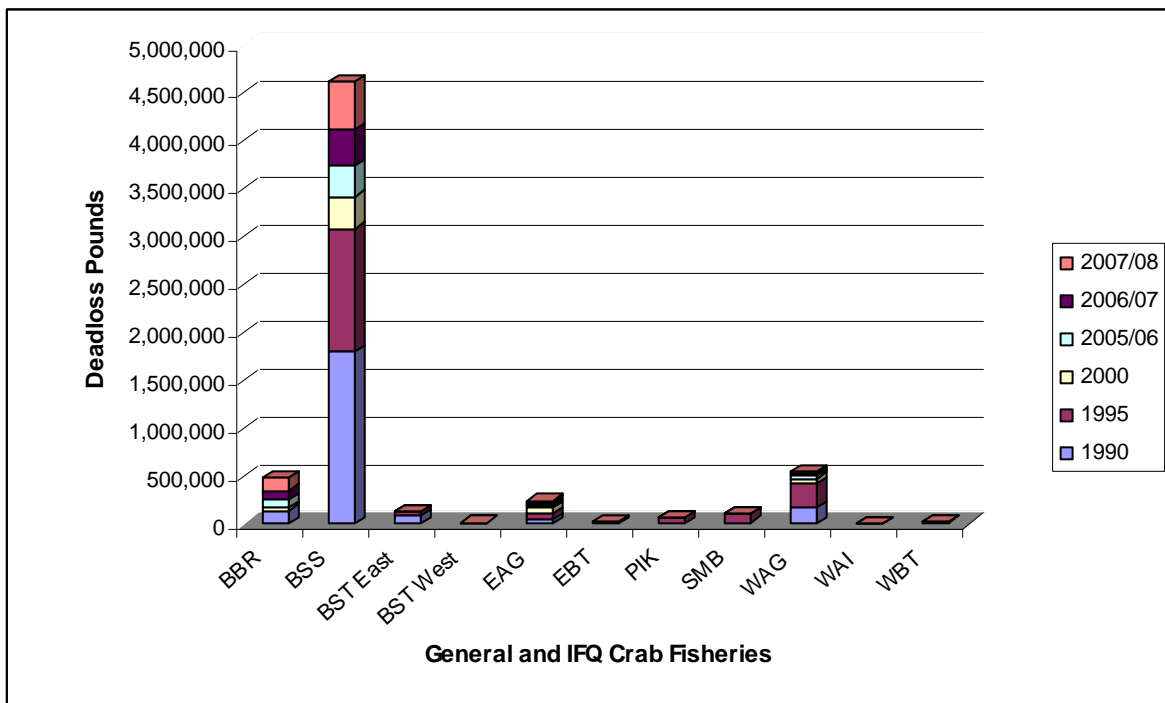
Deadloss

Deadloss is crab that was delivered dead or in otherwise unprocessable condition, other than personal use crab. Deadloss occurs for a number of reasons, including cold weather during deck sorting, failure of sea water systems in holds, and lengthy waits to offload crab. Most deadloss (85%) was reported on Class A IFQ permits; however, Class A permits account for the vast majority of TAC assigned to quota fisheries.

Figure 5.5 shows crab deadloss by fishery at five-year intervals from 1990 through 2000 and IFQ-related deadloss in fishing years 2005/06, 2006/07, and 2007/08. Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). Over time, fishery deadloss has declined. This figure does not reflect minimal deadloss (235 pounds) in 1995 in the WAI fishery, which was closed during the rest of the selected years.

Historical Overview

The 1990 BSS fishery reported the highest pre-Program deadloss, despite partial district and subdistrict closures. By 1995 BSS deadloss had declined sharply and remained relatively low, although with a slight rise (from 322,600 pounds to almost 379,000 pounds of deadloss) during the first and second years under the Program, yet still far below the 1990 pre-Program deadloss of nearly 1,800,000 pounds. As illustrated in Figure 5.5, the BSS fishery has accounted for approximately 4.5 million pounds of reported deadloss since 1990. During the 2007/08 crab year, the BSS fishery, the largest fishery, sustained the highest Program deadloss of the year, reporting slightly over 500,000 pounds of deadloss, higher than in the last two Program years. The BBR fishery reported the second highest deadloss this year with nearly 132,000 pounds.



(Source: Pre-Program data, ADF&G; Program data, RAM/NOAA Fisheries)

Figure 5.5 Pre-Program and Program Deadloss over Time

Tables 5.7 and 5.8 display the class of IFQ permit on which deadloss was reported. Table 5.8 displays deadloss data for the open fisheries. The tables show that little deadloss was reported and that most deadloss was reported on Class A IFQ permits.

Table 5.7 Deadloss reported for all fisheries^a by IFQ permit class, 2007/08

IFQ Class ^a	Landing count	Percent landed ^b as deadloss	Deadloss pounds	Total landed pounds ^c (excluding overages)	Percent of total deadloss reported on IFQ class permits ^{a,b,c}
A	637	0.95	621,535	65,114,153	89.30
B	182	0.69	49,944	7,238,212	7.18
U	205	0.26	24,498	9,537,069	3.52

^a Only CVO sector IFQ is divided into Class A and B IFQ. IFQ class “U” = IFQ in CVC, CPC, and CPO sectors. Class “A” CVO IFQ must be delivered to RCRs with IPQ; class “B” CVO IFQ crab (like “U” IFQ) may be delivered to any RCR.

^b Percentages may vary slightly from published data due to rounding.

^c Landed pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.



Deadloss surrounds OLE Officer Tim Gould, Kodiak Photograph courtesy of NOAA Fisheries

Table 5.8 Deadloss by fishery^a and IFQ permit class, 2007/08

Fishery	IFQ Class ^b	Landing count	Percent of fishery class landed ^c as deadloss	Deadloss pounds	Total landed pounds ^d (excluding overages)	Percent of total deadloss in each fishery's IFQ class
BBR	A ^c	195	0.76	115,534	15,277,413	87.55
	B ^c	67	0.64	10,835	1,695,089	8.21
	U ^c	70	0.41	5,599	1,351,544	4.24
BSS	A ^c	355	0.99	447,354	45,025,445	89.46
	B ^c	89	0.72	35,998	5,000,763	7.20
	U ^c	93	0.25	16,729	6,696,192	3.35
EAG	A ^c	27	0.86	19,242	2,241,690	91.42
	B ^c	6	0.51	1,256	244,843	5.97
	U ^c	9	0.27	549	203,844	2.61
EBT	A ^c	43	1.18	13,979	1,186,228	89.41
	B ^c	11	0.74	1,087	146,584	6.95
	U ^c	16	0.53	568	106,623	3.63
WAG	All Classes	34	2.65	23,181	2,246,040	1.03
WBT	A ^c	38	0.84	3,524	420,540	86.67
	B ^c	5	1.49	388	26,022	9.54
	U ^c	5	0.75	154	20,574	3.79

^a WAG data are confidential by class.

^b Only CVO sector IFQ is divided into Class A and B IFQ. IFQ class "U" = IFQ in CVC, CPC, and CPO sectors. Class "A" CVO IFQ must be delivered to RCRs with IPQ; class "B" CVO IFQ crab (like "U" IFQ) may be delivered to any RCR.

^c Percentages may vary slightly from published data due to rounding.

^d Landed pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

Ports

Tables 5.9 and 5.11 show ports ranked by landings and pounds delivered in 2007/08 for all crab IFQ fisheries. Table 5.10 presents port rank by Program year. Figure 5.7 illustrates port landings volume for crab quota fisheries. Due to confidentiality, some data cannot be published by port.

Table 5.9 Port rank by IFQ pounds landed for all Program species^a, 2007/08

Rank	Port	Number Landings ^b	Number IFQ permit-holders	Number RCR permit-holders	Distinct number of vessels	Pounds Landed ^c	Percent of total pounds landed ^d
1	Dutch/Unalaska	382	19	8	65	35,106,081	42.9
2	St Paul	191	19	8	67	21,924,349	26.8
3	Akutan	94	15	*	33	*	*
4	King Cove	60	12	*	21	*	*
5	At Sea ^e	69	4	6	6	6,296,010	7.7
6	Kodiak	24	8	4	14	1,397,523	1.7
7	Adak	5	*	*	*	*	*

^a Ports are ranked by pounds landed; however, because of confidentiality (*), some data are not shown.

^b Landing = offload.

^c Landed pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^d Percentages may vary slightly from published data due to rounding.

^e "At Sea" means "landings" on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

During the first two Program years, Dutch/Unalaska and "At Sea" were top ports, respectively. St Paul and Akutan, respectively, each ranked third in the two earlier Program years. This third year, however, St Paul again rose to a higher rank (second), up from sixth. During the second year, processors did not use shore facilities in St Paul.

Table 5.10 Port rank over time

Port	Rank Program year three	Rank Program year two	Rank Program year one
Dutch/Unalaska	1	1	1
St Paul	2	6	3
Akutan	3	3	4
King Cove	4	4	5
At Sea	5	2	2
Kodiak	6	5	6
Adak	7	7	7

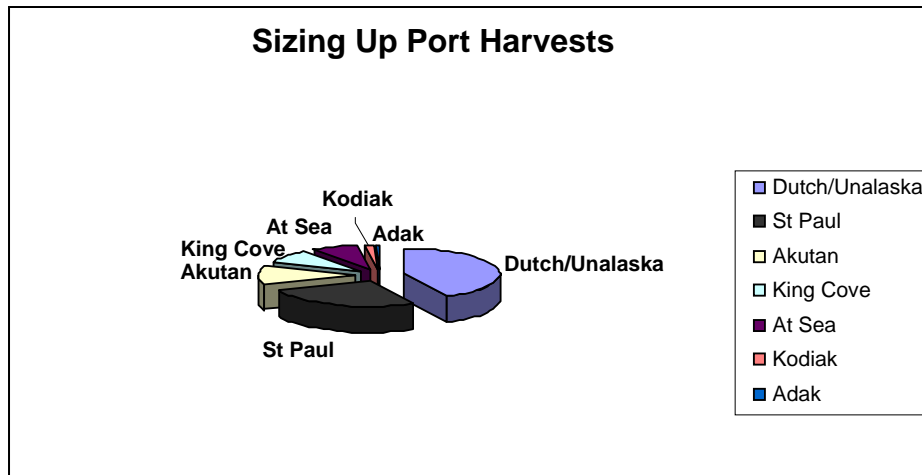


Figure 5.6 Comparative Port Harvests by Total Harvest Pounds, 2007/08

Figure 5.6 illustrates landings volumes among the seven major crab ports, which include “At Sea” landings not within ports. Because of confidentiality, harvest values are not displayed.

Table 5.11 IFQ landings in pounds^a and percent by port* and IFQ class

Port*	Class A	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class A	Class B	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class B	Class U ^c	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class U	Class B/U	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class B/U
Adak, Akutan, At Sea ^d , King Cove, Kodiak	*							
Dutch/Unalaska	27,135,619	77.3	5,514,088	15.7	2,456,374	7.0	7,970,462	22.7
St Paul	21,564,639	98.4	98,585	0.4	261,125	1.2	359,710	1.6

Adak, Akutan, At Sea, King Cove, and Kodiak data are confidential () by class.

^a Pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^b Adak, Akutan, At Sea, King Cove, and Kodiak class data are confidential and cannot be displayed.

^c Only CVO sector IFQ is divided into Class A and B IFQ. IFQ class "U" = IFQ in CVC, CPC, and CPO sectors. Class "A" CVO IFQ must be delivered to RCRs with IPQ; Class "B" CVO IFQ crab (like "U" IFQ) may be delivered to any RCR.

^d "At sea" means "landings" on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

Cooperatives

The Fishermen's Collective Marketing Act of 1934 allows fishermen to jointly harvest, market, and price their product without being in violation of antitrust laws. Using cooperatives allows harvesting with fewer vessels and cost and revenue sharing.

A group of four or more distinct QS holders (not affiliated with the other members in that cooperative) may voluntarily form a crab-harvesting cooperative. Crab-harvesting cooperatives do not hold QS; they hold and use only the IFQ assigned to the cooperative by members. To receive a cooperative IFQ permit, crab-harvesting cooperatives must annually apply by August 1 to NOAA Fisheries.

Cooperatives must use Hired Masters to harvest cooperative IFQ, and vessels used must be owned in part by a cooperative member. Vessels used exclusively to harvest crab cooperative IFQ are exempt from vessel use caps. Crab harvesting cooperatives are free to associate with one or more processors to the extent allowed by antitrust law.

The 19 cooperatives that formed for the 2007/08 crab-fishing year accounted for at least 98.7 percent of the harvest in every fishery. The following tables display the percent IFQ assigned to cooperatives compared with that held outside cooperatives. Tables 5.12 and 5.13 contrast cooperative and noncooperative IFQ allocations and landing performance.

As shown in Tables 5.12 and 5.13, more than 91 percent of IFQ for each fishery was assigned to cooperatives, which tended to harvest a greater percentage of their collective pounds than did persons holding IFQ outside cooperatives.

Table 5.12 IFQ pounds assigned to cooperatives and landing performance over time

Fishery	IFQ Type	Co-op members	Number of co-ops	IFQ pounds	IFQ pounds assigned to co-ops	IFQ Percent of pounds assigned to co-ops	Cooperative Pounds landed (excluding overages)	Percent co-op pounds landed 2007/08	Percent co-op pounds landed 2006/07	Percent co-op pounds landed 2005/06
BBR ^a	crew	146	17	547,654	516,935	94.4	516,758	100.0	100.0	99.2
	owner	243	19	17,787,045	17,578,858	98.8	17,571,547	100.0		100.0
BSS ^b	crew	130	17	1,701,412	1,620,058	95.2	56,387,123	100.0	100.0	99.2
	owner	230	19	55,029,183	54,773,969	99.5				99.9
EAG	crew	10	2	80,995	77,738	96.0	*	*	*	*
	owner	15	6	2,618,974	2,618,974	100.0				
EBT ^c	crew	129	18	88,265	80,360	91.0	*	*	69.0	Fishery area was closed
	owner	242	19	2,996,422	2,972,668	99.2			76.0	
WAG	crew	7	3	68,407	64,234	93.9	*	*	*	98.3
	owner	15	5	2,206,706	2,206,706	100.0				98.0
WBT ^c	crew	129	18	55,748	50,755	91.0	*	*	64.0	35.5 (BST)
	owner	242	19	1,892,665	1,877,661	99.2			67.0	55.8 (BST)
All fisheries		427	19	85,073,476	84,438,916	99.3	81,318,386	96.3	98.2	98.9

* Some data are confidential and cannot be shown due either to cooperative or noncooperative data.

^a BBR fishery is confidential by sector year two of the Program (2006/07).

^b BSS fishery is confidential by sector in year three.

^c Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). In 2005/06, the eastern area of BST was closed. Year three EBT and WBT landing performance data are confidential.

Table 5.13 IFQ pounds held by persons outside cooperatives and landing performance over time*

Fishery	IFQ Type	Number of persons holding IFQ outside cooperatives	IFQ pounds excluding overages	IFQ pounds held outside cooperatives	Percent IFQ pounds held outside cooperatives	Noncooperative pounds landed excluding overages	Percent noncooperative pounds landed 2007/08	Percent noncooperative pounds landed 2006/07	Percent noncooperative pounds landed 2005/06
BBR	crew	8	547,654	30,719	5.6	27,726	90.2	96.8	89.4
	owner	4	17,787,045	208,187	1.2	208,015	99.9		99.2
BSS	crew	6	1,701,412	81,354	4.8	*	*	*	80.2
	owner	2	55,029,183	255,214	0.5				97.4
EAG ^a	crew	1	80,995	3,257	4.0	*	*	*	*
	owner	0	2,618,974	0	0.0				
EBT ^b	crew	15	88,265	7,905	9.0	*	*	*	fisherv area closed
	owner	2	2,996,422	23,754	0.8				
WAG	crew	1	68,407	4,173	6.1	*	*	*	*
	owner	0	2,206,706	0	0.0				
WBT ^b	crew	15	55,748	4,993	9.0	*	*	*	(BST) 11.6
	owner	2	1,892,665	15,004	0.8				(BST) 51.6
All fisheries		20	85,073,476	634,560	0.7	571,048	90.0	90.1	96.2

* BSS, EAG, WAG, EBT, and WBT noncooperative landing data are confidential by sector.

^b Beginning with the 2006/07 crab-fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). In 2005/06, the eastern area of BST was closed.

Chapter 6 Community Protection Measures

Community Protection Program

The Program includes several measures to protect revenues and employment in fishery-dependent coastal communities with a history of participation in these fisheries. These measures take the form of geographic landing and/or transfer restrictions on IFQ, PQS, and IPQ in five of the nine Program fisheries. There are nine Eligible Crab Communities (ECCs): Adak, Akutan, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, False Pass, King Cove, Kodiak, Port Moller, Saint George, and Saint Paul. Of these, all but Adak have the “Right of First Refusal” on proposed sales of PQS. The “Cooling-off” provision ended prior to the 2007/08 year. This provision was a temporary prohibition against use of IPQ outside of the community or borough boundary from which the PQS was derived. Regions assigned to QS/IFQ and PQS/IPQ for most fisheries protect the Pribilof Islands in the BSAI and Kodiak Island in the GOA. The QS Community purchase measure allows new small communities to purchase QS for use by community residents.



Stormy Seas in St George, Alaska NOAA Fisheries

During the first two years of the Program, NOAA Fisheries approved three instances of the “Unavoidable Circumstance” exemption to the “Cooling Off” requirements for two processors. Two were due to significant logistic and safety concerns caused by storm damage to the St. George harbor and one was due to severe icing conditions at St. Paul. The “Unavoidable Circumstance” provision does not exempt IPQ use from regional landing use requirements. During the 2007/08 fishing year, RAM approved no exemptions. Two-year “Cooling Off” provisions terminated at the end of the second crab fishing year, and the exemption became moot.

Table 6.1 shows the percentages of processing “power” vested in the ECCs versus PQS/IPQ without Community Protection Measures (“None”) in 2007/08.

Table 6.1 Percent PQS/IPQ assigned to ROFR eligible communities or “None”^a

Protection Measure and Community	Fishery								
	BBR	BSS	EAG	EBT	PIK	SMB	WAG	WAI	WBT
ROFR									
Akutan	19.7	9.7	1.0	0.0	1.2	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
False Pass	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
King Cove	12.7	6.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kodiak	3.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Port Moller	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St George	0.0	9.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St Paul	2.5	36.3	0.0	0.0	67.3	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unalaska	50.7	35.0	98.1	0.0	24.6	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
None	3.5	2.8	0.9	100.0	0.3	64.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total^a	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

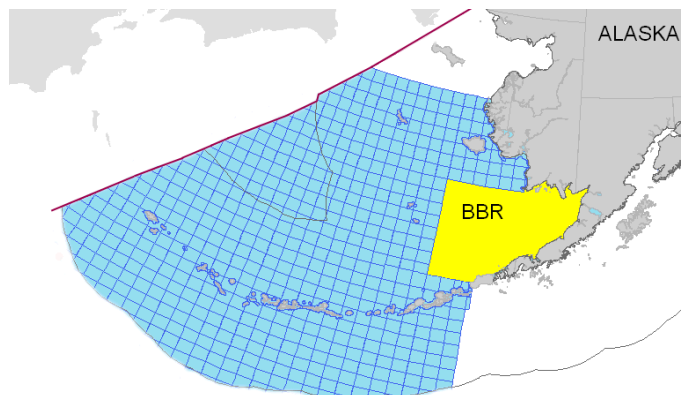
^a Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Chapter 7 Fishery Summaries

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBR), 2007/08

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 58° 30' N., along the east side of continental Alaska, a southern boundary of 54° 36' N., and a western boundary of 168° W., and including all waters of Bristol Bay.

The IFQ fishery was open with a TAC of 18,344,700 pounds. The season opened Oct 15, 2007 and closed Jan 15, 2008.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 161 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,375 per vessel
Harvest: 18,324,046 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 74
Port Count: 6 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 246
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.9%
Active RCR holders: 17
Active IFQ permitholders: 27
Active IPQ holders: 12
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master): 75

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.1 displays the ports in which BBR crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.1 Ports used for BBR crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^a			Percent total Harvest by port ^{b,c}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
DUTCH/UNALASKA	10,566,930	7,028,859	8,459,532	1	1	1	149	81	120	57.7	50.7	51.4
AKUTAN*	*	*	*	2	2	3	38	33	43	*	*	*
KING COVE*	*	2,470,991	*	3	3	2	25	37	50	*	17.8	*
KODIAK	921,243	809,640	774,045	4	4	5	15	13	12	5.0	5.8	4.7
ST PAUL*	*	*	*	5	6	6	10	7	10	*	*	*
AT SEA ^d	*	660,617	914,933	6	5	4	9	12	19	*	4.8	5.6
Total	18,324,046	13,877,870	16,472,400				246	183	255			

* Data are confidential.

^a A vessel landing is an offload. For 2005/06, totals include one BBR landing in Sitka (confidential), the seventh-ranked port that year.

^b Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^c Harvest is raw crab pounds.

^d “At-sea” means “landings” on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

When the season ended, BBR IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 246 vessel landings (offloads) of BBR crab for a total harvest of 99.9 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.2 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years prior to the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.2 BBR IFQ crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000–2007/08

Fishery year	TAC/GHL ^a	Harvest ^b	Percent TAC or GHL landed ^c
2000	7.7	7.6	98.7
2001	6.6	7.8	118.2
2002	8.6	8.9	103.5
2003	14.5	14.8	102.1
2004	14.3	14.3	100.0
2005/06	16.5	16.5	100.0
2006/07	13.9	13.9	99.3
2007/08	18.3	18.3	100.0

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

^a GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G set GHLs for crab fisheries before Program implementation); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).

^b Landings are in millions of raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 BBR fishery, more than 18.1 million of almost 18.3 million fishable pounds (98.9 percent) of total available IFQ were assigned to 19 cooperatives, an increase in percent of pounds assigned to cooperatives over the first two Program years. Table 7.3 displays pounds and percent of BBR IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

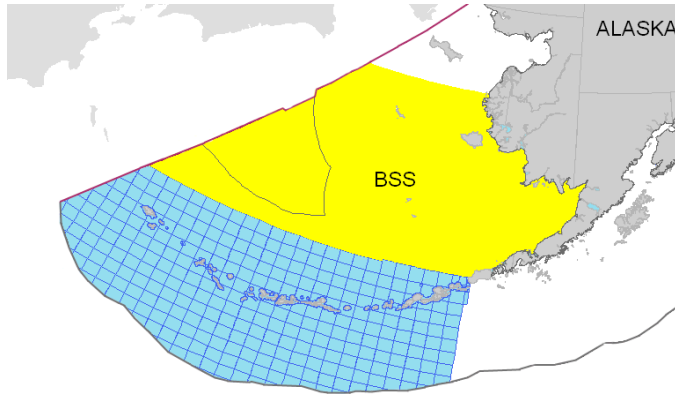
Table 7.3 Pounds and percent of BBR IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	528,407	497,688	94.2	89.4	71.3
CPC	19,247	19,247	100.0	85.4	61.5
CVO	16,979,337	16,771,150	98.8	98.4	84.5
CPO	807,708	807,708	100.0	100.0	68.0

Bering Sea Snow Crab (BSS), 2007/08

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery is open in all waters of the Bering Sea District west of 166° W., including all waters of Bristol Bay. The BSS area was defined by a northern and western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line (U.S. and USSR 1991) southern boundary 54° 30' N., to 171°W., south to 54° 36' N.

The IFQ fishery was open with a TAC of 56,730,600 pounds. The season opened Oct 15, 2007 and closed May 15, 2008 for the East Sub District and May 31, 2008 for the West Sub District.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 173 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,641 per vessel
Harvest: 56,722,400 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 78
Port Count: 6 (including “At Sea”)
Landings count: 459
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.9%
Active RCR holders: 17
Active IFQ permitholders: 25
Active IPQ holders: 11
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master): 93

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.4 displays the ports in which BSS crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during both Program years.

Table 7.4 Ports used for BSS crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^a			Percent total harvest by port ^{b,c}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
ST PAUL	21,418,687	*	7,774,571	1	6	3	179	3	77	37.8	*	23.4
DUTCH/UNALASKA	20,164,028	12,315,298	12,451,729	2	2	1	161	107	101	35.6	37.7	37.4
AKUTAN*	*	*	*	3	3	4	47	21	28	*	*	*
AT-SEA ^d	4,479,319	14,971,764	7,893,342	4	1	2	34	121	76	7.9	45.8	23.7
KING COVE*	*	*	*	5	4	5	29	16	17	*	*	*
KODIAK	476,280	*	*	6	5	6	9	4	2	0.8	*	*
Total	56,722,400	32,659,148	33,248,009				459	272	301			

*Data are confidential.

^a A vessel landing is an offload.

^b Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, excluding overages unless noted.

^c Harvest is raw crab pounds.

^d “At-sea” means “landings” on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

When the season ended, 2007, BSS IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 459 vessel landings (offloads) of BSS crab for a total harvest of virtually 100 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.5 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years prior to the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.5 BSS IFQ crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2007/08

Fishery year	TAC/GHL ^a	Harvest ^b	Percent TAC or GHL landed ^{b,c,d}
2000	26.4	30.8	116.7
2001	25.3	23.4	92.5
2002	28.5	30.2	106.0
2003	23.7	26.3	111.0
2004	19.3	22.1	114.5
2005 ^d	19.4	23.0	118.5
2005/06	33.5	33.2	99.3
2006/07	32.9	32.7	99.2
2007/08	56.7	56.7	100.0

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

^a GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).

^b Landings are in millions of raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

^d The 2005 BSS crab year was concluded before the Program was implemented; and data includes pre-program harvest under the Program during 2005/06.

^e Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 BSS fishery, more than 56.4 million of nearly 56.7 million pounds (99.5% of total available IFQ) were assigned to 19 cooperatives. With a substantially higher TAC, this represents a percentage decrease from the previous year. Table 7.6 displays pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

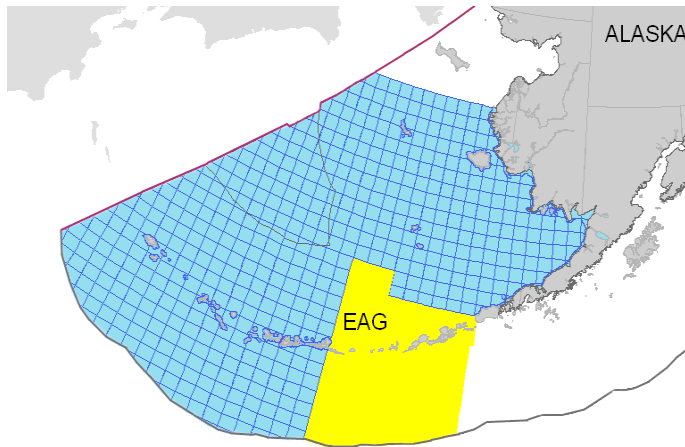
Table 7.6 Pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	1,601,490	1,520,136	94.9	90.2	71.1
CPC	99,922	99,922	100.0	74.3	47.2
CVO	50,034,349	49,779,135	99.5	98.7	86.0
CPO	4,994,834	4,994,834	100.0	100.0	63.9

Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (EAG), 2007/08

The fishery area is defined by an eastern boundary of 164° 44' W., a western boundary of 174° W., and a northern boundary of 54° 36' N. west to 171° W, then north to 55° 30' N., then west to 174° W.

The IFQ fishery was open with a TAC of 2,700,000 pounds. The season opened August 15, 2007 and closed May 15, 2008.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 1,050 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 6,832 per vessel
Harvest: 2,690,377 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 4
Port Count: 2 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 36
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.6%
Active RCR holders: 4
Active IFQ permitholders: 4
Active IPQ holders: 3
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or master): 4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.7 displays the Alaska ports in which EAG crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during both Program years.

Table 7.7 Ports used for EAG crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^a			Percent total harvest by port ^{b,c}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
DUTCH/UNALASKA	*	*	*	1	1	1	29	28	25	*	*	*
AT SEA ^d *	*	*	*	2	3	2	7	3	7	*	*	*
Total	2,690,377	2,690,662	2,569,209				36	32	32			

* Data are confidential.

^a A vessel landing is an offload. For 2006/07 total landings include one EAG landing at Akutan, the second-ranked port that year.

^b Harvest is in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, excluding overages.

^d “At Sea” means “landings” on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

When the season ended, EAG IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 36 vessel landings (offloads) of EAG crab for a total harvest of 99.6 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.8 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years before the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.8 EAG IFQ crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2007/08

Fishery year	TAC/GHL ^a	Harvest ^b	Percent TAC or GHL landed ^{a,b,c}
2000	3	3.1	104.5
2001	3	3.2	105.7
2002	3	2.8	94.0
2003	3	3.0	99.0
2004	3	2.9	96.0
2005/06	2.7	2.6	95.2
2006/07	2.7	2.7	99.6
2007/08	2.7	2.7	99.6

(Source: ADF&G; NOAA Fisheries)

^a GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).

^b Landings are in millions of raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 EAG fishery, almost 100 percent of available IFQ was assigned to six cooperatives. For comparison, Table 7.9 displays pounds and percent of EAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

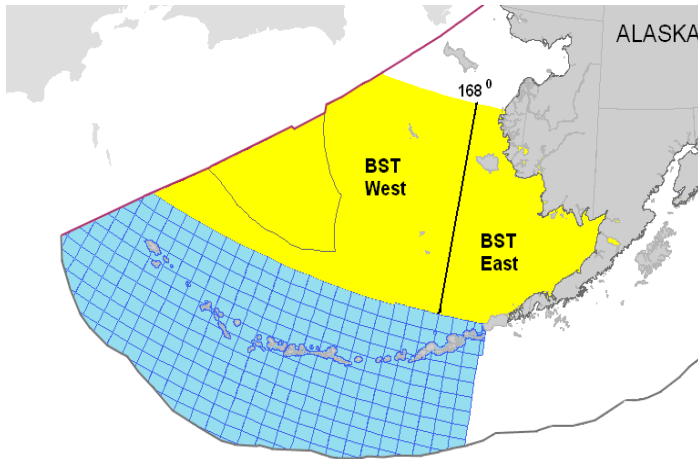
Table 7.9 Pounds and percent of EAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Total pounds available	Pounds to assigned cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	80,995	77,738	96.0	95.6	86.1
CVO	2,492,311	2,492,311	100.0	100.0	90.9
CPO	126,663	126,663	100.0	100.0	100.0

East Bering Tanner (EBT), 2007/08

Beginning with the 2006/07 year, the Bering Sea Tanner crab QS is divided into eastern and western Bering Sea stocks and fisheries (“bairdi split”). NOAA Fisheries has reissued Tanner crab (*c. bairdi*) QS and PQS and the resulting IFQ and IPQ as two separate fisheries, one east of 166° W. longitude (EBT) and one west of 166° W. longitude (WBT). Tanner crab QS and PQS holders received one unit of East Bering Tanner QS or PQS and one unit of West Bering Tanner QS or PQS for each unit of existing Bering Sea Tanner QS or PQS held. This change was necessary for the coordination of QS and PQS with State of Alaska management of the two distinct Tanner crab fisheries.

The EBT IFQ fishery opened with a TAC of 3,100,500 pounds. The season opened Oct 15, 2007 and closed March 31, 2008.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 107 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,535 per vessel
Harvest: 1,439,435 raw crab lbs, (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 20
Port Count: 4 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 58
Percentage of TAC landed: 46.4%
Active RCR holders: 8
Active IFQ permitholders: 10
Active IPQ holders: 6
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or master): 25

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.10 displays the ports in which EBT crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during 2006/07 and 2005/06. BST fishery data are used in “Year one” columns; in that year the eastern BST area was closed.

Table 7.10 Ports used for EBT crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^b			Percent total harvest by port ^{b,c,d}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
DUTCH/UNALASKA	964,855	754,767	Fishery Closed	1	1	Fishery Closed	38	32	28	67.0	46.9	Fishery Closed
AKUTAN*	*	*		2	2		8	12	7	*	*	
KING COVE*	*	*		3	3		4	10	4	*	*	
AT SEA ^{e,*}	*	36,933		4	4		8	3	13	*	6.1	
Total	1,439,435	1,264,044					58	57	73			

* Data are confidential.

^a Beginning with the 2006/07 fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively).

^b A vessel landing is an offload. In 2005/06 total landed pounds included one landing in St Paul, the third-ranked port.

^c Harvest is in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^d Percent allocation is the total landed pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^e “At Sea” means “landings” on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

When the season ended, EBT IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 58 vessel landings (offloads) of EBT crab for a total harvest of 46.4 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.11 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years before the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.11 BST and EBT IFQ crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2007/08

Fishery year and fishery	TAC ^a	Harvest	Percent of TAC or GHLL landed ^b
2000–2004 BST	Closed		
2005/06 BST ^c	Closed		
2006/07 EBT	1,687,500	1,264,044	74.9
2007/08 EBT	3,100,500	1,439,435	46.4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

^a TAC is the total allowable catch.

^b Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

^c Although EBT and WBT were managed as a single fishery, ADF&G closed the eastern area as an inseason management measure. The fishery was BST in the first Program year.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 EBT fishery, more than 3 million of approximately 3.1 million pounds (98.9 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to 19 cooperatives, a significant increase over the amount of BST assigned the first Program year. Table 7.12 displays pounds and percent of EBT IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.12 Pounds and percent of EBT IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives ^{a,b}		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	81,620	74,247	91.0	81.0	NA ^b
CPC	6,645	6,113	92.0	85.4	
CVO	2,794,349	2,770,595	99.1	97.1	
CPO	202,073	202,073	100.0	100.0	

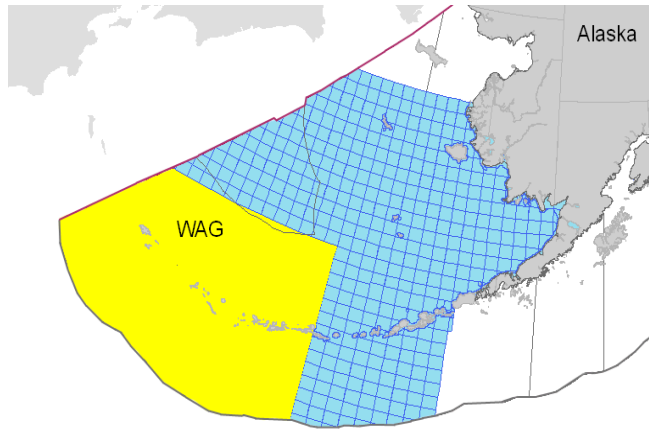
^a Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

^b Although EBT and WBT were managed as a single fishery, ADF&G closed the eastern area as an inseason management measure.

Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (WAG), 2007/08

The fishery area is defined by eastern boundary of 174° W., along the east side of continental Alaska, a northern boundary of 55° 30' N., and a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Line (U.S. and USSR 1991).

The IFQ fishery was open with a TAC of 2,430,000 pounds. The season opened August 15, 2007 and closed May 15, 2008.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 1,600 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 8,129 per vessel
Harvest: 2,246,040 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 3
Port Count: 3 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 34
Percentage of TAC landed: 92.4%
Active RCR holders: 4
Active IFQ permitholders: 3
Active IPQ holders: 3
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master): 3

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.13 displays the ports in which WAG crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.13 Ports used for WAG crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^a			Percent total Harvest by port ^{b,c}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
AT SEA ^d	*	*	1,366,736	1	1	2	17	20	26	*	*	57.4
DUTCH/UNALASKA	*	*	*	2	2	1	12	8	10	*	*	*
ADAK	*	*	*	3	3	3	5	3	6	*	*	*
Total	2,246,040	2,000,276	2,382,468				34	31	42			

*Data are confidential.

^a A vessel landing is an offload.

^b Harvest is in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^d “At Sea” means “landings” on catcher processors and stationary floating processors.

When the season ended, WAG IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 34 vessel landings of WAG crab for a total harvest of 92.4 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.14 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years before the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.14 WAG IFQ crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000/01–2007/08

Fishery year	TAC/GHL ^a	Harvest ^b	Percent of TAC or GHL ^{a,c}
2000/01	2.7	2.8	103.7
2001/02	2.7	2.7	101.5
2002/03	2.7	2.6	97.8
2003/04	2.7	2.7	99.3
2004/05	2.7	2.7	99.3
2005/06	2.4	2.4	98.0
2006/07	2.4	2.0	82.3
2007/08	2.4	2.2	92.4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

^a GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).

^b Harvest is in millions of pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 WAG fishery, nearly all available pounds (97 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to five cooperatives, similar to the first two Program years. Table 7.15 displays pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

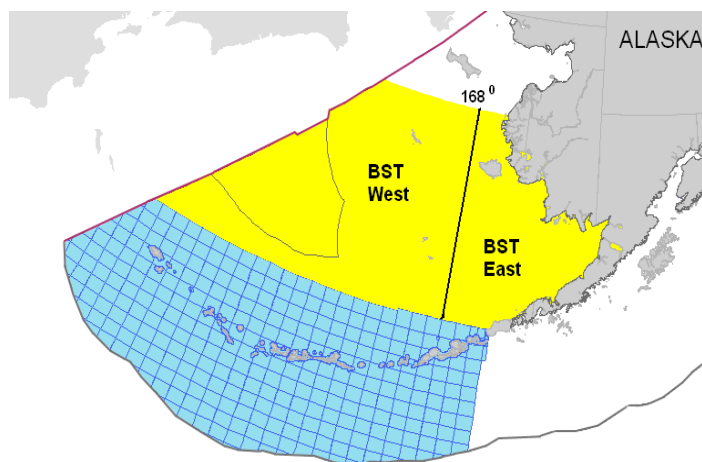
Table 7.15 Pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Total pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	37,418	33,807	90.3	90.3	100.0
CPC	30,989	30,427	98.2	98.2	100.0
CVO	1,117,143	1,117,143	100.0	100.0	100.0
CPO	1,089,563	1,089,563	100.0	100.0	100.0

West Bering Tanner (WBT), 2007/08

Beginning with the 2006/07 year, the Bering Sea Tanner crab QS is divided into eastern and western Bering Sea stocks and fisheries (“bairdi split”). NOAA Fisheries has reissued Tanner crab (*c. bairdi*) QS and PQS and the resulting IFQ and IPQ as two separate fisheries, one east of 166° W. longitude (EBT) and one west of 166° W. longitude (WBT). Tanner crab QS and PQS holders received one unit of East Bering Tanner QS or PQS and one unit of West Bering Tanner QS or PQS for each unit of existing Bering Sea Tanner QS or PQS held. This change was necessary for the coordination of QS and PQS with State of Alaska management of the two distinct Tanner crab fisheries.

The IFQ fishery opened with a TAC of 1,958,400. The season opened Oct 15, 2007 and closed March 31, 2008.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 107 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 620 per vessel
Harvest: 467,136 raw crab lbs, (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 27
Port Count: 5 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 44
Percentage of TAC landed: 23.8%
Active RCR holders: 8
Active IFQ permit holders: 8
Active IPQ holders: 6
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or master): 27

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.16 displays the ports in which WBT crab were landed in 2007/08 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during 2006/07 and 2005/06. BST fishery data are used in “Year one” columns; in that year all BST harvest was from the western area.

Table 7.16 Ports used for WBT crab landings^a over time

Port	Pounds landed ^b			Port rank			Vessel landings ^a			Percent total harvest by port ^{b,c}		
	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one	Year three	Year two	Year one
DUTCH/UNALASKA	162,335	329,860	370,826	1	1	1	22	41	28	34.7	52.0	46.9
AKUTAN	*	*	*	2	2	2	4	9	7	*	*	*
ST PAUL	105,741	*	122,628	3	7	3	13	8	20	22.64	0.62	15.5
KING COVE	*	*	*	4	3	5	4	5	4	*	*	*
AT SEA ^d	*	20,669	48,261	5	4	4	1	5	13	*	3.3	6.1
Total	467,136	633,910	791,025				44	60	73			

*Data are confidential.

^a A vessel landing is an offload. Beginning with the 2006/07 fishing year, IFQ was issued for two Bering Sea (bairdi) Tanner (BST) fisheries: eastern and western Bering Sea bairdi Tanner (EBT and WBT, respectively). WBT 2005/06 landings include one landing (confidential) at Kodiak, the sixth-ranked port.

^b Harvest is in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

^c Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.

^d “At Sea” means landings by catcher processors and stationary floating processors outside of any recognized port.

When the season ended, WBT IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 44 vessel landings (offloads) of WBT crab for a total harvest of 23.8 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.17 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years prior to the Program and in the first, second, and third Program years.

Table 7.17 BST and WBT IFQ crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2007/08

Fishery year and fishery	TAC ^a	Harvest	Percent of TAC or GHLL landed ^b
2000—2004 BST	Closed		
2005/06 BST ^c	1,458,000	791,025	54.2
2006/07 WBT	984,600	633,910	64.4
2007/08 WBT	1,958,400	467,136	23.8

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

^a TAC is the total allowable catch.

^b Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

^c Although EBT and WBT were managed as a single fishery in the first Program year, ADF&G closed the eastern area as an inseason management measure.

Cooperatives

In the 2007/08 WBT fishery, almost 2 million of a total of nearly 2 million pounds (99.2 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to 19 cooperatives. Table 7.18 displays pounds and percent of WBT IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.18 Pounds and percent of WBT IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives ^{a,b}		
			Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	51,553	46,896	91.0	81.0	64.0
CPC	4,195	3,859	92.0	85.4	44.1
CVO	1,765,028	1,750,024	99.1	97.1	83.6
CPO	127,637	127,637	100.0	100.0	73.1

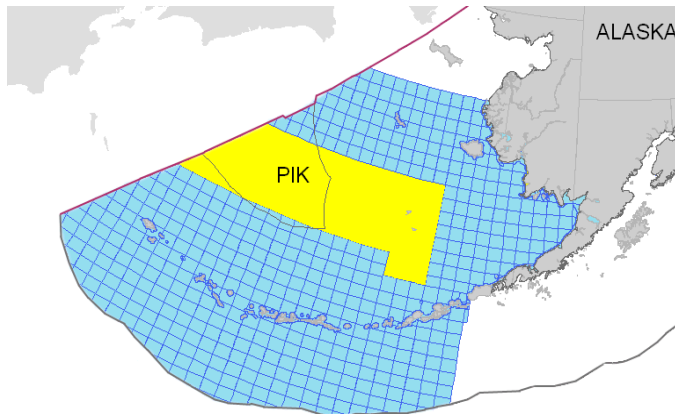
^a Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

^b Although EBT and WBT were managed as a single fishery, ADF&G closed the eastern area as an inseason management measure.

Closed Fisheries in the 2007/08 Fishing Year

Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab (PIK)

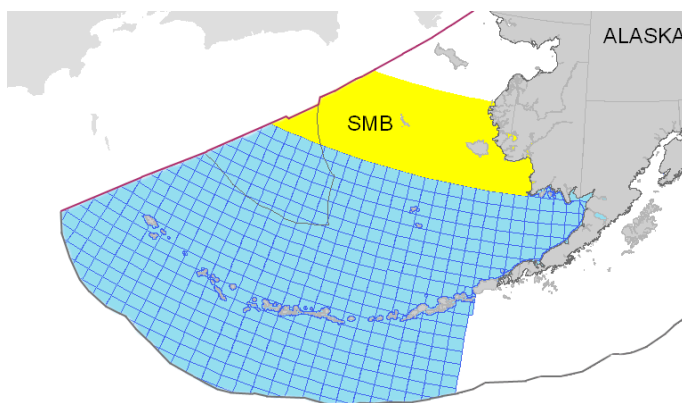
The fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 58° 39' N., an eastern boundary of 168° W. south to 54° 36' N., then westward to 54° 36' N., 171° W., then north to 55° 30' N., 171° W., then westward to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line (U.S. and USSR 1991).



The PIK fishery was closed for the year due to low stock abundance. (Source: SAFE)

St. Matthew Island blue king crab (SMB)

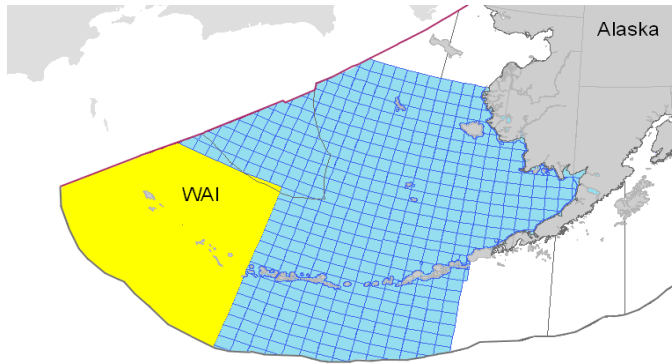
This fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 61° 49' N., along the east side of continental Alaska, a southern boundary of 58° 30' N., and a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement (U.S. and USSR 1991).



The SMB fishery was closed for the year due to low stock abundance. (Source: SAFE)

Western Aleutian Islands Red King Crab (WAI)

The fishery area is defined by an eastern boundary of 179° W., a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line (U.S. and USSR 1991), and a northern boundary of 55° 30' N., then west to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line.



The WAI fishery was closed for the year due to low stock abundance (Source: SAFE).

Chapter 8 Safety, Compliance, and Catch Monitoring

U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Safety and Compliance Monitoring

During the 2007/08 fishing year, USCG efforts to enforce crab regulations and other federal laws included prevention and response with preseason shoreside Safety Compliance Checks (SCCs), trainings, and at-sea boardings. District Seventeen used cutters for patrol, sightings, and the at-sea boardings. Aircraft provided names of vessels and QS holders, position, and activity.

USCG Effort

- Responded to ZERO crab-related SAR cases
- Found ZERO significant violations
- Sailed 4,584 cutter hours (191 underway cutter days)
- Deployed aircraft 110 days
- Flew 190 aircraft hours
- Conducted 21 at-sea boardings and 92 dockside compliance checks

Search and Rescue (SAR)

There were no SAR cases directly related to the crab fisheries. Preseason inspections promoted thorough checks of safety gear, and most were completed a month before fishing began. Crab-related SAR cases have remained at historic lows during the 2005/06–2007/08 rationalized crab years.

Fishery Effects

The USCG noted safer and more efficient crab fisheries trends, promoted by the following changes:

- ✓ Significant USCG presence
- ✓ Continued incremental fleet size reduction
- ✓ Required vessel safety compliance checks
- ✓ Required preseason Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program Decal (ADF&G)
- ✓ Continued vigilance against “any-weather” fishing
- ✓ Improved partner-agency coordination
- ✓ Fewer dual inspections (due to VMS requirements)
- ✓ Reduced aerial response time (from 4 or more hours to 1 hour in most cases)

▼ MUNRO boarding team pulls along side Bering Sea crabber, USCG

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

An Air Station Kodiak aircraft was deployed to Cold Bay on October 9 (before the BBR fishery opened) to provide SAR coverage. Aircraft operations were maintained until November 21, 2007, when nearly 90% of the IFQ was reached and only 15 of the 73 registered vessels had not reached their quotas. Coast Guard cutters patrolled the Bering Sea near the main concentration of crab vessels in Bristol Bay as both a SAR presence and law enforcement platform beginning October 16, 2007. Near-continuous cutter presence (51 days) in the Bristol Bay area (most BBR fishery activity) continued until early December, by which time well over 90% of the quota had been landed.



Shoreside SCCs limited need for at-sea safety boardings and allowed for targeted fisheries compliance boardings, which resulted in 16 boardings and issuance of 9 minor fisheries violations (i.e., logbooks and clerical) and issuance of 3 minor safety violations. USCGC MUNRO boarded more than 90% of the vessels that failed to complete dockside safety exams; the USCGC ALEX HALEY boarded the remainder. The combination of dockside and at-sea boardings resulted in 100% Coast Guard safety checks of the crab fleet.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

An Air Station Kodiak helicopter (with two crews) deployed continuously to St Paul Island from January 21, 2008 through April 1, 2008 (72 days), providing search and rescue support for the BSS fleet and other vessels in the area. This fishing year produced a significant USCG investment related to crab: aircraft and crew were deployed for 111 days in the program, and helicopter crews flew 64 flight hours. Air Station Kodiak HC-130s also flew 40 hours in support of the BSS fishery.

The effort for the Bering Sea opilio fishery was spread at a relatively low level throughout the year with a maximum 30 to 40 boats participating at any given time. Bering Sea cutters boarded five vessels engaged in the BSS fishery with no fisheries violations detected (two had minor safety violations). The USCG maintained a near-continuous cutter presence near St. Paul, the area with most of the snow crab fishing activity. Cutter presence totaled 140 days.

For the third consecutive year, there were no SAR launches for vessels directly participating in the opilio fishery. However, aircrews responded to six (non-crab) SAR cases during the deployment including the F/V Alaska Ranger. Forty-two lives were saved or assisted from the Alaska Ranger. An additional four lives were saved via medevac from vessels not participating in the crab fishery.

Safety Checks

Consistent with previous years, USCG prevention and response staffs coordinated extensive preseason safety efforts to ensure a well-prepared fleet. For two weeks before the opening of the BBR fishery in mid-October, the USCG coordinated with Sector Anchorage and Marine Safety Detachment Unalaska to conduct SCCs and USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program (CFVS) examinations at Dutch Harbor, Akutan, King Cove, and Kodiak. The USCG conducted 41 SCCs, or 56% of the fleet. Safety compliance was very good; all of those that participated in the fishery had a current decal as mandated by state law. The remainder were boarded at sea.

The BSS fishing year was a continuation of October efforts for the BBR fishery. Personnel performed water training, 51 SCCs (in addition to the 41 in October 2007 for a total of 92). Coast Guard personnel conducted dockside Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) examinations, and stability/damage control training sessions in Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and King Cove. Fourteen fishermen, 12 Discovery Channel personnel, and two observers received raft, survival suit, and cold water survival training. The Coast Guard continued coordinated enforcement planning with NOAA enforcement, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers through weekly conference calls and a shared database of fishing vessels that had been boarded at-sea or had offloads monitored. USCG inspectors met with excellent crew compliance.

Opilio preseason training compliance was high, and coverage of safety compliance checks was 68% (reaching 100% with at-sea boardings). Three survival gear training sessions were completed with 42 fishermen participating in Dutch Harbor and another 16 fishermen participating in a pool session in Kodiak. Two Damage Control training sessions were conducted with 16 fishermen and Alaska Troopers participating, and a Drill Conductor class drew 20 fishermen in Dutch Harbor.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

The NOAA Fisheries VMS database was an invaluable tool for the USCG this crab-fishing year. Although the BBR fleet is relatively contained within the “RKC Savings Area,” positional information allowed USCG cutters and aircraft effective preparation for SAR. VMS was even more important during the BSS fishery due to fleet use of a much greater geographic area than for BBR. The trend toward fewer vessels distributed over a larger area mandates future VMS use for SAR planning and response. During 2007/08 the USCG issued no violations for inoperative VMS units. The Council continued to examine VMS-related issues and in 2007 NMFS approved three improved brands of VMS units with two-way communication capability (e-mail), two of which are suitable on small vessels.

“Three survival gear training sessions were completed with 42 fishermen participating in Dutch Harbor...”



Survival gear and personnel recovery training, USCG

NOAA Fisheries and Alaska State Trooper Compliance Monitoring

Partners

The NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) and the U.S. Coast Guard enforce the regulations that govern allocation of the Program. The state's Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) primarily manages the biological aspects of the Crab Rationalization Program, but many of the regulations are enforced by the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Troopers and Public Safety Technicians. OLE has created a partnership with the Department of Public Safety through Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEAs). These JEAs provide a mechanism for state enforcement personnel to assist OLE in enforcing Program requirements and other federal fishing regulations. These three agencies coordinated activities throughout the year.

Inseason Enforcement

Once the year started, a primary goal of OLE was to ensure that all crab catch was weighed and reported. The Alaska State Troopers and Public Safety Technicians assisted OLE by conducting dockside boardings, inspections, and at-sea patrols. Boardings typically focused on spot checks rather than detailed reviews of permits and logbooks. There were no audits (accounting for the entire catch, including deadloss and personal use crab) during the year. The State conducts these duties under the authority of a Cooperative Enforcement Agreement. Funding and direction for these duties come through the JEAs.

VMS

VMS is required on all catcher vessels and catcher processors that participate in the Program, including IFQ, CDQ, and Adak fisheries. VMS is used to determine vessel position and activity. No VMS-related violations were reported for vessels registered with a Federal Crab Vessel Permit from August 15, 2007 to May 15, 2008.

Violations

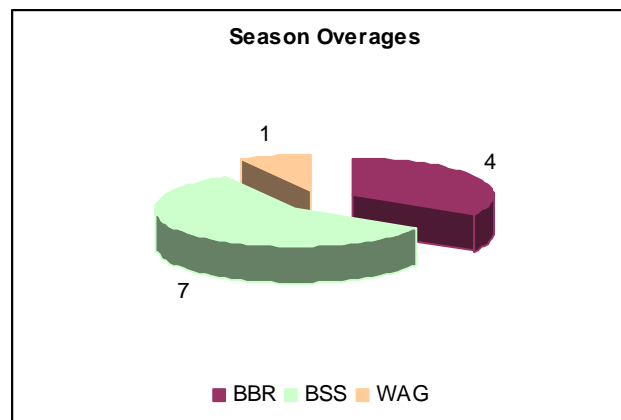


Figure 8.1 IFQ Overage Violations in the CR fisheries, 2007/08

Figure 8.1 illustrates the relatively few IFQ overages this year with 1 observed IFQ overage of golden king crab, 4 of Bristol Bay red king crab, and 7 for Bering Sea snow crab. OLE observed no IPQ overages this year. By comparison, there were 15 IFQ overages among all fisheries in the first year and 24 overages during the second. Each violation case was forwarded to General Counsel for resolution. Although the third year brought some improvement in the number of fishery violation cases (12), it offered little change in violation distribution among fisheries. Cumulatively during all Program years, the largest fishery, BSS, had the most violations (21). A close second, the BBR fishery had 20 observed violations with the most violations (9) last fishing year.

NOAA Fisheries Compliance and Catch Monitoring

Catch Monitoring Objectives for the Program

To effectively manage IFQ fisheries, NOAA Fisheries must have data that provide reliable independent estimates of the total catch for all crab harvested.

Because fishery participants operate under their own IFQ allocations, incentives exist to underreport harvests. Based on experience gained under other quota-based programs, NOAA Fisheries anticipates catch accounting will be questioned by industry. For these reasons, NOAA Fisheries has implemented new monitoring and catch weighing requirements for shoreside or floating processors taking deliveries of crab, for catcher vessels harvesting crab, and for vessels catching and processing crab.

Requirements for Crab Processing Facilities

Catch Monitoring Plans (CMPs). RCRs receiving unprocessed crab must operate under a CMP, which details how and where crab are sorted and weighed. All crab, including parts and dead or otherwise unmarketable crab, delivered to an RCR must be sorted and weighed by quota category on a scale certified by the State of Alaska and equipped with a printer to record the vessel name, the weight of each load in the weighing cycle, the time and date the information was printed, the total weight for the delivery, and the total cumulative weight of all species weighed on the scale. CMPs that meet all of the standards are approved for 1 year, unless during the year there were dramatic changes to plant operations that affected their CMP. NOAA Fisheries reviews a CMP with plant management annually to ensure the CMP standards continue to be met.

During the 2007/08 fishing year, 14 CMPs were submitted to NOAA Fisheries for inspection and approval. There was no change in the number of CMPs from the previous year. Seventeen RCRs informed NOAA Fisheries in writing they would follow a CMP already authorized for a shore facility or floating processor.

Requirements for Catcher Processor Vessels (CPs)

Daily Automatic Hopper Scales. Vessel operators that harvest and process their catch at sea must weigh crab on NOAA Fisheries-certified motion-compensated scales prior to processing. NOAA Fisheries staff inspected and approved 5 motion-compensated hopper scales in the Puget Sound area of Washington and in Dutch Harbor, Alaska for all participating crab CPs. There was no change in the number of motion-compensated scales from the previous year. No major problems were reported with the hopper scales during the 2007/08 fishery.

Onshore Offload. All CPs must offload at a shoreside location accessible by road or commercial air flights. All product offloaded must be weighed on scales certified by the state in which the offload occurs. Each scale must be equipped with a printer that records the weight of each load in the weighing cycle, the total weight in the offload, and the date and time of the offload. CPs must submit an offload report including the gross and net weight of the crab product offload, and must attach the scale printout.

Requirements for Catcher Vessels

Deliver to an RCR. Catcher vessels must deliver all retained crab to an RCR with an approved CMP and remain at the offload site until required reporting is completed. There are no exceptions for activities such as dockside sales or tendering. If holders of CVO or CVC IFQ want to sell their own catch to the public, each IFQ permit holder is required to deliver the offload of crab to an RCR in accordance with the requirements described above for an RCR.

Chapter 9 Reporting

eLandings

eLanding Facts, 2007/08

941 Program landings:

- 101 landings for Adak and CDQ
- 840 IFQ landings:
 - ✓ 789 IFQ reports via eLandings
 - ✓ 51 IFQ “manual” reports

18 IFQ account overages in 15 offloads

The Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS) and its reporting component, eLandings, is a joint system developed under the partnership of NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region, ADF&G, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The system was designed, developed, tested, and implemented jointly by a contractor and agency staff. Regulations for the Program require the use of the IERS by any RCR receiving shellfish from the crab fishery. The working system was introduced for the beginning of the first crab fishery openings on August 15, 2005. The system has been in use as of that date and was

extended in 2006 to allow reporting of non-Program crab, groundfish, and halibut. Future enhancements will accommodate additional fisheries.

This web-based data entry system allows entry of crab landings and provides a printed fish ticket as a landing receipt, plus receipts for IFQ and IPQ account debits. Data are received into a central repository database, versioned, and used to populate separate agency management and enforcement databases. In addition, stand-alone client software allows submission of landing reports as email attachments for clients disconnected from the web (such as catcher processors).

To further support reporting timeliness requirements and in the event that eLandings system is temporarily unavailable, a backup system of paper reporting via FAX directly to NOAA Fisheries’ Data Clerks is available for IFQ/IPQ fisheries. For CDQ and Adak fisheries, a temporary paper Fish Ticket completed for ADF&G serves a similar purpose.

Benefits

The IERS benefits both partner agencies and processors and has helped establish better communication with industry, ensuring improvements to the system and quick resolution to issues. Feedback during this fishing year has been positive; some of the IERS benefits are listed below.

- ✓ The IERS minimizes duplicate reporting of similar information required by the partner agencies,
- ✓ allows processors to enter, edit, and summarize landings data on a web-based system,
- ✓ provides timely and accurate data entry,
- ✓ produces a Portable Document Format (PDF) for printing a fish ticket of the landing,
- ✓ allows data to be incorporated into processor data systems through import and export of Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents, and
- ✓ affords a flexible way to create common information formats and share the format and the data on the Web.

Figure 9.1 illustrates this year's substantial increase in eLandings reports, commensurate with increases in the amount of 2007/08 TACs.

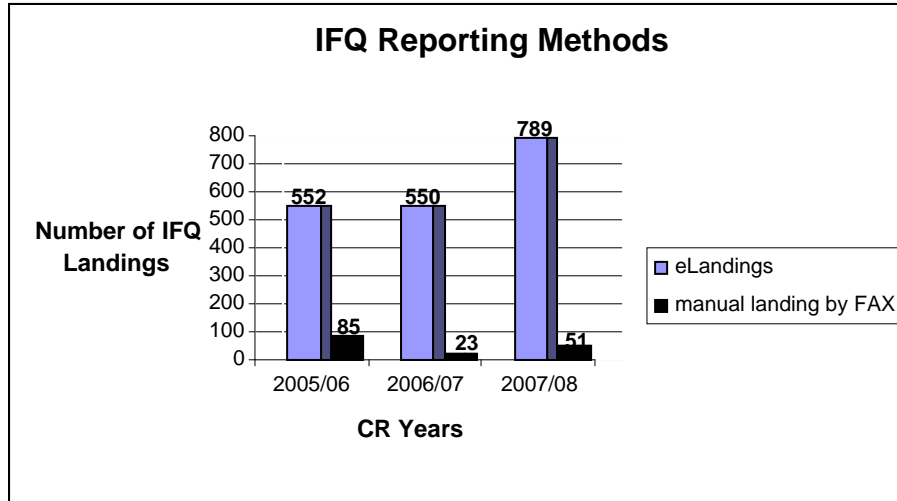


Figure 9.1 Program-Year Comparisons of IFQ Reporting Methods

Summary

A total of 840 IFQ landing reports were submitted for the 2007/08 fishing year. Figure 9.1 shows that of those reports, 789 (93.9 percent) were submitted through eLandings and the remaining 51 by FAX. This was an increase in the percentage of successful electronic landing report submissions from the first year when 86.6 percent of IFQ landings were completed in the eLandings system but slightly below the second year's percentage (95.9 percent). The sharp increase in the number of eLanding report submissions during 2007/08 derives from higher TACs than in previous Program years.

EDR Facts, 2007/08

Number of persons with EDR required: 123

Number of persons with EDRs required and submitted: 122

Number of persons with EDR requirement who have not submitted: one inactive person

Economic Data Collection (EDR) Program

The EDR program is focused on collecting production, cost, earnings, and employment information from harvesting and processing sectors of crab fisheries to evaluate effects of the Program over time. EDR administration is carried out by a third party, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), through a contract with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), Economics and Social Science Research Program.

Implementation

Beginning in calendar year 2005, the Economic Data Collection program is based on calendar-year data. The first phase of implementation collected pre-Program historical (baseline) information for 1998, 2001, and 2004. With the first year of the rationalized fishery beginning in 2005, the first year of data collection from the rationalized fishery was submitted for calendar year 2005, due in June 2006. (See *Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Report, Fishing Year 2006/2007* for EDR program details. Also see Table 9.1 for historic EDR report summary.)

2007 Data Collection

Before the 2007 data collection, EDR forms underwent minor revisions to improve clarity of directions and disaggregate vessel landings information by harvest quota type. In 2007 an online web application version of the catcher-vessel survey continued to be used as an additional alternative to paper and fillable-PDF form versions used in previous years. The online version reduced the time required for data processing by PSMFC by allowing data providers to enter data directly into an online database. The online form included additional directions and built-in error checking, which reduced the number of follow-up calls from PSMFC for error-correction purposes.

EDRs for the 2007 calendar year were due by June 28, 2008. Table 9.1 displays the sector totals for number of vessels and plants identified by RAM and PSMFC as subject to the reporting requirement, number of completed EDRs submitted, number of certification-only submissions, number of noncomplying vessels/plants, and number of distinct persons (including corporate entities) associated with reporting vessels/plants.

Included as part of the EDR form is a certification section on which the data submitter provides a signed certification statement indicating the data is complete and accurate. Individuals who receive notice from PSMFC that they are required to submit an EDR for the year can claim exemption from the full EDR completion by submitting a signed certification stating that they did not operate the vessel or plant in the rationalized crab fishery during the calendar year. As indicated in Table 9.1, previously (2005 data) the total number of certification-only and full EDR submissions was greater than the number of vessels or plants for which owners received notices from PSMFC, with the exception of the catcher/processor sector. This indicates that a number of individuals voluntarily submitted certified claims of exemption who did not receive a notice from PSMFC. With the online database error checks, this did not occur with subsequent collections. It should also be noted, as indicated in the last row of the table, that the number of distinct persons submitting certification pages (including those providing completed EDRs) is fewer than the number of vessels or plant-reporting entities; this is due to the fact that some individuals own or operate multiple vessels or plants and have multiple reporting requirements.

Season compliance among vessel/processor and persons was very good; Table 9.1 shows complete vessel/processor compliance for active participants across all sectors of the fishery. This represents an improvement over the 2005 EDR, for which owners of eleven vessels or plants did not submit required EDRs. In 2006, the nine persons who did not satisfy the EDR requirement were inactive in the fishery. During the 2007 calendar-year collection, one inactive person did not satisfy the EDR or certification requirements.

Such high compliance indicates that the EDR requirement is becoming routine for active participants. For Program EDR comparisons, the 2006/07 and 2005/06 historic economic data, respectively, are shown within parentheses in Table 9.1.

Table 9.1 Economic data report summary for EDRs due through 2007*

Activity	Catcher vessel EDRs	Shoreside processor EDRs	Catcher processor EDRs	Floating processor EDRs
Number of distinct vessels/processors for which one or more historic reports was required ^a	85 (99, 378)	11 (16, 29)	5 (7, 18)	3 (5, 13)
Number of full EDRs received	82 (96, 673)	10 (11, 44)	5 (5, 25)	3 (2, 24)
Number of Certifications received with claimed exemption	19 (16, 512)	4 (10, 43)	1 (2, 26)	1 (8, 18)
Number of vessels/processors for which no EDR or certification was received	1 (0, 157)	1 (0,5)	0 (0, 5)	0 (0, 0)
Number of distinct persons tied to submitted EDRs and Certifications ^b	79 (111, 418)	12 (14, 29)	6 (14, 22)	4 (6, 13)

* EDRs are submitted for calendar year fishery participation.

^a Historic years = 1998, 2001, and 2004; each column represents vessel/processor EDR *totals* from these three years.

^b Counts include full EDRs, Certifications only, and some empty EDRs; several owners who had not been notified of a reporting requirement by PSMFC submitted certified claims of exemption.

Data Verification Audit

As required under the EDR regulations, a data verification audit was initiated in 2006 to ascertain the accuracy of data recording in the EDR forms. The validation audit was performed by the accounting firm Aldrich Kilbride & Tatone (AKT) of Portland, Oregon. In May of 2007 PSMFC released the report of their findings and audit methods employed to conduct the study.

The general findings of the audit review were that the information submitted in the EDR forms for 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2005 was supported by documentation and records. Where errors were identified, there was generally not a directional bias in the submission of the data; that is, auditors found no strategic misreporting of the information requested. Despite the specific definitions included in the EDRs, there was variability in how information was reported for a number of variables, based upon the ability to break down information in the manner requested and sophistication of accounting systems. In addition, there was significant variability in the quality of supporting documentation submitted in the EDRs, particularly for the 1998 reporting year and to a lesser degree for 2001. Information provided by the audit review and ongoing interaction with data submitters was used to improve directions and definitions in the EDR forms used with reports submitted for 2006.

The number of relative audits performed to EDR records is presented in Table 9.2. The number (and percent) sampled is calculated only from year 2006.

Table 9.2 Number of EDRs by type, year, and number and percent sampled for validation review

Sector	Number of EDRs submitted for year					Number EDRs Sampled		Percent Sampled	
	1998	2001	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Catcher Vessel	225	220	237	164	96	33	28	20.1	29.2
Catcher Processor	8	7	9	8	5	3	2	37.5	40.0
Stationary Floating and Shoreside Processors	24	23	20	17	13	5	5	29.4	38.5

Please visit the NOAA Fisheries website for more information about the EDR requirement, including the new online version of the 2007 Catcher Vessel Economic Data Report.

<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/rat/edr/default.htm>

Chapter 10 Loan Program and Fees

Loans

A federal loan program to assist in the purchase of QS is recommended but has not yet been implemented for the Program. In December 2007, Congress granted NOAA Fisheries the authority for a “loan ceiling” of \$3,000,000 annually through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–161). In addition, NOAA may appropriate funds for the “subsidy cost” of defaults and other costs not recoverable as interest payments. In February 2008, the Council adopted terms defining eligibility requirements and related terminology, with additional guidance to NOAA Fisheries Financial Service Division (FSD). Council’s adopted definitions and guidance documents will be considered when crafting regulations to establish the loan program. The Council forwarded its clarifications to NOAA Fisheries FSD, which is in the process of developing regulations for the loan program. Loans will be distributed to captains and crew who meet criteria defined by the Council. With authority to provide 3 million dollar loans and Council recommendations available for consideration, NOAA Fisheries’ CR loan program process is nearing completion.

Fee Collection/Cost Recovery

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), costs for management and enforcement of IFQ programs are recoverable from participants, up to a maximum of 3% of the ex-vessel value of the crab. MSA Sections 304(d)(2)(A) and Section 313(j) prescribe the cost recovery framework, including the requirement for fee sharing with the State. Actual costs recovered are only those “incremental costs” associated with management and enforcement of the Program. “Incremental costs” are costs directly due to rationalization.

By statute, fees must be shared equally by the harvesting and processing sectors; by regulation, the RCRs assume the fee liability and must remit the fees to the Government. NOAA Fisheries computes the annual fee percentage that applies each crab-fishing year. Fees are owed based on total value of crab landings in money, goods, or services. NOAA Fisheries sends fee statements to RCRs based on their own reported landings and value as computed for fee collection purposes. For crab delivered raw for processing, each RCR’s fee liability is estimated by multiplying the annual fee percentage needed to recover costs (up to 3%) by the ex-vessel value of Program crab at the time of purchase. Because catcher processors participate in both the harvesting and processing sectors, vessel owners or operators must be RCRs and are responsible for paying the entire fee liability.

Fees are due annually by July 31 for the prior crab-fishing year. Fees may be paid by check, money order, or by credit card. Penalties, interest, and administrative charges are added if an RCR becomes delinquent in payments. NOAA Fisheries cannot issue any annual crab permits to a person who owes unpaid fees. During the 2007/08 year, as in the first two years, fee compliance was excellent with no outstanding debts sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection.

For the 2007/08 crab-fishing year, twenty RCRs were sent estimated fee liability statements for total Program costs of \$2,133,758.00. The estimated value of the fishery (based on what we billed for 2007/08) is \$202,719,416.67. This value is derived from price information entered by the RCRs in the eLanding system at the time of delivery. Regardless of the fee liability computations, each RCR was responsible for and paid fees based on actual value given for all crab received under the Program in dollars, goods, and services.

Funds collected under the Program vary yearly because annual ex-vessel value and costs fluctuate. Due to the complexity of the program and the MSA 3 percent cap, funds collected may not cover all expenses. This was in fact the case during the 2005/06 when first year start-up costs exceeded the fee amount

collected. The 2007/08 calculated fee percentage for crab to recover all costs was 4.38 percent, so again the 3 percent cap was implemented because the MSA, at § 304(d)(2)(B), prohibits NMFS from collecting fees greater than three percent of the ex-vessel value of the crab harvests under the Program. Administrative regulations for fees and cost recovery are at 50 CFR § 680.44.

As shown in Table 10.1, the 2007/08 management and enforcement costs for the crab fisheries totaled \$2,133,758. Personnel, contracts, and training were among the higher Program costs.

Table 10.1 Costs associated with management and enforcement of the Program, June 1, 2007–April 15, 2008

Cost Category	RAM	SF	OMI	CG	RA/Appeals	OLE	ADF&G	AFSC	Total
Personnel ^a / Overhead	191,445	53,216	28,752	24,966	44,374	406,729	225,102	107,300	1,081,884
Travel ^b	15,430	19,433	1,806	4,008	–	64,191	15,124	4,425	124,417
Transportation ^c	100	–	–	–	–	116	1,141	–	1,357
Printing	200	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	200
Contracts/ Training	400	16,080	–	–	–	56,514	394,374	–	467,368
Supplies	1,600	–	100	–	–	6,321	3,383	–	11,404
Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	25,419	–	–	25,419
Rent/Utilities ^d	23,972	5,581	3,459	1,668	3,092	9,357	–	–	47,128
Other	–	288,300 ^f	–	–	–	–	86,282	–	374,582
<i>Percentage of costs</i>	10.93	17.93	1.60	1.44	2.22	26.65	34.00	5.24	100.0
Amount collected	233,146	382,610	34,117	30,642	47,466	568,647	725,405	111,725	2,133,758

^a Personnel Costs include cost of living allowances (COLA) and all benefits.

^b Travel includes per diem payments.

^c Transportation includes shipment of items.

^d Rent/Utilities/Overhead includes actual cost of space and utilities and an appropriate share of common space and services.

^e Values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

^f PSMFC costs are included in the SF “Other” category as a grant.

Table 10.2 shows cost recovery data for the first three crab Program years. The projected percentage of ex-vessel value necessary to recover costs was limited by statute and, therefore, not all costs were recoverable.

A surplus occurred from third-year collections. The third-year fee percentage, which had to be announced early in the third year, was of necessity based on the prior year's Program costs, fishing value, and landings. This time offset can result in over- or undercollection in years for which costs or fishery value vary substantially from the prior year. The third-year surplus was caused by compounded factors: as 3 percent was levied against ex-vessel values in billings in the third Program year, lower agency labor and contractual costs combined with substantially higher fishing TACs and subsequent fishery value, resulting in an overcollection.

For the 2007/08 year, all 20 persons billed had paid fees by September 2, 2008. For all Program years, collected CR funds total \$14.7 million.

Table 10.2 Program cost recovery^a over time

Program cost category	Year three FY08	Year two FY07	Year one FY06
Fishery value ^b	202,719,417	119,652,929	138,888,840
Total Program costs	2,133,758	3,939,841	4,270,881
Amount collected ^c	6,511,395	4,060,458 ^d	4,166,665
Annual percentage of value billed	3.0 ^e	3.0 ^e	3.0 ^e
Number of RCR permit holders with billable landings	20	22	17
Number of IFQ permit holders with billable landings ^f	31	47	100

^a Fee liability is calculated two ways: RCRs multiply fee percentage by CR crab ex-vessel value. CPs pay a fee percentage multiplied by the calculated standard price. Standard prices are calculated during the last quarter of each crab-fishing year; prices reflect, as closely as possible, the current crab-fishing year's average shoreside processor price by fishery and species, and any variations in reported shoreside ex-vessel values of CR crab. This value is expressed in U.S. dollars and in raw CR crab pounds. For shoreside processing facilities and CV landings, fee liability is calculated from the CR crab ex-vessel price paid at time of purchase/landing.

^b "Fishery value" is the projected ex-vessel value of the catch subject to the crab cost recovery fee liability for the current year. For this chart, the value amount is rounded.

^c In FY08 an excess was collected. For each fiscal year, the amount collected is rounded.

^d Previously reported fee collection data for FY07 have been updated.

^e These percentages billed were limited by the MSA statutory 3 percent cap of the ex-vessel value of the fishery in any Program year.

^f RCR permit holders collect fees on behalf of IFQ permit holders; no IFQ permit holders are billed directly.

Appendix: Crab Rationalization Program Overview

The Crab Rationalization Program (Program) is a limited access privilege program that allocates BSAI crab resources among harvesters, processors, and coastal communities. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) developed the Program over a 6-year period to accommodate the specific dynamics and needs of the BSAI crab fisheries. The Program addresses previous conservation and management issues associated with the derby fishery, bycatch and associated discard mortality, safety, and the economics of the fishery, including product quality and fishing years. Its purpose is to increase efficiencies, provide economic stability, and facilitate compensated reduction of excess capacity in the harvesting and processing sectors. Community interests are protected by Community Development Quota (CDQ and Adak) allocations, by regional landing and processing requirements, and by several community protection measures.

In January 2004 the U.S. Congress amended §313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–199, section 801) to mandate the Secretary of Commerce implement by regulation the Program as recommended by the Council. NOAA Fisheries published a final rule to implement the Program on March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10174). Crab fishing under the Program began when the first rationalized fisheries opened on August 15, 2005.

Fisheries

The Program governs nine BSAI King and Tanner crab fisheries (originally eight, although the original Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery was divided after the first Program year into Eastern and Western Bering Sea Tanner fisheries).

Under the Federal BSAI King and Tanner crab FMP, the State of Alaska manages the Adak and CDQ fisheries and has certain responsibilities for quota (IFQ/IPQ) fisheries, including penalty enforcement and establishing transfer provisions, inseason monitoring, and observer coverage and permitting requirements. The Program governs three types of crab fisheries—the CDQ fisheries, an allocation of Western Aleutian Islands (WAG) golden king crab to the community of Adak, and the large individual fishing and processing quota fisheries. The Program includes nine crab fisheries. A License Limitation Program (LLP) license is no longer required for these fisheries, although one is still required for the FMP crab fisheries excluded from the Program.

Sectors

Qualified harvesters and processors were allocated quota shares (QS or PQS) in each IFQ/IPQ crab fishery based on historic and recent participation. Quota share represents an exclusive but revocable privilege that provides the holder with an annual allocation to harvest, receive, or process a specific percentage of the total allowable catch (TAC) from a fishery. The annual allocation is called IFQ for harvesters and IPQ for processors. Harvesting QS was issued based on “captain/crew” activity (“Crew QS”) or on the histories of LLP licenses held (“Owner QS”) and is either designated catcher vessel (CV) or catcher/processor (CP) shares, depending on the nature of qualifying landings. Qualifying processors were allocated processor quota share (PQS).

Owner QS/IFQ

Most harvesting QS (97 percent of the initial QS “pool”) was issued to qualified LLP holders as catcher vessel “owner” (CVO) or catcher/processor “owner” (CPO) QS. Crab harvested under catcher vessel IFQ permits must be delivered raw. Catcher/processor IFQ represents both a harvest and an onboard processing privilege and has no regional designation or delivery requirement. Catcher Vessel “owner” (CVO) IFQ is issued annually in two classes, Class A and Class B. Crabs harvested with Class A IFQ must be delivered to a processor holding unused individual processing quota (IPO). Class A IFQ landings also are subject to a regional delivery requirement. Crabs harvested with Class B IFQ can be delivered to

any processor and are not regionally designated. Class B IFQ provides ex-vessel price negotiating leverage to harvesters and some operational flexibility. New harvesters can enter the fishery by purchasing or leasing CVO or CPO QS/IFQ from current holders. A person not initially issued QS may obtain Owner QS by transfer: if an individual, by demonstrating 150 days of harvesting experience; if a nonindividual person (corporation, partnership, or other entity), by being at least a 20 percent shareholder.

Crew QS/IFQ

To protect their interests in the fisheries and provide long-term benefits, captains and crew with historic and recent participation were allocated three percent of the initial QS pool. Catcher Vessel Crew (CVC) IFQ must be delivered raw to any shore-based processor. CPC QS and IFQ include a harvesting and onboard processing privilege. Crew QS and IFQ can be transferred only to eligible individuals who must demonstrate recent crab fishery participation. Leasing of Crew IFQ was permitted before July 1, 2008. Since that date, leasing is allowed only in the case of a documented medical hardship or loss of fishing vessel. Crew IFQ also is not subject to regional delivery requirements or Class A/B designation. New individuals can enter the fishery by purchasing or leasing CVC and CPC QS/IFQ from current holders.

Processor PQS/IPQ

Qualified processors were allocated processor quota share (PQS) in each Program crab fishery. PQS represents an exclusive but revocable privilege to receive deliveries of a specific portion of the annual TAC from a fishery. Individual Processing Quota (IPQ), the annual allocation of pounds of crab based on the PQS, is issued for 90 percent of the CVO IFQ and is regionally designated for use in receiving/processing crab. A regulatory cap on IPQ in some fisheries means that in years in which these TACs exceed the caps, CVO IFQ that would have been issued as Class A will be issued as a new type of regionalized IFQ that does not require matching IPQ. As a result, the ratio of CVO Class A:B will not equal 90:10 over the entire fishery.

PQS allocations are based on processing history and are transferable, including the leasing of IPQ and the sale of PQS, subject to caps and community protection measures. New processors can enter the fishery in any of five ways: by purchasing or leasing PQS or IPQ, purchasing crab harvested with Class B IFQ, as CDQ groups, or as the Adak community entity. Custom processing is allowed, but a person can receive Class A IFQ crab only under IPQ permits that person holds.

Transfers

The Program allows for transfer of QS/IFQ and PQS/IPQ, either by sale or lease, subject to recipient eligibility, use caps, and limits on leasing provisions. Transfers may occur anytime except from August 1 until IFQ is issued for a fishery. Cooperatives may transfer IFQ to or from other cooperatives.

Use and Vessel Caps

Use caps limit the amount of quota a person may hold or use. Separate caps limit the amount of IFQ that vessels may annually harvest. These caps prevent negative effects from an excessive consolidation of shares.

Crab Harvesting Cooperatives

A group of four or more distinct QS holders (not affiliated with the other members in that cooperative) may voluntarily form a crab-harvesting cooperative. Crab harvesting cooperatives do not hold QS; they hold and use only the IFQ assigned to the cooperative by members. To receive a cooperative IFQ permit, crab harvest cooperatives must annually apply by August 1 to NOAA Fisheries. Cooperatives must use Hired Masters to harvest cooperative IFQ, and vessels used must be owned in part by a cooperative member. To encourage cooperative formation, vessels used exclusively to harvest crab cooperative IFQ are not subject to use caps and crew “owner onboard” requirements. Crab harvesting cooperatives are free to associate with one or more processors to the extent allowed by antitrust law.

Regionalization

The regional delivery requirements for QS and PQS preserve historic geographic distribution of landings and resultant fishery revenues in fishery-dependent economies. Communities in the Pribilof Islands are the prime beneficiaries of this provision. Two regional designations were created in most Program fisheries. The North region comprises all areas in the Bering Sea north of 56°20' N.

Community Protection Measures

The Program includes several provisions to protect specific eligible communities from adverse effects of the Program. Those communities designated as “eligible” were those with three percent or more of the qualified historic landings in any Program crab fishery. The nine eligible crab communities (ECCs) enjoy community protection measures, such as the two-year “Cooling Off” provision, the “Right of First Refusal (ROFR), sea time waivers, and other community provisions. Under “Cooling Off,” until July 1, 2007, only 10% of the IPQ based on processing history from the ECCs (with limited exceptions) could be used outside those communities, except for approved hardships. After July 1, an IPQ holder can use its own IPQ anywhere within the region for which it is designated after the 2006/07 fishing year.

ECCs, except for Adak, have a ROFR on the transfer of PQS and IPQ originating from processing history in the community if the transfer will result in relocation or use of shares outside the community. Adak is not eligible for the ROFR provision because it receives a direct allocation of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab.

Community Development Quota (CDQ), Adak, and Community Purchase Allocations

Fishing is conducted under an authorized allocation, and QS and IFQ is not required to harvest under these provisions. All crab must be delivered to a registered crab receiver (RCR). An RCR does not need IPQ to receive CDQ, Adak, and Community Purchase crab.

CDQ

The CDQ Program provides the means for starting or supporting commercial fisheries business activities that will result in an ongoing, regionally based, fisheries-related economy in Western Alaska. The CDQ program was extended to include the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery and the Western Aleutian Islands red king crab fishery. In addition, the CDQ allocations in all crab fisheries covered by the Program increased from 7.5 to 10 percent of the TAC.

Adak Community Allocation

The community of Adak receives an annual allocation of 10 percent of the TAC of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab. There is no CDQ allocation for this fishery.

Community Purchase

Any non-CDQ community in which 3 percent or more of any crab fishery was historically processed can form a nonprofit entity to receive QS, IFQ, PQS and IPQ transfers on behalf of the community. The nonprofit entity is called “an eligible crab community organization (ECCO).”

Protections for Participants in Other Fisheries (“Sideboard Limits”)

The Program greatly increases the flexibility for crab fishermen to choose when to fish their IFQ; with this increased flexibility comes increased opportunity to participate in other fisheries. “Sideboard Limits” restrict the group of affected vessels to their historical collective landings in all GOA groundfish fisheries (except the fixed-gear sablefish fishery) and prevent spillover effects of the Program.

Sideboards apply both to specific vessels and to groundfish LLP licenses derived from the history of those vessels. Any sideboarded vessel or vessel fishing under an LLP with sideboards is subject to annual GOA groundfish sideboard limits. NOAA Fisheries manages sideboards through fleetwide sideboard-directed fishing closures in Federal waters and for the parallel fishery in State waters.

Monitoring and Enforcement

NOAA Fisheries and the State coordinate crab fishery monitoring and enforcement. Measures include use of certified scales, monitoring of landed catch weight and species composition, bycatch, and deadloss to estimate total fishery removals. The USCG also participates in at-sea compliance monitoring, playing a crucial role in safety compliance and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. Harvesters and processors may not exceed amounts authorized by permits. Landings in excess of available IFQ/IPQ will be forfeited, and additional penalties may apply.

Landings Reporting

Mandatory electronic landings reporting for all Program fisheries (CDQ, Adak, and Quota) supports real-time account management and compliance monitoring. The eLandings system offers both internet and e-mail options for data submittal.

Economic Data Collection

The Program includes a comprehensive economic data collection-reporting requirement to aid the Council and NOAA Fisheries in assessing the success of the Program and in developing amendments necessary to mitigate unintended consequences. The data will be used to study economic effects of the Program on harvesters, processors, and communities.

Cost Recovery and Fee Collection

NOAA Fisheries established a cost recovery fee system, required by §304(d)(2) of the MSA, to recover actual costs directly related to the management and enforcement of the Program. The harvesting and processing sectors pay equal shares of the crab cost recovery fees; these fees are based on the ex-vessel value of all crab harvested under the Program, including Quota, CDQ and Adak crab. The fee may not exceed 3 percent of the annual ex-vessel value. Within this limit, the collection of up to 133 percent of the actual costs of management and enforcement under the Program is authorized. Twenty-five percent of cost recovery fees may be directed to a planned crew loan program.

Crew Loan Program

To aid captains and crew in purchasing QS, a low-interest loan program (similar to the loan program under the halibut and sablefish IFQ program) has been recommended by the Council. Loan money would be accessible only to active participants to purchase harvesting (Owner and Crew) QS. Under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA), Federal loans require a subsidy cost and loan ceilings, neither of which have been authorized yet for BSAI crab QS loans. Consequently, NOAA Fisheries can make no BSAI crab QS loans unless and until Congress takes action.

Arbitration System

BSAI crab fisheries have a history of contentious price negotiations. The Arbitration System was developed to resolve failed price negotiations arising from the creation of QS/IFQ and PQS/IPQ. To ensure fair price negotiations, the Arbitration System includes a provision for open negotiations among IPO and IFQ holders and various negotiation approaches, including a share-matching approach, a lengthy season approach, and a binding arbitration procedure. The arbitration process begins preseason with a market report for each fishery, prepared by an independent market analyst selected by the PQS and QS holders and an arbitrator's establishing a nonbinding fleetwide benchmark price formula. The nonbinding price guides negotiations, and Arbitration System participants select Contract Arbitrators who assist in binding arbitration.

The binding arbitration procedure is a last best (or final) offer format. For each IFQ holder or cooperative, the arbitrator selects between the IFQ holder's offer and the IPQ holder's offer. After the arbitrator provides a decision, an eligible IFQ holder with uncommitted IFQ could opt-in to the completed contract by accepting all terms of the arbitration decision as long as the IPQ holder held sufficient uncommitted IPQ.

All CVO QS/IFQ and PQS/IPQ holders must participate by joining an Arbitration Organization by May 1 of each year.

Program Review

In April 2007 the Council initially reviewed the PQS, binding arbitration, and crew share components of the Program and continues to consider changes to these program elements. In October 2008, the Council will conduct a preliminary 3-year review of the Program. A full 5-year review of the Program is scheduled for 2010. Additional reviews will be ongoing every 5 years. These reviews are intended to objectively measure the success of the Program in achieving the goals and objectives specified in the Council's Problem Statement and the MSA. Reviewers will examine effects of the Program on vessel owners, captains, crew, processors, and communities, and include an assessment of options to mitigate negative effects.

Substantive Program Changes, 2005/06–2007/08

NMFS made no changes to the regulations implementing the Crab Rationalization Program for the 2007/08 crab-fishing year.

Tanner crab QS and PQS

In October 2005, the Council adopted Amendment 20 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which modified the allocation of QS and PQS for Bering Sea Tanner crab to accommodate management of geographically separate Tanner crab stocks. NMFS published a final rule implementing Amendment 20 on June 7, 2006 (71 FR 32862). NOAA Fisheries reissued Tanner crab QS and PQS as two separate pools, one for a fishery (EBT) east of 166° W. longitude, and one for a fishery (WBT) west of 166° W. longitude. Tanner crab QS and PQS holders received one unit of East Bering Tanner crab QS or PQS and one unit of West Bering Tanner QS or PQS for each unit of existing Bering Sea Tanner QS or PQS held. This change was necessary to coordinate QS and PQS with State of Alaska management of the two distinct Tanner crab fisheries.

Arbitration Deadlines

In February 2006, the Council adopted Amendment 21 to the FMP to provide a mechanism ensuring that a binding arbitration proceeding could occur early in the fishing year and in accordance with the Program. NOAA Fisheries published a final rule implementing Amendment 21 on July 14, 2006 (71 FR 40030). This final rule accommodates the existing stock assessment and TAC announcement processes by linking the timing for initiating share matching and a binding arbitration proceeding to the issuance of IFQ and IPQ, including a five-day assessment period for negotiated commitments. These new deadlines provide harvesters and processors with effective methods for resolving price disputes under the arbitration system, consistent with the intent of the Program.

Gulf of Alaska Sideboards

The purpose of the sideboard limits is to prevent vessels that traditionally participated in the Bering Sea snow crab fishery from using the flexibility of the Program to increase their or others' participation in the GOA groundfish fisheries, primarily the GOA Pacific cod fishery. On July 6, 2006, NMFS published a final rule (71 FR 38298) to correct two aspects of the sideboard limits in the regulations implementing the Program. One change removed the sideboard limits from vessels with landings that did not yield Bering Sea snow crab QS. The second change clarified that sideboard limits apply to federally permitted vessels while fishing in the State parallel groundfish fisheries.

Table 1.1 provides the types of sideboards under the Program and the numbers of sideboarded vessels and LLP groundfish licenses to which sideboards apply.

Table A.1 Revised sideboards under the Program

Type of sideboard	Number sideboarded fishing vessels as a result of their Bering Sea snow crab (BSS) history	Number of LLP groundfish licenses to which sideboards apply
Subject to all GOA sideboards, except Pacific cod	5	5
Subject to all GOA sideboards (including Pacific cod)	85	40
Subject to all GOA sideboards, and may not directed fish for Pacific cod	137	11
Total number of sideboarded vessels and LLP licenses	227	57

State parallel fisheries occur in State waters but are opened at the same time as Federal fisheries in Federal waters. State parallel fishery harvests are considered part of the Federal TAC and federally permitted vessels move between State and Federal waters during the concurrent parallel and Federal fisheries. The State opens the parallel fisheries through emergency order by adopting the groundfish seasons, bycatch limits, and allowable gear types that apply in the adjacent Federal fisheries.

Program Information

Detailed information about all aspects of the Crab Rationalization Program is on our website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm>. A Program Contacts section is at the back of this document.

Program Contacts

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Alaska Region
Alaska Region Website: www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov

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1-800-304-4846 (press “2”) or
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Website: www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov

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