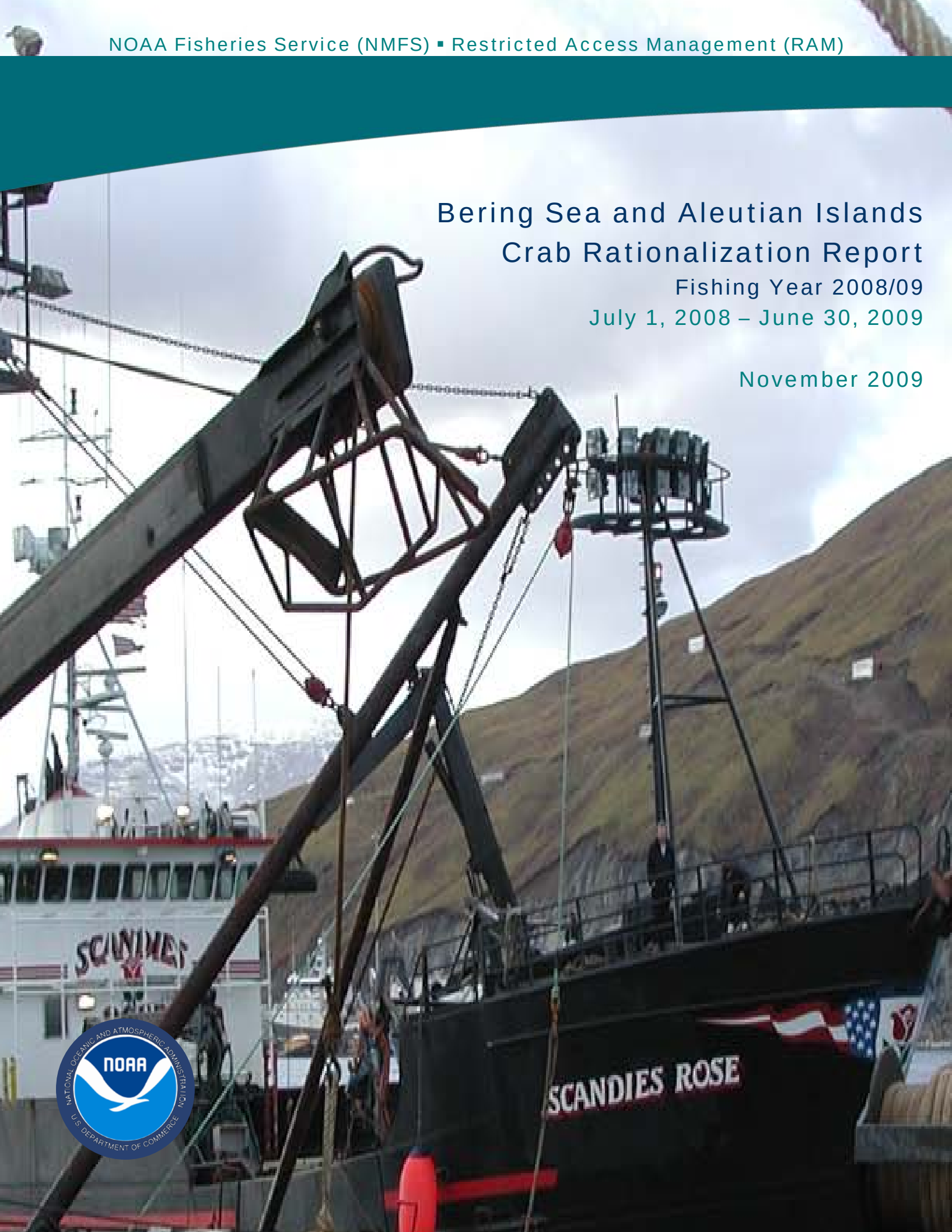
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Report

Fishing Year 2008/09

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

November 2009



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Crab Rationalization Program Report
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NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region
Restricted Access Management (RAM)

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Purpose and Acknowledgments

This Crab Rationalization Program Report for Fishing Year 2008/09 provides a summary of the fourth 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

Cover photography is courtesy of Gretchen Harrington, NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fisherman B. Large, NMFS, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) provided photographs for this report.

Special Notes

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.

Transiting Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

This fishing year Canadian officials noted a decrease in compliance with U.S. fishing vessel calling the Marine Traffic Control Centers (MCTS) in Tofino or Prince Rupert as they transit through Canadian waters on their way to or from Alaska.

Canadian Coastal Fisheries Regulations make it mandatory for all foreign commercial fishing vessels that do not have a Canadian Fishing Licence to notify their intent to transit Canada's EEZ to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). This requirement includes United States Fishing Vessels traveling between Washington State and Alaska.

Vessel master may call the Marine Traffic Control Centers (MCTS) in Tofino and Prince Rupert on the following radio frequencies:

- VHF Channel 22A (within 60 mile range
- MF Channel 2054 (within a 200 mile range);
- HF channel 4125 (within a 400 mile range): or by
- Phone to Tofino 250-726-7716, to Prince Rupert 250-627-3074

Upon Contact with MCTS, you will be asked for the following information and provided with a Verification File Number (VFN). The VFN must be provided to any DFO patrol vessel of Fishery officer that may request it.

a. Name of Vessel and Flag;
b. Vessel Registration Number;
c. Type of Fishing Vessel;
d. Length Over All (LOA);
e. Port of Registry;
f. Present Position (include date & time of position);
g. Route and Destination;
h. Purpose of entry into Canadian Waters; (i.e., transit to Alaska)
i. Are you aware of, and in compliance with, the requirement for gear stowage under the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Regulations*? (Yes or No)

The Canadian Coastal Fishery Protection Act and the Coastal fishery Protection regulations are available at http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html.

Parallel Fisheries

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.

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NOAA Fisheries

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

Chapter 1 The 2008/09 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 Program has been amended numerous times.

The Appendix contains an overview of the Program as originally implemented with additional information on CDQ transfers and a summary of significant changes. Following is a list of changes effective during the 2008/09 fishing year

Changes to the Crab Rationalization Program, 2008/09

NMFS made two changes to the regulations implementing the Crab Rationalization Program during the 2008/09 crab-fishing year.

- Effective July 21, 2008, a final rule (73 FR 35084, June 20, 2008) permanently extended the three-season exemption of CVC QS/IFQ holders from delivery, regionalization, and the arbitration system requirements. This change provides higher flexibility in crab deliveries with very little loss of benefits to processors and communities than would applying the restrictions.

- A final rule (73 FR 76136, December 15, 2008), effective January 14, 2009, revised a number of Federal groundfish, crab, and halibut requirements, most of which are pertinent to the Crab Rationalization Program, allowing these changes:

    - Requires Registered Crab Receivers (RCRs) to submit an annual Crab Rationalization Program Registered Crab Receiver Ex-vessel Volume and Value Report, detailing the amount and total value (whether in dollars, goods and services, and including "retro" and bonus payments) of CR crab purchased—by month, port, fishery, species, and CR Program type (Adak, CDQ, or IFQ). RCRs must submit a report for each RCR permit they reported landings of crab not processed at sea. This report replaces use of prices reported at time of landing as the basis for cost recovery fee liability estimates.

    - The first new annual report was due May 15, 2009 for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year; thereafter, reports are due prior to the close of business May 15th each fishing year. This report must be completed online using a form accessible on the RAM website (http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov) after logging in with the NMFS ID and password.

Significant Events, Crab Year 2008/09

No significant events occurred during the Program's fourth year. However, changes to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for BSAI King and Tanner crab are of note because they change stock assessments regarding overfishing, increase flexibility to the Program through QS combinations, and lift limitations for processing facility owners, which affect IPQ use caps in six BSAI crab fisheries. Detailed information about these changes and others affecting the Crab Rationalization Program is on the NOAA website:

alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm.

Chapter 2 CDQ and Adak Fisheries

CDQ Fishery

Fishery Facts, 2008/09

Oversight: State-managed commercial fishery (under FMP)

Allocation: All BSAI CDQ Fisheries (excluding Norton Sound)

Allocation in millions of pounds: 8.6 (all fisheries)

Harvest in millions of pounds: 8.5 (all fisheries)

Number of vessels used: 21

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. It is interesting to note that in past years, all vessels that made CDQ and Adak landings also made IFQ landings and were counted therein. In December 2008 one vessel that fished did not participate in IFQ fisheries.

CDQ Legislation and Program Changes

No crab CDQ legislation or Program changes occurred this fishing year. Crab CDQ changes that have occurred over time are listed in the Program Overview at the end of this report.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show CDQ harvests and vessel participation over time.

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
2008/09	Allocation	2,036,400	5,855,000	NA[e]	315,000	276,300	153,700
	Harvest	2,026,390	5,854,682		315,000	276,246	441[f]

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Notes: PIK, SMB, and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during these years; WAG is excluded because it is an Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery. Asterisks (*) represent 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. See table note c.

[f] This was deadloss harvested incidentally to the snow crab fishery.

Table 2.2 Numbers 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
2008/09	15	15	3	NA[b,d]	3	*	4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Notes: PIK, SMB, and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during this period. Asterisks (*) represent confidential data; State data are confidential if fewer than four entities participated.

[a] Because the 2005 BSS fishery began before the program took effect, 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 open; the Eastern district was closed to fishing.

Juvenile Red King Crab **ADF&G**

Adak Community Allocation

Fishery Facts, 2008/09

Oversight: State-managed commercial fishery (under FMP)

Allocation: 10% of WAG golden king crab TAC

Allocation in pounds: 283,500

Harvest: Confidential

Number of Vessels Used: Confidential

Nonprofit representation: ACDC

Protections: "Cooling Off" 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 2008/09, 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 issuees of QS/PQS change as appeals are adjudicated.

Twenty-eight applications denied by RAM have been appealed to the OAA; to date, eighteen cases related to eligibility for initial QS or PQS and ten related to other issues. During the 2008/09 fishing year, two cases were affirmed, two were dismissed, and 3 are pending. Table 3.1 shows results of the eight Decisions during the 2008/09 fishing year.

Table 3.1 OAA CR Appeal Decisions by QS type, 2008/09

		Appeal Decisions		
Case Status	**Total Decisions**	**Processor (PQS)**	**Owner QS**	**Captain/Crew QS**
Affirmed	***3***	1	0	2
Vacated	***0***	0	0	0
Dismissed	***2***	1	1	0
Pending	***3***	0	2	1
Total Decisions in 2008/09 fishing year	***8***			

Source: Office of Administrative Appeals

2008/09 Seasons, Caps, TACs, Pools, and Permits

Table 3.2 shows the 2008/09 crab-fishing season dates for each fishery.

Table 3.2 Crab-fishing seasons, 2008/09

BSAI crab fishery	Opening	Closing	Program fishery and allocation types
BBR	Oct 15, 2008	January 15, 2009	IFQ/CDQ
BSS	Oct 15, 2008	May 15, 2009 East Sub District May 31, 2009 West Sub District	IFQ/CDQ
EAG	Aug 15, 2008	May 15, 2009	IFQ/CDQ
EBT[a]	Oct 15, 2008	March 31, 2009	IFQ/CDQ
PIK	Closed		
SMB	Closed		
WAG	Aug 15, 2008	May 15, 2009	IFQ/Adak
WAI	Closed		
WBT[a]	Oct 15, 2008	March 31, 2009	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 that person as a shareholder, partner, or other owner of a nonindividual quota-holding entity, in addition to quota held in the name of the person, also is counted for that owner in proportion to his or her ownership in the 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, 2008/09

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%	18,327,600	366,552
BSS	2%	52,695,000	1,053,900
EBT[a]	2%	2,486,700	49,734
WBT[a]	2%	1,383,300	27,666
PIK[b]	4%	Closed	Closed
SMB[b]	4%	Closed	Closed
EAG	20%	2,835,000	567,000
WAG	20%	2,551,500	510,300
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; therefore, the cap cannot be computed at this time.

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

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:

[QS units / QS Pool] x TAC = 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 fourth Program year. Fisheries with low crab stock abundances were closed.

Table 3.4 QS pools and ratios, 2008/09

Fishery	Owners (QS units)	Crew (QS units)	Ratios (QS units: IFQ pounds)
BBR	389,753,683	12,000,335	21.9207
BSS	977,013,650	30,207,732	19.1142
EAG	9,700,156	299,989	3.5274
EBT[a]	194,646,806	6,004,198	80.6897
PIK[b]	Undetermined		Closed
SMB[b]	Undetermined		Closed
WAG	38,800,000	1,200,058	15.6771
WAI[b]	Undetermined		Closed
WBT[a]	194,646,806	6,004,198	145.0524

[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; therefore, ratios could not be computed.

Table 3.5 PQS pools and ratios, 2008/09

Fishery	PQS units	Ratios (QS units: IPQ pounds)
BBR[a,b] North	10,277,851	26.499
BBR[a,b] South	391,752,674	26.314
BSS[a,b] North	467,088,469	24.0966
BSS[a,b] South	531,436,117	23.8817
EAG	10,122,984	4.298
EBT[c]	199,219,226	98.3702
PIK[d]	Undetermined	Closed
SMB[d]	Undetermined	Closed
WAG[b]	20,010,124	33.3793
WAI[d]	Undetermined	Closed
WBT[c]	199,219,226	176.8369

[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, paid any fees owed, fulfilled 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, and class and may bear multiple fisheries. 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 as of year-end

Type annual permit	Number of persons issued one or more IFQ/IPQ permits[a]				Number of IFQ/IPQ permitholders with IFQ landings				Percent of permitholders who used their permits			
Sector	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
IFQ Crew	32	35	59	101	26	25	39	67	81	71	66	66
IFQ Owner	20	24	31	64	20	23	26	50	100	96	84	78
IPQ Processor	21	24	21	18	17	15	17	12	81	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 all their IFQ to cooperatives are not counted as IFQ permitholders.

Hired Master Permits. Cooperatives and nonindividual IFQ permitholders 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 permitholders use a vessel on a given trip, and both may participate in the same landing. Hiring a master requires that the IFQ permitholder maintains at least a 10 percent 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 2008/09, a total of 154 Hired Masters were authorized to fish, and 112 (72.7 percent) actually did so. Hired Masters participated in 786 (99.9 percent) of 787 total IFQ landings. Eight (8) IFQ permitholders of a total of 54 (14.8 percent) participated in 15 landings. By the end of the year, Hired Masters were responsible for 99.87 percent of all IFQ crab landed, most of which was used by cooperatives.

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. An RCR permit is required for each shore facility, or stationary floating processor vessel at which a person receives crab.

RCR Fishery Facts, 2008/09

62 RCR Permits issued to 25 persons

33 (53%) RCR permits used by 23 (92%) 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.

During the first Program fishing year in 2005/06, 55 RCR permits were issued to 22 persons, and 17 persons (77 percent of RCR permitholders) used 29 permits (53 percent). Four Program fishing years later, the same percentage of RCR permits was used (53), and by 15 percent more persons.

Table 3.7 displays by fishery RCR permitholders 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, 2008/09 (and 2007/08)

Registered Crab Receivers								
Fishery	Number of RCR permitholders with IFQ landings[a]		Number of landings[b]		Pounds landed[c]		Average pounds per permitholder	
BBR	16	(17)	252	(246)	18,288,881	(18,324,046)	1,143,055	(1,077,885)
BSS	15	(17)	428	(459)	52,687,374	(56,722,400)	3,512,492	(3,336,612)
EAG	5	(4)	29	(36)	2,823,773	(2,690,377)	564,755	(672,594)
EBT	10	(8)	60	(58)	1,553,584	(1,439,435)	155,358	(179,929)
WAG	7	(4)	37	(34)	2,252,111	(2,246,040)	321,730	(561,510)
WBT	7	(8)	50	(44)	108,368	(467,136)	15,481	(58,392)

[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 (SFP) vessels used in the Program. A FCVP is issued for a vessel with endorsements for operation type(s). Operation Type endorsements are SFP, CP (catcher/processor), and CV (catcher vessel). This permit has requirements for VMS and logbook reporting. In IFQ fisheries, 88 of 127 FCVPs issued for harvesting vessels had landings (69 percent), 85 of 120 CV-endorsed permits had landings (71 percent), and 5 of 7 CP-endorsed permits had landings (71 percent). Figure 3.1 illustrates that the steady decline in harvesting vessel participation during the first three years of the Program has leveled off during the 2008/09 fishing year.

FCVP Fishery Facts, 2008/09

135 FCVPs issued:

- 9 endorsed for SFP vessels
- 127 endorsed for harvesting vessels
  - (120 catcher vessels and 7 catcher/processors)
  - 88 (69 percent) harvesting vessels were used

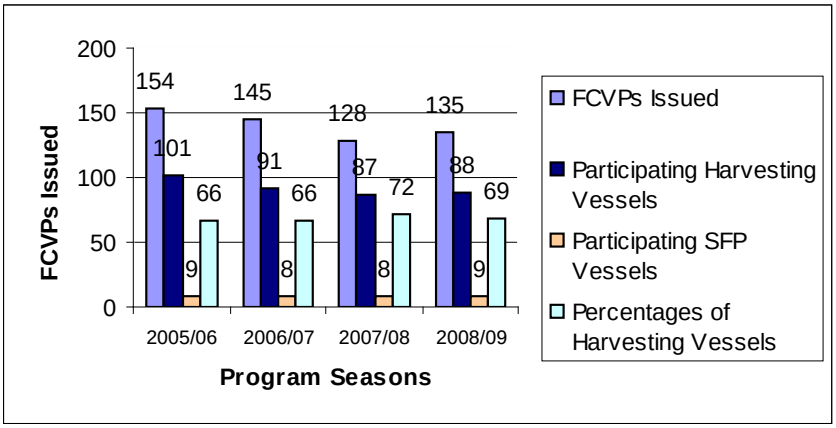


Figure 3.1 Numbers of FCVPs Issued and with Landings by Type, 2005/06–2008/09

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. During the 2008/09 fishing year, the number of FCVPs with landings in the BBR and BSS fisheries was the same (77). Figure 3.2 illustrates the number of FCVPs used by CR fisheries over time.

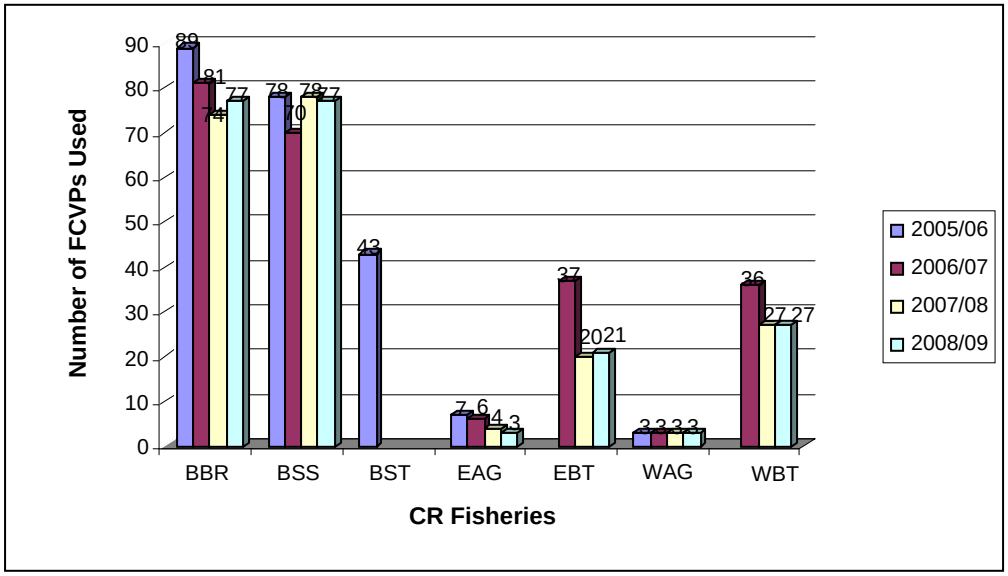


Figure 3.2 Numbers of FCVPs with Landings by Fishery, 2005/06–2008/09

Arbitration System

Arbitration Facts, 2008/09

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

One Arbitration Proceeding: Procedural.

Results: Resolved delivery/price issue in favor of the harvester. An issue of a processor's use of a two-tier price structure was not resolved

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, 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 are not 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.

2008/09 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. 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 2008/09 in the only arbitration proceeding, experts sought to resolve a price and delivery dispute. The proceeding was a procedural issue affecting the BBR fishery. A processor had paid harvesters in two cooperatives according to a two-tier price structure, with one price used before November 15 and another price for crab deliveries used after November 15. Although the arbitrator concluded that the issue surrounding the processor's use of a two-tier price structure was not able to be settled, another portion of the price dispute was settled in favor of the harvester.

Arbitration Approach

During the 2008/09 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.

Fishery Year Comparisons Over Time

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. These two proceedings did not result in arbitration to resolve price or other disputes. During the 2008/09 fishing year, arbitrators partially resolved a dispute regarding crab costs and delivery terms for two cooperatives delivering crab to a processor in the BBR fishery. Again, the contract arbitrator selected the harvesters' offers, while another issue of a processor's using a two-tier pricing structure remained unresolved. Over the past four years of the Program, types of arbitration issues have been consistent and harvesters generally have been successful in reaching satisfactory settlements through arbitration proceedings.

Table 3.8 shows by crab-fishing year the number of arbitration proceedings, affected fisheries, and arbitration issues and outcomes during the Program.

Table 3.8 Arbitration proceedings, 2005/06–2008/09

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
2008/09	1	Procedural: BBR fishery	Crab costs/delivery terms	An issue of a processor's use of a two-tier price structure was not settled. A price issue was resolved in favor of the harvester.

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 and CVO holders decreased, but holders of other types of QS remained essentially the same. By the end of the first four Program years, initial issuees decreased from 510 to 431, or 15 percent, while the number of all quotaholders only decreased from 510 to 505, or not quite 1 percent (0.98).

Table 4.1 Numbers of initial issuees holding QS/PQS initially and 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 year-end 2006/07	Number of Initial issuees year-end 2007/08	Number of Initial issuees year-end 2008/09
BBR	CPC	8	8	8	8	8
	CPO	13	12	11	10	9
	CVC	178	159	141	134	127
	CVO	241	235	223	214	203
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***424***	***397***	***365***	***347***	***329***
	Processor	***17***	***15***	***15***	***14***	***11***

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		Number of Initial issuees year-end 2008/09	
BSS	CPC	8	8	7		7		7	
	CPO	14	13	12		11		12	
	CVC	152	138	124		119		114	
	CVO	231	219	207		204		198	
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***388***	***361***	***331***		***321***		***311***	
	Processor	***20***	***18***	***17***		***16***		***16***	
BST				EBT[a]	WBT[a]	EBT[a]	WBT[a]	EBT[a]	WBT[a]
	CPC	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	CPO	14	13	12	12	11	11	11	11
	CVC	170	156	137	137	134	134	129	129
	CVO	248	235	220	220	212	213	203	204
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***425***	***397***	***361***	***361***	***348***	***349***	***334***	***335***
	Processor	***23***	***22***	***20***	***20***	***19***	***19***	***17***	***17***
EAG	CPO	2	2	2		1		1	
	CVC	13	11	11		10		9	
	CVO	13	13	12		10		9	
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***28***	***26***	***25***		***21***		***19***	
	Processor	***9***	***7***	***7***		***7***		***7***	

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	Number of Initial issuees year-end 2008/09
PIK	CPO	1	1	1	1	1
	CVC	40	40	39	39	39
	CVO	111	109	107	103	101
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***147***	***144***	***141***	***137***	***135***
	Processor	***14***	***13***	***13***	***12***	***11***
SMB	CPO	5	5	5	5	5
	CVC	72	69	65	62	62
	CVO	131	130	121	116	114
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***207***	***203***	***189***	***180***	***178***
	Processor	***12***	***11***	***10***	***9***	***7***
WAG	CPC	2	2	2	2	1
	CPO	2	2	2	1	1
	CVC	8	8	8	7	6
	CVO	13	12	12	10	10
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***24***	***23***	***23***	***19***	***18***
	Processor	***9***	***9***	***9***	***7***	***6***

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	Number of Initial issuees year-end 2008/09
WAI	CPC	1	1	1	1	1
	CPO	2	2	2	2	2
	CVC	4	4	4	4	4
	CVO	29	29	30	28	28
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***34***	***34***	***35***	***33***	***33***
	Processor	***9***	***8***	***8***	***6***	***5***
Total unique persons holding QS/PQS		***510***	***487***	***457***	***442***	***431***

[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). Quota for EBT and WBT are separately transferable. BST initial issue data are used for initial issuees and year-end 2005; however, EBT and WBT data are used for all other year-end data.

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 year-end 2006		Number of quotaholders year-end 2007		Number of quotaholders year-end 2008	
BBR	CPC	8	8	8		8		8	
	CPO	13	12	12		13		12	
	CVC	178	165	153		148		141	
	CVO	241	243	236		242		242	
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***424***	***411***	***391***		***389***		***382***	
	Processor	***17***	***16***	***17***		***17***		***16***	
BSS	CPC	8	8	7		7		7	
	CPO	14	13	13		14		15	
	CVC	152	143	134		132		129	
	CVO	231	228	221		232		233	
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***388***	***375***	***356***		***362***		***361***	
	Processor	***20***	***19***	***20***		***20***		**20**	
BST				EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT
	CPC	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	CPO	14	13	13	13	14	14	14	14
	CVC	170	161	150	150	148	148	143	143
	CVO	248	245	234	234	238	239	231	232
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***425***	***412***	***389***	***389***	***388***	***389***	***376***	***377***
	Processor	***23***	***23***	***23***	***23***	***22***	***22***	***21***	***21***

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	Number of quotaholders year-end 2008
EAG	CPO	2	2	2	2	2
	CVC	13	11	11	11	10
	CVO	13	14	13	13	12
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***28***	***27***	***26***	***26***	***24***
	Processor	***9***	***8***	***8***	***9***	***10***
PIK	CPO	1	1	1	1	1
	CVC	40	40	39	39	39
	CVO	111	113	112	117	118
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***147***	***148***	***146***	***151***	***152***
	Processor	***14***	***14***	***14***	***13***	***13***
SMB	CPO	5	5	5	5	5
	CVC	72	70	69	68	68
	CVO	131	136	132	138	137
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***207***	***210***	***204***	***208***	***207***
	Processor	***12***	***12***	***12***	***11***	***10***

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	Number of quotaholders year-end 2008
WAG	CPC	2	2	2	2	2
	CPO	2	2	3	3	3
	CVC	8	8	8	8	7
	CVO	13	13	13	12	12
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***24***	***24***	***25***	***24***	***23***
	Processor	9	***9***	***9***	***9***	***10***
WAI	CPC	1	1	1	1	1
	CPO	2	2	2	2	2
	CVC	4	4	4	4	4
	CVO	29	29	32	32	32
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***34***	***34***	***37***	***37***	***37***
	Processor	***9***	***9***	***9***	***8***	***8***
Total unique persons holding QS/PQS		***510***	***509***	***494***	***503***	***505***

[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). Quota for EBT and WBT are separately transferable. BST initial issue data are used for initial issuees and year-end 2005; however, EBT and WBT data are used for all other year-end data.

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 four 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. It also uses subheadings of quota share (QS) and processor quota share (PQS), respectively representing harvesters (persons catching and retaining crab) and processors, those preparing crab for human consumption, industrial uses, or long-term storage (including but not limited to cooking, canning, smoking, salting, drying, freezing, or rendering into meal or oil, but not icing, bleeding, heading, or gutting).

Table 4.3 New quotaholders entering the Program and initial issuees[a] holding no QS/PQS over time

	Number of new persons entering Program[a] who were not initial issuees of any QS/PQS								Number of initial issuees[b] holding no quota at year-end							
	First Year (2005/06)		Second Year (2006/07)		Third Year (2007/08)		Fourth Year (2008/09)		First Year (2005/06)		Second Year (2006/07)		Third Year (2007/08)		Fourth Year (2008/09)	
Fishery	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS
BBR	14	1	26	2	42	3	53	5	19	0	47	1	58	2	65	4
BSS	14	1	25	3	41	4	50	4	14	0	38	1	47	2	54	4
BST	15	1	NA[c]		NA[c]		NA[c]		19	0	46	1	56	2	63	4
EAG	1	1	1	1	5	2	5	3	0	1	1	1	3	1	3	1
EBT[c]	NA[c]		28	3	40	3	42	4	NA[c]		NA[c]		NA[c]		NA[c]	
PIK	4	1	5	1	14	1	17	2	3	0	8	0	14	1	16	2
SMB	7	1	15	2	28	2	29	3	7	0	21	1	28	2	28	4
WAG	1	0	2	0	5	2	5	4	0	0	1	0	3	2	4	3
WAI	0	1	2	1	4	2	4	3	0	0	1	0	3	2	2	3
WBT[c]	NA[c]		28	3	40	3	42	4	NA[c]		NA[c]		NA[c]		NA[c]	
Total unique persons	***19***	***3***	***32***	***5***	***55***	***6***	***66***	***8***	***22***	***1***	***51***	***2***	***65***	***3***	***74***	***5***

[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 issuee" 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 issuees were issued QS/PQS in BST fishery, not the EBT and WBT fisheries.

Initial Quotaholder Summary

Figure 4.1 illustrates loss of initial issuees from the Program as they divest quota over time. Figure 4.2 demonstrates the increasing numbers of initial issuees 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 issuees leave the fishery.

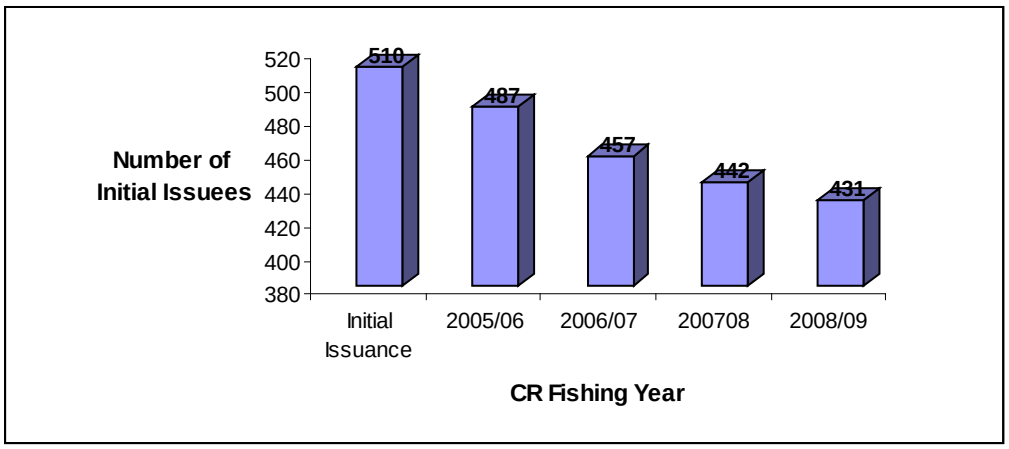


Figure 4.1 Numbers of Initial Issuees Holding QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2008/09

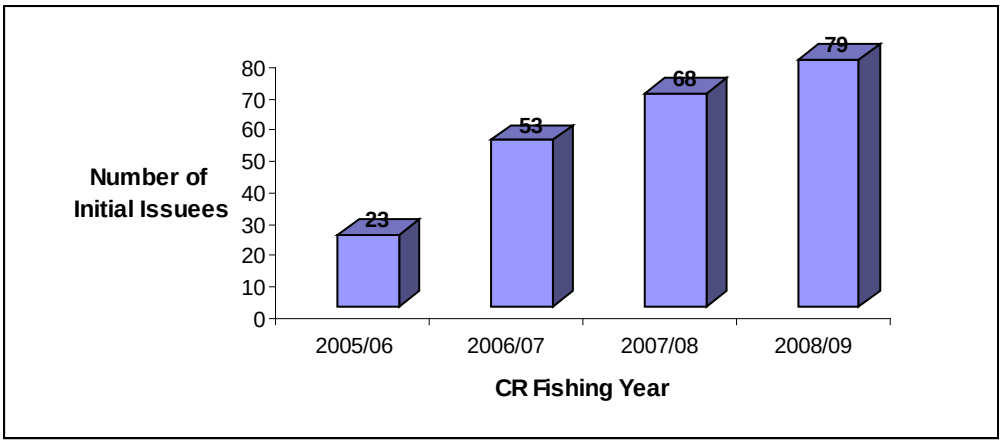


Figure 4.2 Numbers of Initial Issuees Holding No QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2008/09

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. In general, 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, 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. Leasing of crew IFQ was only authorized until the beginning of the 2008/09 fishing year, July 1, 2008; Owner IFQ until July 1, 2010. 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 2008/09. 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.

Tanner Crab **NOAA Fisheries**

Table 4.4 Transfers of harvesting QS and IFQ by fishery and transfer type, 2008/09

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	9	7	7	0	27,138
	Crew	QS	11	9	8	567,719	4,134
	Owner	Cooperative lease	40	11	10	0	2,623,666
	Owner	QS	43	26	27	26,664,735	0
	Fishery Total		***103***	***46***	***47***	***27,232,454***	***2,654,938***
BSS	Crew	Cooperative lease	12	5	5	0	261,972
	Crew	QS	13	6	8	1,147,570	18,608
	Owner	Cooperative lease	72	16	13	0	9,903,912
	Owner	QS	41	18	18	48,148,829	0
	Fishery Total		***138***	***40***	***39***	***49,296,399***	***10,184,492***
EAG	Crew	QS	*	4	3	59,908	3,420
	Owner	Cooperative lease	6	3	*	0	397,347
	Owner	QS	*	*	*	318,956	0
	Fishery Total		***12***	*******	*******	***378,864***	***400,767***
EBT	Crew	Cooperative lease	31	8	8	0	74,850
	Crew	QS	6	6	6	242,855	644
	Owner	Cooperative lease	73	10	10	0	2,637,636
	Owner	QS	28	15	14	11,222,423	0
	Fishery Total		***138***	***31***	***31***	***11,465,278***	***2,713,130***

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[b]	IFQ pounds transferred[b,c]
PIK	Crew	QS	4	*	*	36,000	0
	Owner	QS	10	5	5	1,266,785	0
	Fishery Total		***14***	*****	*****	***1,302,785***	***0***
SMB	Crew	QS	3	*	*	24,951	0
	Owner	QS	5	3	3	923,936	0
	Fishery Total		***8***	*****	*****	***948,887***	***0***
WAG	Crew	QS	*	*	*	68,703	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	9	3	*	0	186,654
	Owner	QS	*	*	*	39,064	0
	Fishery Total		***13***	*****	*****	***107,767***	***186,654***
WAI	Owner	QS	*	*	*	395,110	0
	Fishery Total		*****	*****	*****	***395,110***	***0***
WBT	Crew	Cooperative lease	12	4	6	0	5,485
	Crew	QS	6	6	6	242,855	358
	Owner	Cooperative lease	37	7	9	0	348,260
	Owner	QS	28	15	14	11,222,423	0
	Fishery Total		***83***	***28***	***30***	***11,465,278***	***354,103***
Total all QS/IFQ totals		Cooperative leases	***301***	***16***	***16***	***0***	***16,466,920***
		QS	***209***	***49***	***51***	***102,592,822***	***27,164***
		All transfers and unique persons	***510***	***65***	***67***	***102,592,822***	***16,494,084***

Notes: BST changed to EBT and WBT within year two of the Program but before issuance of annual IFQ for that year.
Some data cannot be shown due to confidentiality (*).

[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, 2008/09

Fishery	PQS/IPQ transfer type	Number transfers	Number unique transferors[a]	Number unique transferees[a]	PQS units	IPQ pounds[b,c]
BBR	Lease	12	6	4	0	4,522,981
	PQS	6	5	4	37,476,122	25,150
	Fishery Total	***18***	***10***	***8***	***37,476,122***	***4,548,131***
BSS	Lease	9	6	3	0	8,393,191
	PQS	6	4	4	112,071,647	4,652,564
	Fishery Total	***15***	***10***	***7***	***112,071,647***	***13,045,755***
EAG	Lease	7	*	*	0	593,651
	PQS	3	*	*	826,359	163,157
	Fishery Total	***10***	***7***	***5***	***826,359***	***756,808***
EBT	Lease	6	5	3	0	543,839
	PQS	6	6	5	19,429,646	155,600
	Fishery Total	***12***	***10***	***7***	***19,429,646***	***699,439***
PIK	PQS	*	*	*	738,827	0
	Fishery Total	*******	*******	*******	***738,827***	***0***
SMB	PQS	4	3	3	1,771,479	0
	Fishery Total	***4***	***3***	***3***	***1,771,479***	***0***
WAG	Lease	7	4	3	0	51,085
	PQS	8	4	3	18,921,690	195,249
	Fishery Total	***15***	***7***	***5***	***18,921,690***	***246,334***
WAI	PQS	*	*	*	18,076,485	0
	Fishery Total	*******	*******	*******	***18,076,485***	***0***
WBT	Lease	4	3	*	0	287,615
	PQS	6	6	5	19,429,646	88,536
	Fishery Total	***10***	***9***	***6***	***19,429,646***	***376,151***
Total all transfers	***Total PQS transfers***	***42***	***10***	***6***	***228,741,901***	***5,280,256***
	Total leases	***45***	***13***	***8***	***0***	***14,392,362***
	Total all PQS transfers	***87***	***20***	***12***	***228,741,901***	***19,672,618***

Notes: BST changed to EBT and WBT within year two of the Program but before issuance of annual IPQ for that year.
Some data cannot be shown due to confidentiality (*).

[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 four Program years for processors and harvesters. During the 2008/09 fishing year, numbers of permanent PQS transfers and leases increased. However, the number of permanent harvesting QS transfers continued to decrease after a marked increase in the second year of the Program. Intercooperative leases remained about the same as those of last year. During the four Program years, the number of noncooperative leases declined to zero because harvesting IFQ has been fully assigned to cooperatives.

Table 4.6 Numbers of transfers for all fisheries by year and type, 2005/06–2008/09

Type	Program Year One 2005/06	Program Year Two 2006/07	Program Year Three 2007/08	Program Year Four 2008/09
Harvesters				
Cooperative Lease	144	269	302	301
Noncooperative Lease	113	39	16	0
QS	199	329	292	209
Processors				
PQS Lease	40	39	32	45
PQS	7	7	12	42

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 four Program years. Data are based on reported total transaction prices (including fees), divided by the number of units—not on reported dollars per unit. This table omits confidential data; processor QS prices are generally confidential due to the small number of quotaholders and transactions for that sector.

Table 4.7 Estimated weighted average price per crab QS unit for priced QS transfers, 2005/06–2008/09

Fishery by program year[a]	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	Fishery by program year[a]
BBR 1	CVC	873,724	1,221,051	17,402	21	19	14	0.72	**BBR** 1
2		774,159	1,130,330	1,744	24	20	17	0.68	2
3		343,034	525,490	0	10	8	5	0.65	3
4		388,326	482,465	4,134	9	7	7	0.80	4
BBR 1	CVO	3,991,160	7,139,909	94,298	14	6	10	0.56	**BBR** 1
2		29,292,901	24,420,200	0	27	17	11	1.20	2
3		8,383,337	7,144,784	0	21	11	13	1.17	3
4		16,239,943	13,988,271	0	25	16	19	1.16	4
BBR 4	Pro	3,747,743	31,159,177	25,150	4	4	3	0.12	**BBR** 4
BSS 1	CVC	683,516	2,793,091	38,489	25	14	12	0.24	**BSS** 1
2		543,372	2,864,463	2,536	35	17	15	0.19	2
3		213,042	821,969	0	12	5	5	0.26	3
4		315,891	757,824	18,608	10	5	6	0.42	4
BSS 1	CVO	9,653,848	24,619,413	164,664	22	9	12	0.39	**BSS** 1
2		12,618,035	48,984,237	81,136	36	17	8	0.26	2
3		11,594,328	24,751,778	0	26	10	13	0.47	3
4		6,727,749	12,649,179	0	15	9	11	0.53	4
EAG 4	CVC	156,968	59,908	3,420	4	4	3	2.62	**EAG** 4
WAG 4	PRO	1,373,366	18,921,690	195,249	8	4	3	0.07	**WAG** 4

Continued

Table 4.7 Continued

Fishery by program year[a]	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	Fishery by program year[a]
BST 1	CVC	77,627	400,790	1,007	14	13	11	0.19	**BST** 1
2		15,472	138,404	0	3	3	3	0.11	2
BST 1	CVO	1,523,445	5,203,128	6,588	10	8	9	0.29	**BST** 1
EBT 2	CVC	18,987	394,012	188	17	14	14	0.05	**EBT** 2
3		13,308	178,143	0	5	4	3	0.07	3
4		17,115	165,745	644	4	4	4	0.10	4
EBT 2	CVO	432,038	6,577,526	4,160	17	13	8	0.07	**EBT** 2
3		779,409	3,030,918	0	9	7	8	0.26	3
4		903,366	6,246,184	0	14	8	9	0.14	4
EBT 4	PRO	124,400	12,152,783	85,185	5	5	4	0.01	**EBT** 4
WBT 2	CVC	13,028	372,387	110	16	13	13	0.03	**WBT** 2
3		7,924	178,143	0	5	4	3	0.04	3
4		11,495	165,745	358	4	4	4	0.07	4
WBT 2	CVO	699,338	8,511,781	2,427	22	18	9	0.08	**WBT** 2
3		250,353	2,948,045	0	8	6	7	0.08	3
4		603,875	6,246,184	0	14	8	9	0.10	4
WBT 4	PRO	76,480	12,152,783	47,386	5	5	4	0.01	**WBT** 4
SMB 2	CVC	7,019	40,323	0	4	3	3	0.17	**SMB** 2
SMB 3	CVO	306,914	876,903	0	10	3	4	0.35	**SMB** 3

[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. However, during the 2008/09 fishing year, not all CDQ/Adak fishermen fished the IFQ fisheries. During the Program three fisheries have 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. Although 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 an asterisk denotes the number of the BSS pre-Program fishery vessels (169) and the vertical line denotes implementation of the BSAI Crab Buyback (Crab Capacity Reduction Program). The "bairdi split" represents the State's change in managing the BST fishery as two distinct stocks. 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 2008/09 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.

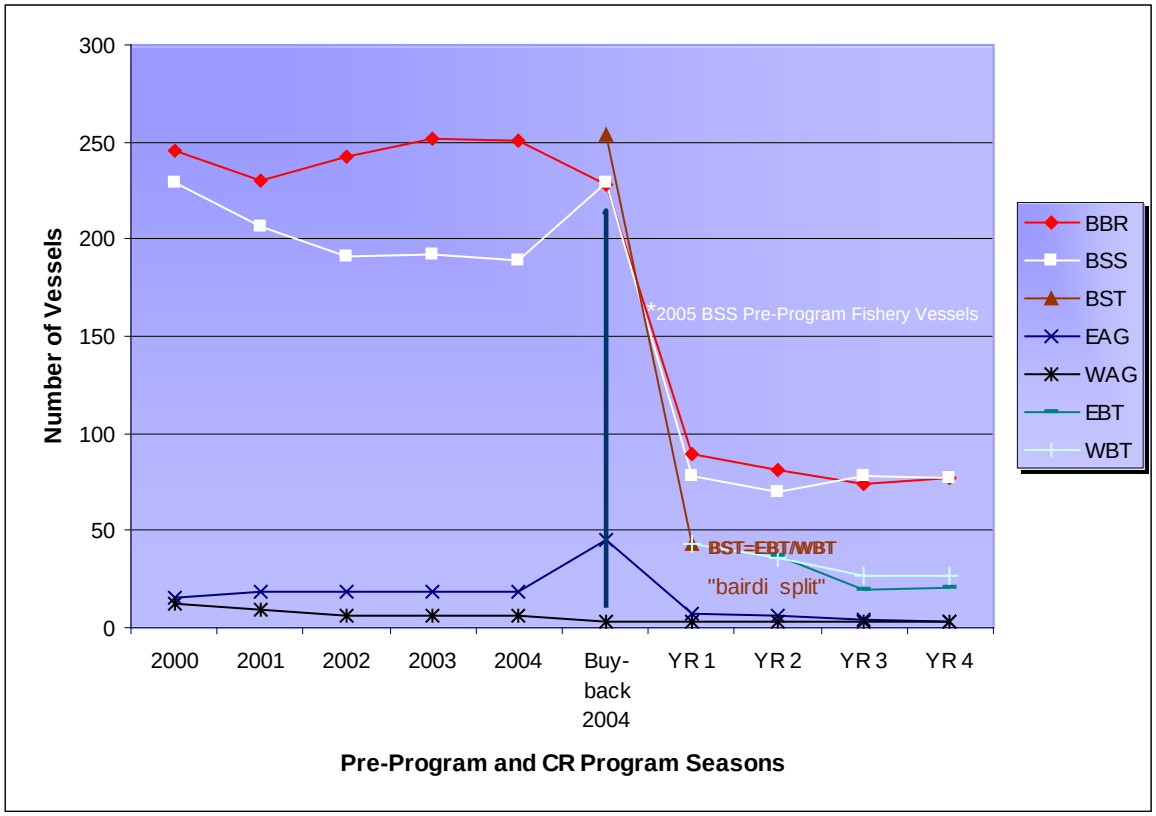


Figure 5.1 Vessel Participation in Pre-Program and Program Fisheries, 2000–2008/09

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[b]	Year 2005[c]	IFQ crab fisheries 2005/06[d]	IFQ crab fisheries 2006/07[e]	IFQ crab fisheries 2007/08	IFQ crab fisheries 2008/09
BBR	246	230	242	252	251		89	81	74	77
BSS	229	207	191	192	189	169[b]	78	70	78	77
BST	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed		43	n/a	n/a	n/a
EAG	15	19	19	18	19		7	6	4	3
EBT[e]	formerly part of BST						Closed	37	20	21
WAG	12	9	6	6	6		3	3	3	3
WBT[e]	formerly part of BST						43[f]	36	27	27
Distinct number of harvesting vessels fishing under the Program							***101***	***91***	***87***	***88***

(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] In 2004, before crab rationalization began, NMFS implemented the Crab Capacity Reduction Program (Buyback Program) that removed 25 vessels from the fleet.

[c] The 2005 calendar year BSS fishery occurred before the 2005/06 Program began.

[d] All Adak and CDQ vessels participated in IFQ fisheries from 2005/06 through 2007/08.

[e] 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).

[f] In the 2005/06 fishing year, the BST fishery was open only in the western area.

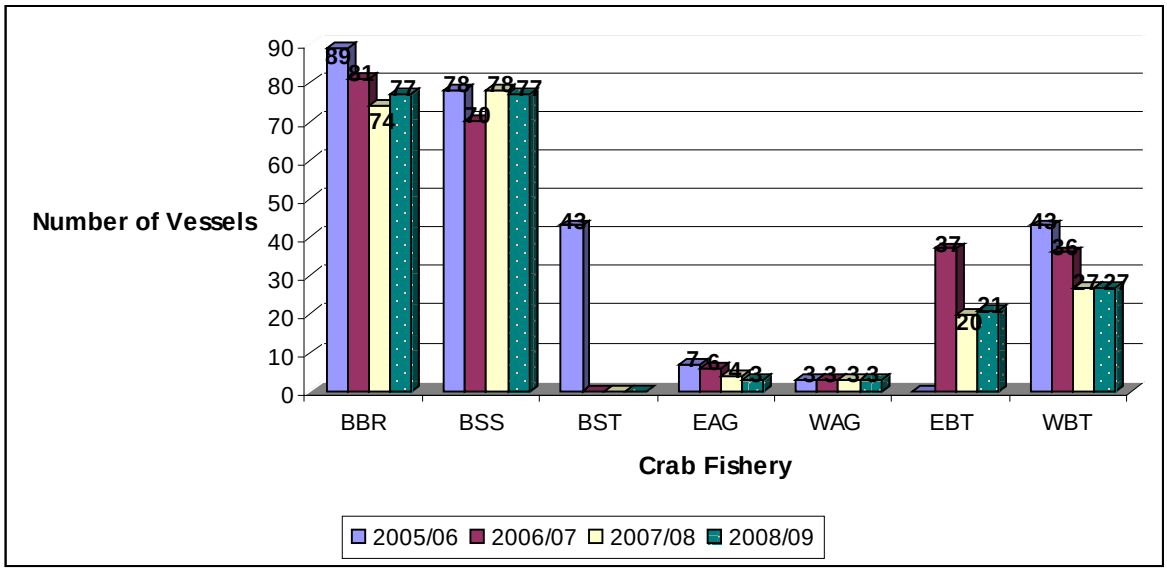


Figure 5.2 Vessel Participation in Program Fisheries, 2005/06–2008/09

Tables 5.2a and 5.2b show the amount of gear and average season-days used per vessel during all Program years. During the first four Program years, the average number of pots pulled per vessel generally increased (except EBT and WAG), and sometimes almost doubled (EAG). This year pots pulled in the WAG fishery were the lowest since the start of the Program. Table 5.2b shows that season length changed minimally; RAM counts the entire first and last day of each fishing year and in the 2007/08 year, 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 fishing year closed January 15, 2008. Despite relative consistency in lengths of seasons, during the 2008/09 fishing year, average days fished per vessel decreased in every fishery except in the WAG fishery, in which average days fished per vessel increased from last year by ten. Generally, the number of pots registered by fishery increased, except in the BSS fishery, in which registered pots decreased from last year's by approximately one thousand. Compared with last year, in 2008/09 BSAI crab fishermen used more gear per vessel (except EBT and WAG fishermen) and expended much less effort per vessel (except in BSS and WAG) over fewer days.

Table 5.2a IFQ fishery effort by number of pots, 2005/06 (year one) – 2008/09 (year four)

IFQ Fishery	Number of pots registered (fleet)				Average number of pots registered (vessel)				Total number of pots pulled[a] (fleet)				Average number of pots pulled (vessel)			
	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four
BBR	15,713	14,685	11,885	15,098	177	181	161	196	99,573	64,325	101,734	124,739	1,119	794	1,375	1,620
BSS	13,734	10,851	13,647	12,549	176	162	173	163	108,397	79,869	129,625	148,220	1,389	1,192	1,641	1,925
EAG	8,833	6,600	4,200	4,200	1,262	1,100	1,050	1,400	21,898	22,694	20,496	21,855	3,128	3,782	6,832	7,285
BST/EBT[b,c]	545	3,320	3,102	3,561	136	175	107	193	29,693	26,487	30,691	33,827	691	646	1,535	867
WAG	4,900	4,500	4,800	4,900	1,633	1,500	1,600	1,633	27,503	23,839	25,287	22,351	9,168	7,946	8,129	7,450
BST/ WBT[b,c]	545	820	3,102	3,561	136	205	107	178	29,693	22,841	19,210	26,531	691	586	620	1,263

(Source: ADF&G)

[a]Pot pull data are for both incidental and directed fisheries.

[b]EBT 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 = 3,561

[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). Year-one data are for the BST fishery.

Table 5.2b IFQ fishery effort by days fished per vessel and season length, 2005/06 (year one) – 2008/09 (year four)

IFQ Fishery	Average days fished (vessel)				Season length (days)			
	Year one[a]	Year two	Year three	Year four	Year one	Year two	Year three	Year four
BBR	26	21	26	21	93	93	93	93
BSS	42	36	48	49	229	229	230	229
EAG	174	88	147	59	274	274	275	274
BST/EBT[a]	Closed	20	69	21	168	168	169	168
WAG	174	88	87	97	274	274	275	274
BST/ WBT[a]	24	19	69	7	168	168	169	168

(Source: ADF&G)

[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). Year-one data is BST.

Season Length

One objective of the Program is to improve safety and market conditions by providing an extended fishing year 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. The BBR fishery used the most harvest days available (99%), while the EAG fishery used the fewest (39%) harvest days. In Figure 5.3, numbers represent days (either of season length or of days fishing) and the percentage of season use in each IFQ crab fishery. Seven landings occurred shortly after the fishing year closure. In Figure 5.3 percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

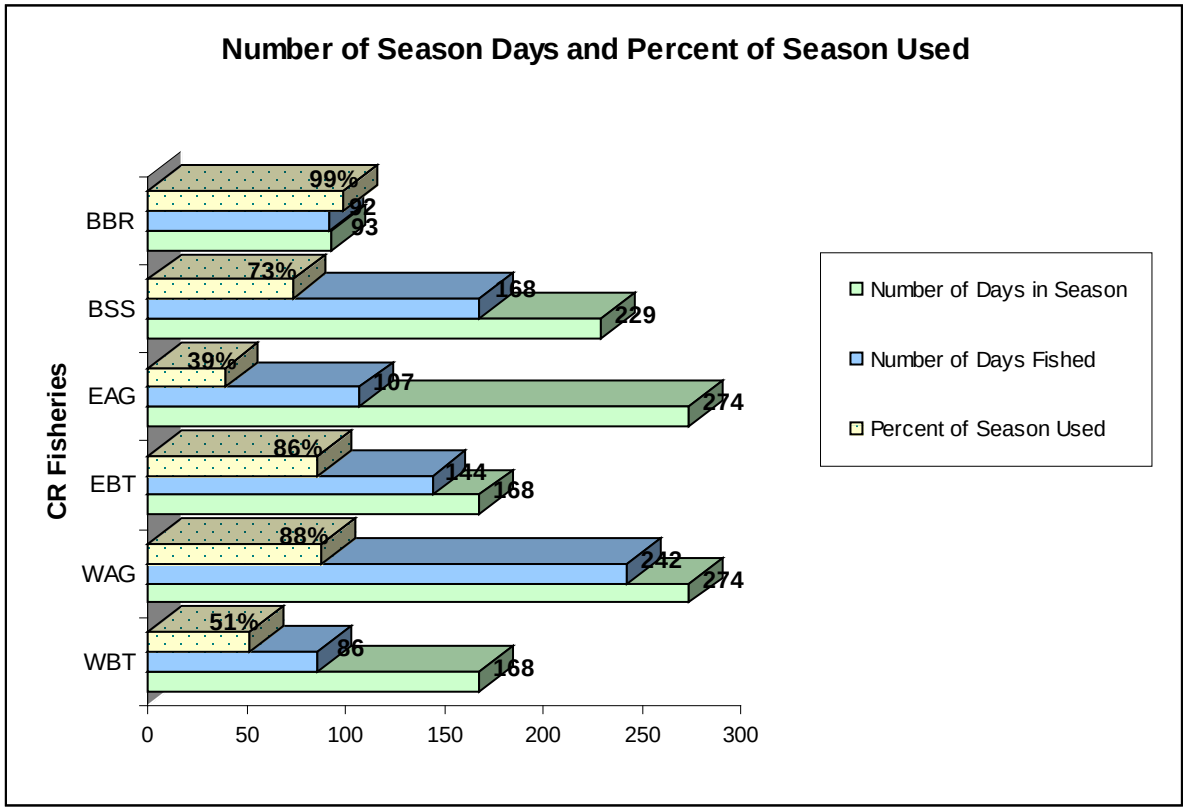


Figure 5.3 Comparison of Season Length with the Number of Days Fished, 2008/09

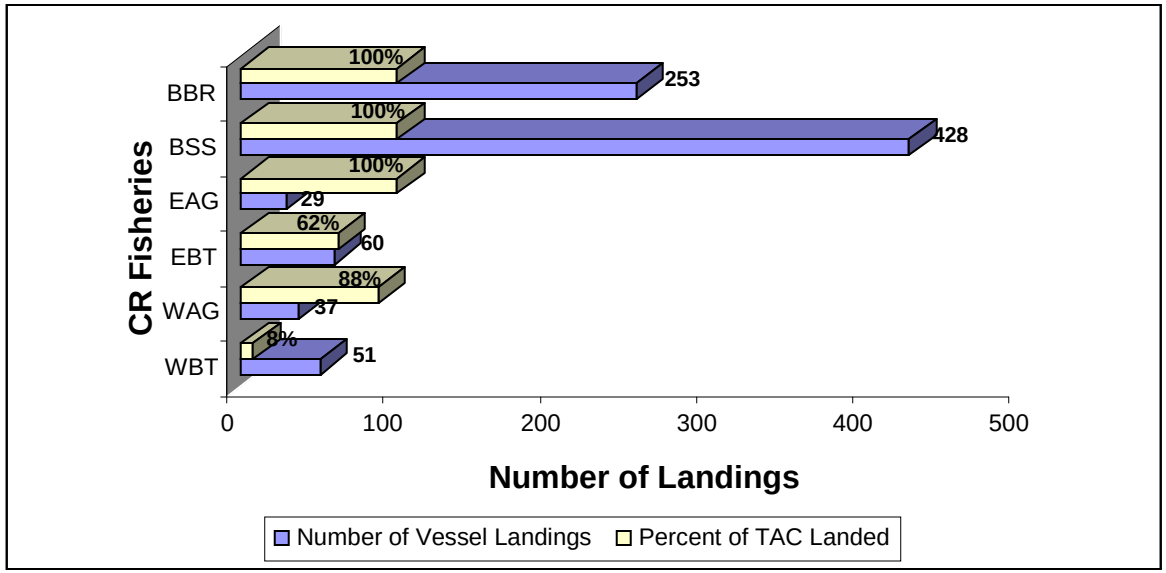


Figure 5.4 Vessel Landings and Percent of TAC Landed, 2008/09

Use of Available TAC

Figure 5.4 illustrates that during the 2008/09 fishing year, participants in the BBR, BSS, and EAG fisheries harvested the entire TACs. Throughout the Program the BBR fishery has consistently harvested more of its TAC, compared with other CR fisheries. According to ADF&G, the incentive to fish the WBT fishery decreased markedly during 2008/09 due to low catch rates and other factors. As a result, the WBT fishermen harvested only 8 percent of the TAC of nearly 1.4 million pounds. Like WBT fishermen, WAG participants landed a lower percentage of TAC than in the prior year, but still landed 88 percent. This year EBT fishermen landed 62 percent of the TAC, up from last year's catch of under 50 percent. In Figure 5.4, percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Days with Peak Landings, 2008/09

Amid higher market demands and fuel prices, lower catch rates, climate change, and other complex variables, during the Program BBR and BSS fishermen have remained fairly consistent in the timings of their peak landings (in raw crab pounds landed). However, the EAG, WAG, and EBT fishermen's largest days have been occurring later than previously. Table 5.3 displays the 2008/09 fishing year's highest landing dates by fishery. Confidential data is represented by asterisks (*).

Table 5.3 Recent dates of Peak landings by IFQ fishery in raw crab pounds, 2007/08–2008/09

Fishery	Peak Landings 2008/09	Peak Landings 2007/08
EAG	Sep/30/2008	Sep/24/2007
WAG	*	*
BBR	Oct/28/2008	Oct/29/2008
BSS	Jan/22/2009	Feb/5/2008
WBT	*	Mar/5/2007
EBT	*	Mar/5/2007

Allocations, Harvests, and Landings

When the last quota fishery (BSS West Sub District) closed on May 31, 2009, IFQ permitholders and their participating Hired Masters had reported a total of 787 vessel landings (offloads) for the crab-fishing year. IFQ permitholders and their 112 participating Hired Masters (72.7 percent of the 154 Hired Masters permitted) landed 99.9 percent of the TAC for all IFQ crab fisheries. During the 2008/09 crab year, Hired Masters participated in 786 offloads. Tables 5.4–5.7 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 "Special Notes" before the Table of Contents.

Table 5.4 Landings by IFQ fishery[a,b]

Fishery	Number of IFQ permit-holders[c]	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of Landings[b]	Landed Pounds[b,c]	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	25	16	252	18,288,881	18,112,035	99.01	20,993	0.11	160,812	0.88	18,327,598	99.79	4,959	0.03
BSS	24	15	428	52,687,374	52,289,108	99.23	628	0.00	403,265	0.77	52,694,986	99.99	5,627	0.01
EAG	3	5	29	2,823,773	2,805,306	99.15	0	0.00	24,117	0.85	2,834,886	99.61	5,650	0.20
EBT	10	10	60	1,553,584	1,541,079	99.18	759	0.05	11,935	0.77	2,486,706	62.48	189	0.01
WAG	3	7	37	2,252,111	2,229,117	98.98	195	0.01	22,802	1.01	2,551,500	88.27	3	0.00
WBT	10	7	50	108,368	105,702	97.54	113	0.10	2,553	2.36	1,383,308	7.83	0	0.00

[a] Number of permitholders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.
[b] Landing = vessel offload.
[c] Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.
[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 5.5 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	Sold pounds	Percent sold[e]	Personal use pounds	Percent personal use	Deadloss pounds	Percent deadloss	IFQ pounds available in region[f]	Percent fishable pounds landed	Overage pounds[g]	Percent overage[g] of total landed pounds
BBR	N	8	5	17	430,704	428,993	99.60	0	0.00	1,711	0.40	430,950	99.94	0	0.00
	S	19	14	229	16,509,377	16,341,601	98.96	16,389	0.10	155,878	0.94	16,541,813	99.80	4,491	0.03
	U	23	13	56	1,348,800	1,341,441	99.42	4,604	0.34	3,223	0.24	1,354,835	99.55	468	0.03
BSS	N	18	12	229	21,747,875	21,605,920	99.35	8	0.00	141,947	0.65	21,749,664	99.99	0	0.00
	S	18	11	199	24,725,079	24,493,815	99.04	620	0.00	236,271	0.96	24,725,432	100.00	5,627	0.02
	U	23	13	94	6,214,420	6,189,373	99.60	0	0.00	25,047	0.40	6,219,890	99.91	0	0.00
EAG	S	3	5	29	2,613,397	2,595,287	99.09	0	0.00	23,760	0.91	2,616,956	99.86	5,650	0.22
	U	3	3	6	210,376	210,019	99.83	0	0.00	357	0.17	217,930	96.53	0	0.00
EBT	U	10	10	60	1,553,584	1,541,079	99.18	759	0.05	11,935	0.77	2,486,706	62.48	189	0.01
WAG*	U/W	4	9	40	2,252,111	2,229,117	98.80[e]	195	0.05	22,802	2.26	2,551,500	79.80[e]	3	0.00
WBT	U	10	7	50	108,368	105,702	97.54	113	0.10	2,553	2.36	1,383,308	7.83	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] Because of confidentiality, the WAG fishery regional percentages for both sold pounds and fishable pounds landed are averaged percentages. Other WAG percentages in this table are not averaged.
[f] "IFQ pounds in region" is not the overall fishery TAC; it includes only the TAC available to each region.
[g] Overages are the amounts landed in excess of amounts authorized on IFQ permits.

Table 5.6 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	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	CPC	6	5	8	19,238	19,215	99.88	0	0.00	23	0.12	19,238	100.00	0	0.00
	CPO	6	6	19	807,396	806,292	99.85	0	0.00	1,207	0.15	807,396	100.00	103	0.01
	CVC	22	10	37	522,166	515,934	98.74	4,604	0.88	1,993	0.38	528,201	98.86	365	0.07
	CVO	19	14	235	16,940,081	16,770,594	98.97	16,389	0.10	157,589	0.93	16,972,763	99.81	4,491	0.03
BSS	CPC	6	5	6	92,813	92,771	99.95	0	0.00	42	0.05	92,814	100.00	0	0.00
	CPO	7	9	47	4,846,035	4,832,201	99.71	0	0.00	13,834	0.29	4,851,437	99.89	0	0.00
	CVC	23	9	49	1,487,496	1,476,325	99.25	0	0.00	11,171	0.75	1,487,563	100.00	0	0.00
	CVO	18	12	383	46,261,030	45,887,811	99.18	628	0.00	378,218	0.82	46,263,172	100.00	5,627	0.01
EAG*	CVO	3	5	29	2,613,397	2,595,287	99.09	0	0.00	23,760	0.91	2,616,956	99.86	5,650	0.22
EBT*	CVC	6	6	13	39,705	38,051	95.83	759	1.91	895	2.25	68,301	58.13	0	0.00
	CVO	9	9	49	1,452,131	1,441,547	99.26	0	0.00	10,773	0.74	2,250,226	64.53	189	0.01
WAG*	***All Sectors***	6	10	40	2,252,111	2,229,117	99.45[f]	195	0.02	22,802	2.48	2,551,500	91.84[f]	3	0.00
WBT*	CVC	5	4	6	3,326	3,192	95.97	63	1.89	71	2.13	37,998	8.75	0	0.00
	CVO	9	7	45	104,791	102,266	97.59	50	0.05	2,475	2.36	1,251,753	8.37	0	0.00

*EAG, EBT, and WBT data are confidential in other sectors; WAG data are confidential in all sectors.

[a] Landing pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.
[b] Landing = vessel offload.
[c] Number of permitholders 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.
[f] Because of confidentiality, the WAG fishery sector percentages for both sold pounds and fishable pounds landed are averaged percentages. Other WAG percentages in this table are not averaged.

Table 5.7 Landings[a] by fishery and IFQ class

Fishery	IFQ Class	Number of IFQ permit-holders[b]	Number of RCR permit-holders	Number of landings[c]	Landed pounds	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[e]
BBR	A	19	12	193	15,267,552	15,106,135	98.92	15,402	0.10	150,262	0.98	15,274,687	99.95	4,247	0.03
	B	17	13	78	1,672,529	1,664,459	99.50	987	0.06	7,327	0.44	1,698,076	98.50	244	0.01
	U[f]	23	13	56	1,348,800	1,341,441	99.42	4,604	0.34	3,223	0.24	1,354,835	99.55	468	0.03
BSS	A	18	10	329	41,631,320	41,290,509	99.18	613	0.00	341,114	0.82	41,633,104	100.00	916	0.00
	B	17	10	91	4,629,710	4,597,302	99.20	15	0.00	37,104	0.80	4,630,068	99.99	4,711	0.10
	U[f]	23	13	95	6,426,344	6,401,297	99.61	0	0.00	25,047	0.39	6,431,814	99.91	0	0.00
EAG	A	3	5	25	2,355,260	2,338,233	99.04	0	0.00	22,677	0.96	2,355,261	100.00	5,650	0.24
	B	3	4	11	258,137	257,054	99.58	0	0.00	1,083	0.42	261,695	98.64	0	0.00
	U[f]	3	3	6	210,376	210,019	99.83	0	0.00	357	0.17	217,930	96.53	0	0.00
EBT	A	9	7	44	1,300,447	1,290,993	99.26	0	0.00	9,643	0.74	2,024,577	64.23	189	0.01
	B	5	7	10	151,684	150,554	99.26	0	0.00	1,130	0.74	225,649	67.22	0	0.00
	U[f]	7	7	21	101,453	99,532	98.11	759	0.75	1,162	1.15	236,480	42.90	0	0.00
WAG*	A/B	*	*	19	1,035,915	1,013,033	97.79	195	0.02	2,2687	2.19	1,330,915	128.5	0	0.00
	U[f]	3	3	23	1,216,196	1,216,084	99.99	0	0.00	115	0.01	1,220,585	99.64	3	0.00
WBT	A	7	5	35	92,153	89,939	97.60	50	0.05	2,164	2.35	1,126,234	8.18	0	0.00
	B	6	4	11	12,638	12,327	97.54	0	0.00	311	2.46	125,519	10.07	0	0.00
	U[f]	6	4	7	3,577	3,436	96.06	63	1.76	78	2.18	131,555	2.72	0	0.00

* WAG data are confidential by class for CVO sector IFQ.

[a] Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, excluding overages, unless noted.
[b] Number of permitholders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.
[c] Landing = vessel offload.
[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.
sold pounds and fishable pounds landed

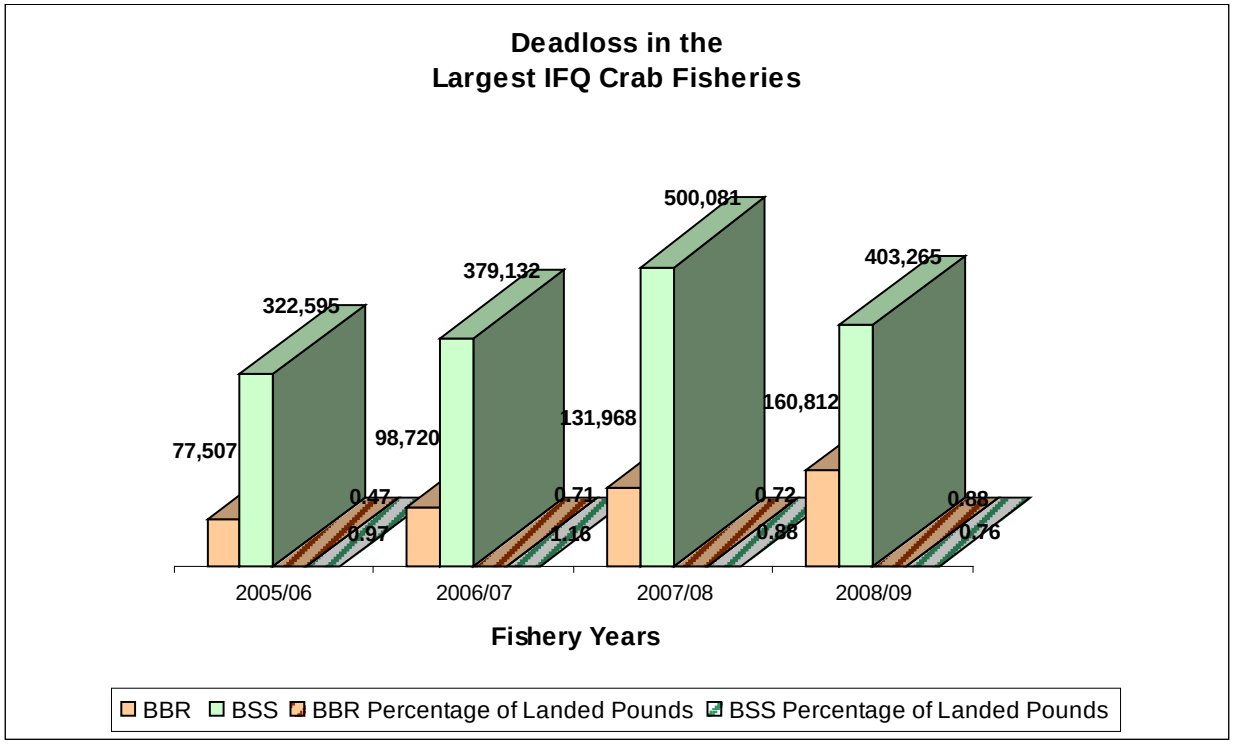
Deadloss

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. Under the Program most deadloss (85%) has been reported on Class A IFQ permits; however, Class A permits account for the majority of TAC assigned to quota fisheries.

Historic Overview—Major Fisheries

The BSS fishery has accounted for nearly five million pounds of reported deadloss since 1990. The 1990 BSS fishery reported the highest pre-Program deadloss (almost 1.8 million pounds), 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 approximately 379,000 pounds of deadloss) during the first and second years under the Program, yet still far below the 1990 deadloss. Over time, crab fishery deadloss has sharply declined. In 2008/09, with much fewer fishable pounds than are available in the BSS fishery, the BBR fishery reported a higher percentage of deadloss (0.88) than the BSS fishery (0.76). Not shown in Figure 5.5 is that in 2008/09 the WAG and EAG fisheries respectively held the highest and second highest percentage of "A" permit class deadloss. Deadloss numbers may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Figure 5.5 shows IFQ-related crab deadloss in the BBR and BSS fisheries in Program fishing years 2005/06 through 2008/09. The figure illustrates deadloss by pounds and by percentage of landed raw crab pounds. Although substantially lower than in pre-Program fishing years, deadloss is gradually increasing in the BBR and BSS fisheries.



(Source: RAM/NOAA Fisheries)

Figure 5.5 Program Deadloss over Time

Tables 5.8 and 5.9 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 the little deadloss reported was primarily reported on Class A IFQ permits. Compared with last year's deadloss reported percentages, IFQ Class A reported deadloss decreased nearly 2 percent (1.79), and reported deadloss in Classes B and U increased slightly by 0.52 percent and 1.27 percent, respectively.

Table 5.8 Deadloss reported for all fisheries[a] by IFQ permit class, 2008/09

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	600	0.89	547,362	61,557,044	87.51
B	199	0.70	48,140	6,850,301	7.70
U	195	0.32	29,982	9,306,746	4.79

[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 5.9 Deadloss by fishery[a] and IFQ permit class, 2008/09

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]	193	0.98	150,262	15,267,552	93.44
	B[c]	78	1044	7,327	1,672,529	4.56
	U[c]	56	0.24	3,223	1,348,800	2.00
BSS	A[c]	329	0.82	341,114	41,631,320	84.59
	B[c]	91	0.80	37,104	4,629,710	9.20
	U[c]	95	0.39	25,047	6,426,344	6.21
EAG	A[c]	25	0.96	22,677	2,355,260	94.03
	B[c]	11	0.42	1,083	258,137	4.49
	U[c]	6	0.17	357	210,376	1.48
EBT	A[c]	44	0.74	9,643	1,300,447	80.80
	B[c]	10	0.74	1,130	151,684	9.47
	U[c]	21	1.15	1,162	101,453	9.74
WAG*	***All Classes***	37	1.01	22,802	2,252,111	1.01
WBT	A[c]	35	2.35	2,164	92,153	84.76
	B[c]	11	2.46	311	12,638	12.18
	U[c]	7	2.18	78	3,577	3.06

*WAG data are confidential by class.

[a] WAG deadloss data are combined due to confidentiality.

[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

Table 5.10 show ports ranked by landings and pounds delivered in 2008/09 for all crab IFQ fisheries and presents port rank by Program year. Table 5.11 shows port rank for all Program years. Figure 5.6 illustrates port landings volume for crab quota fisheries. Due to confidentiality, some data cannot be published by port.

Table 5.10 Port rank by IFQ pounds landed for all Program species[a], 2008/09

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	337	16	9	66	32,139,927	41.36
2	St Paul	185	17	7	62	20,040,031	25.79
3	At Sea[e]	110	12	*	34	*	*
4	King Cove	71	8	*	23	*	*
5	Akutan	60	7	*	27	*	*
6	Kodiak	20	*	*	10	*	*
7	Adak	4	*	*	*	*	*

[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 Program years Dutch/Unalaska has consistently been Alaska's top port. However, St Paul has gone through significant changes in port rank, fluctuating between third, sixth, and second ranked port, largely because processors did not use shore facilities in St Paul during the second year of the Program. "At Sea" ("landings" on catcher processors and stationary floating processors) has also changed significantly between second, third, and fifth port. Although Akutan has fallen to fifth from third since 2007/08, Adak, King Cove, and Kodiak have not changed port rank since the third fishing year.

Table 5.11 Port rank over time, 2005/06–2008/09

Port	Rank in Program year four 2008/09	Rank in Program year three 2007/08	Rank in Program year two 2006/07	Rank in Program year one 2005/06
Dutch/Unalaska	1	1	1	1
St Paul	2	2	6	3
At Sea	3	5	2	2
King Cove	4	4	4	5
Akutan	5	3	3	4
Kodiak	6	6	5	6
Adak	7	7	7	7

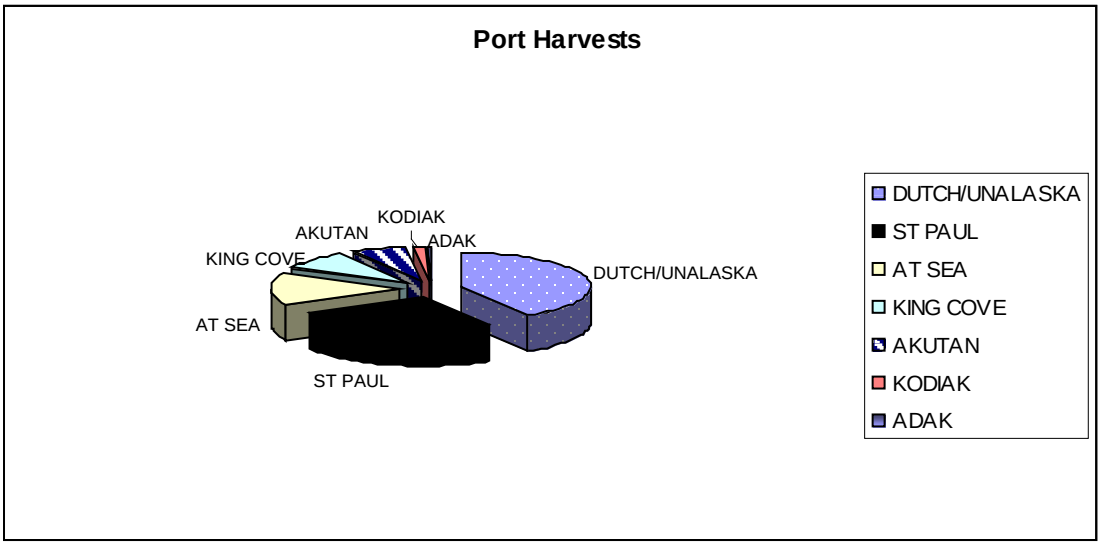


Figure 5.6 Comparative Port Harvests by Total IFQ Harvest Pounds, 2008/09

Figure 5.6 illustrates landings volumes among the seven major crab ports, which include "At Sea" landings on catcher processors and stationary floating processors. Because of confidentiality, harvest values are not displayed.

Table 5.12 shows IFQ landings in pounds and percent by port and IFQ class, but due to confidentiality concerns, several ports are not included in the table.

Table 5.12 IFQ landings in pounds[a] and percent by port* and IFQ class, 2008/09

Port*	Class A[b]	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class A	Class B[b]	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class B	Class U[b]	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class U	Class B/U	Percent of each port's IFQ landings as Class B/U
Dutch/Unalaska	23,731,937	73.84	5,322,477	16.56	3,085,513	9.60	8,407,990	26.16
St Paul	19,763,486	98.62	149,379	0.75	127,166	0.63	276,545	1.38

[*] IFQ landings data for Adak, Akutan, At Sea, King Cove, and Kodiak are confidential (*) and excluded from the table.

[a] Pounds are in raw crab pounds, excluding overages.

[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.

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 minimum of four or more distinct QS holders (not affiliated with the other members in that cooperative) are required to 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.

Most crab TAC has been assigned to cooperatives. The 19 cooperatives that formed for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year accounted for at least 99.61 percent of the TAC. The following tables display the percent IFQ assigned to cooperatives compared with that held outside cooperatives over time. Due to confidentiality concerns, tables 5.13 and 5.14 contrast cooperative and noncooperative IFQ allocations and landing performance for all fisheries combined. Persons within cooperatives harvested a greater percentage of their collective pounds than did persons holding IFQ outside cooperatives. "IFQ type" refers to crew and owner sectors.

Table 5.13 IFQ pounds assigned to cooperatives and landing performance over time

Fishery	Cooperative members	Number of co-ops	IFQ pounds available by fishery/ IFQ type	IFQ pounds assigned to co-ops	IFQ percent of pounds assigned to co-ops	Cooperative pounds landed (excluding overages)	Percent co-op pounds landed 2008/09	Percent co-op pounds landed 2007/08	Percent co-op pounds landed 2006/07	Percent co-op pounds landed 2005/06
All fisheries	***429***	***19***	***80,270,076***	***80,109,537***	***99.8***	***77,577,903***	***96.8***	***96.3***	***98.2***	***98.9***

Table 5.14 IFQ pounds held by persons outside cooperatives and landing performance over time

Fishery	Number of persons holding IFQ outside cooperatives	IFQ pounds available by fishery/ IFQ type	IFQ pounds held outside cooperatives	Percent IFQ pounds held outside cooperatives	Nonco-op pounds landed (excluding Overages)	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2008/09	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2007/08	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2006/07	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2005/06
All fisheries	***12***	***80,270,076***	***160,539***	***0.2***	***136,188***	***84.8***	***90.0***	***90.1***	***96.2***

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. The nine Eligible Crab Communities (ECCs) include 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 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**

Historic Overview

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. During the 2008/09 year, no one was cited for Community Protection delivery violations.

Table 6.1 shows the percentages of processing "power" vested in the ECCs versus PQS/IPQ without Community Protection Measures ("None") in 2008/09. Figure 6.1 illustrates these percentages.

Table 6.1 Distribution of PQS/IPQ with and without ROFR Privileges[a]

Protection Measure and Community	Fishery								
ROFR	BBR	BSS	EAG	EBT	PIK	SMB	WAG	WAI	WBT
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.

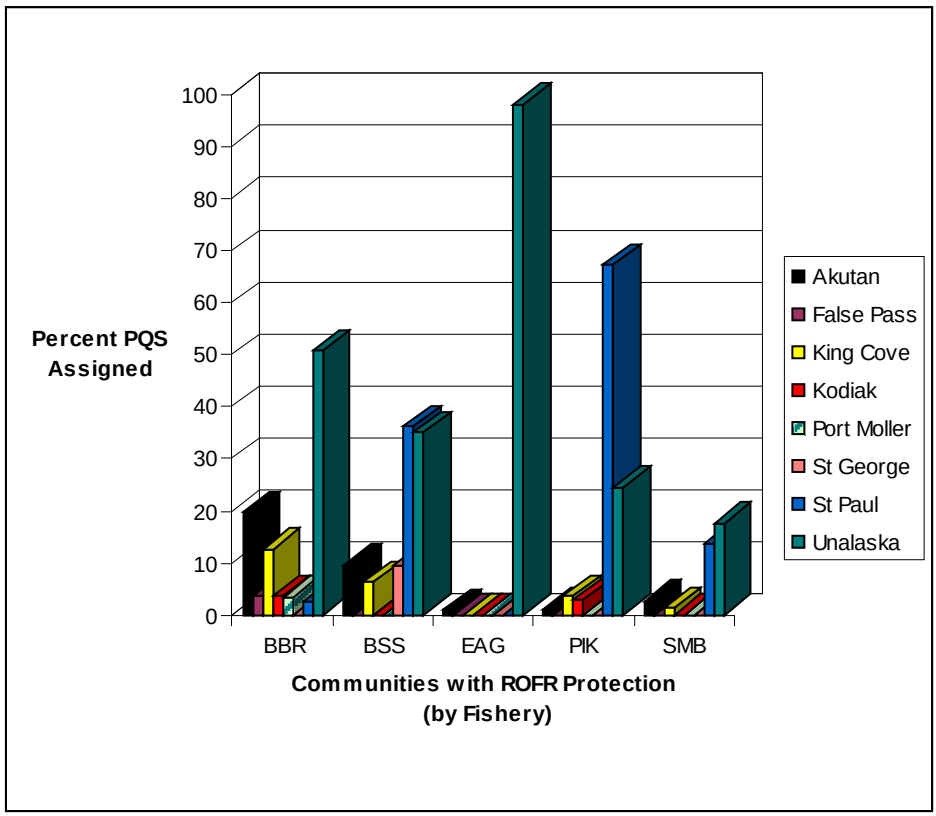


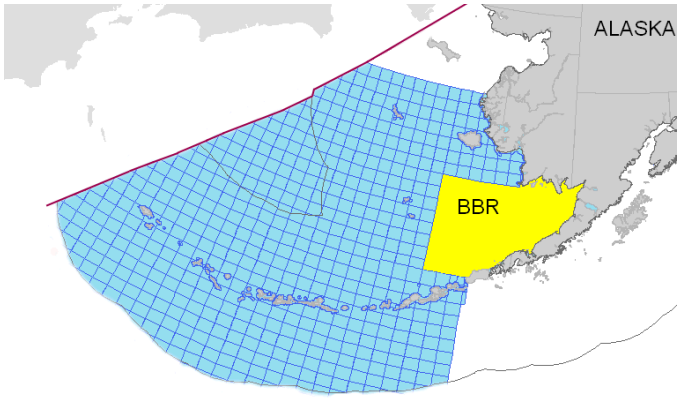
Figure 6.1 Community Protection PQS Assignments, 2008/09

Chapter 7 Fishery Summaries

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBR), 2008/09

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 58° 30N., 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 18,327,600 pounds. The fishing year opened Oct 15, 2008 and closed Jan 15, 2009.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 196 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,620 per vessel
Harvest: 18,288,881 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 77
Port Count: 6 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 252
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.79 percent
Active RCR holders: 16
Active IFQ permitholders: 25
Active IPQ holders: 12
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 82

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.1 displays the ports in which BBR crab were landed in 2008/09 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.1 Ports used for BBR IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[a]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c]			
Port	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	10,428,327	10,566,930	7,028,859	8,459,532	1	1	1	1	140	149	81	120	57.0	57.7	50.7	51.4
AKUTAN*	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	3	40	38	33	43	*	*	*	*
KING COVE*	*	*	2,470,991	*	3	3	3	2	38	25	37	50	*	*	17.8	*
KODIAK	789,291	921,243	809,640	774,045	4	4	4	5	16	15	13	12	4.3	5.0	5.8	4.7
AT SEA[d,*]	*	*	660,617	914,933	5	6	5	4	11	9	12	19	*	*	4.8	5.6
ST PAUL*	*	*	*	*	6	5	6	6	7	10	7	10	*	*	*	*
Total	***18,288,881***	***18,324,046***	***13,877,870***	***16,472,400***					***252***	***246***	***183***	***255***				

* Data are confidential.

[a] A vessel landing is an offload. For 2005/06, year one, 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 fishing year ended, 82 BBR IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 252 vessel landings (offloads) of BBR crab for a total harvest of 99.8 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.2 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years prior to the Program and in the first four Program years.

Table 7.2 BBR crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000–2008/09

Fishery year	TAC/GHL[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent TAC or GHL landed[a,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
2008/09	18.3	18.3	99.79

(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] IFQ 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 2008/09 BBR fishery, more than 18.2 million of almost 18.3 million fishable pounds (99.6 percent) of total available IFQ were assigned to 19 cooperatives, an increase in percent of pounds assigned to cooperatives over the first three Program years. Table 7.3 displays pounds and percent of BBR IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

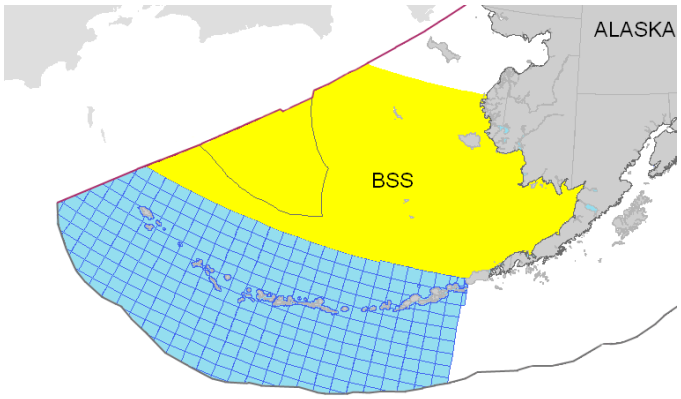
Table 7.3 Pounds and percent of BBR IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (year four)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (year four)	Percent assigned to cooperatives			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	526,810	499,530	94.8	94.2	89.4	71.3
CPC	19,238	19,238	100.0	100.0	85.4	61.5
CVO	16,972,763	16,930,467	99.8	98.8	98.4	84.5
CPO	807,396	807,396	100.0	100.0	100.0	68.0

Bering Sea Snow Crab (BSS), 2008/09

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 52,695,000 pounds. The fishing year opened Oct 15, 2008 and closed May 15, 2009 for the East Subdistrict and May 31, 2009 for the West Subdistrict.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 163 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,925 per vessel
Harvest: 52,687,374 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 77
Port Count: 6 (including "At Sea")
Landings count: 428
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.9 percent
Active RCR holders: 15
Active IFQ permitholders: 24
Active IPQ holders: 10
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 90

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.4 displays the ports in which BSS crab were landed in 2008/09 and includes comparisons of port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.4 Ports used for BSS IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[a]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c]			
Port	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
ST PAUL	19,610,519	21,418,687	*	7,774,571	1	1	6	3	176	179	3	77	37.2	37.8	*	23.4
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	17,252,078	20,164,028	12,315,298	12,451,729	2	2	2	1	132	161	107	101	32.7	35.6	37.7	37.4
AT-SEA[d]	9,741,300	4,479,319	14,971,764	7,893,342	3	4	1	2	72	34	121	76	18.5	7.9	45.8	23.7
KING COVE*	*	*	*	*	4	5	4	5	26	29	16	17	*	*	*	*
AKUTAN*	*	*	*	*	5	3	3	4	18	47	21	28	*	*	*	*
KODIAK	*	476,280	*	*	6	6	5	6	4	9	4	2	*	0.8	*	*
Total	***52,687,374***	***56,722,400***	***32,659,148***	***33,248,009***					***428***	***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 fishing year ended, 90 BSS IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 428 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 four Program years.

Table 7.5 BSS crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2008/09

Fishery year	TAC/GHL[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent TAC or GHL landed[a,c]
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	99.9
2008/09	52.7	52.7	99.9

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ 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; data include pre-program harvest under the Program during 2005/06.
[e] Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2008/09 BSS fishery, more than 52.6 million of nearly 52.7 million pounds (99.9 percent) of total available IFQ were assigned to 19 cooperatives. With a lower TAC this year compared to the previous fishing year, this represents no percentage increase. Table 7.6 displays pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

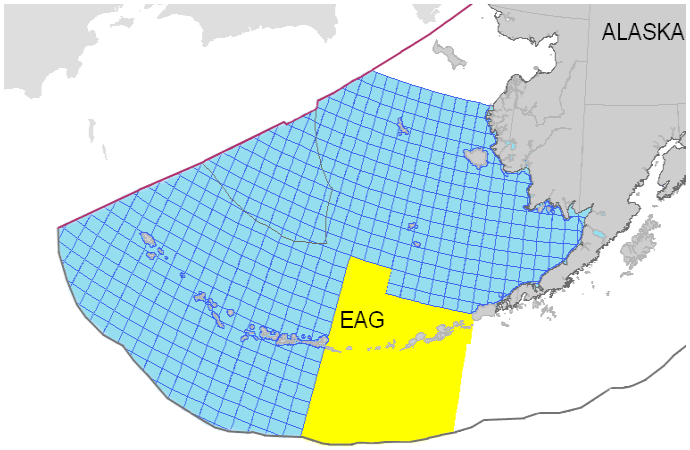
Table 7.6 Pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (year four)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (year four)	Percent assigned to cooperatives			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	1,487,563	1,411,995	94.9	94.9	90.2	71.1
CPC	92,814	92,814	100.0	100.0	74.3	47.2
CVO	46,263,172	46,263,172	100.0	99.5	98.7	86.0
CPO	4,851,437	4,851,437	100.0	100.0	100.0	63.9

Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (EAG), 2008/09

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 2,835,000 pounds. The fishing year opened August 15, 2008 and closed May 15, 2009.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 1,400 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 7,285 per vessel
Harvest: 2,823,773 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 3
Port Count: 2 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 29
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.60 percent
Active RCR holders: 5
Active IFQ permitholders: 3
Active IPQ holders: 5
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 2008/09 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.7 Ports used for EAG IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[a]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c]			
Port	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
DUTCH/UNALASKA	2,635,513	*	*	*	1	1	1	1	27	29	28	25	*	*	*	*
AKUTAN	*		*		2		2		2		1		*		*	
AT SEA[d]	0	*	*	*	0	2	3	2	0	7	3	7	0	*	*	*
Total	*****	***2,690,377***	***2,690,662***	***2,569,209***					***29***	***36***	***32***	***32***				

* Data are confidential.

[a] A vessel landing is an offload. For 2006/07 and 2008/09 total landings include one EAG landing at Akutan*, the second-ranked port for both fishing years.
[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 fishing year ended, EAG IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 29 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 four Program years.

Table 7.8 EAG crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2008/09

Fishery year	TAC/GHL[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent TAC or GHL landed[a,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
2008/09	2.8	2.8	99.6

(Source: ADF&G; NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ 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 2008/09 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.

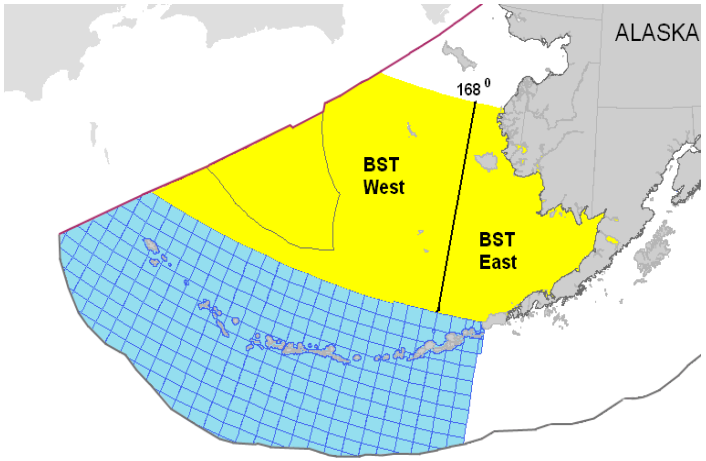
Table 7.9 Pounds and percent of EAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (year four)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (year four)	Percent assigned to cooperatives			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	84,932	81,512	96.0	96.0	95.6	86.1
CVO	2,616,956	2,616,956	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.9
CPO	132,998	132,998	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

East Bering Tanner (EBT), 2008/09

Beginning with the 2006/07 fishing year, the Bering Sea Tanner crab QS was divided into eastern and western Bering Sea stocks and fisheries ("bairdi split"). NOAA Fisheries 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 2,486,700 pounds. The fishing year opened Oct 15, 2008 and closed March 31, 2009.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 193 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 867 per vessel
Harvest: 1,553,584 raw crab lbs, (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 21
Port Count: 6 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 60
Percentage of TAC landed: 62.48 percent
Active RCR holders: 10
Active IFQ permitholders: 10
Active IPQ holders: 7
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or master)**:** 23

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.10 displays the ports in which EBT crab were landed in 2008/09 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. 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 IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[b]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c,d]			
Port	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
DUTCH/UNALASKA	1,069,127	964,855	754,767	Fishery Closed	1	1	1	Fishery Closed	37	38	32	28	68.8	67.0	46.9	Fishery Closed
AT SEA[e,*]	243,433	*	36,933		2	4	4		13	8	3	13	15.7	*	6.1	
KING COVE*	*	*	*		3	3	3		6	4	10	4	*	*	*	
AKUTAN*	*	*	*		4	2	2		2	8	12	7	*	*	*	
KODIAK	*	NA			5	NA			1	NA		1	*	NA		
ST PAUL	*				6				1			20	*			
Total	***1,553,584***	***1,439,435***	***1,264,044***						***60***	***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. During 2005/06 and 2008/09, offloads occurred at Kodiak and St Paul.
[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 fishing year ended, EBT IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 60 vessel landings (offloads) of EBT crab for a total harvest of 62.5 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.11 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years before the Program and in the first four Program years.

Table 7.11 BST and EBT crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2008/09

Fishery year and fishery	TAC[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent of TAC or GHL landed[a,c]
2000—2004 BST	Closed		
2005/06 BST[d]	Closed		
2006/07 EBT	1,687,500	1,264,044	74.9
2007/08 EBT	3,100,500	1,439,435	46.4
2008/09 EBT	2,486,700	1,553,584	62.5

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ landings are in millions of raw crab pounds, excluding overages.
[c] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.
[d] 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 2008/09 EBT fishery, approximately 2.5 million pounds (99.6 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to 19 cooperatives, a significant increase over the amount of BST assigned the first Program year (1.2 million). 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

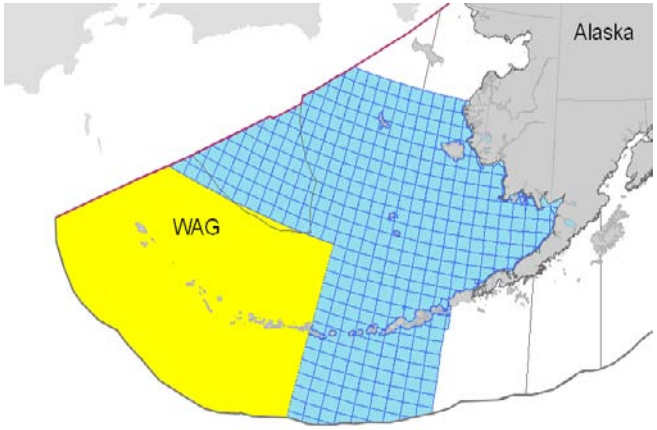
Sector	Pounds Available (year four)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (year four)	Percent assigned to cooperatives[a,b]			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	64,363	59,483	92.4	91.0	81.0	NA[b]
CPC	5,219	5,219	100.0	92.0	85.4	
CVO	2,250,226	2,250,226	100.0	99.1	97.1	
CPO	162,068	162,068	100.0	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), 2008/09

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 2,551,500 pounds. The fishing year opened August 15, 2008 and closed May 15, 2009.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 1,633 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 7,450 per vessel
Harvest: 2,252,111 raw crab lbs (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 3
Port Count: 3 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 37
Percentage of TAC landed: 88.3%
Active RCR holders: 7
Active IFQ permitholders: 3
Active IPQ holders: 6
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.13 displays the ports in which WAG crab were landed in 2008/09 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years.

Table 7.13 Ports used for WAG IFQ crab landings[a] over time

Port	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[a]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c]			
	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
AT SEA[d]	*	*	*	1,366,736	1	1	1	2	20	17	20	26	*	*	*	57.4
DUTCH/UNALASKA	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	1	13	12	8	10	*	*	*	*
ADAK	*	*	*	*	3	3	3	3	4	5	3	6	*	*	*	*
Total	***2,252,111***	***2,246,040***	***2,000,276***	***2,382,468***					***37***	***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 fishing year ended, WAG IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 37 vessel landings of WAG crab for a total harvest of 88.3 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.14 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years before the Program and in the first four Program years.

Table 7.14 WAG crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000/01–2008/09

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
2008/09	2.5	2.2	88.3

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ landings are in millions of pounds, excluding overages.
[c] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2008/09 WAG fishery, nearly all available pounds (99.83 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to five cooperatives, a higher percentage than allocations in all other Program years. Table 7.15 displays pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

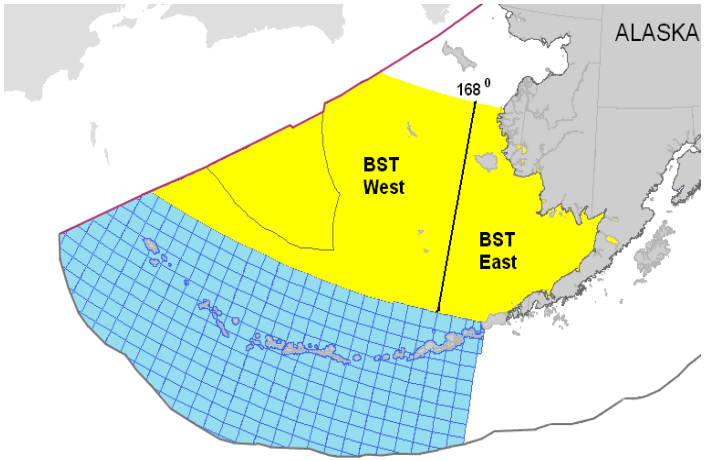
Table 7.15 Pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Total pounds available	Pounds assigned to cooperatives	Percent assigned to cooperatives			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one
CVC	44,009	40,217	91.4	90.3	90.3	100.0
CPC	32,538	31,948	98.2	98.2	98.2	100.0
CVO	1,330,915	1,330,915	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
CPO	1,144,038	1,144,038	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

West Bering Tanner (WBT), 2008/09

Beginning with the 2006/07 year, the Bering Sea Tanner crab QS was divided into eastern and western Bering Sea stocks and fisheries ("bairdi split"). NOAA Fisheries 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 1,383,300. The fishing year opened Oct 15, 2008 and closed March 31, 2009.



Fishery Facts

Number of pots (average): 178 per vessel
Number of pots pulled (average): 1,263 per vessel
Harvest: 108,368 raw crab lbs, (excluding overages)
Number of vessels used: 27
Port Count: 5 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 50
Percentage of TAC landed: 7.8 percent
Active RCR holders: 7
Active IFQ permitholders: 10
Active IPQ holders: 5
Distinct persons making landings (IFQ holder or master)**:** 28

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.16 displays the ports in which WBT crab were landed in 2008/09 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. BST fishery data are used in "Year 1" columns; in that year all BST harvest was from the western area. Due to low catch rates during the 2008/09 fishing year, harvest was unusually low in the WBT fishery.

Table 7.16 Ports used for WBT IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]				Port rank				Vessel landings[a]				Percent total harvest by port[b,c]			
Port	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Year 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
KING COVE	*	*	*	*	1	4	3	5	2	4	5	4	*	*	*	*
DUTCH/UNALASKA	32,230	162,335	329,860	370,826	2	1	1	1	28	22	41	28	29.7	34.7	52.0	46.9
ST PAUL	18,705	105,741	*	122,628	3	3	7	3	16	13	8	20	17.3	22.64	0.62	15.5
AT SEA[d]	*	*	20,669	48,261	4	5	4	4	3	1	5	13	*	*	3.3	6.1
AKUTAN	*	*	*	*	5	2	2	2	1	4	9	7	*	*	*	*
Total	***108,368***	***467,136***	***633,910***	***791,025***					***50***	***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.

When the fishing year ended, WBT IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 50 vessel landings (offloads) of WBT crab for a total harvest of 7.8 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.17 displays the allocations and harvests starting five years prior to the Program and in the first four Program years.

Table 7.17 BST and WBT crab fishery allocations and harvest, 2000–2008/09

Fishery year and fishery	TAC[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent of TAC or GHL landed[a,c]
2000—2004 BST	Closed		
2005/06 BST[d]	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
2008/09 WBT	1,383,300	108,368[d]	7.8[e]

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ landings are in millions of crab pounds, excluding overages.
[c] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.
[d] 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.
[e] During the 2008/09 fishing year, low catch rates resulted in a low harvest in the WBT fishery.

Cooperatives

In the 2008/09 WBT fishery, almost 1.4 million of a total of nearly 1.4 million pounds (99.6 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

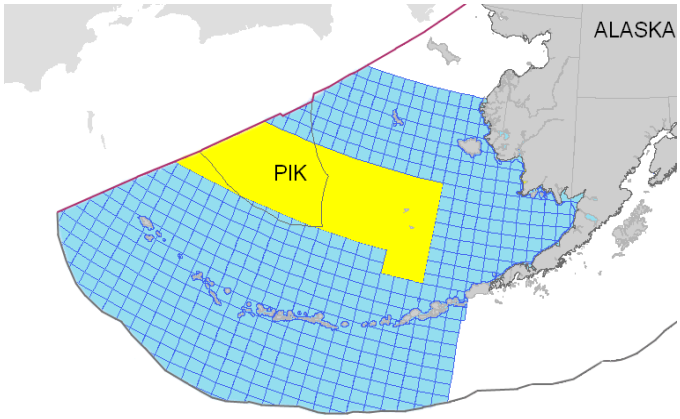
Sector	Pounds Available (year four)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (year four)	Percent assigned to cooperatives[a,b]			
			Year four	Year three	Year two	Year one[b]
CVC	35,807	33,094	92.4	91.0	81.0	64.0
CPC	2,905	2,905	100.0	92.0	85.4	44.1
CVO	1,251,753	1,251,753	100.0	99.1	97.1	83.6
CPO	90,156	90,156	100.0	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 2008/09 Fishing Year

Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab (PIK)

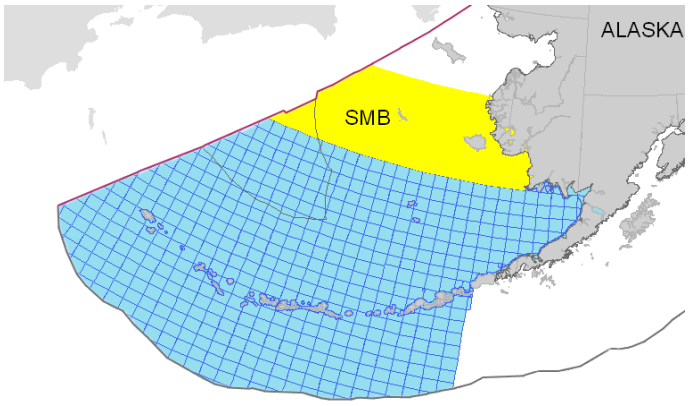
The fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 58° 39' N., an eastern boundary of 168° W. south to 54° 36' N., then westward to 54° 36' N., 171° W., then north to 55° 30' N., 171° W., then westward to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line (U.S. and USSR 1991).



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

St. Matthew Island blue king crab (SMB)

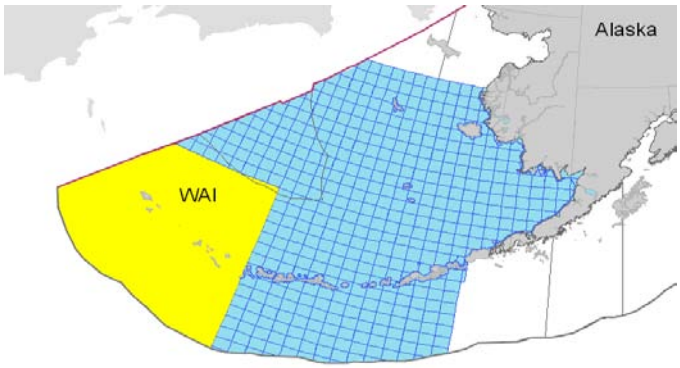
This fishery area is defined by a northern boundary of 61° 49' N., along the east side of continental Alaska, a southern boundary of 58° 30' N., and a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement (U.S. and USSR 1991).



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 2008/09 fishing year, USCG efforts to enforce crab regulations and other federal laws included prevention and response with preseason shoreside Safety Compliance Checks (SCCs), training opportunities, 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 one crab-related SAR case
- One death in the CR fisheries
- Observed ZERO significant violations
- Sailed 3,912 cutter hours (163 underway cutter days)
- Deployed aircraft 143 days
- Flew 308 aircraft hours
- Conducted 34 at-sea boardings and 69 dockside compliance checks

Search and Rescue (SAR)

Preseason inspections promoted thorough checks of safety gear, and most were completed a month before fishing began. During the 2008/09 fishing year, one fatality from gear entanglement occurred in the bairdi crab fisheries.

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)

▼**Coast Guard boarding team pulls alongside Bering Sea crabber USCG**

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

An Air Station Kodiak aircraft was deployed to Cold Bay for 45 days beginning on October 9, 2008 (before the BBR fishery opened) to provide SAR coverage. Aircraft operations were maintained until November 22, 2008, when well over 90 percent of the IFQ had been landed. 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, 2008. Helicopter crews flew 36 flight hours. Air Station Kodiak HC-130s also flew 100 hours in support of the BSS fishery. Near-continuous cutter presence (49 days) in the Bristol Bay area (most BBR fishery activity) continued until early

December, when fishermen had landed over 99 percent of the quota.

A high percentage of the fleet (87 percent) was boarded via shoreside SCCs. The shoreside SCCs limited need for at-sea safety boardings and allowed for targeted fisheries compliance boardings, which resulted in 26 boardings and issuance of six minor fisheries violations (i.e., logbooks and clerical) and issuance of five minor safety violations. Personnel from USCGC ALEX HALEY and USCGC ACUSHNET boarded 14 of the vessels that failed to complete dockside safety exams, and personnel from USCGC SHERMAN boarded the remainder in November. The combination of dockside and at-sea boardings resulted in 100 percent 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 20, 2009 through March 31, 2009 (71 days), providing search and rescue support for the BSS fleet and other vessels in the area. Nearly 95 percent of the quota had been harvested by March 31, 2009. This fishing year produced a significant USCG investment related to crab: aircraft and crew were deployed for 98 days in the program, and helicopter crews flew 73 flight hours. Air Station Kodiak HC-130s also flew 99 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 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 fourth consecutive year, there were no SAR launches for vessels directly participating in the opilio fishery. However, aircrews responded to four (noncrab) SAR cases during the deployment.

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 69 SCCs, or 71 percent of the fleet (reaching 100 percent with at-sea boardings). Safety compliance was very good; all of those who participated in the fishery had a current decal as mandated by state law.

The BSS fishing year was a continuation of October efforts for the BBR fishery. Personnel again offered water training, two SCCs (in addition to the 67 in October 2008). Coast Guard personnel conducted dockside Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) examinations and offered stability/damage control training sessions in Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and King Cove. Two observers and twelve Discovery Channel personnel 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 boarded at-sea or with monitored offloads. USCG inspectors met with excellent crew compliance. None of the fishing vessel crews, however, chose to participate in the preseason safety training.

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 2008/09 the USCG issued no violations for inoperative VMS units.

USCG cutter Anacapa patrols northern waters **USCG**

NOAA Fisheries and Alaska State Trooper Compliance Monitoring

Partners

The NOAA 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) manages the biological aspects of the Crab Rationalization Program, and 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 and inspections and at-sea patrols. The State conducts these duties under the authority of a Cooperative Enforcement Agreement. Funding and direction for these duties come through the JEAs.

Violations

This fishing year one vessel delivered Bering Sea snow crab to a south region port, but landed it on a north region IFQ permit. It appears that Bering Sea ice conditions were a factor in this violation. OLE received, but did not grant, several requests for waivers from the regional delivery requirements.

Figure 8.1 and Table 8.1 illustrate the relatively few IFQ overages observed this year with 2 IFQ overages of golden king crab, 7 of Bristol Bay red king crab, 5 of Bering Sea snow crab, and 1 Tanner crab. OLE observed no IPQ overages this fishing year. The fourth year brought a slight increase in the number of fishery overage cases (15 from last fishing year's 12 cases) and offered little change in violation distribution among fisheries. Cumulatively during all Program years, BBR had the most violations (27). A close second, the BSS fishery had 26 observed violations. In all CR Program fisheries, more observed violations occurred during the 2006/07 fishing year than in any other Program year.

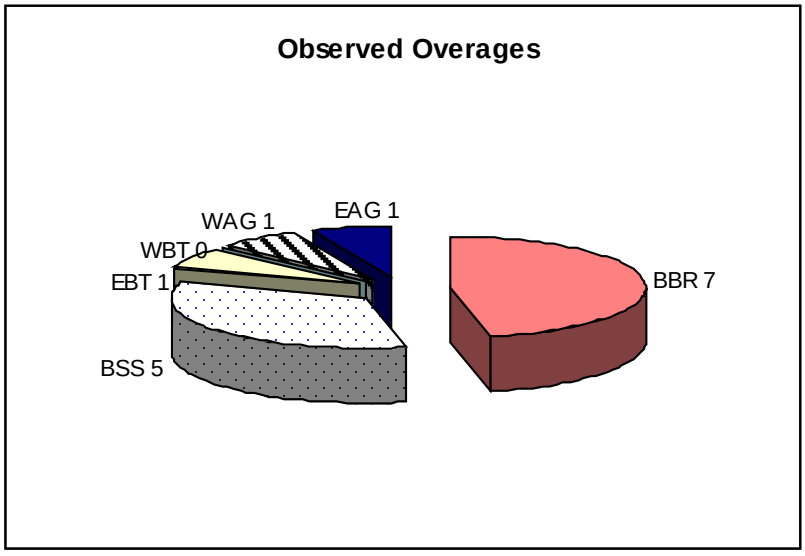


Figure 8.1 Observed IFQ Overages in the CR Fisheries, 2008/09

Table 8.1 IFQ Overage Violations in the CR fisheries

IFQ Overages Over Time

Fishery	Year[a]			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
BBR	7	9	4	7
BSS	6	8	7	5
EBT[a]	1	4	0	1
WBT[a]		0	0	0
WAG	1	2	1	1
EAG	0	1	0	1
Total	***15***	***24***	***12***	***15***

[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).

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 2008/09 fishing year, 14 CMPs were submitted to NOAA Fisheries for inspection and approval, the same number of CMPs as in the 2007/08 fishing 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 2008/09 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 permitholder 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, 2008/09

895 Program landings:

- 108 landings for Adak and CDQ
- 787 IFQ landings:
  - ✓ 761 IFQ reports via eLandings
  - ✓ 42 IFQ "manual" reports

Note: Some landings are entered both manually and through eLandings with manual amendments to original eLandings data.

15 IFQ account overages in 787 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 data on the Web.

Figure 9.1 illustrates the number and percentage of crab eLandings reports over time. Compared to the previous fishing year, the number of reports submitted through eLandings decreased, while the reporting percentage (96.7) through eLandings rose about 3 percent.

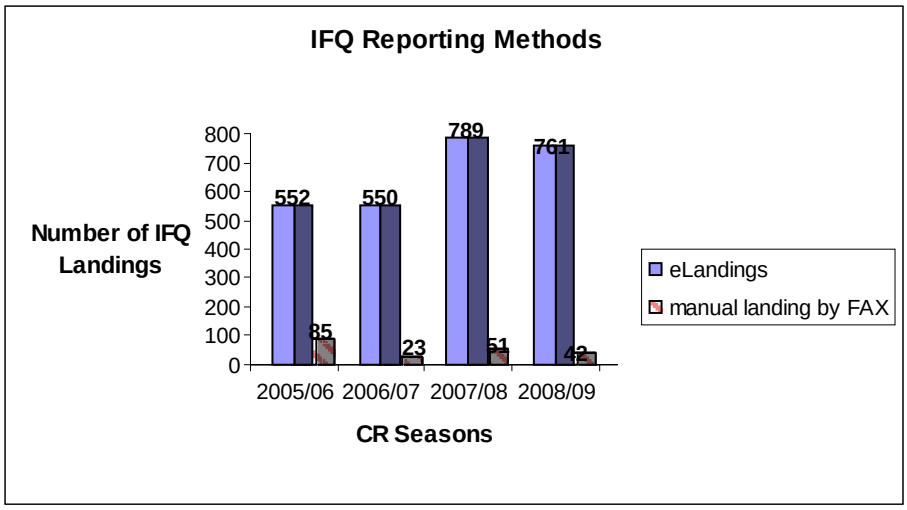


Figure 9.1 Program-Year Comparisons of IFQ Reporting Methods

Summary

Of 895 Program landings and 787 IFQ landings, Figure 9.1 shows a total of 761 IFQ landing reports submitted through eLandings for the 2008/09 fishing year and the remaining 42 by FAX. CDQ and Adak had 108 landings, slightly higher than the 101 landings in the previous fishing year. The sharp increase in the number of eLanding report submissions during 2007/08 and 2008/09 derived from higher TACs than in previous Program years. Throughout the 2008/09 fishing year, 15 account overages occurred during IFQ landings.

EDR Facts, 2008/09

Number of EDRs required: 105

Number of EDRs required and submitted: 105

Number of EDRs not submitted: none

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.)

Database Documentation

Metadata documentation for the EDR database is maintained on an ongoing basis and is available for download from the NMFS Alaska Region Crab EDR webpage:

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/rat/edr/default.htm .

2008 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. No changes were made to the EDR forms for the 2008 year report. In 2008 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 2008 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.

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 2008 calendar-year collection, all persons satisfied the EDR or certification requirements. Such high compliance indicates that the EDR requirement is becoming routine for active participants.

For Program EDR comparisons in Table 9.1, previous economic data are shown within parentheses by most recent year first (2007, 2006, and the combined historic years).

Table 9.1 Economic data report summary for EDRs due through 2008*

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]	94 (85,99, 378)	14 (11,16, 29)	5 (5, 7,18)	3 (3, 5,13)
Number of full EDRs received	91 (82, 96, 673)	13 (10, 11, 44)	5 (5, 5, 25)	2 (3, 2, 24)
Number of Certifications received with claimed exemption	7 (19, 16, 512)	6 (4, 10, 43)	0 (1, 2, 26)	3 (1, 8, 18)
Number of vessels/processors for which no EDR or certification was received	0 (1, 0, 157)	0 (1, 0,5)	0 (0, 0, 5)	0 (0, 0, 0)
Number of distinct persons tied to submitted EDRs and Certifications[b]	90 (79,111, 418)	15 (12, 14, 29)	5 (6, 14, 22)	4 (4, 6, 13)

* EDRs are submitted for calendar year fishery participation. Year order is 2008, 2007, 2006, and historic.
[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 (not filled out); 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 process 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 for the historical and 2005 EDR data. 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 audits performed to date on EDR records is presented in Table 9.2. Detailed audit results are available from NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Economics and Social Science Research Program. Contact Dr Brian Garber-Yonts by email: brian.garber-yonts@noaa.gov or by phone: 206-526-6301.

Table 9.2 Numbers 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	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Catcher Vessel	225	220	237	164	96	82	91	33	28	27	28	20.1	29.2	32.9	30.7
Catcher Processor	8	7	9	8	5	10	5	3	2	2	2	37.5	40.0	20	40
Stationary Floating and Shoreside Processors	24	23	20	17	13	7	15	5	5	4	4	29.4	38.5	57.1	26.6

Please visit the NOAA Fisheries website for more information about the EDR requirement and workshops.

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

Chapter 10 Loan Program and Crab Capacity Reduction Program Updates

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). The Council's recommendations 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 loans and regulations in development, the 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 percent 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 for all "rationalized" crab 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 percent) by the ex-vessel value of Program crab. 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, based on standard prices derived from information reported for raw crab deliveries.

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 2008/09 year, as in the first three years, fee compliance was excellent with no outstanding debts sent to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection.

For the 2008/09 crab-fishing year, twenty-two RCRs were sent estimated fee liability statements for total Program costs of $3,195,761. The estimated value of the fishery (based on what we billed for 2008/09) is $212,412,973. This value is derived from price information submitted by the RCRs. 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 three percent cap, funds collected may not cover all expenses. This was in fact the case during 2005/06 when first year start-up costs exceeded the fee amount collected. In all previous crab-fishing years, the calculated fee percentage for crab to recover all costs

exceeded three percent, requiring a three percent cap on fees 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.) However, for the first time in four years of the Program, the fee percentage for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year was 1.05 percent, partially due to a third-year overcollection discussed on the next page.

As shown in Table 10.1, the 2008/09 management and enforcement costs for the crab fisheries totaled $3,195,761. Contracts/training and Personnel were among the higher Program costs.

Table 10.1 Costs associated with management and enforcement of the Program, April 27, 2008–April 11, 2009

Cost Category	RAM	SF	OMD	ISD	GC	RA/ Appeals	OLE	ADF&G	AFSC	Total
Personnel[a]/ Overhead	140,032	76,903	36,738	88,407	20,339	32,206	401,921	269,235	121,566	1,187,347
Travel[b]	8,893	19,006	3,097	–	2,647	–	62,413	37,744	5,311	139,111
Transportation[c]	235	1,300	–	–	–	–	5,744	58	–	7,337
Printing	1,485	12,235	–	–	–	–	839	–	–	14,559
Contracts/ Training	4,860	699	498	–	–	–	647,266	510,415	61,399	1,225,137
Supplies	8,085	113	673	–	–	–	79,388	23,994	–	112,253
Equipment	–	16,174	–	–	–	–	91,434	–	–	107,608
Rent/Utilities[d]	14,081	6,440	3,220	7,352	551	2,282	19,397	–	–	53,323
Other	–	231,883[e]	–	–	–	–	–	117,203	–	349,086
Percentage of costs	5.56	11.41	1.38	3.00	0.74	1.08	40.94	30.00	5.89	100.00
Amount collected[f]	***177,671***	***364,753***	***44,226***	***95,759***	***23,537***	***34,488***	***1,308,402***	***958,649***	***188,276***	***3,195,761***

[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] PSMFC costs are included in the SF "Other" category as a grant.
[f] Values may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Table 10.2 shows cost recovery data for the first four 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. However, during the third year of the Program, this was not the case.

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: three percent was levied against ex-vessel values in billings in the third Program year, but lower agency labor and contractual costs combined with substantially higher fishing TACs and subsequent fishery value to result in an overcollection.

For the 2008/09 year, 21 of 22 persons billed had paid fees by August 17, 2009. To date, 91.82 percent of persons billed have paid their fee liability, while 8.18 percent remains unpaid. For all Program years, collected CR funds total $16.7 million.

Table 10.2 Program cost recovery[a] over time

Program cost category	Year four FY09	Year three FY08	Year two FY07	Year one FY06
Fishery value[b]	212,412,973	202,719,417	119,652,929	138,888,840
Total Program costs	3,195,760	2,133,758	3,939,841	4,270,881
Amount collected[c]	2,028,589	6,511,395	4,060,458[d]	4,166,665
Annual percentage of value billed	1.05	3.0[e]	3.0[e]	3.0[e]
Number of RCR permitholders with billable landings	22	20	22	17
Number of IFQ permitholders with billable landings[f]	27	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. Fee liability is calculated from the CR crab value reported for crab delivered raw.

[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] 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 permitholders collect fees on behalf of IFQ permitholders; no IFQ permitholders are billed directly.

Fees Collected under the BSAI King and Tanner Crab Fishing Capacity Reduction Program

Under section 312(b) of the MSA (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/magact/mag3a.html), the NMFS has the authority to conduct a fishing capacity reduction program if funds are provided and such a program is necessary to prevent or end overfishing, rebuild stocks of fish, or achieve measurable or significant improvements in the conservation and management of a fishery. A capacity reduction program must be consistent with any State and Federal fishery management plans in place for a fishery. Funding for such programs is authorized under Section 312(c) of the MSA and allows NMFS to obtain funding through specific appropriations from industry fee systems and public, private, or nonprofit sources. Under the authority of Section 312(c), on January 12, 2004 regulations (68 FR 69331) were effective and by January 19, 2005 funding was appropriated for the BSAI King and Tanner Crab Fishing Capacity Reduction Program. Under administration of the Financial Services Division (FSD), NMFS bought back twenty-five BSAI crab-fishing vessels, associated fishery histories, and sixty-two licenses to achieve the maximum

sustained reduction in BSAI crab-fishing capacity at the least cost and in minimum time. In the crab buyback program, the FSD administers an industry-funded, thirty-year loan of $97,399,357.00 at a fixed rate of 6.54 percent. To date, the BBR crab fishery post-reduction permitholders have paid about 14 percent of the loan, and the Aleutian Golden King post-reduction permitholders have paid approximately two percent. NOAA Fisheries may withhold annual crab permits if buyback fees are outstanding.

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).

<u>Owner QS/IFQ</u>

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/IPO, 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.

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 were proposed to Federal regulations governing the crab CDQ fisheries as a result of the legislation.

CDQ Transfers. One significant program change identified in the 2006/07 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 CDQ crab, the State of Alaska Board of Fish 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 allows CDQ groups to avoid enforcement actions associated with inseason crab CDQ overages but still constrains the CDQ Program to its annual crab CDQ allocations.

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 and to fund a loan program should one by requested by the Council and implemented by NOAA Fisheries. 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 ceiling. Consequently, NOAA Fisheries can make no BSAI crab QS loans unless and until Congress takes further action and until NOAA implements regulations for the loan program.

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 holds 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 conducted 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, 2005/06–2008/09

NOAA Fisheries made no substantive changes to the regulations implementing the Crab Rationalization Program for the 2008/09 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 166E W. longitude, and one for a fishery (WBT) west of 166E 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 A.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***	***56***[a]

[a] Initially the number of LLP groundfish licenses to which sideboards applied was 57; however, one license was revoked.

Program Information

Detailed information about all aspects of the Crab Rationalization Program is available on our website at http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm .

A Program Contacts section is at the back of this document.

Crab Catch **Photograph courtesy of B. Large**

Program Contacts

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1-800-304-4846 (press "3") or
(Juneau local number) 907-586-7228

Website: alaskafisheries.noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
907-271-2809

Website: fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Shellfish Groundfish Division
Region IV
907-486-1825

Website: cf.adfg.state.ak.us