NOAA'S National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Alaska Region
Restricted Access Management (RAM)

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Report

Fishing Year 2011/12 • July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

ASMI

September 2012

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Purpose and Acknowledgments

This Crab Rationalization Program Report for Fishing Year 2011/12 provides a summary of the seventh 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 a program overview and information about quota issuance and distribution, arbitration, harvesting, processing, quota transfers, cost recovery fees, reporting, compliance monitoring, safety, community protection measures, and other Program features.

Staff of the NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program, also a significant data provider, developed the report. 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, March 2011; and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

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 acknowledges industry's continued outstanding support and cooperation in implementing and administering the Program.

Photography Credits

Cover photography courtesy of Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI); noncover photography courtesy of ASMI, Jake Jacobsen, Klas Stolpe, NOAA Fisheries, and the USCG.

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.

Landings Data

RAM is now including overages in reported landings. Starting with the 09/10 crab year, accounts were allowed to go negative inseason without immediate violation. As a result, 100 percent of landed pounds was debited from accounts. Previously, the overage was not debited; instead, the remaining balance was set to zero and the overage was treated as a violation. In this report fishery landing data from crab years 09/10 through 2011/12 include inseason overages.

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Abbreviations

ACDC	Adak Community Development Corporation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
BSAI	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands
CDQ	Community Development Quota
CFVS	USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program
CMP	Catch Monitoring Plan
CPC	Catcher/Processor Crew (Sector)
CPO	Catcher/Processor Owner (Sector)
CR	Crab Rationalization
CVC	Catcher Vessel Crew (Sector)
CVO	Catcher Vessel Owner (Sector)
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)
NAO	National Appeals Office; formerly Office of Administrative Appeals (OAA)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service, also known as NOAA Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries Service	Also known as NMFS
OLE	Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA)
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*)
WBT	Western Bering Sea Tanner crab (*C. bairdi)*
WAI	Western Aleutian Islands red king crab (*P. camtschaticus*)

1 Crab Rationalization Program Changes

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 Crab Rationalization Program comprises three types of allocations and fisheries: CDQ, Adak, and IFQ (Quota) fisheries. 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 2011/12 fishing year.

Program Changes, Crab Year 2011/12

Sideboard Exemptions • Amendment 34

(76 FR 35772, June 20, 2011 implements Amendment 34)

NMFS has modified the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod and pollock sideboard exemption criteria for non-AFA crab vessels. As a result, three vessels' sideboards for Pacific cod and/or pollock were amended. Final rule 76 FR 35772 was effective July 20, 2011.

WAG Fishermen and Processors with West-Designated IFQ/IPQ • Amendment 37

(76 FR 35781, June 20, 2011 implements Amendment 37)

NMFS now allows holders of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab West-designated individual fishing quota (IFQ), Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab West-designated individual processor quota (IPQ), and designated officials from the City of Adak and the City of Atka to submit an application to NMFS requesting exemption from regional delivery requirements. Regulations require West-designated golden king crab IFQ to be delivered to a West-region processor holding a matching amount of unused West-designated IPQ. Sufficient West-region processing capacity may not be available each season and an exemption from regional delivery requirements will mitigate financial hardships in the event that adequate West-region processing capacity is not available to process all West-designated IFQ. Final rule 76 FR 35781 was effective July 20, 2011.

For more information about the Crab Rationalization Program and its changes, visit the NOAA/NMFS website: alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm .

2 CDQ and Adak Fisheries

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. Allocations of crab to the CDQ Program started in 1998 and included all pre-existing CDQ crab allocations except for Norton Sound. Among the benefits of crab rationalization were increased CDQ crab allocations from 7.5% to 10% of the TAC in all crab fisheries covered by the Program and new CDQ allocations for the Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab and the Western Aleutian Islands red king crab fisheries. 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.

CDQ Fishery Facts

Oversight: State-managed commercial fishery (under FMP)

Allocation: All BSAI CDQ Fisheries (excluding Norton Sound)

Allocation in millions of pounds: 9.2 (all fisheries)

Harvest in millions of pounds: 9.8 (all reportable fisheries)

Number of vessels used: 19

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 Individual Fishing Quota (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 Individual Processing Quota (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 Processor Quota Share (PQS) by transfer, subject to use caps. It is interesting to note that in 2011/12 as in past years (except 2008/09) all vessels that made CDQ and Adak landings also made IFQ landings and were counted therein.

CDQ Program Changes

Effective March 9, 2012, NMFS implemented program changes to regulations (77 FR 6492, February 8, 2012) affecting community development quota (CDQ) allocations, transfers, and observer requirements that, in turn, affected some BSAI fisheries. For more information on these changes, please follow this link: recent changes to CDQ Program.

Crab CDQ changes that have occurred over time are listed in the *Program Overview* (*Appendix*) in the CDQ section.

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]	SMB
2003	Allocation	1,167,040	2,120,637	Fishery Closed[d]	NA[e]	NA[e]	NA[e]	Fishery Closed
	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	Fishery Closed
	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		*	*	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		*	*	Fishery Closed[d]	
2009/10	Allocation	1,600,900	4,801,700	NA[e]	315,000	135,000	Fishery Closed[d]	116,700
	Harvest	1,600,851	4,801,506		*	135,004		0
2010/11	Allocation	1,483,900	5,428,100	NA[e]	315,000	Fishery Closed[d]	Fishery Closed[d]	160,000
	Harvest	1,478,114	5,406,179		*			156,314
2011/12	Allocation	705,060	8,000,460	NA[e]	283,500			212,310
	Harvest	783,406	8,889,418		*			182,615

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Notes: PIK and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during these years. During the 2009/10 fishing year, no vessels participated in the St. Matthew Island blue king crab fishery although it opened that crab-fishing year. 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. Some bycatch and deadloss may have occurred.

[e] "NA" = not applicable. See table note c.

Table 2.2 Numbers of vessels participating in CDQ and ACA[c] crab fisheries, pre- and post-rationalization

Years[a]	BBR	BSS[a]	EAG	BST[b]	EBT[b]	WAG[C]	WBT[b.f,g]	SMB
2003	13	10	0	Closed	Formerly BST Fishery	No WAG ACA[c] fishery before 2005/06	Formerly BST Fishery	Fishery Closed
2004	12	10	0	Closed				
2005[a]	NA[d]	9	NA[d]	NA[d]				
2005/06	13	15	3	6[e]		1		
2006/07[c]	13	12	3	NA[b,d]	4	2	8	
2007/08	10	15	3	NA[b,d]	3	1	6	
2008/09	15	15	3	NA[b,d]	3	1	4	
2009/10	11	11	3	NA[b,d]	5	1	Fishery Closed	0
2010/11	10	14	3	NA[b,d]	Fishery Closed	1		3
2011/12	9	16	3	NA[b,d]		1	Fishery Closed	5

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Notes: PIK and WAI fisheries are excluded from this table because they were closed during this period. During 2009/10 fishing year, the St. Matthew Island fishery opened but no vessels participated in the fishery. 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.

[f] During 2009/10, the Tanner crab fishery west of 166˚ W longitude (WBT) was closed because of projected bycatch and associated mortality in the snow crab and directed Tanner crab fisheries in the area. In 2010/11 the State closed EBT and WBT due to low stock abundance.

[g] In closed fisheries, some vessels may have bycatch or discard and deadloss.

Adak Community Allocation (ACA)

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.

Adak Fishery Facts, 2011/12

Oversight: State-managed commercial fishery (under FMP)
Allocation: 10% of WAG golden king crab TAC
Allocation in pounds: 255,150
Harvest: Confidential
Number of vessels used: 1
Nonprofit representation: ACDC
Protections: "Cooling Off" ended after the 2nd Program year.

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, landings data for Adak remain confidential. From 2005/06 through 2008/09, crab harvested under this allocation was processed in Adak and Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Due to unforeseen circumstances, no processor was available in the community of Adak during the 2009/10 and 2010/11 crab-fishing years, and emergency rules relieved the geographic delivery restriction. This crab-fishing year a processor was available to the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fishery for the first time since the 2008/09 fishing year.

Juvenile Red King Crab

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 and/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), now the National Appeals Office (NAO).

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, 512 distinct persons initially received some type of QS or PQS. Numbers of initial issuees of QS/PQS changed as appeals were adjudicated.

Twenty-eight applications denied by RAM for initial issuance of quota or for annual allocation of IFQ or IPQ have been appealed to the NAO; to date, eighteen cases related to eligibility for initial QS or PQS and ten related to other issues. During 2011/12 the NAO affirmed three cases, completing Crab Rationalization Program appeals. Table 3.1 shows results of Decisions during and shortly after the 2011/12 fishing year. The source for Table 3.1 appeal information is the NAO.

Table 3.1 NAO Crab Rationalization Appeal Decisions by QS type, 2011/12

		Appeal Decisions			
Case Status	Total Decisions	Processor (PQS)	Owner QS	Captain/Crew QS	Late Annual IFQ/IPQ or QS/PQS Application
Affirmed	*3*		1		2
Vacated	*0*				
Dismissed	*0*				
Pending	*0*				
Total Decisions in 2011/12 fishing year	*3*				

2011/12 Seasons, Caps, TACs, Pools, and Permits

Table 3.2 shows the 2011/12 crab-fishing season dates for each open fishery.

Table 3.2 Crab-fishing seasons, 2011/12

BSAI crab fishery	Opening	Closing	Program fishery and allocation types
BBR	Oct 15, 2011	January 15, 2012	IFQ/CDQ
BSS[a,c]	Oct 15, 2011	May 15, 2012 East Sub District-extended to June 15 due to ice on fishing grounds May 31, 2012 West Sub District	IFQ/CDQ
EAG	Aug 15, 2011	May 15, 2012	IFQ/CDQ)
EBT[b,c]		Closed	IFQ/CDQ
PIK		Closed	IFQ/CDQ
SMB	Oct 15, 2011	February 1, 2012	IFQ/CDQ
WAG	Aug 15, 2011	May 15, 2012	IFQ/Adak (ACA)
WAI		Closed	IFQ/CDQ
WBT[b,c]		Closed	IFQ/CDQ

[a] The snow crab fishery was extended due to severe icing on the fishing grounds. As a mitigating measure to allow more access to the BSS fishery, ADF&G also opened some statistical areas previously closed to protect the Pribilof blue king crab stock.

[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] During the 2011/12 crab-fishing year, the Tanner crab fishery was closed because the survey estimate of mature female Tanner crab biomass in the Bering Sea District was below the harvest strategy threshold for mature female biomass in the area. The 2011 survey of the eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab stock found low abundance of mature female crab; subsequently, the Bering Sea District Tanner crab fishery remained closed for the 2011/12 fishing year.

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; an exemption encourages 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, 2011/12

Crab QS fishery	Vessel use cap percent of harvesting IFQ TAC	Vessel use cap in raw crab pounds	Harvesting IFQ TAC in raw crab pounds	Actual Harvest	Percent of Harvested TAC
BBR	2%	141,012	7,050,600	7,050,195	99.99
BSS	2%	1,600,092	80,004,600	79,942,909	99.92
EBT[a,b]	2%	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
WBT[a,b]	2%	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
PIK[b]	4%	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
SMB[c]	4%	84,924	2,123,100	1,698,707	80.01
EAG[c]	20%	567,000	2,835,000	*	*
WAG[c]	20%	510,300	2,551,500	*	*
WAI[b]	20%	Closed	Closed	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 could not be computed.

[c] Asterisks represent confidential data.

More information about annual use and vessel caps is available at the NOAA/NMFS website:

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

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 "computation" pools for the year to be the sum of quota units that may result in annual allocation that year. The computations require (a) the annual QS and PQS computation 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 computation 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 ratios between QS (or PQS) and IFQ (or IPQ) do not change for that 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 seventh Program year. Fisheries with low crab stock abundances were closed.

Table 3.4 QS pools and ratios, 2011/12

Fishery	Owners (QS units)	Crew (QS units)	Ratios (QS units: IFQ pounds)
BBR	387,828,995	12,000,335	56.7086
BSS	970,675,714	30,207,732	12.5103
EAG	9,700,156	299,583	3.5272
EBT[a,b]	Closed		Closed
PIK[b]	Closed		Closed
SMB	29,119,073	902,043	14.1402
WAG	38,800,000	1,200,058	15.6771
WAI[b]	Closed		Closed
WBT[a,b]	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, ratios could not be computed.

Table 3.5 PQS pools and ratios, 2011/12

Fishery	PQS units	Ratios (PQS units: IPQ pounds)
BBR[a,b] North	10,200,963	68.3951
BBR[a,b] South	388,584,614	67.8744
BSS[a,b] North	470,734,143	15.8532
BSS[a,b] South	531,344,176	15.7398
EAG[c]	10,122,984	4.2979
EBT[d,e]	Closed	Closed
PIK[e]	Closed	Closed
SMB North	23,370,240	16.4396
SMB South	5,575,481	14.1172
WAG U[b]	19,897,616	33.2543
WAG West[b]	17,743,314	29.598
WAI[e]	Closed	Closed
WBT[d,e]	Closed	Closed

[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] While EAG is a regionalized fishery, all quota was issued for use in the South region.

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

[e] The State of Alaska closed these fisheries; therefore, ratios could not be computed.

Annual Permits

NOAA Fisheries may issue annual permits for the Program only if a person has applied timely, paid any fees owed (including Capacity Reduction [Buyback] and Cost Recovery fees), 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 affiliations 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. QS and PQS held by persons who "opt out" of a fishery will not be part of the computation pool or result in 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 fishery harvesting sector, region, and class and may bear multiple fisheries. IPQ permits are issued for combinations of fishery, region, and right-of-first-refusal community. The cooling-off (mandatory delivery) boundary area became irrelevant when that provision expired after the second Program year. Therefore, the number of persons holding quota or annual IFQ/IPQ rather than the number of permits issued is a better indicator of potential participation in a fishery.

As of the 2010/2011 fishing season, RAM daily updates an online list of IFQ, IPQ, and COOP applications received. View Applications Received

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	Yr 7	Yr 6	Yr 5	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 7	Yr 6	Yr 5	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 7	Yr 6	Yr 5	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1
IFQ Crew	17	13	26	32	35	59	101	13	10	14	26	25	39	67	76	77	54	81	71	66	66
IFQ Owner	9	10	10	20	24	31	64	9	9	10	20	23	26	50	100	90	100	100	96	84	78
IPQ Processor	17	18	20	21	24	21	18	14	15	14	17	15	17	12	82	83	70	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 2011/12, 141 Hired Masters were authorized to fish, and 105 (74.47 percent) actually did so. Hired Masters participated in 1,267 (99.45 percent) of 1,274 total IFQ landings. Five of nine IFQ permitholders (55 percent) participated in 7 landings. By the end of the year, Hired Masters were responsible for 99.94 percent of all IFQ crab landed, most of which cooperatives used.

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, 2011/12

63 RCR Permits issued to 26 persons

39 (62%) RCR permits used by 20 (77%) 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. 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). During the 2011/12 fishing year, 20

persons (77%) used 39 permits (62%). Over time, permit use has remained fairly constant; in this fishing year, 8 more permits were issued to 4 more persons than during the first program year.

Table 3.7 displays by fishery RCR permitholders with IFQ landings, the numbers of landings, and pounds landed. For comparison, the table includes 2010/11 fishing year data.

Table 3.7 Participating Registered Crab Receivers, 2010/11–2011/12

Registered Crab Receivers								
	Number of RCR permitholders with IFQ landings[a]		Number of landings[b]		IFQ pounds landed[c]		Average pounds per RCR permitholder	
Fishing Yr/ Fishery	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11
BBR	15	14	254	223	7,050,195	13,349,929	470,013	953,945
BSS	14	14	798	466	79,942,909	48,773,537	5,710,208	3,488,584
EAG	9	7	45	30	*	*	*	*
SMB	10	8	107	63	1,698,707	*	169,871	*
WAG	7	7	43	37	*	*	*	*

Note: Asterisks (*) represent confidential data.

[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 (CV), 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, and CV. This permit has requirements for VMS and logbook reporting. In IFQ fisheries, 78 of 106 FCVPs issued for harvesting vessels had landings (74 percent), 75 of 106 CV-endorsed permits had landings (71 percent), and 3 of 5 CP-endorsed permits had landings (60 percent). No SFP-endorsed permits received crab.

FCVP Fishery Facts, 2011/12

114 FCVPs issued:

8 endorsed for SFP vessels

106 endorsed for harvesting vessels:

- 101 catcher vessels and 5 catcher/processors
- Fishermen used 78 (74 percent) of licensed harvesting vessels

Figure 3.1 illustrates recent slowing of the decline in harvesting vessel participation over time.

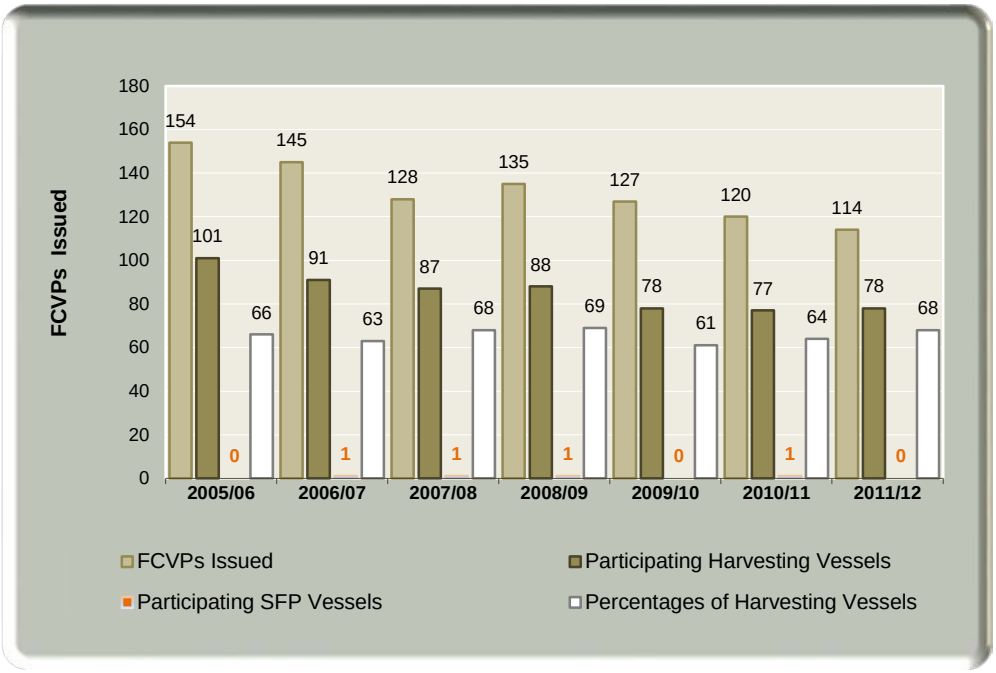


Figure 3.1 Numbers of FCVPs Issued and with Landings by Type, 2005/06–2011/12

Figure 3.2 illustrates the number of FCVPs used by CR fisheries over time, showing a steady decrease of the number of FCVPs with landings within the BBR, BST, and EAG fisheries. 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 EBT and WBT fisheries were closed, although vessels with bycatch are represented. During 2011/12 the decrease in FCVPs used in the CR fisheries continued.

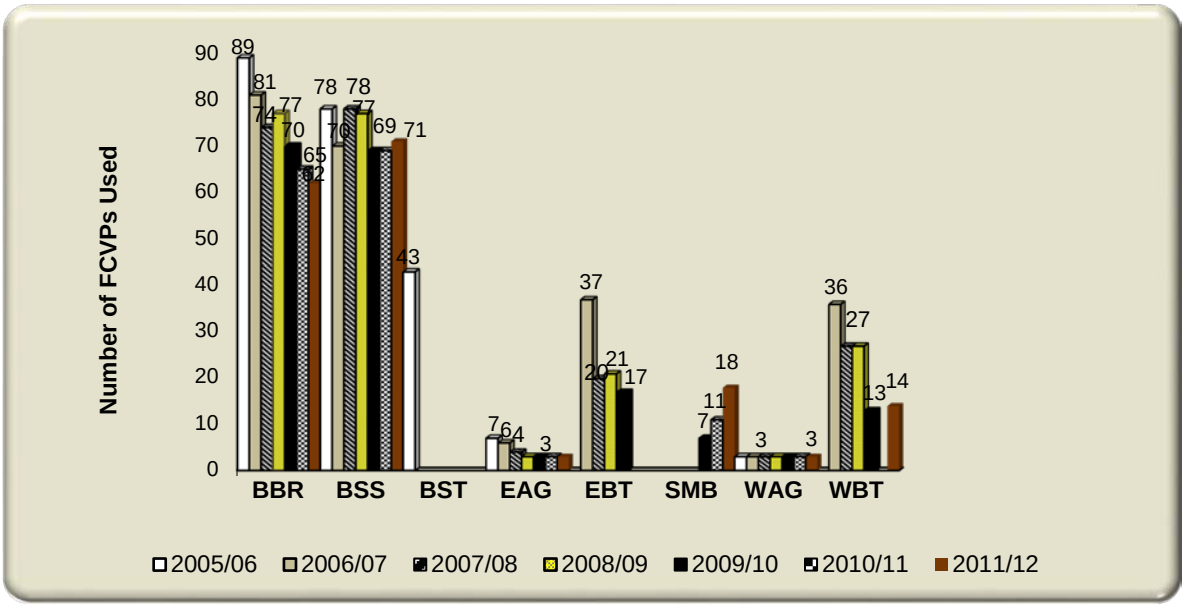


Figure 3.2 Numbers of FCVPs with Landings by Fishery, 2005/06–2011/12

Arbitration System

Arbitration Facts, 2011/12

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

Arbitration Proceedings Pending: two WAG crab price and terms of delivery disputes with related entities (APICDA and Atxam corp.).

Scheduling: The proceeding(s) will take place in October or November 2012.

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.

2011/12 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. The market analyst and arbitrators, as well as the third-party provider, were the same for all fisheries including golden king crab.

Arbitration proceedings for two disputes in the WAG fishery are scheduled for October or November 2012.

Arbitration Approach

During the 2011/12 year, harvesters and processors agreed to use the lengthy season approach (*see 50 CFR* §680.20(h)) to initiate binding arbitration proceedings. Most harvesters (those affiliated with the exchange) coordinated their negotiating approach through the Inter-Cooperatives Exchange (ICE), 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, 2005/06–2011/12

Table 3.8 shows by crab-fishing year the number of arbitration proceedings, affected fisheries, and arbitration issues and outcomes during the Program. During 2011/12, as in the 2009/10 fishing year, two WAG fishery price/delivery disputes were delayed and scheduled tentatively for October or November 2012.

Table 3.8 Arbitration proceedings, 2005/06–2011/12

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 settled and a price issue was resolved in favor of the harvester.
2009/10	2	golden king Opilio	Procedural (golden king); Crab costs/delivery terms (Opilio)	For the golden king crab fishery, arbitrators selected a later lengthy season arbitration filing date. For the Opilio fishery, contract arbitrators selected the processor's offer.
		golden king	Crab costs/delivery terms	Two post-season crab costs and terms of delivery disputes: one settled outside of arbitration, and arbitrators resolved issues in favor of the harvester.
2010/11	1 (2 disputes)	golden king	Crab costs/delivery terms	Arbitrators selected the processor's offer for WAG crab.
		golden king	Crab costs/delivery terms	WAG price and terms of delivery dispute settled outside of arbitration.
2011/12	2 disputes/the number of proceedings unknown	golden king	Crab costs/delivery terms	PENDING: Arbitration proceeding(s) with related entities (APICDA and Atxam) are scheduled tentatively for October or November.

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 and 4.2 show persons entering and leaving the fisheries. QS/PQS recipients of initial quota shares at the beginning of the Program or later through appeals 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 and 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 new quotaholders in the crab fisheries over time. As initial issuees divest, new persons acquire QS/PQS. Overall, the number of distinct harvesting quotaholders decreased by fishery. Within fisheries, generally the number of CVC and CVO holders decreased, but holders of other types of QS remained essentially the same. By the end of seven program years, initial issuees holding QS or PQS decreased from 512 to 409, while the number of all quotaholders increased from 512 to 526.

Table 4.1 Numbers of persons (initial issuees and new entrants) holding QS/PQS initially and at end of each crab-fishing year

Fishery	Sector	Initial issuees[a]	Quotaholders year-end 2005	Quotaholders year-end 2006	Quotaholders year-end 2007	Quotaholders year-end 2008	Quotaholders year-end 2009	Quotaholders year-end 2010	Quotaholders year-end 2011
BBR	CPC	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9
	CPO	13	12	12	13	12	12	11	11
	CVC	178	165	153	148	141	138	137	137
	CVO	242	243	236	242	242	249	250	250
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***426***	***411***	***391***	***389***	***382***	***386***	***385***	***384***
	Processor	***17***	***16***	***17***	***17***	***16***	***16***	***16***	***16***
BSS	CPC	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
	CPO	14	13	13	14	15	14	19	22
	CVC	152	143	134	132	129	125	123	123
	CVO	231	228	221	232	233	238	246	243
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***389***	***375***	***356***	***362***	***361***	***361***	***369***	***369***
	Processor	***20***	***19***	***20***	***20***	***20***	***19***	***19***	***19***

Fishery	Sector	Initial issuees[a]	Quotaholders year-end 2005	Quotaholders year-end 2006		Quotaholders year-end 2007		Quotaholders year-end 2008		Quotaholders year-end 2009		Quotaholders year-end 2010		Quotaholders year-end 2011	
				EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT	EBT	WBT
BST	CPC	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	CPO	14	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
	CVC	170	161	150	150	148	148	143	143	144	144	143	143	143	143
	CVO	248	245	234	234	238	239	231	232	237	238	235	236	237	238
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***426***	***412***	***389***	***389***	***388***	***389***	***376***	***377***	***383***	***384***	***380***	***381***	***381***	***382***
	Processor	***23***	***23***	***23***	***23***	***22***	***22***	***21***	***21***	***21***	***21***	***21***	***21***	***21***	***21***

Continued

Table 4.1 Continued

Fishery	Sector	Initial issuees[a]	Quotaholders year-end 2005	Quotaholders year-end 2006	Quotaholders year-end 2007	Quotaholders year-end 2008	Quotaholders year-end 2009	Quotaholders year-end 2010	Quotaholders year-end 2011
EAG	CPO	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	CVC	13	11	11	11	10	11	10	10
	CVO	13	14	13	13	12	15	15	15
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***28***	***27***	***26***	***26***	***24***	***28***	***27***	***27***
	Processor	***9***	***8***	***8***	***9***	***10***	***10***	***10***	***10***
PIK	CPO	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	CVC	40	40	39	39	39	39	39	39
	CVO	111	113	112	117	118	118	116	118
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***148***	***148***	***146***	***151***	***152***	***152***	***150***	***153***
	Processor	***14***	***14***	***14***	***13***	***13***	***13***	***13***	***13***
SMB	CPO	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	CVC	73	70	69	68	68	68	68	67
	CVO	133	136	132	138	137	143	142	141
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***210***	***210***	***204***	***208***	***207***	***213***	***212***	***209***
	Processor	***12***	***12***	***12***	***11***	***10***	***10***	***10***	***10***

Continued

Table 4.1 Continued

Fishery	Sector	Initial issuees[a]	Quotaholders year-end 2005	Quotaholders year-end 2006	Quotaholders year-end 2007	Quotaholders year-end 2008	Quotaholders year-end 2009	Quotaholders year-end 2010	Quotaholders year-end 2011
WAG	CPC	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	CPO	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
	CVC	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7
	CVO	13	13	13	12	12	12	12	11
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***24***	***24***	***25***	***24***	***23***	***23***	***23***	***22***
	Processor	9	***9***	***9***	***9***	***10***	***10***	***10***	***10***
WAI	CPC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	CPO	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	CVC	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	CVO	29	29	32	32	32	32	32	35
	Total number of unique persons holding harvesting QS	***34***	***34***	***37***	***37***	***37***	***37***	***37***	***40***
	Processor	***9***	***9***	***9***	***8***	***8***	***8***	***8***	***8***
Total unique persons holding QS/PQS		***512***	***509***	***494***	***503***	***505***	***513***	***522***	***526***

[a] Initial issuees were issued BST QS/PQS. 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. "Year-end" represents a crab-fishing year, not a single calendar year. For example, "Year-end 2011" represents the 2011/12 crab-fishing year, extending from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

If qualified, new quotaholders can enter the Program by receiving quota in transfers. This is true even for fisheries that remain closed due to low stock abundance. In fishing year 2011/12 in the larger fisheries, more QS and PQS holders entered the fisheries than left, and more entered the BSS fishery than the BBR. This fishing year, more initial issuees (103) than in any previous Program year left the fisheries, and even more fishermen (118) entered the Program. Table 4.2 displays year-end data and therefore does not include persons who bought and sold QS/PQS of the same fishery/sector within 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.

Table 4.2 New quotaholders entering the Program, 2005/06–2011/12

	Number of new persons entering Program[a] who were not initial issuees[b] of any QS/PQS													
	Year 1 (2005/06)		Year 2 (2006/07)		Year 3 (2007/08)		Year 4 (2008/09)		Year 5 (2009/10)		Year 6 (2010/11)		Year 7 (2011/12)	
Fishery	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS	QS	PQS
BBR	14	1	26	2	42	3	53	5	67	5	70	5	73	5
BSS	14	1	25	3	41	4	50	4	65	5	80	5	83	5
BST	15	1	NA[b]		NA[b]		NA[b]		NA[b]		NA[b]		NA[b]	
EAG	1	1	1	1	5	2	5	3	5	3	5	3	5	3
EBT[c]	NA[b]		28	3	40	3	42	4	56	4	60	4	64	4
PIK	4	1	5	1	14	1	17	2	17	2	18	2	20	2
SMB	7	1	15	2	28	2	29	3	39	3	42	3	42	3
WAG	1	0	2	0	5	2	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4
WAI	0	1	2	1	4	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	6	3
WBT[c]	NA[b]		28	3	40	3	42	4	56	4	60	4	64	4
Total unique persons	***19***	***3***	***32***	***5***	***55***	***6***	***66***	***8***	83	9	***101***	***9***	***110***	***9***

[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. By the end of the 2011/12 fishing year, 409 (almost 80 percent) initial issuees retained QS of some kind, though not necessarily the same type or amount they were initially issued. During the 2009/10 crab-fishing year, the number of initial issuees increased to 512 from 511 because of an appeal. Figure 4.1 shows year-end 2006/07 as the crab year with the largest yearly decrease in initial issuees holding QS/PQS (30 fewer than the previous year) and 2011/12 with the smallest (4 fewer). 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. For the 2011/12 fishing year, Figure 4.2 includes four initial issuees who left the Program voluntarily and one who left the Program through the NMFS QS/IPQ revocation process.

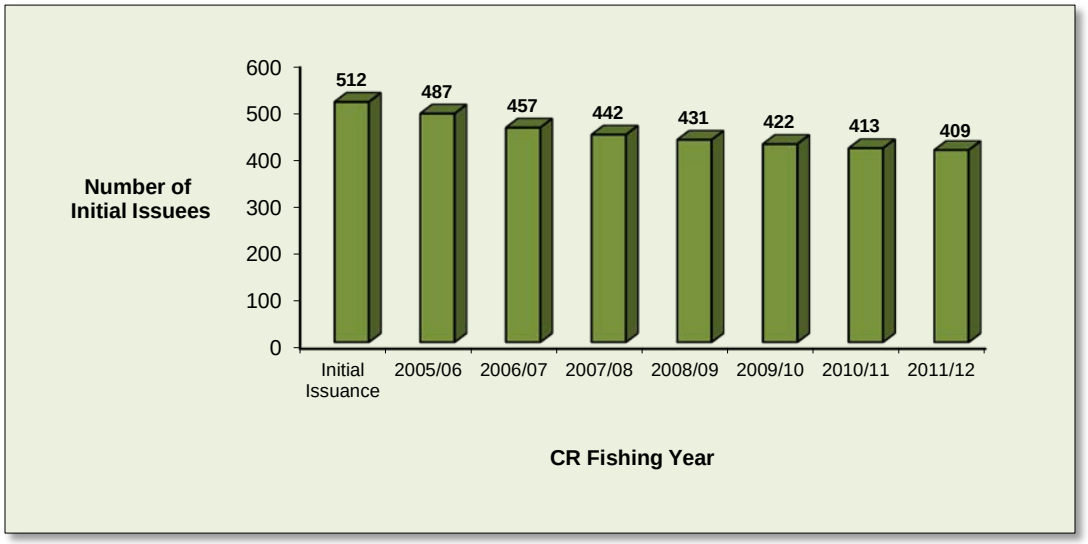


Figure 4.1 Numbers of Initial Issuees Holding QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2011/12

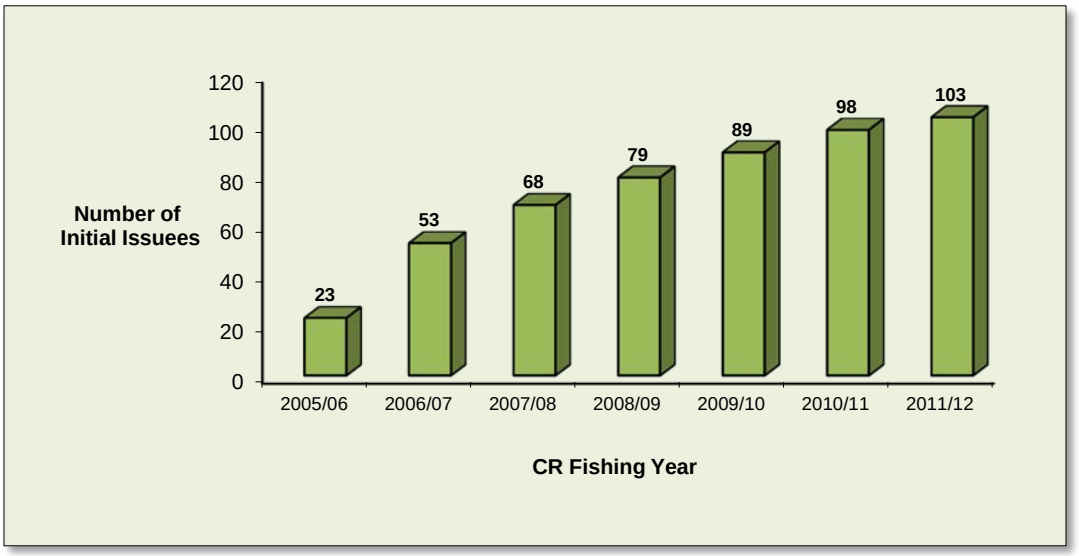


Figure 4.2 Numbers of Initial Issuees Holding No QS/PQS at Year-end, 2005/06–2011/12

A Comparison: Initial Quotaholders with all QS/PQS Holders (Initial Issuees and later entrants)

Figures 4.3 and 4.4 illustrate the stability of numbers of quotaholders during the Program in the two major fisheries. At the end of the first seven years of the Program, numbers of all BBR quotaholders, whether initial issuees or later entrants, comprised 90 percent of the number of quotaholders at initial issuance (439); the number of initial issuees was almost 73 percent of their original number in the fishery. In the BSS fishery, all quotaholders comprised almost 95 percent, and initial issuees made up 73 percent of their original number (404) in the fishery. Both fisheries exhibited comparable, gradual attrition in numbers of quotaholders at year-end in each Program year.

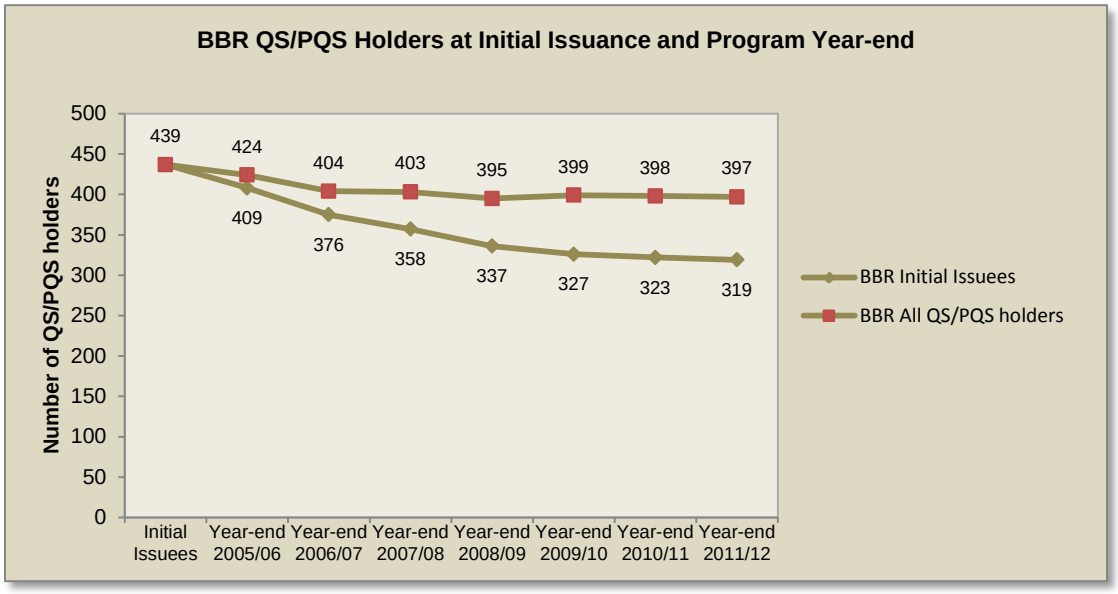


Figure 4.3 Comparison of BBR Initial Issuees with all BBR QS/PQS Holders at Year-end, 2005/06–2011/12

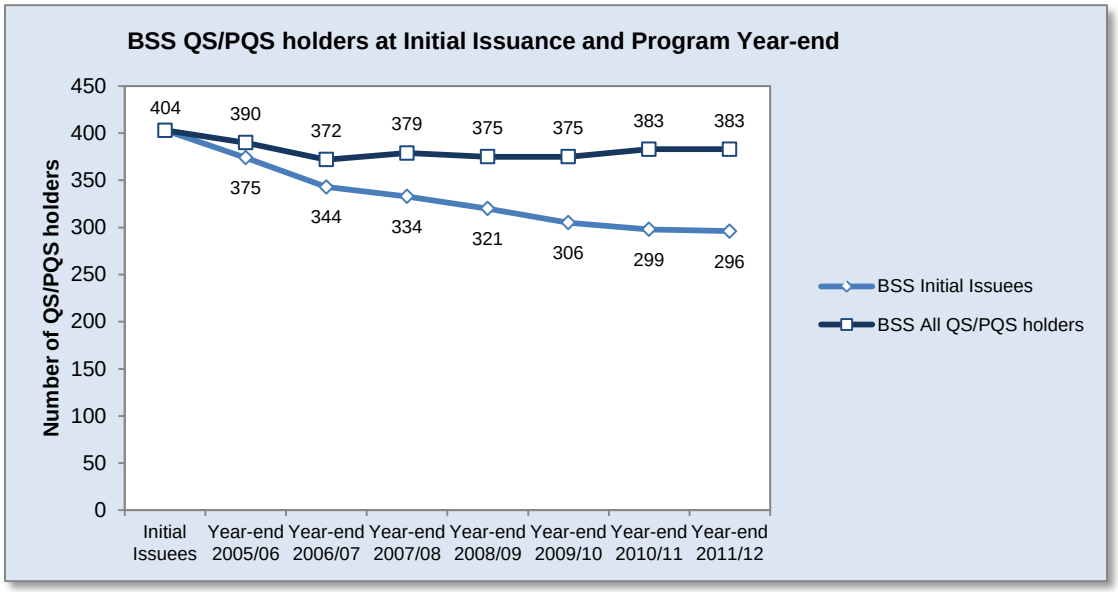


Figure 4.4 Comparison of BSS Initial Issuees with all BSS QS/PQS Holders at Year-end, 2005/06–2011/12

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. In addition, Crew type QS/IFQ may be received by transfer only by individuals who can 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/IPQ is issued for a fishery (or until NMFS receives word that a fishery will not open). NOAA Fisheries must approve all transfers, and approval is subject to the following additional criteria:

- Proposed receiver's eligibility to receive quota, including recent participation request for Crew QS;
- Use caps (including quota assigned to members of a receiving cooperative in intercooperative transfers);
- Community protection measure requirements (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).

Other Types of Transfers

The Program also includes several transfer provisions for special circumstances. In the event of a hardship, a holder of CVC or CPC QS may lease the IFQ, even if not otherwise leasable. 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, and the QS holder must reapply for any subsequent hardship transfers. NMFS will not approve transfers of IFQ unless the QS holder can demonstrate a hardship of a medical condition of the QS holder, a medical condition involving an individual who requires the QS holder's care, or the total loss of a vessel.

Transfer privileges are also available for some surviving heirs. On the death of an individual who holds QS or PQS, the surviving spouse or, in the absence of a surviving spouse, a beneficiary named pursuant to Program regulation receives all QS, PQS and IFQ or IPQ held by the decedent by right of survivorship, unless otherwise specified in the decedent's will. NMFS will approve for three calendar years after the date of the death of an individual an application for transfer of crab IFQ or IPQ from the heir, even if not otherwise leasable.

An eligible crab community (ECC) may form a nonprofit entity to receive QS, IFQ, PQS and IPQ transfers on behalf of that community. Crab may be transferred to or from an eligible crab community organization (ECCO). The ECCO may then lease IFQ to community residents.

For those fisheries with transfer activities, Tables 4.3 and 4.4 display numbers and types of transfers during 2011/12. 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 operational market flexibility. Note that the same QS units and IFQ pounds may have transferred multiple times within the crab year but are counted for each transfer. In Table 4.3 nonco-op lease data are included only at the end of the table in "All QS/IFQ totals."

Table 4.3 Transfers of harvesting QS and IFQ by fishery and transfer type, 20011/12

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	7	4	2	0	15,626
	Crew	QS	8	5	4	668,010	2,710
	Owner	Cooperative lease	43	9	6	0	984,965
	Owner	QS	12	8	11	7,907,933	0
	Fishery Total		***70***	***23***	***22***	***8,575,943***	***1,003,301***
BSS	Crew	Cooperative lease	5	2	2	0	264,258
	Crew	QS	3	2	2	251,789	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	65	7	7	0	8,305,979
	Owner	QS	46	17	25	24,821,420	0
	Fishery Total		***121***	***28***	***36***	***25,073,209***	***8,587,233***
EAG	Crew	QS	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	10	4	2	0	2,231,600
	Fishery Total		***10***	***4***	***2***	***0***	***2,231,600***
EBT	Crew	QS	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner	QS	13	10	11	3,068,767	0
	Fishery Total		***13***	***10***	***11***	***3,068,767***	***0***
PIK	Crew	QS	0	0	0	0	0
	Owner	QS	11	4	5	1,565,277	0
	Fishery Total		***11***	***4***	***5***	***1,565,277***	***0***

Continued

Table 4.3 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,d]
SMB	Crew	Cooperative lease	3	2	1	0	3,882
	Crew	QS	2	2	1	26,754	0
	Owner	Cooperative lease	35	7	3	0	722,758
	Owner	QS	13	6	8	491,006	0
	Fishery Total		***54***	***16***	***13***	***517,760***	***727,725***
WAG	Owner	Cooperative lease	12	4	1	0	471,555
	Owner	QS	2	1	1	865,238	0
	Fishery Total		***14***	***5***	***2***	***865,238***	***471,555***
WAI	Owner	QS	4	2	4	7,872,772	0
	Fishery Total		***4***	***2***	***4***	***7,872,772***	***0***
WBT	Owner	*QS*	12	9	10	2,750,475	0
	Fishery Total		***12***	***9***	***10***	***2,750,475***	***0***
All QS/IFQ totals		**Cooperative leases**	***180***	***9***	***8***	***0***	***13,000,623***
		Noncooperative leases	***4***	***2***	***3***	***0***	***19,582***
		QS	***126***	***29***	***38***	***50,289,441***	***2,710***
		All transfers and unique persons	***310***	***29***	***38***	***50,289,441***	***13,022,915***

[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.
[d] Data will not be shown if confidential.

Table 4.4 Transfers of processing PQS and IPQ by fishery and transfer type, 2011/12

Fishery	PQS/IPQ transfer type	Number transfers	Number unique transferors[a]	Number unique transferees[a]	PQS units	IPQ pounds[b,c,d]
BBR	Lease	7	4	4	0	1,616,005
	PQS	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishery Total					
BSS	Lease	10	8	3	0	12,526,439
	PQS	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishery Total					
EAG	Lease	3	3	3	0	74,217
	PQS	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishery Total					
SMB	Lease	4	3	2	0	471,057
	PQS	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishery Total					
WAG	Lease	4	3	2	0	32,435
	PQS	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishery Total					
All PQS/IPQ totals	***Total Leases***	***28***	***11***	***9***	***0***	***14,720,153***
	Total PQS transfers	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***
	All transfers and unique persons	***28***	***11***	***9***	***0***	***14,720,153***

[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.
[d] Data will not be shown if confidential.

Transfer Summary

Table 4.5 summarizes the numbers and types of transfers during Program years for processors and harvesters. Over the past seven years, the numbers of permanent PQS transfers, although low, increased sixfold since 2005/06, then decreased to zero within the 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years. PQS leases have fluctuated, averaging 34 transfers each Program year. The number of permanent harvesting QS transfers decreased, fluctuating with a marked increase of 130 transfers in the second year of the Program, ebbing back down to 73 fewer transfers than in the first Program year. During the 2011/12 Program year, harvesting QS transfers (310) were lower than in all other program years. During the first three Program years, intercooperative leases increased, reaching more than twice the number of first year transfers by the third and fourth Program years. In 2011/12 these leases decreased to only 36 more than during the first year of the Program. The number of noncooperative leases declined to zero from 2008/09–2010/11 because harvesting IFQ was fully assigned to cooperatives by 2008/09. In 2011/12 noncooperative leases increased to four.

Table 4.5 Numbers of transfers for all fisheries by year and type, 2005/06–2011/12

Type	Program Year One 2005/06	Program Year Two 2006/07	Program Year Three 2007/08	Program Year Four 2008/09	Program Year Five 2009/10	Program Year Six 2010/11	Program Year Seven 2011/12
Harvesters							
Cooperative Lease	144	269	302	301	226	268	180
Noncooperative Lease	113	39	16	0	0	0	4
QS	199	329	292	209	222	192	126
Processors							
PQS Lease	40	39	32	45	31	25	28
PQS	7	7	12	42	4	0	0

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 offer clear contrasts among harvester and processor transfer types in each Program year for all CR fisheries.

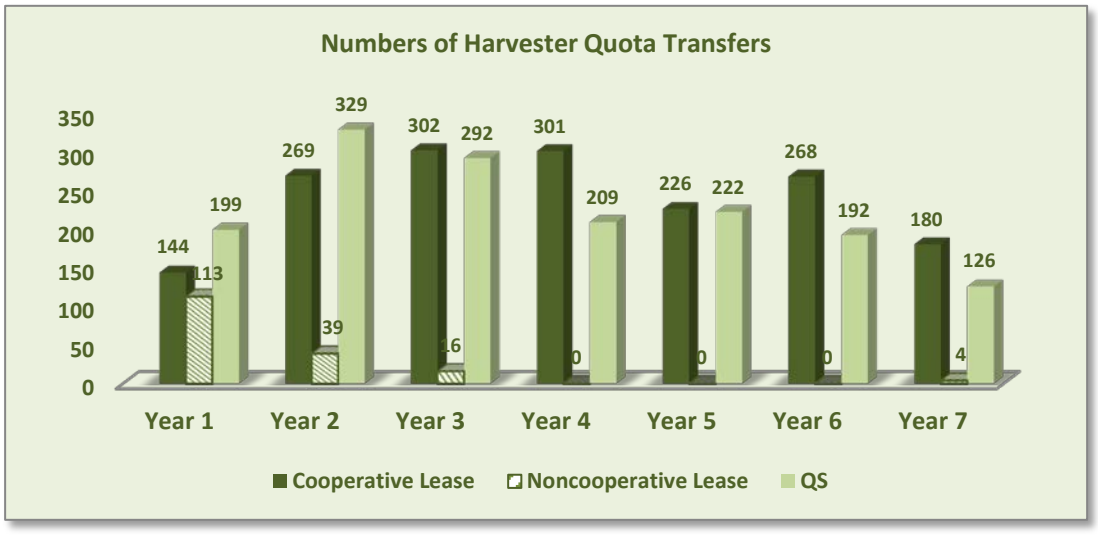


Figure 4.5 Numbers and Types of Harvester Quota Transfers, 2005/06–2011/12

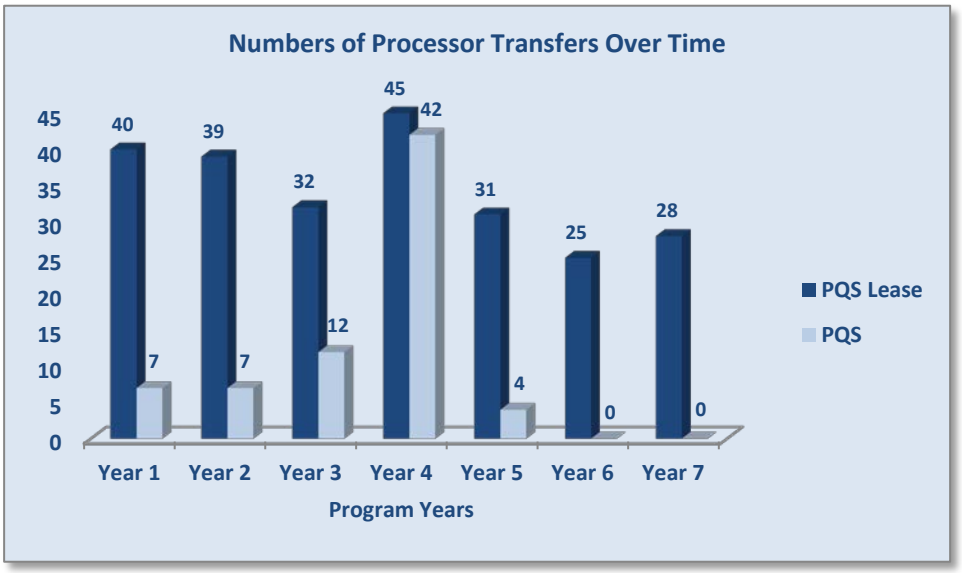


Figure 4.6 Numbers and Types of Processor Quota and IPQ Transfers, 2005/06–2011/12

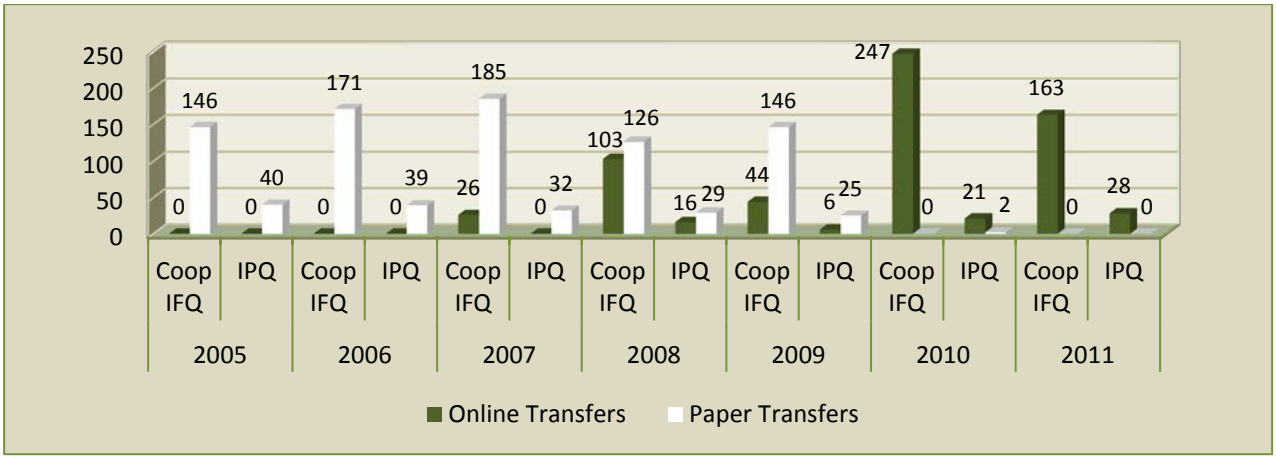


Figure 4.7 Numbers and Types of Transfers, Online and Paper, 2005/06–2011/12

Figure 4.7 illustrates the change between paper (by NMFS staff) and online transfers between 2005/06 and 2011/12. Cooperative IFQ online transfers have increased over sixfold since 2007. In November of 2009, final rule 74 FR 51515, October 7, 2009 provided harvesting cooperatives, crab processing quota share holders, and Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups with the option to make intercooperative transfers, crab individual processing quota (IPQ) transfers, and intergroup transfers through an automated, web-based process. During 2005–2007 all IPQ transfers were completed by NMFS staff, but by fishing year 2011/12 all transfers were completed online.

Average Price per Crab QS Unit for QS Transfers

Table 4.6 shows the estimated weighted average price per crab QS unit for priced QS transfers by year, fishery, and sector for the first seven 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. The additions to the table in the 2011/12 fishing year are the BBR and BSS fisheries' CVO sector weighted average prices per crab QS unit.

Table 4.6 Estimated weighted average price per crab QS unit for priced QS transfers, 2005/06–2011/12

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
5		322,908	427,846	1,788	9	6	7	0.75	5
6		181,945	292,573	0	5	5	5	0.62	6
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
5		4,076,942	4,525,837	0	12	10	11	0.90	5
6		9,105,971	14,596,184	0	33	15	22	0.62	6
7		1,834,007	2,229,680	0	3	3	3	0.82	7
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
5		312,054	1,121,203	0	15	6	8	0.28	5
6		300,416	851,943	0	11	6	6	0.35	6

Continued

Table 4.6 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]
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
5		2,171,857	6,452,415	0	14	8	10	0.34	5
6		15,170,520	34,571,824	0	56	17	24	0.44	6
7		8,020,770	12,597,565	0	21	10	12	0.64	7
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
EAG 4	CVC	156,968	59,908	3,420	4	4	3	2.62	**EAG** 4
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
6		1,468	83,846	0	3	3	3	0.02	6
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
5		49,441	832,229	0	5	4	5	0.06	5

Continued

Table 4.6 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]
EBT 4	PRO	124,400	12,152,783	85,185	5	5	4	0.01	EBT 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
WAG 4	PRO	1,373,366	18,921,690	195,249	8	4	3	0.07	WAG 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
6		1,768	83,846	0	3	3	3	0.02	6
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
5		29,043	832,229	0	5	4	5	0.03	5
WBT 4	PRO	76,480	12,152,783	47,386	5	5	4	0.01	WBT 4

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

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. Rationalization further reduced participation in IFQ fisheries. Except during the 2008/09 fishing year, all vessels used in the CDQ and Adak fisheries also participated in IFQ fisheries. During each year of the Program, two fisheries have remained closed, WAI and PIK. In the fifth Program year, the WBT fishery was closed as the SMB fishery reopened although no CDQ vessels participated (only IFQ vessels). In 2010/11 and again in 2011/12 EBT and WBT fisheries remained closed. 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, most vessel effort occurs in January when the fishery is largely prosecuted.

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 Capacity Reduction Buyback 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. Note that Figures 5.1 and 5.2 show vessels with bycatch/deadloss for the closed EBT and WBT fisheries. Figure 5.2 displays vessel participation values during the 2011/12 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 harvesting cooperatives. During the 2011/12 fishing year, vessel participation in most fisheries remained nearly the same; however, three fewer vessels participated in the BBR fishery, two additional vessels participated in the BSS fishery, and seven more fished in the reopened SMB fishery.

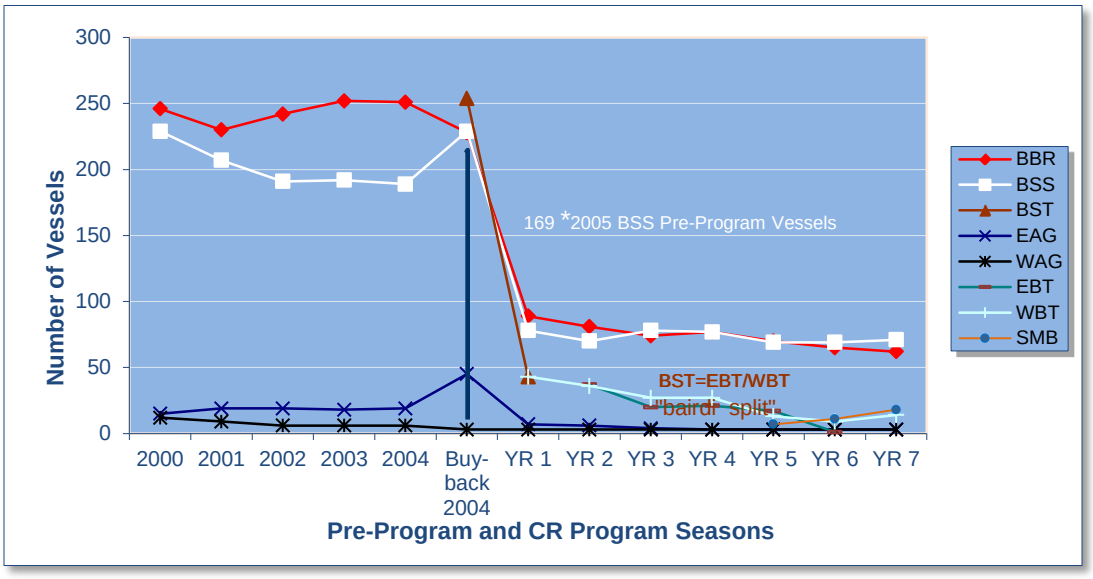


Figure 5.1 Vessel Participation in Pre-Program and Program Fisheries, 2000–2011/12

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	IFQ crab fisheries 2009/10	IFQ crab fisheries 2010/11	IFQ crab fisheries 2011/12
BBR	246	230	242	252	251		89	81	74	77	70	65	62
BSS	229	207	191	192	189	169[b]	78	70	78	77	69	69	71
BST[e,f]	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed		43	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
EAG	15	19	19	18	19		7	6	4	3	3	3	3
EBT[e]	formerly part of BST						Closed	37	20	21	17	Closed	Closed
SMB[f]	50	30	58	91	48	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	7	11	18
WAG	12	9	6	6	6		3	3	3	3	3	3	3
WBT[e]	formerly part of BST						43	36	27	27	Closed	Closed	Closed
Distinct number of harvesting vessels fishing under the Program							***101***	***91***	***87***	***88***	***78***	***78***	***78***

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

[a] WAI and PIK fisheries were closed throughout this period. However, from 2001 through 2004, the Petrel Bank area was open only for surveys. 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] Generally all Adak and CDQ vessels participated in IFQ fisheries during the Program, except in the 2008/09 fishing year.

[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. The SMB reopened in 2009/10.

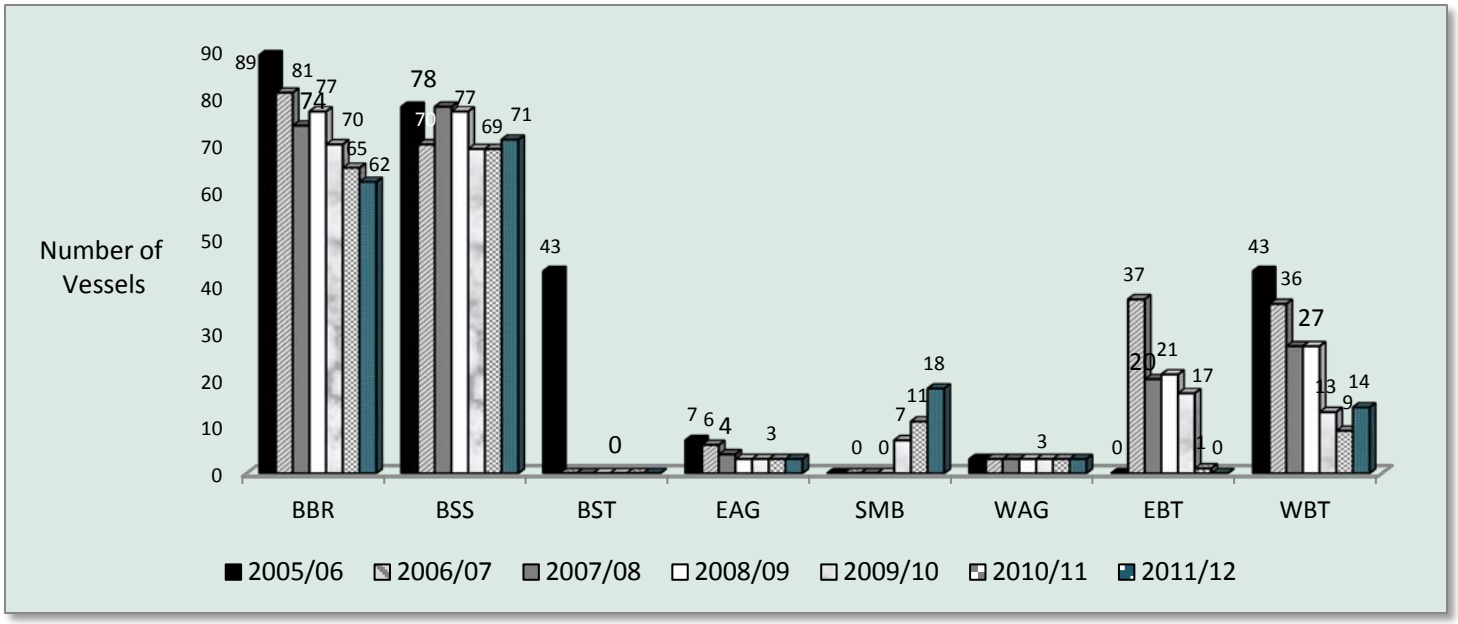


Figure 5.2 Vessel Participation in Program Fisheries, 2005/06–2011/12

Allocations, Harvests, and Landings

For BSS, due to severe icing, additional statistical areas were opened and the season was extended for 2011/12. The longest CR season ended after 245 days when the last quota fishery (BSS West Sub District) closed on May 31, 2012 and when State statistical areas closed (those that had been reopened by emergency order to mitigate severe ice and subsequent loss of large portions of BSS fishing grounds). At that time IFQ permitholders and their participating Hired Masters had reported a total of 1,274 vessel landings (offloads) for the crab-fishing year. IFQ permitholders and their 105 participating Hired Masters (74 percent of the 141 Hired Masters permitted) landed 99.41 percent of the TAC for all IFQ crab fisheries. Tables 5.2–5.6 show harvest by fishery, ports, and cooperatives, and by persons holding IFQ outside co-ops. Due to confidentiality concerns, RAM shows landings in only the BBR and BSS fisheries in Table 5.2. Figures 5.3 and 5.4 show vessel effort (landed pounds per vessel) across program fisheries over time and by vessel size in the larger fisheries, respectively.

Table 5.2 Landings for BBR and BSS IFQ fisheries,[a,b] 2011/12

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	10	15	254	7,050,195	7,004,973	99.36	15,067	0.21	30,155	0.43	7,050,587	99.99	4,323	0.06
BSS	11	14	798	79,942,909	79,355,110	99.26	5,421	0.01	582,378	0.73	80,004,588	99.92	36,096	0.05

[a] Number of permitholders represents persons whose IFQ permits were fished.
[b] Landing = vessel offload.
[c] Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations. See note [e].
[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; starting in 2009/10, overages do not become violations unless remaining on June 30. See note [e].

Landed Weight per CR Vessel Across Fisheries Over Time

Figure 5.3 illustrates that since the first CR season, the average IFQ crab landed weight per vessel has doubled, largely because of higher TACs.

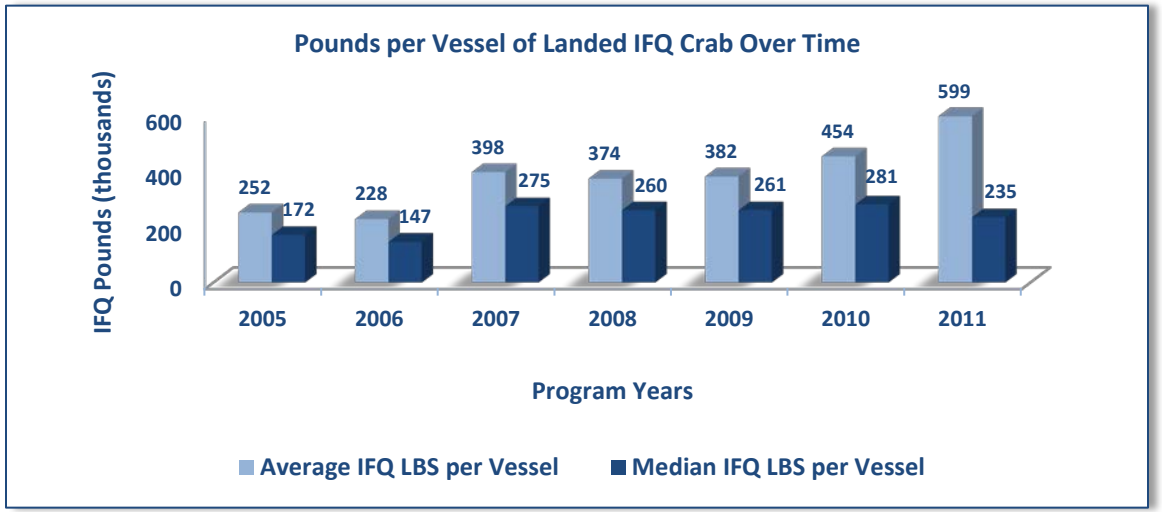


Figure 5.3 Landed IFQ Crab Pounds per CR Vessel During Program Years, 2005/06–2011/12

IFQ Landings by Vessel Size in the Large Fisheries

During 2011/12 BBR fishermen aboard vessels over 124 ft length overall (LOA) landed 50 percent of BBR IFQ, almost the same percentage as in 2005 (51 percent). BSS fishermen aboard vessels of the same length landed 48 percent of their fishery IFQ, lower than the 57 percent in the first Program year. Figure 5.4 shows the number of vessels by vessel size in the large fisheries, pounds landed (in thousands and millions) by vessel size, and fishery IFQ pounds landed in crab-fishing years 2005/06 and 2011/12.

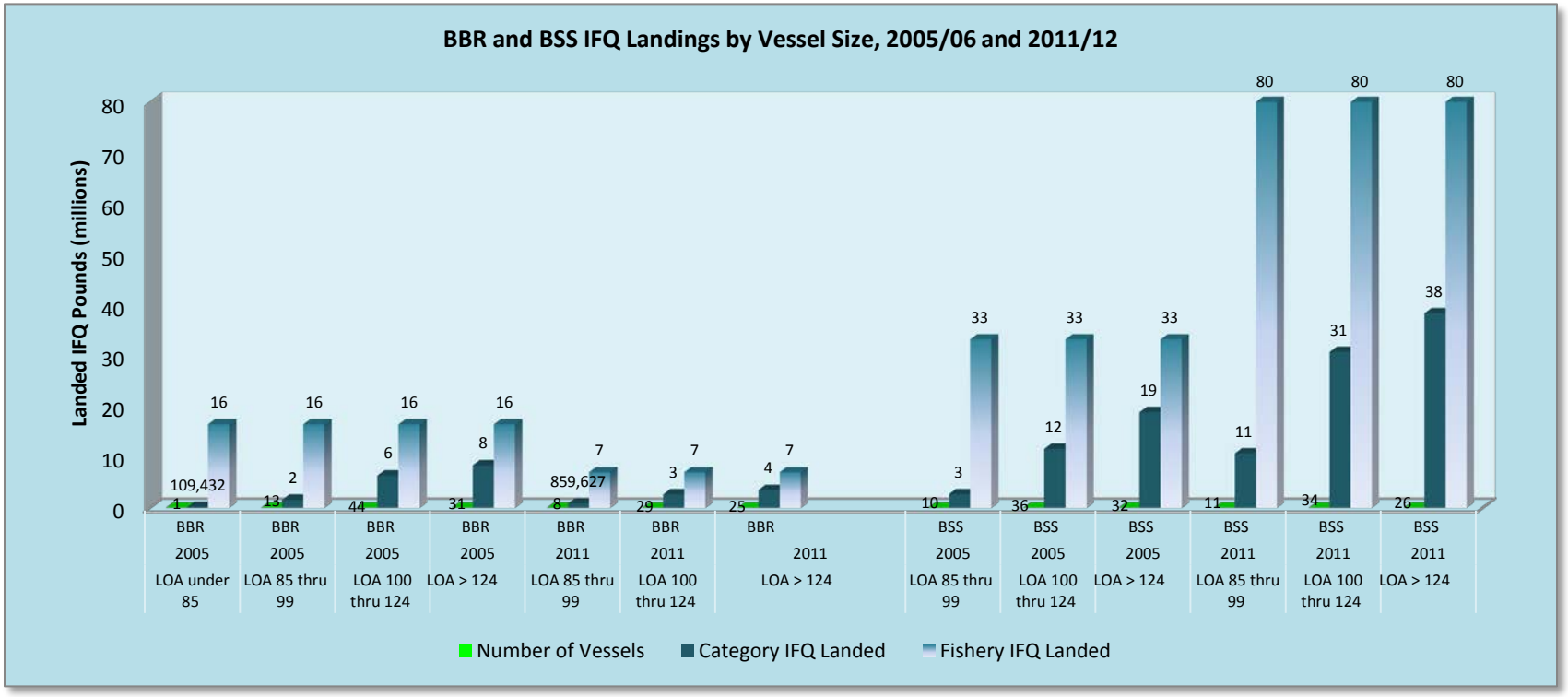


Figure 5.4 BBR and BSS IFQ Landings by Vessel Size, 2005/06 and 2011/12

Ports

Table 5.3 shows ports ranked by landings and pounds delivered in 2011/12 for all crab IFQ fisheries and presents port rank by Program year. No changes in port rank occurred this crab-fishing year. Table 5.4 shows port rank for all Program years. Due to confidentiality (*) requirements, some data cannot be published by port.

Table 5.3 Port rank by IFQ pounds landed for all Program species[a], 2011/12

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	433	8	9	57	29,407,504	31.26
2	St Paul	321	9	8	61	27,498,165	29.23
3	At Sea[e]	225	5	5	39	17,244,596	18.33
4	Akutan	183	5	6	38	12,612,957	13.41
5	King Cove	86	*	*	22	*	*
6	Kodiak	20	*	*	6	*	*
7	Adak	6	*	*	1	*	*

[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, including overages. Starting in 2009/10, inseason overages were violations if remaining on June 30.
[d] Percentages may vary slightly from published data due to rounding.
[e] "At Sea" means "landings" on catcher/processors and stationary floating processors.

Table 5.4 Port rank over time, 2005/06–2011/12

Port	Rank in Program year seven 2011/12	Rank in Program year six 2010/11	Rank in Program year five 2009/10	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	1	1	1
St Paul	2	2	2	2	2	6	3
At Sea	3	3	3	3	5	2	2
Akutan	4	4	4	5	3	3	4
King Cove	5	5	5	4	4	4	5
Kodiak	6	6	6	6	6	5	6
Adak[1]	7			7	7	7	7

[1] No processors were available in Adak during the 2009/10–2010/11 crab-fishing years.

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 second, third, and sixth 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 among port rank (second, third, and fifth port). Akutan and King Cove switched port rank, both regaining the same port rank as in the first Program year. Except for year two of the Program, Kodiak has held the same rank (sixth). During 2011/12, unlike recent crab-fishing years, a processor facility was available in Adak.

Deadloss

Deadloss is crab, other than personal use crab, delivered dead or in otherwise unprocessable condition. 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 has been reported on Class A IFQ permits; however, Class A permits account for most TAC assigned to quota fisheries. Table 5.5 shows that during the 2011/12 crab year, deadloss (694,408 pounds) decreased under the Program to the smallest percentage (0.74) in three fishing years.

Table 5.5 Deadloss, 2009/10–2011/12

Year	Number of Landings	Number of IFQ Permit Holders	Number of RCR Permit Holders	Deadloss	Landed Pounds Including Overages	Percent Landed as Deadloss
2009	666	14	18	695,011	64,528,248	1.08
2010	832	11	20	525,644	68,602,330	0.77
2011	1,274	14	20	694,408	94,064,402	0.74

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 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 specific part by a cooperative member who is a U.S. citizen or business entity. 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 9 cooperatives that formed for the 2011/12 crab-fishing year accounted for more than 99 percent of the TAC. The following tables display the percent IFQ assigned to cooperatives compared to that held outside cooperatives over time. Due to confidentiality (*) requirements, Tables 5.6 and 5.7 contrast cooperative and noncooperative IFQ allocations and landing performance for all fisheries combined. Even so, so few persons (7) held IFQ outside cooperatives that cooperative/noncooperative harvesting performance cannot be shown. 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 5.6 category *cooperative pounds landed*, although confidential this fishing year, includes overages, unlike the category in previous Program years. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows cooperatives inseason overages without violation as long as overages do not remain on June 30. The rule permits postseason transfers, delaying evaluation of potential inseason overage violations to year-end.

Table 5.6 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 (including overages)	Percent co-op pounds landed 2010/11	Percent co-op pounds landed 2009/10	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	***444***	***9***	***94,551,611***	***94,493,674***	***99.99***	*	*	***98.8***	***96.8***	***96.3***	***98.2***	***98.9***

Table 5.7 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	Noncoop Pounds landed (including Overages)	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2010/11	Percent nonco-op pounds landed 2009/10	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	***7***	***94,551,611***	***57,937***	***0.01***	*	*	***91.1***	***84.8***	***90.0***	***90.1***	***96.2***

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 use and 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 small communities to purchase QS for use by community residents.

Seven-year 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 fishing year, one vessel was cited for delivering out of region. Ice prevented the boat from delivering to St Paul, and the vessel was given a written warning. During the last three fishing years, the Office of Law Enforcement (NMFS) issued one violation although there was severe ice. Table 6.1 shows the percentages of processing "power" vested in the ECCs versus PQS/IPQ without the ROFR ("None") in 2011/12. Figure 6.2 illustrates these percentages.

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

Protection Measure and Community	Fishery								
ROFR/Former 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	7.4	6.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kodiak	0.2	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St Paul	2.5	30.9	0.0	0.0	64.8	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unalaska	50.7	35.0	91.2	0.0	24.6	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Former ROFR-King Cove	5.3	0.0							
Former ROFR-Kodiak	3.5	0.1				0.04			
Former ROFR-St George	0.0	9.7			2.5				
Former ROFR-St Paul	0.0	5.4							
Former ROFR-Unalaska	0.0	0.0	6.9						
None	3.5	2.8	0.9	100.0	0.3	64.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total [a]	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.1***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***

[a] Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

PQS Assignments in the IFQ Fisheries

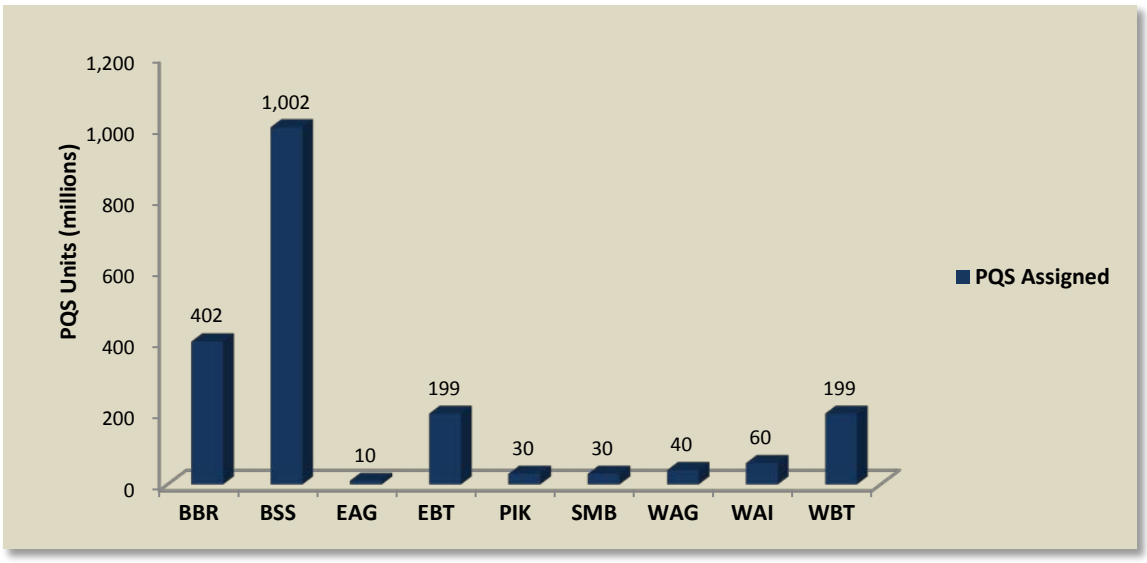


Figure 6.1 Total PQS Assignments by Units and IFQ Fishery, 2011/12

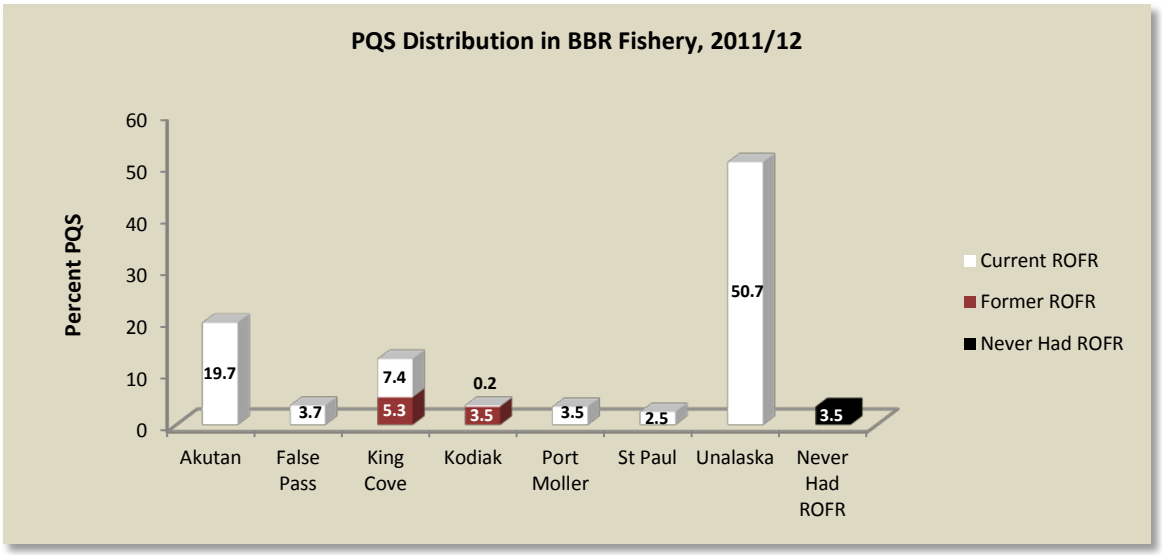


Figure 6.2 Distributions of PQS Assignments (Percent) with and without ROFR in the BBR Fisheries, 2005/06–2011/12

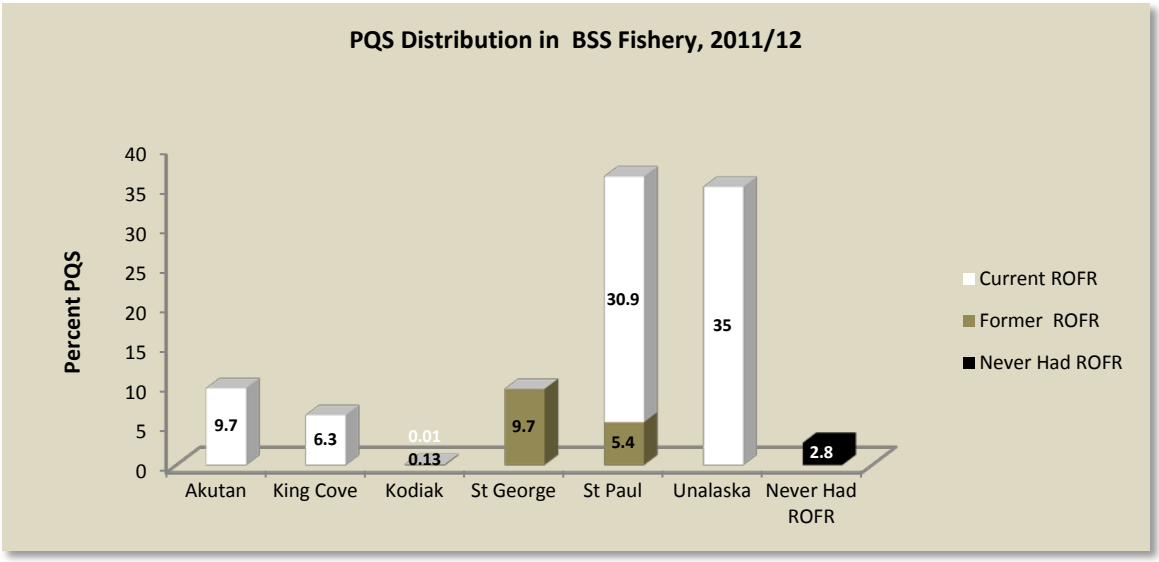


Figure 6.3 Distributions of PQS Assignments (Percent) with and without ROFR in the BSS Fisheries, 2005/06–2011/12

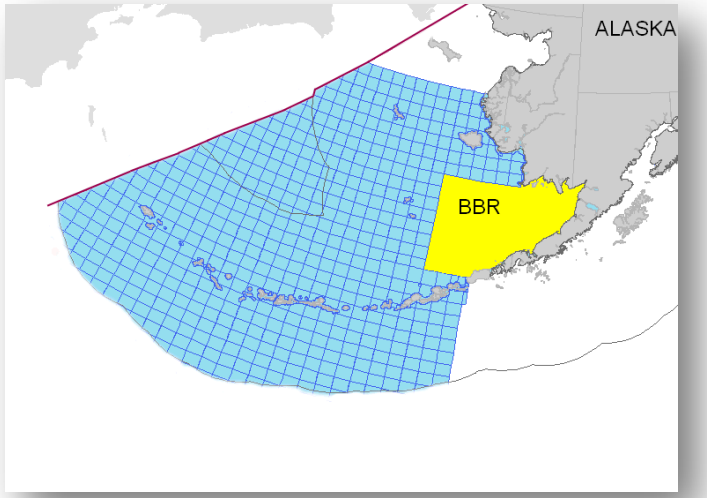
7 Fishery Summaries

Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBR), 2011/12

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

The IFQ fishery was open with a TAC of 7,050,600 pounds. The fishery opened Oct 15, 2011 and closed Jan 15, 2012.

More fishery information is available online through ADF&G management reports. This is the most recent ADF&G report.



Fishery Facts

Harvest: 7,050,195 raw crab lbs (including overages)
Number of vessels used: 62
Port Count: 6 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 254
Percentage of TAC landed: 100 percent
Active RCR holders: 15
Active IFQ permitholders: 10
Active IPQ holders: 11
Distinct individuals making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 62

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.1 displays the ports in which BBR crab were landed in 2011/12 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, inseason overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations.

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

	Pounds landed[b]							Port rank						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	3,155,709	5,898,973	6,513,200	10,428,327	10,566,930	7,028,859	8,459,532	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AKUTAN*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
KING COVE*	*	*	*	*	*	2,470,991	*	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
AT SEA[d,*]	876,604	1,702,889	1,835,373	*	*	660,617	914,933	4	4	4	5	6	5	4
KODIAK	*	*	*	789,291	921,243	809,640	774,045	5	5	5	4	4	4	5
ST PAUL*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	6	6	6	5	6	6
Total	***7,050,195***	***13,349,636***	***14,337,728***	***18,288,881***	***18,324,046***	***13,877,870***	***16,472,400***							

Table 7.1 Continued

	Vessel landings[a]							Percent total harvest by port[b,c]						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	92	83	92	140	149	81	120	44.8	44.2	45.4	57.0	57.7	50.7	51.4
AKUTAN*	50	44	35	40	38	33	43	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
KING COVE*	35	41	33	38	25	37	50	*	*	*	*	*	17.8	*
AT SEA[d,*]	43	34	33	11	9	12	19	12.4	12.8	12.8	*	*	4.8	5.6
KODIAK	18	15	11	16	15	13	12	*	*	*	4.3	5.0	5.8	4.7
ST PAUL*	16	6	8	7	10	7	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	254	***223***	***212***	***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, including 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, 62 BBR IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 254 vessel landings (offloads) of BBR crab for a total harvest of 100 percent of the available TAC. Table 7.2 displays the allocations and harvests (in millions of pounds) starting five years prior to the Program and in the first seven Program years.

Table 7.2 BBR crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000–2011/12

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	99.8
2009/10	14.4	14.3	99.6
2010/11	13.3	13.3	99.9
2011/12	7.0	7.0	100.0

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

[a] GHL = guideline harvest level (ADF&G set GHLs for crab fisheries before Program implementation); the Program uses TAC (total allowable catch).
[b] IFQ landings are in millions of raw crab pounds, including overages.
[c] Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2011/12 BBR fishery, 7 million of 7 million fishable pounds (99.9 percent) of total available IFQ were assigned to 9 cooperatives, with a slight decrease in percent pounds assigned to cooperatives. 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 (2011/12)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (2011/12)	Percent assigned to cooperatives						
			2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
CVC	204,174	198,386	97.2	98.5	96.1	94.8	94.2	89.4	71.3
CPC	7,436	7,436	100.0	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	85.4	61.5
CVO	6,526,879	6,526,879	100.0	100.00	100.0	99.8	98.8	98.4	84.5
CPO	312,098	312,098	100.0	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	68.0

Crewmembers

Crewmember QS (CVC, CPC) amounts change as a result of sales to different persons and/or because of QS holder demographic shifts. Table 7.4 shows changes in the percentages of BBR crew QS during Program years. Washington, Alaska, and Oregon QS holders, respectively, hold the highest percentages of Crew QS in the fishery. Percentages may differ from other data due to rounding.

Table 7.4 Percent of total IFQ Crew QS held (CVC, CPC) in BBR fishery by holder residence (state) as of year-end 2005/06–2011/12

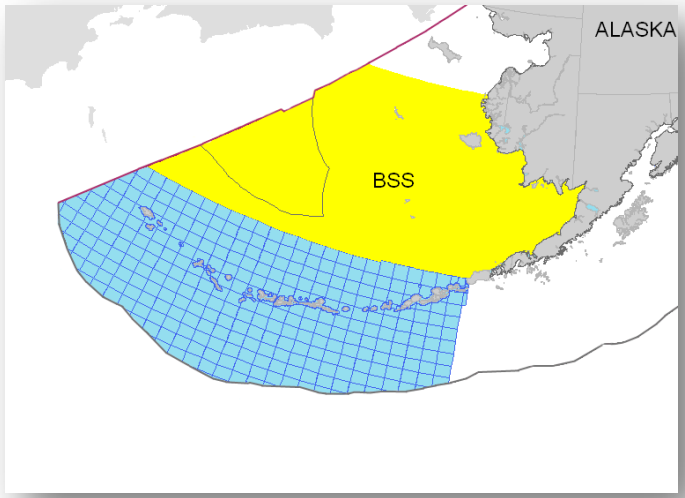
BBR Fishery	Initial Issuance	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
AK	20.1	20.6	21.9	21.5	21.9	22.5	21.9	21.0
AZ	1.7				1.0		1.2	1.2
CA	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
CO	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
FL	0.5	0.5	0.5		0.5	0.5	0.5	
HI	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
ID	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
ME	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
MN	0.4	0.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
MS	0.9		0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
MT	0.4		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6
NM	0.5							
NV	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
OH	0.9	0.9						
OR	7.6	7.9	9.6	10.3	10.0	9.0	8.2	9.1
TX			0.6	0.6	0.6			
WA	62.7	64.7	60.2	60.2	58.8	60.2	60.4	60.9
Residence Unknown		0.8						
Total BBR IFQ Crew QS (%)	***100.1***	***100.1***	***100.3***	***100.1***	***100.3***	***100.1***	***100.1***	***100.1***

Bering Sea Snow Crab (BSS), 2011/12

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 80,004,600 pounds. The fishery opened Oct 15, 2011 and closed May 15, 2012 for the East Subdistrict and May 31, 2012 for the West Subdistrict. To mitigate severe icing and subsequent loss of large portions of BSS fishing grounds, ADF&G opened additional statistical areas and extended the season for 2011/12.

More fishery information is available online through ADF&G management reports. This is the most recent ADF&G report.



Fishery Facts

Harvest: 79,942,909 raw crab lbs (including overages)
Number of vessels used: 71
Port Count: 6 (including "At Sea")
Landings count: 798
Percentage of TAC landed: 99.9
Active RCR holders: 14
Active IFQ permitholders: 11
Active IPQ holders: 10
Distinct individuals making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 92

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.5 displays the ports in which BSS crab were landed in 2011/12 and includes comparisons of port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, inseason overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations.

Table 7.5 Ports used for BSS IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]							Port rank						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
ST PAUL	25,857,286	16,388,453	13,385,753	19,610,519	21,418,687	*	7,774,571	1	1	2	1	1	6	3
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	22,935,553	13,620,494	14,165,201	17,252,078	20,164,028	12,315,298	12,451,729	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
AT-SEA[d]	15,108,341	9,734,764	9,304,456	9,741,300	4,479,319	14,971,764	7,893,342	3	3	3	3	4	1	2
AKUTAN*	10,326,987	*	*	*	*	*	*	4	4	5	5	3	3	4
KING COVE*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	5	4	4	5	4	5
KODIAK	*	*	*	*	476,280	*	*	6	6	6	6	6	5	6
Total	*****	***48,763,248***	***43,212,592***	***52,687,374***	***56,722,400***	***32,659,148***	***33,248,009***							

Table 7.5 Continued

	Vessel landings[a]							Percent total harvest by port[b,c]						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
ST PAUL	220	153	103	176	179	3	77	32.3	33.6	31.0	37.2	37.8	*	23.4
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	257	135	103	132	161	107	101	28.7	27.9	32.7	32.7	35.6	37.7	37.4
AT-SEA[d]	163	87	75	72	34	121	76	18.9	20.1	21.5	18.5	7.9	45.8	23.7
AKUTAN*	105	58	16	18	47	21	28	12.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
KING COVE*	51	28	22	26	29	16	17	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
KODIAK	2	5	2	4	9	4	2	*	*	*	*	0.8	*	*
Total	***798***	***466***	***321***	***428***	***459***	***272***	***301***							

*Data are confidential.

[a] A vessel landing is an offload.
[b] Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, including 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, 92 BSS IFQ holders or their Hired Masters had reported 798 vessel landings (offloads) of BSS crab for a total harvest of virtually 100 percent (99.9) of the available TAC. Table 7.6 displays the allocations and harvests (in millions of pounds) starting six years prior to the Program and in the first seven Program years.

Table 7.6 BSS crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000–2011/12

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
2009/10	43.2	43.2	99.9
2010/11	48.8	48.8	100.0
2011/12	80.0	79.9	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, including 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 2011/12 BSS fishery, 79.9 million of 80 million pounds (99.9 percent) of total available IFQ were assigned to 9 cooperatives. This represents a large increase (31.1-million lbs) over the previous Program year with only a slight percentage decrease. Table 7.7 displays pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.7 Pounds and percent of BSS IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (2011/12)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (2011/12)	Percent assigned to cooperatives						
			2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
CVC	2,272,806	2,226,827	98.0	98.7	96.6	94.9	94.9	90.2	71.1
CPC	141,808	141,808	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.3	47.2
CVO	70,501,392	70,501,392	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	98.7	86.0
CPO	7,088,582	7,088,582	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	63.9

Crewmembers

Crewmember QS (CVC, CPC) amounts change as a result of sales to different persons and/or because of QS holder demographic shifts. Table 7.8 shows changes in the percentages of BSS crew QS during Program years. Washington, Alaska, and Oregon QS holders, respectively, hold the highest percentages of Crew QS in the fishery. Percentages may differ from other data due to rounding.

Table 7.8 Percent of total IFQ Crew QS held (CVC, CPC) in BSS fishery by holder residence (state) as of year-end 2005/06–2011/12

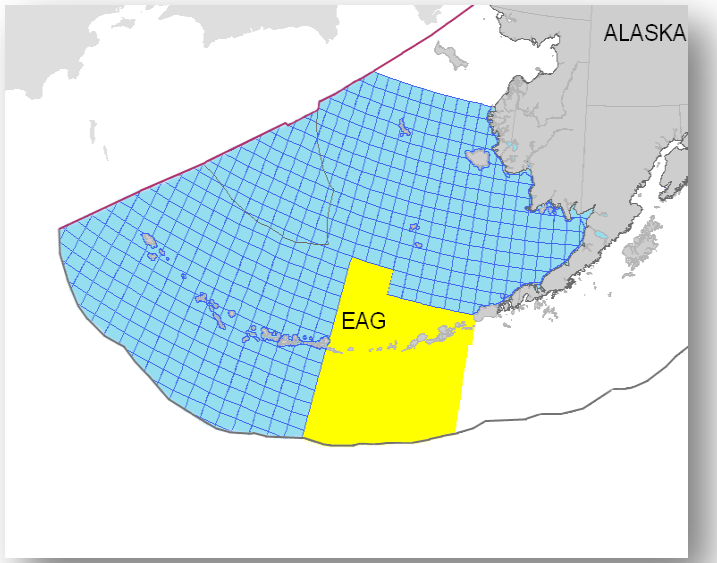
BSS Fishery	Initial Issuance	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/22
AK	20.7	18.8	18.7	18.7	19.3	21.1	20.2	20.4
AZ	0.7				0.7		1.3	0.5
CA	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
CO	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
FL	0.4	0.4	0.4		0.4	0.4	0.4	
ID	2.4	3.2	3.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.3	1.3
ME	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
MN	0.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
MS	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MT	1.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
NV	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
OH	1.0	1.0						
OR	6.9	6.4	10.4	10.8	10.0	9.5	8.5	9.1
TX			0.5	0.5	0.5			
WA	63.5	67.5	61.8	62.8	61.8	61.5	62.9	63.3
Residence Unknown		0.4			0.0			
Total BSS IFQ Crew QS (%)	***99.9***	***100.1***	***100.1***	***100.0***	***99.9***	***99.9***	***99.9***	***99.9***

Eastern Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (EAG), 2011/12

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 fishery opened August 15, 2011 and closed May 15, 2012.

More fishery information is available online through ADF&G fishery management reports. This is the most recent ADF&G report.



Fishery Facts

Harvest: Confidential
Number of vessels used: 3
Port Count: 3 (including “At Sea”)
Landing count: 45
Percentage of TAC landed: Confidential
Active RCR holders: 7
Active IFQ permitholders: 2
Active IPQ holders: 7
Distinct individuals making landings (IFQ holder or master)**:** 4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.9 displays the Alaska ports in which EAG crab were landed in 2011/12 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, inseason overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations.

Table 7.9 Ports used for EAG IFQ crab landings[a] over time

Port	Pounds landed[b]							Port rank						
	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
DUTCH/UNALASKA	*	*	*	2,635,513	*	*	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AKUTAN	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
AT SEA[d]	*	*	0	0	*	*	*	3	2	0	0	2	3	2
Total	*****	*****	*****	*****	***2,690,377***	***2,690,662***	***2,569,209***							

Table 7.9 Continued

Port	Vessel landings[a]							Percent total harvest by port[b,c]						
	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
DUTCH/UNALASKA	38	29	32	27	29	28	25	*	*	*	93.3	*	*	*
AKUTAN	5	0	0	2	0	1	0	*	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	*	0.0
AT SEA[d]	2	1	0	0	7	3	7	*	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*
Total	***45***	***30***	***32***	***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, including overages.
[c] Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, including overages.
[d] "At-sea" means "landings" on catcher/processors and stationary floating processors.

The 2011/12 harvest data for the EAG fishery are confidential (*) and cannot be shown. Table 7.10 displays the allocations and harvests (in millions of pounds) starting five years before the Program and in the first seven Program years.

Table 7.10 EAG crab fishery allocation 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
2009/10	2.8	*	*
2010/11	2.8	*	*
2011/12	2.8	*	*

(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, including overages.
[c] Percentages may vary slightly from other published data due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2011/12 EAG fishery, 100 percent of available IFQ was assigned to five cooperatives. This represents no change in IFQ percentages assigned to cooperatives. Table 7.11 displays pounds and percent of EAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.11 Pounds and percent of EAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (2011/12)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (2011/12)	Percent assigned to cooperatives						
			2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
CVC	84,933	84,933	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.0	96.0	95.6	86.1
CVO	2,617,062	2,617,062	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.9
CPO	133,003	133,003	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Crewmembers

Crewmember QS (CVC, CPC) amounts change as a result of sales to different persons and/or because of QS holder demographic shifts. Table 7.12 shows changes in the percentages of EAG crew QS during Program years. Washington and Oregon QS holders, respectively, hold the highest percentages of Crew QS in the fishery. Percentages may differ from other data due to rounding.

Table 7.12 Percent of total IFQ Crew QS held (CVC, CPC) in EAG fishery by holder residence (state) as of year-end 2005/06–2011/12

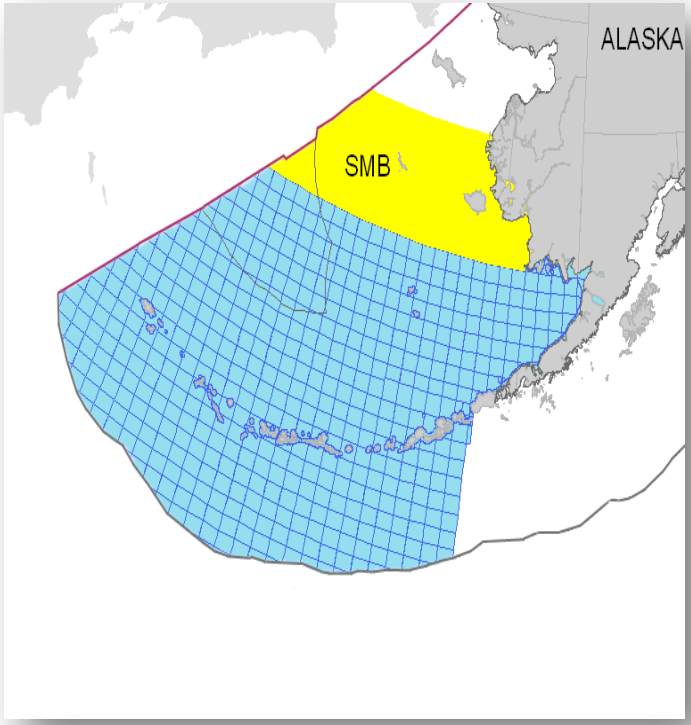
EAG Fishery	Initial Issuance	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
AK	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3		
MN	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0				
OR	25.4	12.8	12.8	20.0	32.6	32.6	35.2	35.2
UT				2.3				
WA	68.3	80.9	80.9	71.4	65.1	65.1	64.8	64.8
Total EAG IFQ Crew QS (%)	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab (SMB), 2011/12

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 IFQ fishery opened with a TAC of 2,123,100. The fishery opened Oct 15, 2011 and closed February 1, 2012.

More fishery information is available online through ADF&G fishery management reports. This is the most recent ADF&G report.



Fishery Facts

Harvest: Confidential
Number of vessels used: 18
Port Count: 3
Landing count: 107
Percentage of TAC landed: Confidential
Active RCR holders: 10
Active IFQ permitholders: 6
Active IPQ holders: 8
Distinct individuals making landings (IFQ holder or master)**:** 18

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.13 displays the ports in which SMB crab were landed in 2011/12 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, inseason overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations.

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

	Pounds landed[b]							Port rank						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
ST PAUL	1,437,253	*	*	Fishery Closed				1	1	1	Fishery Closed			
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	*	*	*					2	2	2				
AKUTAN	*	*	0					3	3	0				
Total	*	*	*	***NA***										

Table 7.13 Continued

	Vessel landings[a]							Percent total harvest by port[b,c]						
Port	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
ST PAUL	85	52	28	Fishery Closed				*	*	*	Fishery Closed			
DUTCH/ UNALASKA	11	9	2					*	*	*				
AKUTAN	11	2	0					*	*	0.0				
Total	***107***	***63***	***30***	***NA***										

* Data are confidential.
NA Data are not applicable; the fishery was closed during these Program years.

[a] A vessel landing is an offload.
[b] Harvest is in raw crab pounds, including overages.
[c] Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, including overages, unless noted.

The 2011/12 harvest data for the SMB fishery are confidential (*) and cannot be shown. Table 7.14 displays the allocations and harvests (in millions of pounds) starting five years prior to the Program and in the first seven Program years.

Table 7.14 SMB crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000–2011/12

Fishery year and fishery	TAC[a]	Harvest[b]	Percent of TAC or GHL landed[a,c]
2000–2004	Closed[d]		
2005/06	Closed[d]		
2006/07			
2007/08			
2008/09			
2009/10	1.0	*	*
2010/11	1.4	*	*
2011/12	2.1	*	*

(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, including overages.
[c] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.
[d] During these years ADF&G closed the fishery due to low stock abundance.

Cooperatives

In the 2011/12 SMB fishery, 2.1 million of a total of more than 2.1 million pounds (99.7 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to 9 cooperatives. Table 7.15 displays pounds and percent of SMB IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.15 Pounds and percent of SMB IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Pounds available (2011/12)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (2011/12)	Percent assigned to cooperatives[a,b]						
			2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
CPO	40,955	40,955	100.0	100.0	100.0	Closed[b]			
CVC	58,492	52,322	89.5	92.7	89.4				
CVO	2,010,491	2,010,491	100.0	99.6	100.0				

[a] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.
[b] During these years ADF&G closed the fishery due to low stock abundance.

Crewmembers

Crewmember QS (CVC, CPC) amounts change as a result of sales to different persons and/or because of QS holder demographic shifts. Table 7.16 shows changes in the percentages of SMB crew QS during Program years. Washington, Alaska, and Oregon QS holders, respectively, hold the highest percentages of Crew QS in the fishery. Percentages may differ from other data due to rounding.

Table 7.16 Percent of total IFQ Crew QS held (CVC, CPC) in SMB fishery by holder residence (state) as of year-end 2005/06–2011/12

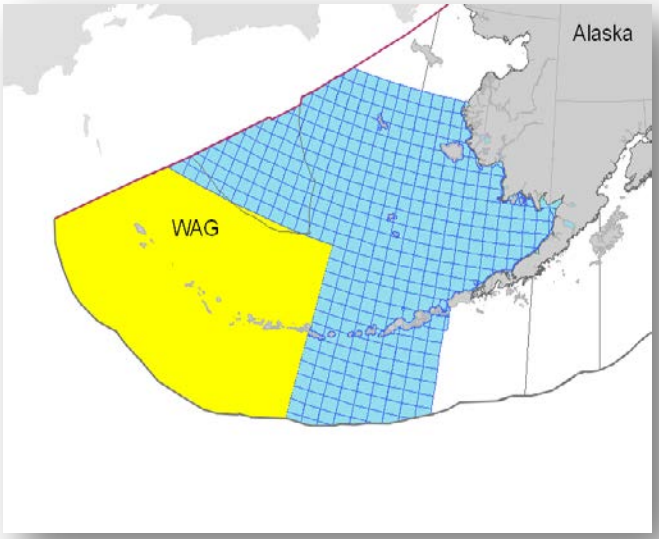
SMB Fishery	Initial Issuance	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
AK	24.8	22.7	25.7	24.0	23.9	25.3	25.3	24.1
AZ	1.6				1.7	1.6	3.0	3.0
CA	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
ID	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
MT	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
OR	5.8	6.8	8.2	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.3	9.6
TX	1.1					1.1	1.1	1.1
WA	62.3	64.0	61.6	62.4	61.6	59.2	57.8	57.8
Residence Unknown		2.1						
Total SMB IFQ Crew QS (%)	***99.9***	***100.0***	***99.9***	***99.99***	***100.0***	***99.8***	***99.8***	***99.9***

Western Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (WAG), 2011/12

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 fishery opened August 15, 2011 and closed May 15, 2012.

More fishery information is available online through ADF&G fishery management reports. This is the most recent ADF&G report.



Fishery Facts

Harvest: Confidential
Number of vessels used: 3
Port Count: 4 (including "At Sea")
Landing count: 43
Percentage of TAC landed: Confidential
Active RCR holders: 7
Active IFQ permitholders: 2
Active IPQ holders: 4
Distinct individuals making landings (IFQ holder or Master)**:** 4

(Source: ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries)

Table 7.17 displays the ports in which WAG crab were landed in 2011/12 and includes comparisons of pounds landed, port rank, vessel landings, and percent harvest during Program years. Landed pounds are raw crab pounds, including overages; in previous RAM reports, "landed pounds" excluded overages. Effective September 14, 2009, a rule (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allows postdelivery transfers of all types of IFQ and IPQ to cover inseason overages. As a result, inseason overages are now debited from permit accounts rather than treated as enforcement violations.

Table 7.17 Ports used for WAG IFQ crab landings[a] over time

	Pounds landed[b]							Port rank						
Port	20011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	20011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
AT SEA[d]	*	*	*	*	*	*	1,366,736	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
DUTCH/UNALASKA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Akutan	*	Port not used for WAG landings						3	Port not used for WAG landings					
ADAK[e]	*	0[e]	0[e]	*	*	*	*	4	0	0	3	3	3	3
Total	*	*	*	***2,252,111***	***2,246,040***	***2,000,276***	***2,382,468***							

Table 7.17 Continued

	Vessel landings[a]							Percent total harvest by port[b,c]						
Port	20011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	20011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
AT SEA[d]	17	18	18	20	17	20	26	*	*	*	*	*	*	57.4
DUTCH/UNALASKA	8	19	20	13	12	8	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Akutan	12	Port not used for WAG landings						*	Port not used for WAG landings					
ADAK[e]	6	0	0	4	5	3	6	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*
Total	***43***	***37***	***38***	***37***	***34***	***31***	***42***							

*Data are confidential.

[a] A vessel landing is an offload.
[b] Harvest is in raw crab pounds, including overages.
[c] Percent harvest is the total landed pounds, including overages, unless noted.
[d] "At Sea" means "landings" on catcher/processors and stationary floating processors.
[e] No processors were available in Adak during the 2009/10–2011/12 fishing years.

The 2011/12 harvest data for the WAG fishery are confidential (*) and cannot be shown. Table 7.18 displays the allocations and harvests (in millions of pounds) starting five years before the Program and in the first seven Program years.

Table 7.18 WAG crab fishery allocation and harvest, 2000/01–2011/12

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
2009/10	2.5	2.4	97.1
2010/11	2.5	*	*
2011/12	2.5	*	*

(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 pounds, including overages.
[c] Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

Cooperatives

In the 2011/12 WAG fishery, all available pounds (100.0 percent of available IFQ) were assigned to five cooperatives. Table 7.19 displays pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives, including percentages for past Program years.

Table 7.19 Pounds and percent of WAG IFQ assigned to cooperatives

Sector	Total pounds available (2011/12)	Pounds assigned to cooperatives (2011/12)	Percent assigned to cooperatives						
			2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
CVC	44,009	44,009	100.0	100.00	100.0	91.4	90.3	90.3	100.0
CPC	32,538	32,538	100.0	100.00	100.0	98.2	98.2	98.2	100.0
CVO	1,330,915	1,330,915	100.0	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
CPO	1,144,038	1,144,038	100.0	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Crewmembers

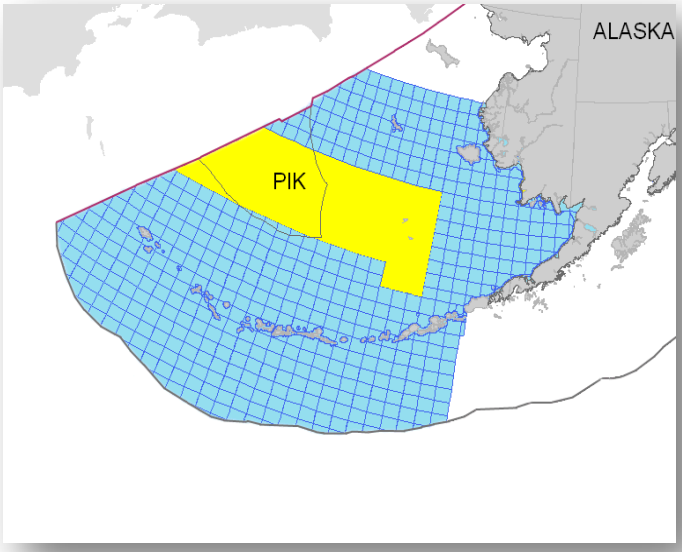
Crewmember QS (CVC, CPC) amounts change as a result of sales to different persons and/or because of QS holder demographic shifts. Table 7.20 shows changes in the percentages of SMB crew QS during Program years. Washington and Oregon QS holders, respectively, hold the highest percentages of Crew QS in the fishery. Percentages may differ from other data due to rounding.

Table 7.20 Percent of total IFQ Crew QS held (CVC, CPC) in WAG fishery by holder residence (state) as of year-end 2005/06–2011/12

WAG Fishery	Initial Issuance	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
ID	5.72	5.72	5.72	5.72				
NV	6.17	6.17						
OR	32.55	30.30	30.30	36.47	44.44	44.44	44.44	44.44
WA	55.56	57.81	63.97	57.81	55.56	55.56	55.56	55.56
Total WAG IFQ Crew QS (%)	***100.00***	***100.00***	***99.99***	***100.00***	***100.00***	***100.00***	***100.00***	***100.0***

Closed Fisheries in 2011/2012

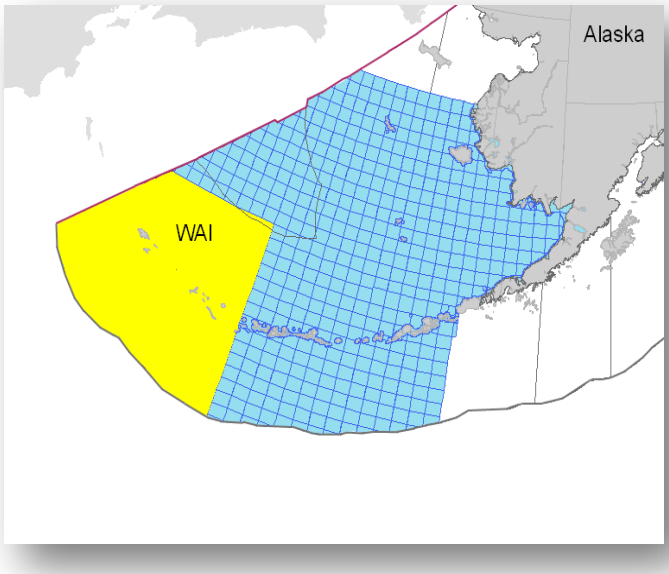
Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab (PIK)



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

Western Aleutian Islands red king crab (WAI)

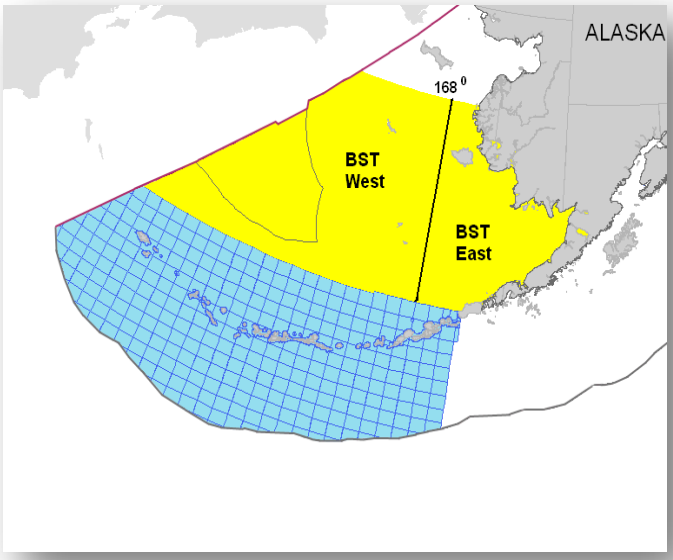


The fishery area is defined by an eastern boundary of 179° W., a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line (U.S. and USSR 1991), and a northern boundary of 55° 30′ N., then west to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line.

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

Eastern Bering Tanner crab (EBT)

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 Bering Sea Tanner QS or PQS held.



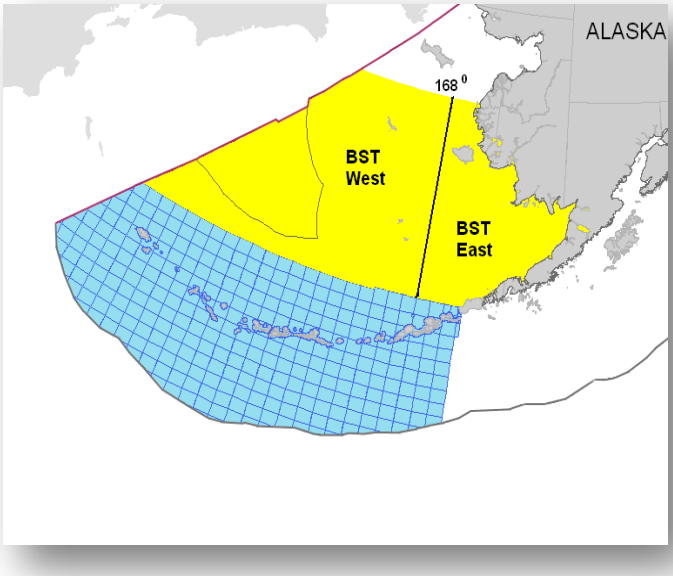
This change was necessary for the coordination of QS and PQS with State of Alaska management of the two distinct Tanner crab fisheries.

The EBT fishery was closed for the year due to low mature female crab stock in the Bering Sea District.

(Source: ADF&G)

Western Bering Sea Tanner crab (WBT)

The fishing area is defined by waters of the Bering Sea north of Cape Sarichef at 54° 36' N lat. and east of the U.S.-Russia Maritime Boundary Line of 1991. The Bering Sea Tanner District is divided into the Eastern and Western subdistricts at 173° W long. The Eastern subdistrict is further divided at the Norton Sound Section north of the latitude of Cape Romanzof and east of 168° W long. and south and west of the Norton Sound Section. The Norton Sound Section extends north along 168˚ W Long., parallel to the mainland, with its southern boundary at 61˚49' N Latitude near Cape Romanzof.



The WBT fishery was closed for the year due to low mature female crab stock in the Bering Sea District.

(Source: ADF&G)

8 Safety, Compliance, and Catch Monitoring

U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Safety and Compliance Monitoring

During the 2011/12 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, at-sea boardings, and monitoring offloads. District Seventeen used cutters for patrol, sightings, and the at-sea boardings. Aircraft provided names of vessels and QS holders, position, and activity.

Search and Rescue (SAR)

Preseason inspections promoted thorough checks of safety gear, and most were completed a month before fishing began. During the 2011/12 fishing year, no fatalities occurred in the crab fisheries.

USCG

Effort

- ✓ **Responded to zero crab-related SAR cases**
- ✓ **Zero sinkings and zero deaths in the CR fisheries this year**
- ✓ **Issued zero significant observer-coverage violations in the crab fisheries**
- ✓ **Deployed aircraft 204 days (BBR and BSS)**
- ✓ **Conducted 22 at-sea boardings (20 BBR and 2 SMB)**
- ✓ **54 vessel safety checks (55% of preseason registered BBR vessels and 54% of preseason registered BSS vessels)**

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)
- ✓ Improved partner-agency coordination
- ✓ Fewer dual inspections (due to VMS requirements)
- ✓ Reduced aerial response time

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

An Air Station Kodiak HH-60J helicopter was deployed to Cold Bay for 34 days beginning October 7, 2011 (before the BBR fishery opened) to provide SAR coverage. Aircraft operations were maintained until 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 2011. Near-continuous cutter presence in the Bristol Bay area continued through mid-November, when

▼ **A Coast Guard HH-60J helicopter flies over a Bering Sea Crabber**

fishermen had landed almost all the quota.

A high percentage of the fleet (84 percent) was boarded during shoreside SCCs. The shoreside SCCs limited need for at-sea safety boardings and allowed for targeted fisheries compliance boardings (22), which included 20 BBR boardings and 2 St. Matthews Blue King Crab boardings. Only one significant fishery violation was issued to a crab vessel for failure to meet observer coverage earlier in the year while engaged in the Pacific Cod fishery.

Bering Sea Snow Crab

This fishing year produced a significant USCG investment related to Bering Sea snow crab: aircraft and crew were deployed to St. Paul for 170 days (2 aircraft concurrently deployed for 85 days). The USCG maintained a near-continuous cutter presence near the Pribilof Islands, the area with most of the snow crab fishing activity.

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 54 preseason SCCs, including 55 percent of the preseason registered BBR fleet and 54 percent of the preseason registered BSS fleet. Safety compliance was very good; all of those who participated in the fishery had a current decal as mandated by state law. Throughout the fleet, USCG inspectors observed excellent crew compliance. Although the USCG continues to offer in-water and in-pool preseason training in the use of life rafts and immersion suits, participation among the crab vessel crews has been light. This is in part due to the fact that many of the crewmembers are steady employees and have been trained in the past.

Coast Guard presence for Bering Sea crab vessels

Interagency Cooperation

Throughout the 2011/12 rationalized crab-fishing year, the Coast Guard coordinated enforcement planning with NOAA enforcement, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Wildlife Troopers through weekly conference calls and a shared database of fishing vessels.

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 necessitates future VMS use for SAR planning and response. During 2011/12 the USCG issued no violations for inoperative VMS units.

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 of Alaska's 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, 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.

2011/12 Crab Season

There was one federal overage violation in the EAG fishery during the 2011/12 crab season. Flexibilities from using "supercooperative" and the post-delivery transfer provision (74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009) allow participants to address unanticipated overages within industry before there is a violation. Table 8.1 shows that before these provisions, IFQ overages ranged between 12 and 24 occurrences annually.

Table 8.1 IFQ Overage Violations in the CR fisheries, 2005/06–2011/12

	IFQ Overages Over Time						
	2005/06	2006/07[a]	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
BBR	7	9	4	7	0	0	0
BSS	6	8	7	5	0	0	0
EBT[a]	1	4	0	1	0	0	0
WBT[a]		0	0	0	0	0	0
WAG	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
EAG	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Total	***15***	***24***	***12***	***15***	***0***	***0***	***1***

[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 manage IFQ fisheries effectively, 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 one 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 2011/12 fishing year, 14 CMPs were submitted to NOAA Fisheries for inspection and approval, the same number of CMPs as in the previous five fishing years. Twenty-three (23) 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 3 motion-compensated hopper scales in the Puget Sound area of Washington and in Dutch Harbor, Alaska for all participating crab CPs. No major problems were reported with the hopper scales during the 2011/12 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. Catcher/Processors must submit an offload report, including the gross and net weights of the crab product offload and an attached 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.

9 Reporting

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.

eLanding Facts, 2011/12

Program landings:

- 105 landings for Adak and CDQ
- 1,287 IFQ landings:
  - ✓ 1,231 IFQ reports via eLandings
  - ✓ 56 IFQ "manual" reports

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

- 36 inseason IFQ account overages
- 1 violation

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 this fishing year has been positive; some 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 of crab eLandings reports over time. Compared with the previous fishing years, the number of reports submitted through eLandings increased, while the reporting percentage (95.6) through eLandings remained nearly the same as in 2010/11 (95.7 percent).

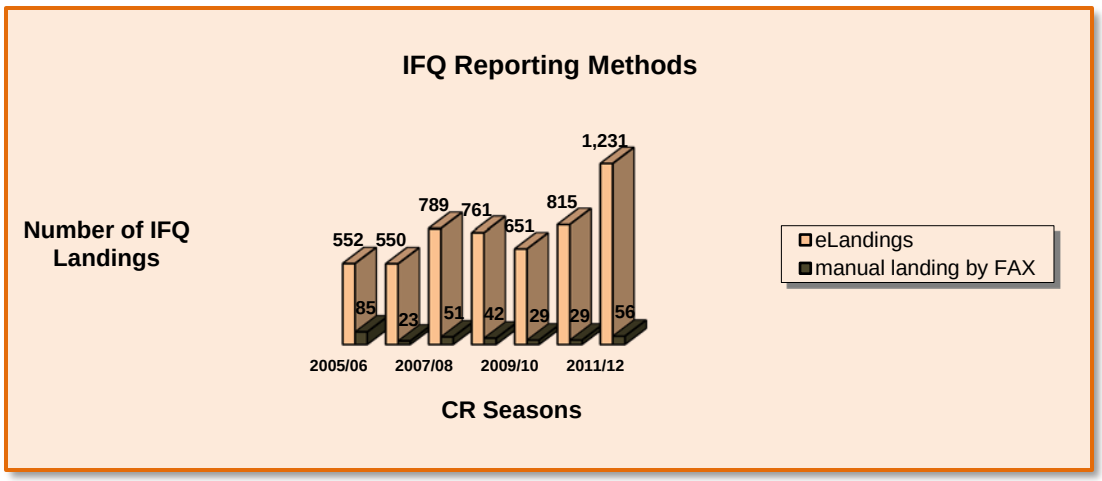


Figure 9.1 Program-Year Comparisons of IFQ Reporting Methods

Summary

Of 1,287 IFQ landings, Figure 9.1 shows 1,231 IFQ landing reports submitted through eLandings and 56 submitted or amended manually for the 2011/12 fishing year. CDQ and Adak had 105 landings, five more than in 2010/11, though about the same as the 108 landings in the 2008/09 fishing year due to a processing facility closure in Adak. The sharp increase in the number of eLanding report submissions during recent fishing years derives from higher TACs than during the previous Crab Rationalization Program years.

Economic Data Collection (EDR) Program

EDR Facts, 2011

Number of Persons with EDR Requirement: 91

- **EDRs required and completed: 91**
- **EDRs required but not completed: 0**

The EDR program collects production, cost, earnings, and employment information from the harvesting and processing sectors of crab fisheries to evaluate effects of the Program over time. 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, carries out EDR administration. Visit our website for more information about the EDR requirement, workshops, and the BSAI Crab Data Quality Report Summary. For detailed audit results 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.

Pre-Program and Crab Program EDR Reporting Summary, 2004–2011

Economic data collection is based on calendar years, of which calendar year 2004 was the first historic set of EDRs due (for pre-program calendar years 1998, 2001, and 2004). Each subsequent year is the year for which data were reported and required for NMFS to release the next year's permits. Because the crab-fishing year extends between two calendar years, calendar EDR data collection/submission dates were dissimilar to those used for permitting. Previous RAM reports used the query-year as the permit-release year. To remedy EDR data reporting/collection-year and RAM query-year differences, this 2011/12 crab-fishing year report incorporates a year-change for the first time. Figure 9.2 incorporates this year-change and shows improved compliance to EDR reporting requirements over time.

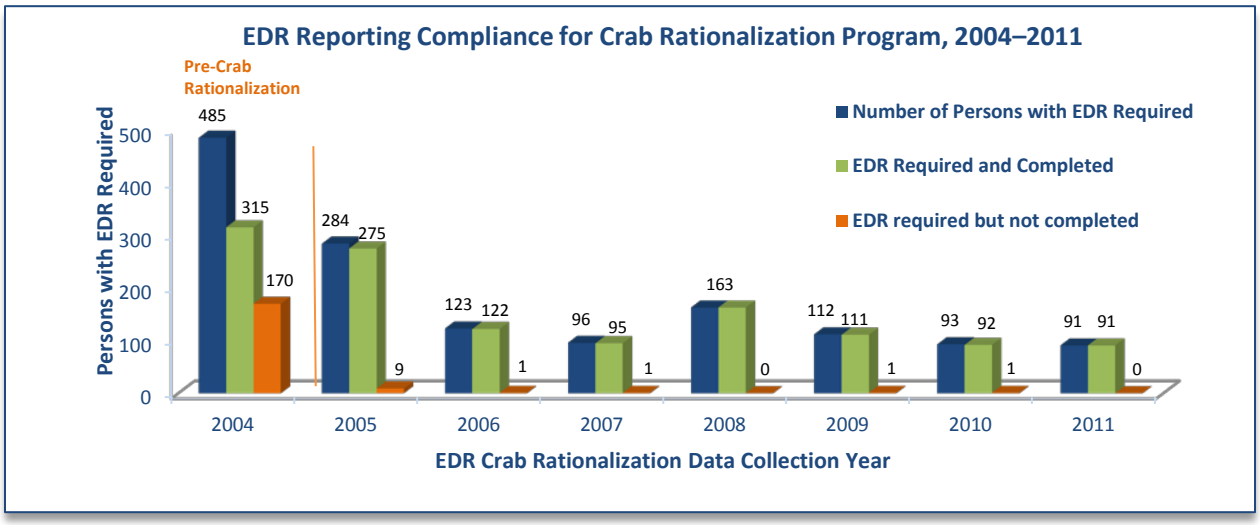


Figure 9.2 EDR Reporting Compliance during Pre-Program and Program Years, 2004–2011

10 Loan Program • Crab Capacity Reduction Program Updates

Loan Update

A federal loan program to assist captains and crew in the purchase of QS was implemented for the CR Program. On May 5, 2010, NMFS published a proposed rule (75 FR 24549) for the Fisheries Finance Program[1] (FFP) that would allow NMFS to implement a loan program for the BSAI crab fisheries. Effective January 18, 2011, a final rule (75 FR 78619, December 16, 2010) granted captains and crew the opportunity to purchase crab QS for the 2011/12 fishing year. Although the FFP received FY11 loan authority sufficient to begin lending for BSAI crab QS, OMB approval to use that authority was not forthcoming until 3/29/11, too late for a complete loan process that fiscal year. July 5, 2011 was the first date for which an approval letter for crab QS was issued at the start of the 2011/12 crab-fishing year.

Fee Collection/Cost Recovery

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), costs for management and enforcement of IFQ and other Limited Access permit 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, CR 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 2009/10 year, no billing occurred because fee revenues remained to cover projected actual costs for the crab-fishing year.

The estimated recent value of the combined CR fishery is $286,752,062. This value derives 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.

[1]The FFP assists participants in CDQ programs and in purchases of QS, IFQ permits, fishing vessels, and fish processing facilities.

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. (Administrative regulations for fees and cost recovery are at 50 CFR § 680.44.) The fee percentage for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year was 1.05 percent, partially due to a third-year overcollection discussed later in this chapter. The 2009/10 fishing year fee percentage was set at zero (FR Doc. Vol. 74 No. 135, July 16, 2009) due to the revenue surplus, which exceeded actual management, data collection, and enforcement costs for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year.
The 2010/11 fishing year fee percentage was 2.67 percent. During 2011/12, the fee percentage was 1.23. During 2012/13, the fee percentage will be zero due to another revenue surplus that exceeded actual management, data collection, and enforcement costs.

Bringing in the Crab Pots

As shown in Table 10.1, the 2011/12 management and enforcement costs for the crab fisheries totaled $3,364,442, which is $154,253 more than during the previous fishing year. Personnel and Contracts/training were among the higher Program costs. The star symbol (*) represents adjustments.

Table 10.1 Costs associated with Program management and enforcement, April 10, 2011 to April 7, 2012

Cost Category	RAM	SF	OMD	ISD	RA/ Appeals	OLE	ADF&G	AFSC	FSD	PSMFC	Total
Personnel[a]/ Overhead	206,834	131,682	42,700	76,853	48,373	812,530	341,375	108,024	14,248	57,384	1,840,003
Travel[b]	1,220	10,159	1,684	2,256	312	29,016	61,734	6,525	–	6,064	118,971
Transportation[c]	–	–	–	–	–	266	–	–	–	–	266
Printing	563	–	(1,162)*	–	–	434	–	–	–	–	(165)*
Contracts/ Training	279	16,500	–	301,422	–	206,458	378,820	59,039	–	98,460	1,060,978
Supplies	5,864	73	671	17,776	–	8,317	21,077	–	–	6,391	60,169
Equipment	10,958	–	–	12,271	–	94	–	–	–	–	23,323
Rent/Utilities[d]	30,019	13,443	4,338	7,138	3,743	68,995	–	–	–	–	127,675
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	112,421	–	–	20,801[e]	133,222
Percentage of costs	7.60%	5.11%	1.43%	12.42%	1.56%	33.47%	27.21%	5.16%	0.42%	5.62%	100.00%
Total Costs [f]	***255,738***	***171,856***	***48,232***	***417,716***	***52,428***	***1,126,110***	***915,427***	***173,588***	***14,248***	***189,100***	***3,364,442***

[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 seven 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, fifth, and seventh years of the Program, this was not the case.

Fee percentages, which have to be announced early in the year, were of necessity based on a 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. Compounded factors have caused these surpluses: three percent was levied against ex-vessel values in billings, but lower agency labor and contractual costs combined with substantially higher fishing TACs and subsequent fishery value resulted in overcollections.

For the 2011/12 fishing year, NMFS had determined the fee percentage at 1.23 percent. This fee level resulted in a fee collection greater than the actual management, data collection and enforcement costs for the 2011/12 crab-fishing year. Therefore, fee revenues remain to cover projected actual costs for 2012/13. As a result, NMFS has determined the fee percentage will be zero percent for the 2012/13 crab-fishing year.

To date (2006/07–2011/12), 99 percent of persons billed have paid their fee liability, while 1 percent remains unpaid due to bankruptcy. For all Program years, collected CR funds total $24,202,465.

Table 10.2 Program cost recovery[a] over time

Program Cost Category	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Fishery value[b]	286,752,062	261,747,837	147,188,073	212,412,973	202,719,417	119,652,929	138,888,840
Total Program costs	3,364,442	3,210,189	3,927,062	3,195,760	2,133,758	3,939,841	4,270,881
Amount collected[c]	7,434,979[c]	7,434,979	0	2,028,589	6,511,395	4,060,458[d]	4,166,665
Annual percentage of value billed[c]	1.23	2.67	0	1.05	3.0[e]	3.0[e]	3.0[e]
RCR permitholders with billable landings	20	21	18	22	20	22	17
IFQ permitholders with billable landings[f]	14	11	14	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. Due to a revenue surplus, no billing/collection occurred in the 2009/10 (Year 5) fishing year.

[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 25 BSAI crab-fishing vessels, associated fishery histories, and 62 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. NOAA Fisheries may withhold annual crab permits if buyback fees are outstanding.

Table 10.3 shows amounts paid back in "subloans" allocated to each fishery by the BSAI King and Tanner Crab Fishing Capacity Reduction Program. "Initial Loan Amount" and "Current Loan Amount" reflect the principal balance of the note. Current loan balances are as of August 24, 2012. The St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab fishery opened for the first time since the inception of the Capacity Reduction Program on October 15, 2009; WAI and PIK have remained closed since the start of the loans. EBT and WBT fisheries were closed this fishing year. By late August, fishermen had reduced the original loan amount (97.4 million) to $89,897,809, down 2 percent from the previous season's $91.9 million. The "Percent Owing" and "Percent Paid" data may be different from the original data due to rounding.

Table 10.3 Fishery loan status of the BSAI King and Tanner Crab Fishing Capacity Reduction Program, August 24, 2012

Crab Fishery	Initial Loan Amount	Current Loan Amount	Percent Paid	Percent Owing	First Payment
BBR	$17,129,957	12,137,448	25.0	71.0	November 1, 2005
BSS	66,410,767	66,410,767	0.0	100.0	November 8, 2005
EAG and Tanner	6,380,837	3,871,799	39.0	61.0	November 2, 2005
WAI	237,588	237,588	0.0	100.0	No payment
PIK	1,571,216	1,571,216	0.0	100.0	No payment
SMB	5,668,991	5,668,991	0.0	100.0	October 27, 2009
Total	***$97,399,356***	***$89,897,809***	***8***	***92.0***	***November 1, 2005***

Securing the Crab Pots

Appendix: Program Overview

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

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

Fisheries

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

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

Sectors

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

Owner QS/IFQ

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

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

Crew QS/IFQ

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

Processor PQS/IPQ

Qualified processors were allocated processor quota share (PQS) in each Program crab fishery. PQS represents an exclusive but revocable privilege to receive deliveries of a specific portion of the annual TAC from a fishery. Individual Processing Quota (IPQ), the annual allocation of pounds of crab based on the PQS, is issued for 90 percent of the CVO IFQ and is regionally designated for use in receiving/processing crab. A regulatory cap on IPQ in some fisheries means 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.

On October 7, 2009, NMFS issued regulations to provide harvesting cooperatives, crab processing QS holders, and Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups with the option to make intercooperative transfers, crab individual processing quota transfers, and intergroup transfers through an automated web-based process. This action allows cooperatives, processors, and CDQ groups to shorten response time to management, market, weather, and other fishery and operational conditions and to increase harvesting and processing efficiency. This action also removes detailed description of information required on application forms from regulatory text and revises text on applications along with other textual corrections.

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, the Council approved a low-interest loan program (similar to the loan program under the halibut and sablefish IFQ program) to be implemented beginning crab-fishing year 2011/12. Loan money is 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 made no BSAI crab QS loans until Congress took further action and until NOAA implemented regulations for the loan program.

On May 5, 2010, NMFS published a proposed rule (75 FR 24549) for the Fisheries Finance Program[1] (FFP) that would allow NMFS to implement a loan program for the BSAI crab fisheries. Effective January 18, 2011, a final rule (75 FR 78619, December 16, 2010) granted captains and crew the opportunity to purchase crab QS for the 2011/12 fishing year. Although the FFP received FY11 loan authority sufficient to begin lending for BSAI crab QS, OMB approval to use that authority was not forthcoming until 3/29/11, too late for a complete loan process that fiscal year. July 5, 2011 was the first date for which an approval letter for crab QS was issued at the start of the 2011/12 crab-fishing year.

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 was scheduled for December 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.

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 GOA Pacific cod and exempt from GOA Pacific cod sideboard	5	5
Subject to all GOA sideboards including Pacific cod	85	40
Subject to all GOA sideboards except Pacific cod and may not directed fish for GOA 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.

Substantive Program Changes, 2005/06–2011/12

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.

Two substantive changes to the regulations implementing the Crab Rationalization Program for the 2008/09 crab-fishing year included exemptions and reporting:

Exemptions from Delivery, Regionalization, and Arbitration Requirement

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 arbitration system requirements. This change provided higher flexibility in crab deliveries with very little loss of benefits to processors and communities than would applying the restrictions.

Reporting Changes

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: RCRs must submit an annual CR Program 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). This report replaced use of prices reported at time of landing as the basis for cost recovery fee liability estimates.

Another change is a new annual report and submittal date (May 15, 2009 and prior to the close of business on that day for future fishing years) for the 2008/09 crab-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.

During the 2010/11 crab fishing year, some reporting requirements for catcher/processors were removed by final rule 75 FR 56485, September 16, 2010. In order to reduce unnecessary paperwork burdens on the fishing industry, this rule removed the Crab Rationalization Program requirements for catcher/processors to weigh all offloaded crab on a state-approved scale (which produces a printed record) and to submit a catcher/processor offload report. This rule was effective September 16, 2010.

Crew Loan Program

To aid captains and crew in purchasing QS, the Council approved a low-interest loan program (similar to the loan program under the halibut and sablefish IFQ program) to be implemented beginning crab-fishing year 2011/12. NOAA implemented regulations for the loan program.

On May 5, 2010, NMFS published a proposed rule (75 FR 24549) for the Fisheries Finance Program[1] (FFP) that would allow NMFS to implement a loan program for the BSAI crab fisheries. Effective January 18, 2011, final rule 75 FR 78619, December 16, 2010 granted captains and crew the opportunity to purchase crab QS for the 2011/12 fishing year. Although the FFP received FY11 loan authority sufficient to begin lending for BSAI crab QS, OMB approval to use that authority was not forthcoming until 3/29/11, too late for a complete loan process that fiscal year. July 5, 2011 was the first date for which an approval letter for crab QS was issued at the start of the 2011/12 crab-fishing year.

Post-Delivery Transfers

Effective September 14, 2009, final rule 74 FR 41092, August 14, 2009 implemented Amendment 28 to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs to allow postdelivery transfers of all types of individual fishing quota (IFQ) and individual processing quota (IPQ) to cover overages. This rule reduced the number of reported overages by delaying evaluation of potential inseason overage violations to year-end.

Sideboard Exemptions • Amendment 34

(76 FR 35772, June 20, 2011 implements Amendment 34)

NMFS has modified the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod and pollock sideboard exemption criteria for non-AFA crab vessels. As a result, three vessels' sideboards for Pacific cod and/or pollock were amended. Final rule 76 FR 35772 was effective July 20, 2011.

Program/Agency Contacts

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

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Restricted Access Management
1-800-304-4846 (press "2") or
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Website: alaskafisheries.noaa.gov

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Sustainable Fisheries Division
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(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

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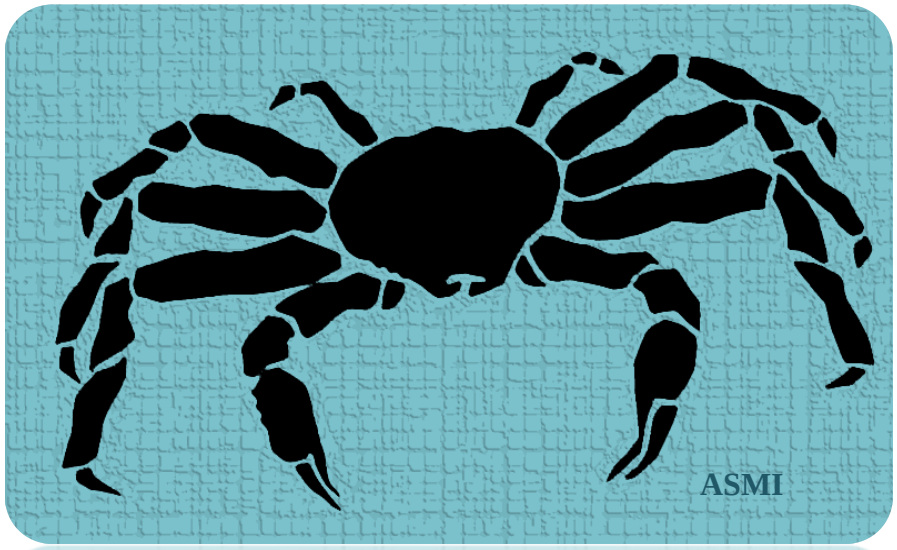

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alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/crab/crfaq.htm