**DEADLIEST CATCH: Captain Bios**

**Captain Derrick Ray (47, Seaside, Ore.)**
*F/V Cornelia Marie*
Derrick Ray was formerly the skipper of The Siberian Sea, a top-notch fishing vessel he commanded that was “made for the Bering Sea.” As the Cornelia Marie’s new captain, Derrick has big shoes to fill, taking over Phil Harris’ role after his sudden death last year. Derrick has many challenges ahead of him, including adjusting to the reality that he’s now commanding a boat that isn’t always the most reliable in the fleet.

He recently returned from a short temporary retirement but says that, like riding a bike, you never forget how to fish. Derrick plans to push his crew much harder than they’ve ever been pushed and ensure that Josh and Jake Harris – Phil’s sons – are pulling their weight. He’s focused on whipping his crew into shape so they can focus on catching crab.

**Captain “Wild Bill” Wichrowski (53, Seattle, Wash.)**
*F/V Kodiak*
Despite a motto that a boat runs well with hard work and honesty, Wild Bill Wichrowski has been known for using unconventional methods at times to keep his crew in line and his boat fishing. Years ago, he’d smash the hands of his men with his shotgun butt if they crossed him.

His “wildman” rep notwithstanding, Bill is a trained naval engineer and got his first job on a boat as an electrician. When the crab quota system changed several years back, he took the opportunity to run marlin sport-fishing boats off the coast of Mexico, but came back with a fire in his belly to reassert his dominance on the Bering Sea.

Last year, the Kodiak saw the return of Wild Bill from the warm seas of Mexico, who came back to the crab game to find he’d grown a bit rusty, and happily but hesitantly brought his son, Zach, on board with him. After a tough season last year, he’s hoping this year will prove to be more fruitful.

**Captain Sig Hansen (43, Shoreline, Wash.)**
*F/V Northwestern*
The son of a Norwegian fisherman, Sig began fishing at age 14. His father came from a long line of fishermen and was one of the first to develop the king crab industry in Alaska. While still in high school, Sig served as a deckhand on a salmon gillnetter and joined his father aboard the family boat–Northwestern–which worked the crab fisheries in Alaskan waters. Sig also had a chance during some summers to return to his roots and fish in Norwegian waters.
After finishing high school, Sig took up fishing full time and, at the young age of 22, he was already enough of a veteran to serve as a relief captain on the Northwestern. Four years later, he became the boat's full-time captain and one of the youngest ever to take command. From his earliest years at the Northwestern's helm, Sig has known that his position in the captain's chair depends completely on results. Bring home the catch or go back to being a deckhand!

Sig is a hard-driving captain who can push himself and his crew to work grueling hours under extreme conditions. Under that tough exterior, however, lies a fatherly and compassionate man who puts a premium on family responsibility. This year, Sig will be training his brother, Edgar, to take over as captain of the Northwestern.

For nearly two decades, Sig has seen to it that the Northwestern is one of the Alaskan crab industry's top producers. Sig considers this performance essential, but he'll tell you that a greater accomplishment by far is the lack of any major accidents onboard the Northwestern. The best captains bring home the catch-and boat and crew-safely.

**Captain Elliot Neese (28, Seattle, Wash.)**

*F/V Ramblin’ Rose*

Elliot Neese is the youngest Captain in the fleet. While he’s been crab fishing for 10 years, this is his first year as a full-time skipper, and he’s only been running the Ramblin’ Rose for a couple of months.

However, Elliot is no rookie to the high seas. He began fishing at age 12 and, at 19, ran his first cod boat. He says he runs a tight ship and expects hard work and dedication from his crew. He’s more laid back than some of the other captains in the fleet; he has been known to leave the wheelhouse in the hands of his deck boss and go down to the deck to throw the hook.

Elliot fishes eight to 10 months a year and gets through the long, grueling hours by looking at pictures of his two young children.

**Captain Scott Campbell, Jr. (36, Walla Walla, Wash.)**

*F/V Seabrooke*

Scott, a.k.a. Junior, after his crab-fishing father, is a take-no-prisoners captain who doesn’t take no for an answer. He’ll pull no punches to be the best in the fleet, and he’s intent on making his mark on the Bering Sea. Though his father tried to break him of fishing when he was young, Junior kept at it, and earned his way to the wheelhouse as a self-made man at a very young age. He was just 20 when he captained his first boat.

In the 10 years he’s spent at the helm of the Seabrooke, which was built in 1979, he has turned the vessel from a junker into a dark horse for contention as a top producer in the fleet. Junior has a lot to fish for, including a position in the pantheon of Dutch
crabbers. Junior’s motto is “never be satisfied” and he’s always looking for innovative ways to catch crab.

**Captain Johnathan Hillstrand (48, Homer, Alaska)**

*F/V Time Bandit*

With the self-confidence of a leader and the heart of a teddy bear, Johnathan Hillstrand is both a hard-driving captain and a fun-loving jokester. He runs a generally happy boat and tends to have quick runs, but he cracks down on anything that jeopardizes the fishing. With the dangers posed by the Bering Sea, the safety of his crew has to be his chief concern. There is no room for mistakes when Johnathan is in the wheelhouse. He’s serious about his duty as Captain but is known as the practical joker onboard the Time Bandit.

One of five Hillstrand brothers, Johnathan was born and raised in Alaska. Life at sea began at an early age: their father, John Sr., took them out on the boat just after they’d learned to walk. The Hillstrand brothers began fishing at the age of 7. Johnathan became a full-time fisherman after high school. He has not only been a crab fisherman but, for eight years, he professionally fished for lobster off the New England coast. When he’s not crabbing in the winter, you'll find Johnathan fishing for salmon during the summer on board his 38-foot Fishing Fever.

Johnathan lives life to the fullest. While he spends much of his time fishing, when he does get a break, Johnathan splits his time between Seattle and Homer, Alaska spending time with family and friends. Johnathan has two grown children, Tae and Scott, and two grandchildren. His favorite kind of fun—riding a Harley Fatboy with an extra 300 horsepower—has a thrill almost as sweet as a full pot of crab.

**Captain/Deckhand Andy Hillstrand (47, Snowflake, Ariz.)**

*F/V Time Bandit*

Andy is a born and bred Alaskan fisherman with an “all American” vibe. The middle of five Hillstrand brothers, he considers himself the most levelheaded of the family. Known as the "Axeman," Andy is the consummate professional fisherman and takes every aspect of crew and boat safety seriously.

Aboard the Time Bandit, Andy is co-captain with his brother Johnathan. During opilio crab season, you'll find Andy in the wheelhouse hunting for the elusive opies and fighting rogue waves and hull-crushing ice. During king crab season, he trains deckhands and serves as a hardworking deck boss who makes sure there are no lapses or accidents. Andy wears many hats on the Time Bandit: electrician, medic and master crab fisherman, to name a few.
Andy was wounded last year when a wave sent him to the deck, smashing his knee and seriously injuring his neck. Still trying to recover from the injuries, Andy is planning to take a break from the physical work on deck during king crab season and focus on supervising the deckhands.

Andy has been married for 25 years and has two grown daughters and two grandsons. He spends his off-time at his ranch in Arizona with his horses. Specializing in natural horsemanship, Andy and his wife not only train horses, but also teach riding to adults and children. Once upon a time in Alaska, Andy was a barrel horse-racing champion for three years running!

Captain Keith Colburn (47, Redmond, Wash.)
F/V Wizard
A first generation fisherman, Keith sometimes feels like an outsider since he wasn’t born into fishing like many of the other Captains in the fleet. At the age of 22, Keith left behind his life as a Lake Tahoe ski bum to seek his fortune up north. He jumped on a plane with his best friend and landed in Kodiak, AK with no experience, a tent and $50. With only a hazy but romantic vision of working at sea and the rumor of big paydays, Keith was determined to try something new and exciting. He started as a true greenhorn on the crabber Alaska Trader.

Keith was instantly hooked by the fishing lifestyle and the camaraderie of being part of a crew working together against the elements. While initially looking only for adventure in Alaskan waters, Keith decided to make it a career. In 1988, three years after he arrived, he became a full-share deckhand on the Wizard. He earned his U. S. Coast Guard license in 1990 and moved from the deck to the pilothouse. Two years later, he received his masters (captain) license and has remained there as the skipper.

In 2002, Keith purchased the crabber Sirene (pronounced Sea-Wren), but continued to operate the Wizard. In 2004, he sold the fishing rights for the Sirene in a government-run fleet reduction program. When this program led to a reduction of the crabbing fleet from 250 to 80 crabbers, Keith went ahead and purchased the Wizard to secure his stake in the crabbing industry. Keith motivates his crew with fear. That said, he is loyal to the guys who can take it and has several deckhands who have been with him for many years.

He and his wife Florence have shared a special bond as partners in both life and business for more than 25 years. She manages much of the business end of their boat’s operations and together they balance their time to raise their son Caelan and daughter Sienna.