

Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands King Crab

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Oral report: RC 3 Tab 4

Staff comments: RC 2



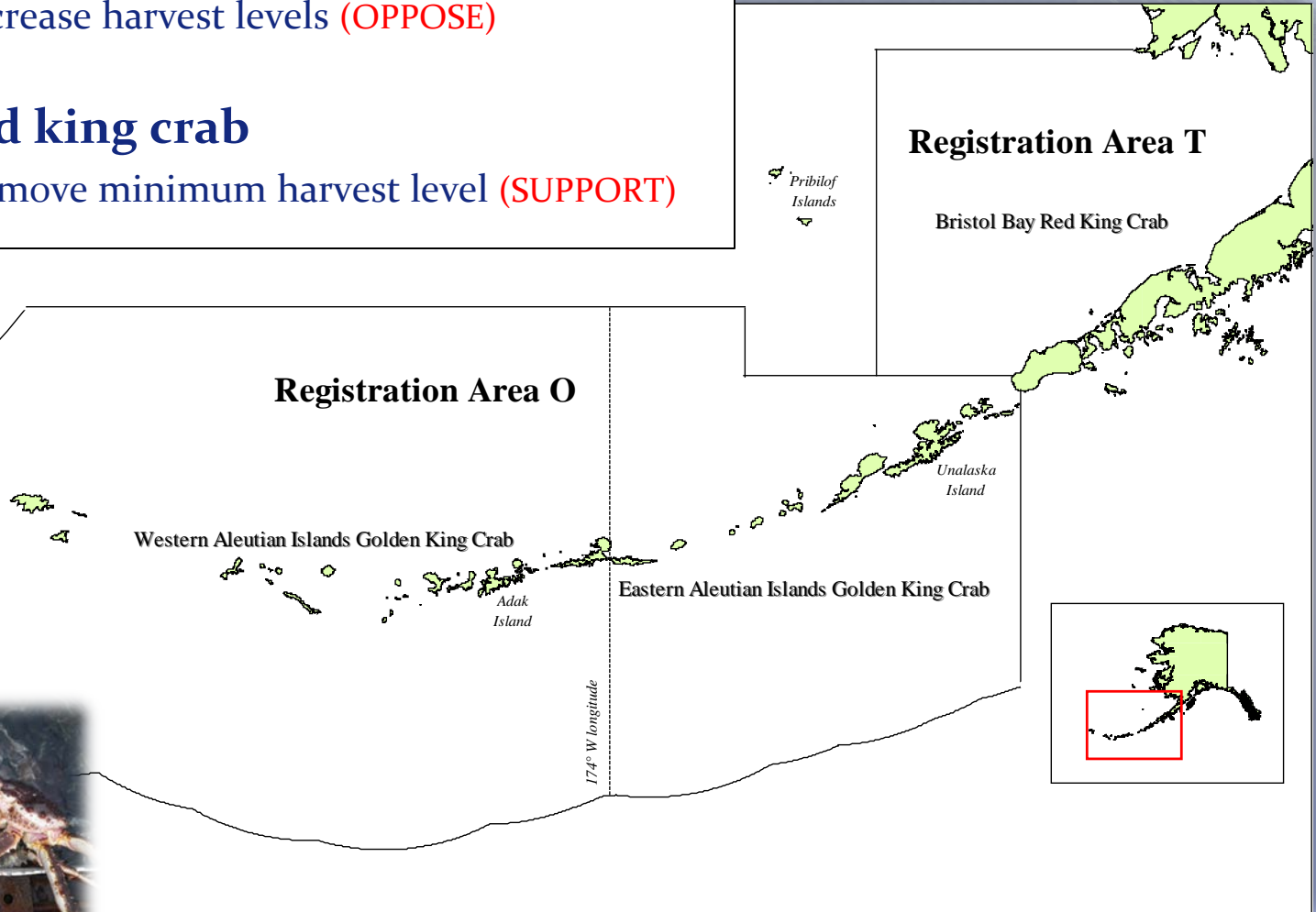
Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Proposals

Aleutian Islands golden king crab

Proposal 382 – Increase harvest levels (OPPOSE)

Bristol Bay red king crab

Proposal 384 – Remove minimum harvest level (SUPPORT)



Aleutian Islands golden king crab

Proposal 382 – Increase harvest levels (total allowable catch)

- ❑ Harvests levels were implemented in 1995/96 based on historic harvests.
 - ❑ 1997/98 reduced by 6% (east of 174° W long only)
 - ❑ 2008/09 increased by 5% (area-wide)
 - west of 174° W long = 2.835 million pounds | east of 174° W long = 3.15 million pounds
- ❑ Changes associated with Crab Rationalization
 - ❑ Fleet size declined by 77%
 - ❑ Number of pots fished declined
 - West of 174° = 8,000 to 5,000 pots
 - East of 174° = 11,000 to 6,000 pots
 - ❑ Pot soak times increased (average no. of days)
 - West of 174° = 10 to 23 | East of 174° = 4 to 15
 - ❑ Legal-male CPUE increased (legal crab per pot lift)
 - West of 174° = 8 to 21 | East of 174° = 10 to 26
 - ❑ Percent of legal males that are recruit-size declined
 - West of 174° = 77% to 63% | East of 174° = 68% to 51%
- ❑ Survey – Summer 2012 (limited area in eastern Aleutian Islands)

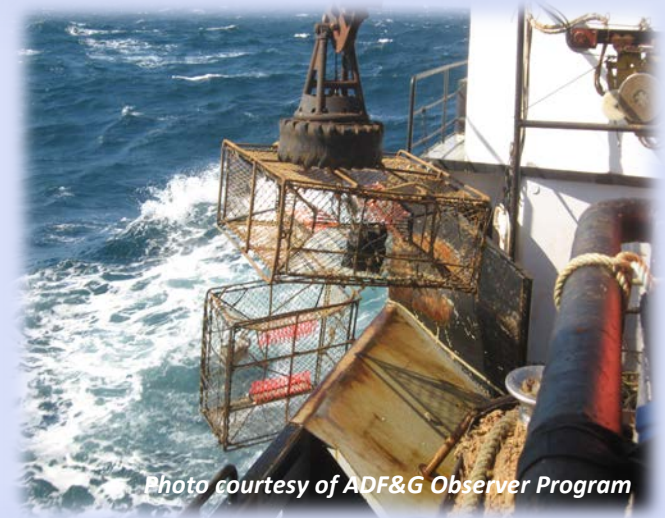


Photo courtesy of ADF&G Observer Program

Aleutian Islands golden king crab

Proposal 382 – Increase harvest levels (total allowable catch)

Current regulation: Until a stock assessment model is established by the Department, harvest levels are fixed in regulation. (5 AAC 34.612)

- ❑ Harvest levels are fixed in regulation and therefore cannot be adjusted.
- ❑ Difficulty closing fisheries inseason.
- ❑ Absence of adequate stock information necessitates conservative harvest levels.

If adopted:

- ❑ Increased total allowable catch.
- ❑ Effect difficult to assess without stock assessment.

Stock assessment model status:

- ❑ Model is dependent on fishery data, making it difficult to determine trends in stock status.
- ❑ January 2012 workshop – model is still under development. Not likely ready for use next season.



Photo courtesy of ADF&G Observer Program

Bristol Bay Red King Crab

Proposal 384 – Remove minimum total allowable catch

Current regulation: Minimum total allowable catch of 4,000,000 pounds (not including Community Development Quota - CDQ). If harvest level does not meet minimum total allowable catch, neither Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) nor CDQ fishery may open. (5 AAC 34.816(a)(1))



- ❑ No longer necessary for fishery management.
- ❑ Proposal does not affect biological thresholds.
- ❑ If adopted, fishery can open regardless of total allowable catch.



Questions?