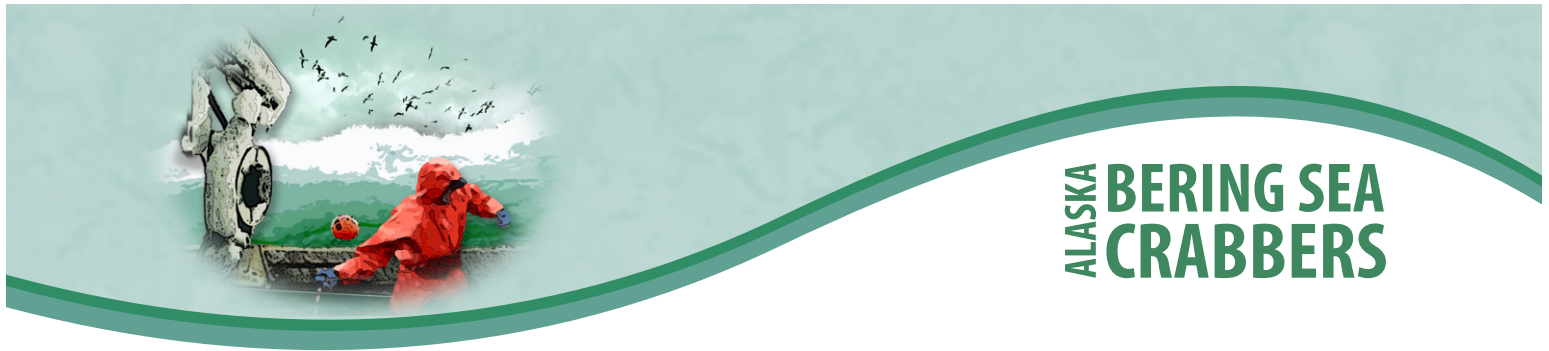


資料 6 追加



ALASKA BERING SEA CRABBERS

alaskaberingscraabbers.org



Who We Are:

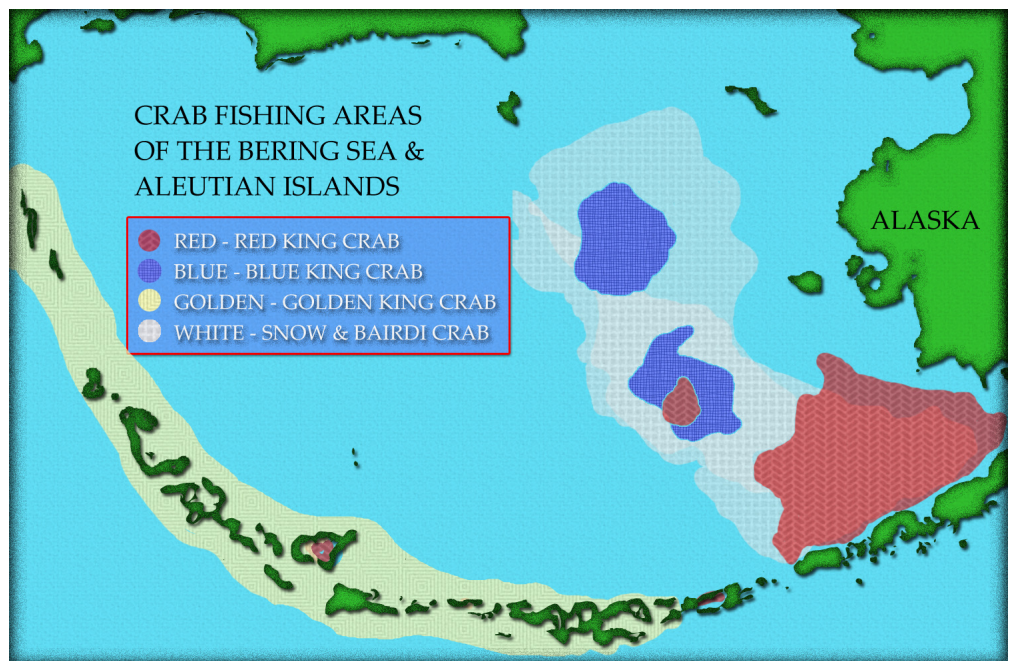
You know us as the crab fishermen who work in the deadliest ocean conditions on the planet. But there is a lot more to our famous crab fisheries than you see on TV. We are actively involved in research activities, crab marketing programs and working closely with fishery managers. Our homeports are primarily in Alaska, Washington and Oregon. As harvesters, we work alongside our partners - the seafood processors and coastal communities - to improve our industry for all.

Our Alliance:

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers works closely with Alaska Crab Coalition, Golden King Crab Harvesters Association, and Crab Group of Independent Harvesters. This alliance represents all crab fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

Our Fisheries:

- The waters of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are home to seven different crab fisheries that members of the alliance depend upon. These fisheries are in the fifth year of an innovative catch share program.
- During this season, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries will provide more than 70 million pounds of wholesome and delicious, sustainable crab to customers around the world.
- While crab fishing occurs throughout the entire range for each type of crab, the combined yearly impact “footprint” is less than one-half of a square mile on the ocean floor.





HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ALASKA'S BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS CRAB FISHERIES

- King crab stocks in the Bering Sea have supported a valuable commercial fishery for more than 75 years, and nearly 50 years for snow crab.
- Foreign owned vessels fished in Alaska's waters without restriction until the Magnuson-Stevens Act created a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone. The Act mandated the phase-out of foreign vessels and led to the development of U.S. Fishery Management Plans that formed the foundation for sustainable fisheries.
- The U.S. fleet has operated under harvest limits for 30 years and only adult males are retained for sale. Female and juvenile crab are carefully released in order to maintain the productivity of the stock.
- Since the 1970s all pots in Alaska's crab fisheries have used biodegradable cotton thread in escape panels. This cotton thread degrades within 30 days to allow for all crab to escape.
- The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fleet has funded an onboard fisheries observer monitoring program since 1988. Observers are an important element of fisheries research as they document the catch rates and sizes of crab harvested.
- The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee was formed in 1990 to advise the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries on crab related regulations.
- A vessel license system was implemented in 2000 to reduce the number of vessels in the crab fisheries and licenses were only issued for boats that were actively fishing.
- With still too many boats racing for too few crab, an industry initiative resulted in the Crab Capacity Reduction Program in 2004, which resulted in an industry funded buyback of 25 crab vessels. These vessels were removed from the fishery and are barred from engaging in any commercial fishery anywhere in the world.
- A catch share program for the primary crab species of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands was implemented in 2005 and harvester cooperatives were formed. An allocation of 10% of the yearly crab harvest quotas is made available as a royalty to regional coastal communities.



ALASKA BERING SEA CRABBERS

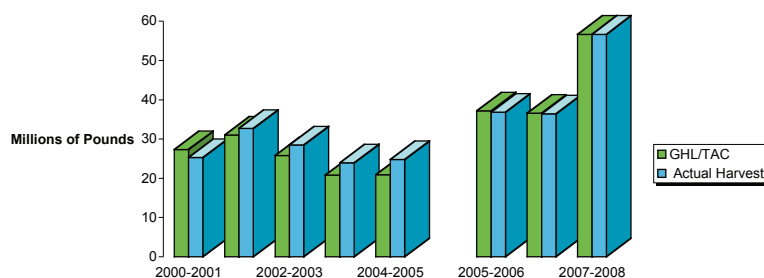
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF ALASKA'S CRAB CATCH SHARE PROGRAM

The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fleet is experiencing significant conservation benefits in the five years that the crab catch share program has been in place.

Benefits Include:

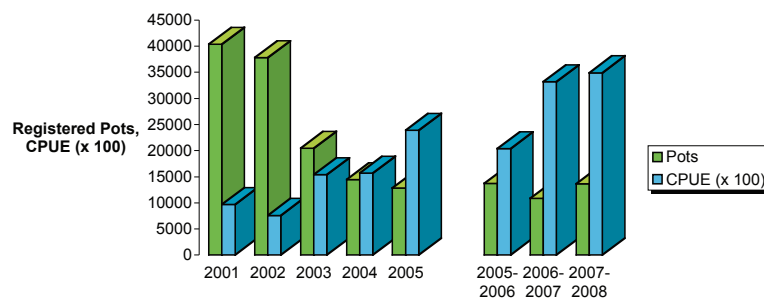
- Each vessel fishes a pre-determined share of the science-based catch limit and there is no longer a race for the crab.
- Every pound of crab harvested is counted and catch limits are not exceeded. Each vessel is equipped with a vessel monitoring system (VMS) to ensure compliance with landing requirements, and to collect spatial data on fishing effort.
- A slower paced fishery allows for longer soak times and more time for the gear to work as it should to carefully sort the harvest.

Harvest Limits and Actual Harvest



Catch Share Program Began in 2005

**Gear and Harvest Benefits Achieved
Opilio/Snow Crab**



Catch Share Program Began in 2005

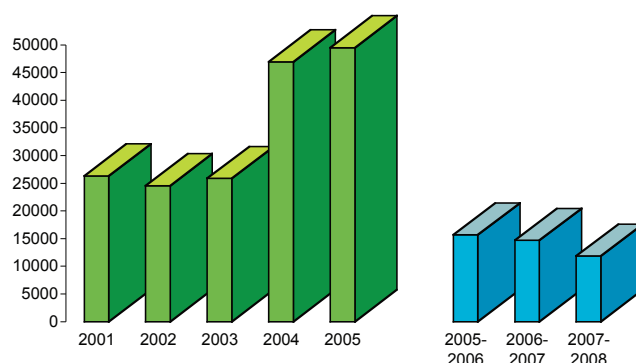


ALASKA BERING SEA CRABBERS

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF ALASKA'S CRAB CATCH SHARE PROGRAM

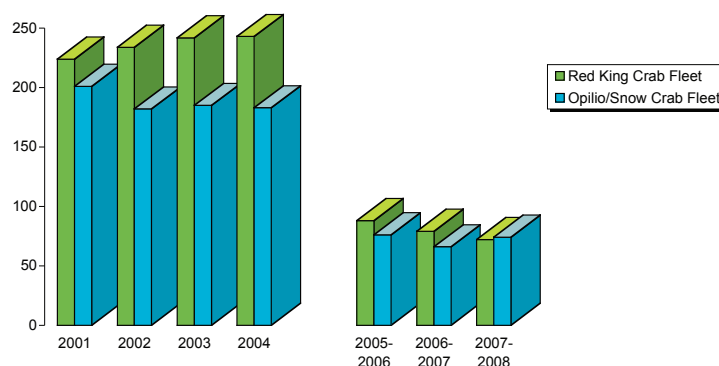
- Crabbers are constructing pots with larger web on the panels to allow for female and juvenile crab to exit the pot before the gear is hauled back by the vessel. This results in significantly less by-catch of the non-targeted animals and a higher catch rate of legally sized crab.
- Fewer pots being used in the crab fisheries results in less impact on the marine habitat. The yearly marine habitat footprint is now less than ½ square mile for the entire Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.
- The carbon footprint has been dramatically reduced due to less fuel being burned throughout the fishing season. This has been achieved by cooperative fishing efforts by the fleet.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery Registered Pots



Catch Share Program Began in 2005

Carbon Footprint Reduction



Catch Share Program Began in 2005



ALASKA BERING SEA CRABBERS

SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation was created in 2004 by crab fishermen to promote and support scientific research and education. The Foundation works closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service to jointly improve knowledge of the biology, abundance and distribution of crab in the Bering Sea. Foundation partners include crab processors and communities.

Harvester alliance members work cooperatively with state and federal agencies to conduct research that benefits the crab resource.

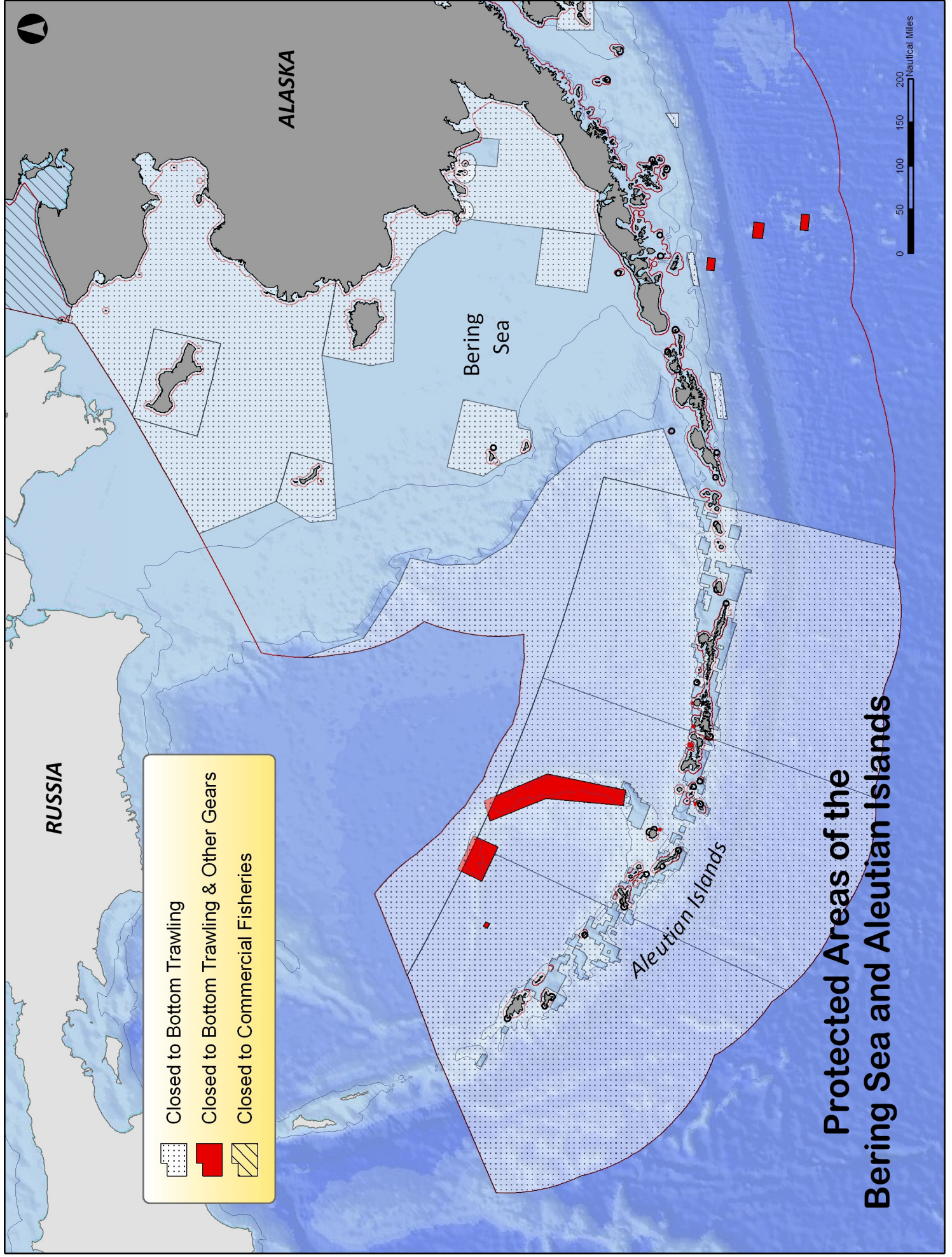
Research includes:

- Biodegradable cotton thread studies with Alaska Department of Fish & Game.
- Crab enhancement projects with communities and the Alaska Sea Grant Program.
- Ocean acidification research with National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Crab handling studies with National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Development of annual harvest limits with the scientists of the Crab Plan Team and North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Sea ice monitoring and reporting.
- Active involvement with the staff of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on the catch share program reviews.
- Crab fishermen partner with the State of Alaska to ensure a successful fisheries onboard observer program and provide advice to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT BY THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is very proactive in its efforts to protect the marine habitat and ecosystem of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The Council prepared an extensive evaluation of the impacts of fishing on essential fish habitat and adopted a new approach for identifying habitat areas of particular concern.
- Since 2005 the Council closed over 350,000 square miles to bottom trawling in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Also closed were six areas with high density coral and sponge habitat to all gear that comes into contact with the sea floor, including crab pots.
- The Council initiated an Arctic Fishery Management Plan to establish federal fishery management in the Alaskan Arctic. This plan prohibits all commercial fishing in this area until there is adequate information on fish and crab stock abundance.
- The Council's Ecosystem Committee has been developing a pilot project called the Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan to create a policy and planning document that includes all fisheries of the region's ecosystem. This tool can provide the Council with an 'early warning system' for signs of ecosystem change.
- Presently the Council is planning to review new proposals to study additional areas in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands that may be designated habitat areas of particular concern. A five-year review of essential fish habitat is also being initiated.



The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Alliance

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Edward Poulsen
17249 15th Avenue NW
Shoreline, WA 98177
206-992-3260
edpoulsen@comcast.net

Alaska Crab Coalition

Arni Thomson
3901 Leary Way NW, Suite #6
Seattle, WA 98107
206-547-7560
accrabak@earthlink.net

Crab Group of Independent Harvesters

Linda Kozak
P. O. Box 2684
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
907-486-8824
kozak@alaska.com

Golden King Crab Harvesters Association

Mike Stanley
P. O. Box 20449
Juneau, Alaska 99802
907-586-6077
madslaw@alaska.net